Roma in Visegrad Countries:
History, Culture, Social Integration, Social Work and Education

edited by Jaroslav Balvin, Łukasz Kwadrans, Hristo Kyuchukov

WROCŁAW 2013

- Roma/Gypsies – the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia
- Roma/Gypsies – social integration and social work, education, history and culture

Being the most numerous minority group in Europe, above all in Central Europe, Roma/Gypsies are, at the same time, the least known community in four Visegrad countries – the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. Texts included in this book relate to the mentioned above four countries of Visegrad group. Issues presented concern social integration, education, social work and situation of the Roma, their cultural legacy and history and are the outcome of studies carried out by researchers and persons working with and for Roma minority.

The authors of the texts included in this publication are representatives of various scientific disciplines, academic environments and social organisations, hence interdisciplinary character of the publication. Additionally, the texts included are presented in English and national languages of the authors to secure wider access to the readers.

This book can be a rich source of information on Roma social situation, education, history and culture for researchers, students of social science, Roma teaching assistants, learning support teachers, social workers, Roma activists engaged in the issues for the Roma minority and initiators of Government programmes.

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Issues presented concern social integration and social work, education, history and culture of Romanis/Gypsies and are the outcome of scientific studies carried out by researchers and persons working with and for the Roma minority in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. International publications constitute the outcome of the above cooperation initiated by the Foundation of Social Integration PROM and financed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration and International Visegrad Fund. In 2009 the book was published titled Situation of Roma Minority in the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia, in 2010 Situation of Roma Minority in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, and in 2011 Situation of Roma Minority in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. Vol. 2.

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Relationship of the Slovak Republic for the Roma Minority in the Field of Social Services

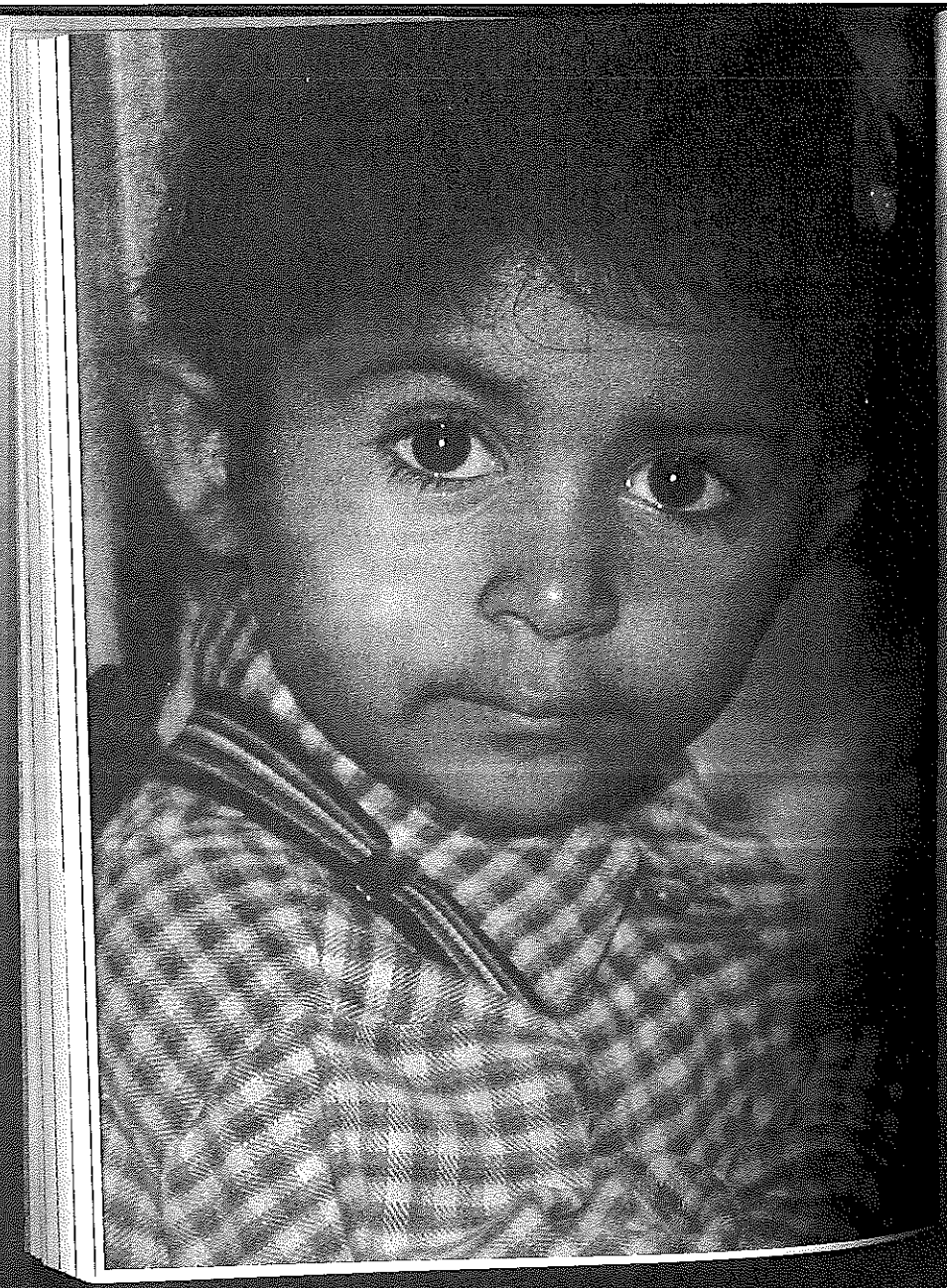
Abstract. The paper focuses of social services in the Slovak Republic in force and assist in solving various social problems and conflicts. The figuring social domains in which we focus in this paper are the „social safety net" and „Solidarity", „social inclusion", which will prioritize the factors within the social assistance aimed with emphasis at the Roma minority.

