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## **TRAINING OF SOCIAL WORKERS FOR COMMUNITY SOCIAL WORK: THE MODEL OF FIELD PRACTICE**

Scientific literature gives considerable attention to community social work in the context of social work (Baršauskienė, Leliūgienė, 2001; Roivainen, 2004) as well as to the training of students for community social work (Hardina, D. 2000; Lam, Wong, 2004; Forde, Lynch, 2006). Disregarding the fact that community social work has long traditions, it gets insufficient attention in the study programme of Social Work (Lavan, 2008; Mendes, Ph. 2008). Thus, it is not clear how, within a short period of time, to train the students to work in the community.

The analysis of scientific literature resulted in the construction of a theoretical model of the competence of social workers of how to work in the community. Taking into consideration the requirements of the Bachelor degree studies of Social Work and the analysis of the content of the Bachelor degree programme of Social Work, the content of the community social work practice of the studies was newly defined.

While creating the model of practice experiential, problem-based and collaborative learning strategies were used. The experiential learning strategies suggested the ideas enabling to study while being engaged in activities, i.e. the efforts to involve the students in constant reflection (before, during and after the activities). The elements of problem –based learning strategies were used to enable the students to concentrate on a group analysis of a particular problem and search of solutions. Collaborative learning enabled the students to look for the links of communication at several levels: between the student, institution of practice and university; between different groups of trainees; between students having practice in a particular institution. With the view of enabling the students bear responsibility for their studies, the portfolio of professional competences was used.

The objectives of the present paper is to present the educational system of university practice enabling to successfully enhance the competences of future social workers to work in the community.

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