

СЕКЦІЯ 7
ПУБЛІЧНІ ПОСЛУГИ ТА СОЦІАЛЬНИЙ ПРОФІЛЬ
ТЕРИТОРІАЛЬНИХ ГРОМАД

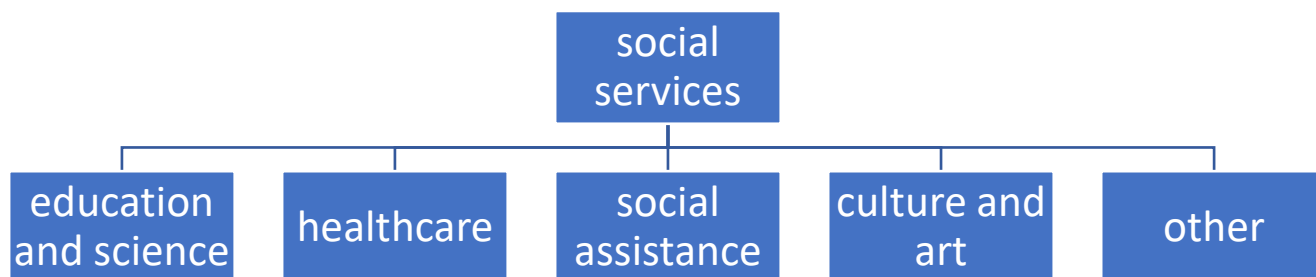
assoc. prof. Elżbieta Żywucka-Kozłowska
dr Rossana Broniecka

Department of Criminal Procedure and Executive Criminal Law
University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland

PROFILE OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The term social services is not new in practice, much less in the literature on the subject. The definitions naturally have different wording, but these definitions contain common elements, such as the nature of accessibility rights, the type of entity providing services, sources of public financing, types of public tasks performed, public needs and interests met, and the method of provision [1]. For the sake of order, it is worth quoting several definitions of the title public services. According to the authors of the Little Economic Encyclopedia, social services are "activities used to satisfy human needs that do not find any embodiment in new material goods"[2]. Tadeusz Kotarbiński wrote about social services: "Whenever we talk about a service, we usually mean one of three things: either a service as an auxiliary activity for someone other than its perpetrator, or a service as an activity that meets someone's need directly, or a service as an action less or more fleeting as opposed to some more lasting persistent effort"[3]. Philip Kotler, citing other authors, defined the service as follows: "a service is any activity or benefit that can be provided by someone to someone else and is intangible and does not have any effects in the form of ownership of anything. Its production may or may not be linked to a physical product"[4]. Services are a large field in which there are those of a material nature (oriented towards production) and those that are of an intangible nature - this element is characteristic of social services.

Summary of social services [5].



The development of social services is a consequence of the development of societies. The literature on the subject emphasizes that these are benefits for people [6]. Ryszard Szarfenberg lists the goals and functions of these services, based on

many sources, including the EU Communication[5]. It is worth mentioning just a few of them here, namely:

“(...) person-oriented services designed to meet human life needs, especially the needs of weaker groups in society provide protection against general and specific life threats and assist in meeting personal challenges and crisis situations; are also provided to families, in the context of changing family patterns, supporting their role in caring for young and older family members, as well as for disabled people, and compensate for the possible breakdown of families; these are key instruments for the protection of fundamental human rights and human dignity; they play a preventive role and socially integrate all members of the population, regardless of their wealth or income; contribute to combating discrimination, ensuring gender equality, improving living conditions and creating equal opportunities for all, thereby increasing the ability of individuals to participate fully in society” [5]. Social services are not static, which means that they are subject to specific changes along with civilizational, economic, social and political progress [7]. Mirosław Grewiński emphasizes the distinctiveness of social and social services, which is important in the field of science [8]. The author clearly emphasizes that social services and social services share a common scope for social policy and the social economy. Social assistance and care support have a special place in social services. Social changes in many countries have created changes in society itself. On the one hand, it is a consumer society, and on the other, it is a society that requires support from the state. Tomasz Barszczewski and Arkadiusz Durasiewicz point out that "social services, due to their importance and functions, are largely provided by public sector entities. They are characterized by a high degree of financing by public funds"[9].

In difficult times, such as war, state social assistance is particularly important. This is an extremely difficult task, but not impossible. Support often comes from various entities, but is coordinated by the state. This support combines many elements characteristic of social services, including respect for human dignity, satisfaction of basic needs, teaching, and medical care. The literature emphasizes the important role of local governments in providing the services in question [10]. Marcin Miemieć believes that "local government units, specifically their bodies and local government organizational units, play an important role among public social welfare entities. Tasks in the field of social assistance are performed at every level of local government - by commune self-government, powiat self-government and voivodeship self-government" [11]. This solution was adopted not only in Poland, but also in other countries. This approach enables quick identification of needs and selection of assistance measures. Asbjørn Wahl believes that some social services were created during the economic development of the country. The author clearly emphasizes that "the international economic crisis of the 1930s played a special role: society began to demand political interventions within the market. Mass unemployment, rising poverty, fascism, and war have led to widespread demands for peace, social security, full employment, and political control of the economy." [12] It is difficult not to notice that people played an important role in shaping the services mentioned above. Today it is difficult to imagine a country without a social support

system. Services to members of society are therefore a reflection of its integration, development and maturity.

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Husenko Anzhela Anatolyivna

Mykolaiv National Agrarian University

senior lecturer at the Department of Public Management, Administration and

International Economics

SOCIAL SERVICES FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN IN TERRITORIAL COMMUNITIES

At the local level in Ukraine, the process of transformation of the social services system continues, paying special attention to services aimed at the prevention of vulnerability, early detection and intervention for effective assistance to children and their families, as well as youth in need. The decentralization reform strengthens the role of territorial communities in this process, local self-government bodies are responsible for ensuring the provision of basic social services, taking into account the needs of community residents.