Key words: modernisation, solidarity, social services, social inclusion, the Roma minority, social safety net.

Annotation

The paper focuses of social services in the Slovak Republic in force and assist in solving various social problems and conflicts. The figuring social domains in which we focus in this paper are the „social safety net" and „Solidarity", „social inclusion", which will prioritize the factors within the social assistance aimed with emphasis at the Roma minority.

Modern times, rapid technological progress and continuous development also requires the so-called progress. modern social work, which is mainly based on citizen participation in solving its problems and also the interest of citizens to solve their situation, the willingness to put in dealing with problem situations forces and focuses on the actual relationship of the citizen and social worker. It is this relationship has recently come to the fore of interest



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specialists as well as social workers themselves, who are often the burden of administrative acts and appeal to their degradation. The system of social assistance in the Slovak Republic has changed markedly in what seen great benefits especially in the fact that citizens are moving forward and becoming a full article to solve the problem. Such a transition can be described as „modernization" or „innovation" in social services.

Haburajová-Ilavská to modernize this indicates that the very modern approach there is a change in approach to solving the social problems of citizens and especially if unfavorable social situation does not change the citizen's unique value. Attention is drawn to the acceptance of the citizen in his unfavorable position that allows for its cooperation and to define more precisely the problem solving method. Addressing the social problem is effective when it is conducted in a natural environment in which citizens live and assistance provided in the natural environment takes precedence over the body (Haburajová-Ilavská, 2010, p. 18). This view is shared by the author Minarovičová (2010, p. 3), which followed the success of field social work with biological families in crisis. It states that „the children of these families come to the orphanages, what could be prevented if families with working social workers". Baková author (2011, p. 34) states that „Many of the problems (misunderstandings) remain hidden, unspoken and not just because it was sort of an internal barrier to resolving them". It also emphasizes the „importance of education in communication skills, that could help solve several problems that are commonly encountered in life ... „in our issue of this importance can be applied also in social work with minorities.

The basic objectives of the applicable social services to their importance in applying:

- Contributing to the socialization and personal development;
- Providing information and facilitating the availability of other social resources;
- Ensuring the elderly, sick, disabled and other people with a limited functionality of the basic level of social assistance;

- Organize replacement care homes or institutions, as appropriate and according to the demands of the individual disability;
- Reviewing the functional capacity of social services, the appropriate improvement and maintenance;
- Promoting the development of self-help activities and community centers, social services;
- Providing the controlling system of social services (Benco, 2005, p. 24).

The basic functions of social services are:

a) support function - helps an individual to use the resources that his company offers;
b) self-realization function - aims to assist an individual in the show most normal way of life;
c) the therapeutic function - eliminate existing or impending pathology and pathological phenomena (Benco, 2005, p. 24).

