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SOCIAL PEDAGOGY IN EUROPE AS AN INSPIRATION FOR SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

Contemporary reflection on the traditions in education for social professions in Europe reveals common trends related to academic and trans-disciplinary dimensions in training for social work practice. Social pedagogy as a discipline reflecting on development of individuals as well as on subject relation between human being and social environment becomes an inspiration for social work professional education and social work practice.

Social pedagogy strives to combine achievements of diverse sciences in order to provide a holistic view of an individual embroiled in the variety of relations with the surrounding environment. Other features that have a substantial impact on the present image of social pedagogy are dynamism (creative and active attitude towards the world), compensation (of any shortages and disadvantages encountered by people) and the process of moral assessment both as a justification of taken actions and setting goals for such.

At the beginning of XXI century social pedagogy in many European countries is in the constant process of development due to the changing living conditions and social reality. New challenges and opportunities but also new problems faced by contemporary societies are reflected in the theories and empirical studies conducted within the field of social pedagogy.

The main objective of this paper is to offer an insight into current discourse on the paradigm of social pedagogy in Europe and its influence on professional education for social workers.

Keywords: social pedagogy, social work education, humanistic approach to social work practice.