

## **Irina Maslo**

Institute of Educational Research  
Faculty of Pedagogy and Psychology  
University of Latvia  
E-Mail: irina.maslo@lu.lv

### **Current Developments in Approaches to Social Work and Challenges**

Three socio-political approaches to social work are developed in Latvia in the distance of about 10 years and are present in the practice. The first approach is a *social help*. Originated at the beginning of the nineties years of 20 century in the euphoria of the radical-capitalistic social political re-orientation in Latvia, this one can be characterized as Welfare-State approach to the social support of poverty population. This approach was been uncritically transformed from very low poverty situation of Welfare-States 25 years ago for very high poverty situation of Latvia today. Theoretically this approach proposes the minimization of the social injustice according the social rights.

The second one, established at the end of the 20-th century, is an approach of social care what purposes to provide a system of the social care of population in problematical social situations. Theoretically, the purpose of this approach is the arranging of the transformational social environments.

The third one - present with the foundation of the Ministry of children and families tasks in 2003 and with the changes in the law for child rights and family rights of 2005 - is a politically escorted national social support system of children, youth and families in problematical situations. In the center of this approach is an understanding of the collaboration of state, society and family, what, on the one hand, delegates to the families themselves taken over own responsibility for the creation of own general living conditions, and, on another hand, provides the opportunities of optimum public social support.

This current development in social political approaches to social work needs a social pedagogical scientific theory to attend not only social challenges but socio-cultural too. Together with it is necessary to discuss the differences in social work in modern industrial sociality and informative multicultural society, and needs of challenges in relationships of Pedagogy and Politic.