The most important are:

a) direct contact between consumer and provider of social services - including the need to meet these assumptions as a prerequisite for successful implementation of quality and service: services readiness potential - spatial, temporal arming and especially the readiness of the human factor;
b) readiness of the building services - building services should be adequately factor in the adoption of certain social services and to prepare him to be; creating conditions for local and temporal connection of subject and object of social services aspect of participation in the building process services, that the recipient perform different tasks, it becomes responsible for the quality and outcome of services;
c) the problem of transport and the location of an external factor - arises as a consequence of specific functions in humans, providing ancillary services must also be on the quantitative and qualitative level (Benco, 2005, p. 15-17).

For longer term resonating in the SR, the term „social safety net" feature which acts to accelerate the creation of new jobs, ensuring social and individual older people among whom we also include the Roma minority. System is therefore well known in the field of social work. When we look at the definition of that term, delimited by is characterized as follows: „social safety nets can be defined as a set of different legislative norms integrating various active and passive measures that the state guarantees all citizens a minimum level of assistance in the event that they find themselves in serious, recognized by the state of emergency social situations. Social safety net is in fact mainly mitigate social impacts of the stepwise transformation of the economy" (Krebs, 1997, p. 126-128).

This system is an expression of solidarity and responsibility of the state towards citizens in cases where there is no fault of their own fall into a state of emergency, respectively. That threatened their important social interests. The state guarantees required by this system, necessary, socially accepted standard of assistance. It can take many different forms of benefits, both centrally with a single dose or the amount of locally differentiated benefits. The goal is to reach the real value of aid and guarantees that no one loses not caused by poverty. The main objective of changing the whole system is to give people who need services, the opportunity to use their own expertise and that the services developed according to individual requirements as far as possible to respond to their needs (Transformation, 2009). The strategic objective of the Slovak Republic is „to increase significantly by 2013, the competitiveness of the regions in the Slovak economy, while respecting sustainable development". One of the three objectives of the strategic priorities is to „increase employment, growth, quality workforce for the needs of the knowledge economy and increase social inclusion risk groups for priority human resources and education" (Government, Draft Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013, towers III).

One senses the reforms, as well as I mentioned Radičová, should be the elimination of „inefficient overemployment and parallel attenuation of social conflicts associated with its removal". The main institutional mechanism

should be just the social safety net, which has become an important part of employment services. The aim of this reform should be a temporary „keep the creative abilities of labor resources and business activities and that they are viable in the rate of unemployment" and „rapid transformation of the unemployed in employment, promotion of new jobs, implementation of public works, small business support and retraining". Dealing with „temporary" unemployment turned out to be much more difficult than originally anticipated and because unemployment remains one of the most serious social problems (Radičová, 2003).

Crisis point in many people's eyes is just as much unemployment, the increasing growth of socio-pathological phenomena. Unfortunately, if you do not switch the current system and create the conditions for employment, nor can we expect to improve or eliminate these phenomena. It is necessary to continue to review by the reforms. To the need for a comprehensive system changes are also reflected in the author Lehotská and Haburajová-Ilavská that „Social services extramural nature could allow for marginalized Roma community social work performance in a systematic form of welfare, based on specific local needs of the community. Forms should be so for most professionals (social workers in social services) between members of the community and environment. The complex process of change is now necessary not only to defining social change that has lead to an improvement in the community, but also bring about the conditions for broad-Activation social activities for the community and the community" (Lehoczká, Haburajová-Ilavská, 2008, p. 82).

Social safety net as a complex system performs the following functions:

- Provides some protection socially deprived people (eg, benefits and allowances);
- Ensures people active in the minimum amount of labor income by ensuring so. minimum wage;
- Ensure the necessary level of income for socially deprived families or people setting up subsistence level and minimum pension;

- Is active in the employment setting of active and passive employment policy;
- Provides a constitutional welfare;
- Made so. indexation, which is the adjustment of wage income and social cost of living" (Haburajová-Ilavská, 2008, p. 86).

Stanek sees the social network as „one of the mechanisms for solving problems. It has a deeply human nature and meets the basic social principles, solidarity and justice" (Stanek, 2006, p. 13).

