

Eugenijus Dunajevs

Vilnius University, Faculty of Philosophy

Universiteto Street 9/1

eugenijus.dunajevs@gmail.com

Personal social service system In Lithuania: welfare state or welfare pluralism?

The aim of the paper is to present possible development trajectories of the personal social service system in Lithuania.

Personal social service system is the contemporary institutional arrangement for the implementation of social work practice, research and theory generation. The development of personal social service system is linked with the development of welfare systems in particular countries, which in post-communist countries, as well as in Lithuania, can take different forms. Z. Norkus in his book "Which Democracy, Which Capitalism? Post-communist Transformations in Lithuania from the Viewpoint of Comparative Historical Sociology" (2008: 741) argues that capitalism in Lithuania will develop in the direction of the neoliberal Anglo-Saxon capitalism, so personal social service system is not the exception. Anglophone countries are well-known by their radical social service system transformations, which can be seen as postwar social service system (welfare state) reformation into welfare pluralism.

The main contemporary development trajectories of personal social service system development in Anglo-Saxon countries are: managerialism (Clarke, Newman 1997), decentralization (Pollit, Bouckaert 2003), quasi markets (Le Grand 2003), privatization (Carey, 2008), participation of service user (Beresford 2001), the fragmentation of social work (Healy, Meagher 2004). It has to be noted that all these trajectories only analytically can be distinguished, in reality they are overlapping and interconnected.

Managerialism is twofold concept, which primary refers to the new culture or ideology of public issues management and second to the practical way how to implement this new culture. These practical ways usually are known by the name "New Public Management".

The idea of decentralization is connected with the task to delegate the policy process to the local government. Also it is noted as the way to force bureaucratic system and local government to work according local community needs.

Quasi market – is a new way for the resources distribution in public sector. It is stated that market discipline threw the competition of service providers will improve the quality of services and will reduce the costs. The main characteristics of quasi markets are the split between service purchaser and provider and the vouchers system.

Privatization is tendency to move responsibility of problems solution to private sphere. This tendency is opposite to collectivization tendencies in Western countries after World War II. The main indicators of privatization are social care familization and the process of legal redistributions.

The movement for active role of service user was primary concerned with bureaucratization in welfare state and with institutionalization as the best way for service provision. Recently this tendency by the impact of managerialism is transformed in to consumer sovereignty discourse. Fragmentation of social work is contemporary state in social work. The main indicators of social work fragmentation are deprofessionalization, changing balance of social worker's routine activities, emergence of case/care manager and even the disappearance of social work. The existence of the aforementioned trajectories can be traced and examined in post-communist Lithuania's personal social service system by using social research methods as secondary data analysis and content analysis.

References

- Beresford, Peter** 2001: „Service users, social policy and the future of welfare“, *Critical Social policy*, 21(4): 494-512.
- Clarke, John; Newman, Janet** 1997: *The Managerial State: Power, Politics and Ideology in the Remaking of Social Welfare*. London : SAGE Publications.
- Le Grand, Julian** 2003: *Motivation, Agency, and Public Policy: of Knights and Knaves, Pawns and Queens*. Oxford : Oxford University Press.
- Pollit, Christopher; Bouckaert, Geert** 2003: *Viešojo valdymo reforma: Lyginamoji analizė. Vilnius: Algarvé. (Pollit, Christopher; Bouckaert, Geert 2000: Public Management Reform. A Comparative Analysis. Oxford University Press)*
- Carey, Malcolm.** 2008: *Everything Must Go? The Privatization of State Social Work*, *British Journal of Social Work* 38, 918-935
- Norkus, Zenonas** 2008: *Kokia demokratija, koks kapitalizmas? Pokomunistinė transformacija Lietuvoje lyginamosios istorinės sociologijos požiūriu*, Vilniaus universiteto leidykla (**Norkus, Zenonas** 2008: *Which Democracy, Which Capitalism? Post-communist Transformations in Lithuania from the Viewpoint of Comparative Historical Sociology*)
- Healy, Karen; Gabrielle Meagher** 2004: „*The Reprofessionalization of Social Work: Collaborative Approaches for Achieving Professional Recognition*“, *British Journal of Social Work*, 34: 243-260.