The concept of decentralization and modernization of public administration says „Every issue of social assistance is primarily a social problem. Because of his solution applies to the maximum extent the principle of subsidiarity (the family until after the final instance of the state) and therefore the provision of social assistance (except for the Treasury) and responsibility for social services is primarily the responsibility of local government, in rare cases, governments of higher territorial units. Provision of social services tends directly organized by government authorities, but increasingly participates in the provision of private and NGO sector. But there is also irreplaceable role of the public sector, which accounts largely for equipment financing. „

Competencies to decentralized local self-government can be summarized as follows:

- Provision of care services and transportation services;
- The establishment and administration of social services (social care homes, retirement homes, protected housing, children's homes, homes for single parents, nursing station services, foster care facility, shelter, crisis centers, socialization centers, home care services);
- Financial contribution of non-state actors (individuals and legal entities) providing social services;
- The provision of social assistance;
- Providing social prevention;
- The provision of social counseling (Concept, 2001).

Each client of social services is a unique unrepeatable personality that has individual needs and require different services and care. In the world, a new approach to the client called. „A new culture of the client". Its basic principles is to enhance user services, the use of participatory strategies, establishing clear rights and responsibilities in providing services, provider relations, democratization - the user. The demand for quality social services but also the requirements for growing professionalization, specialization, lifelong learning and the need to increase professional skills (Kamanová, 2008, p. 56). The implementation of these requirements is one way, which should move in the sphere of social transformation in the third millennium.

At present, based on the Operational Programme Employment and Social Inclusion 2007–2013, we can say that „the priority actions focusing on poverty and exclusion of the most vulnerable individuals and populations, namely children and young people, families with children, the unemployed, and especially for long-term unemployed, marginalized Roma communities, people with disabilities, homeless, prison and drug and other addicts. Vavreková that „social work is not easy and brings many new knowledge society. It seems to us difficult to work with Roma, especially in terms of operation of field social workers directly in the settlement because it enters into the very specific environment. There is a need for high professional readiness as well as moral and will power" (Vavreková, 2007, p. 71).

The priority objectives are:

- To reduce child poverty and address the intergenerational reproduction of poverty and support families with children;
- To improve inclusion and combat discrimination against vulnerable groups by promoting the availability of public services, developing local solutions and increasing the participation of excluded groups in society;
- Improve access to the labor market and increase employment and employability of groups threatened by exclusion;

– To strengthen the management, implementation and monitoring of policies at national, regional and local level.

The key measures needed to prevent social exclusion and poverty (or its escalation) are also steps to ensure access to public services for all steps necessary to ensure the basic living needs and to integrate. The principle of sovereignty and co-activation, together with ensuring the protection of the vulnerable must be supplemented by the principle of prevention and elimination of adverse situations. One of the primary tasks is also much more massive support to availability and modernization of social services, improving the effectiveness of measures of social and legal protection and social care, efforts to invest more money in human capital development, to increase professional security issues of social inclusion at all levels of government and non-governmental sector. Transfer of responsibility for state government in public services is certainly advantageous in particular in terms of social administration approach to the citizen. Increasing the accountability, flexibility and innovative local solutions but also has negative accompanying symptoms, such as. lack of readiness of municipalities, especially smaller communities in social-risk areas, to meet all municipal obligations and also the lack of human resources in both quantitative and qualitative terms" (Sika, 2008, p. 15–20).

Baková (2012, p. 8) states that „At present it seems that it is necessary to make a change in approach. Can manage in social work and to work directly with clients. A suitable way seems to be a strategic application of a systematic approach to the client for helping".

Great importance is now placed on the development of community social services, especially in areas where there is a great representation of the Roma population, which is a positive direction and to participate in solving their problem situation. „Community social services for Roma settlements therefore assumes a multifactorial analysis of the social problems of their people" (Haburajová-Ilavská, 2008, s. 94).

We believe that the idea of community social services should be to create the most tolerant, and not in conflict with the positive coexistence of Roma

and non-Roma citizens and also to the very philosophy of building access. The Roma minority also has rights and responsibilities and certainly nobody wants to find themselves marginalized. Its development as well as development of the Slovak nation itself depends on respect for individual rights, and especially without any difference. Great importance to the very philosophy of social work and access to the Roma minority. Philosophy quote from doc. Balvín we would like to finish our journey of social services that are targeted to all and especially for those who need them. „The social worker is not suspended look at work with a client connector that point at which understanding is possible. A philosophy as a basis on which it can be the starting point of connection points to create more and more, creating islands of mutual understanding with the client, which can overgrow in the islands and mainland of common coexistence. The point is that everyone creates his own world view on things. Within the limits of the human situation possible for a person to forget. But social workers should be a person who want help and who asks for help when confronted by an onerous social situation, noted that the spirit of philosophical wisdom is often the only force that humans can be exported again to light the right path" (Balvín, 2009, p. 27).