
Foreword



For the past 25 years, ECCE – European Centre of Community Education has been promoting the European dialogue focused on community education in its wider sense, including social work, community work, working with youth and children, disadvantaged people...

Undoubtedly, international conferences organised in various European countries rank among the very efficient tools of strengthening of European cooperation in this field. The added value of such conferences is represented by conference proceedings, published consequently, which can be seen as a tool of dissemination of knowledge and experience of participants from various European countries.

On 2 and 3 October 2009, Faculty of Arts of the University of Prešov, in cooperation with ECCE, organised an international conference entitled ‚Challenges for Social Professions in Modern Society‘ in Prešov.

Consequences of modernisation and its impact on social professions are a permanent focus of discussions as well as ample publishing activities of ECCE. However, the situation is different in Slovak academic discourse in the field of social work. The organisers' intention was to create a platform for the discussion of Slovak experts on the present and future of social professions with personal participation of key ECCE experts and colleagues from other European countries.

It is worth mentioning that the first conference organised in Slovakia in cooperation with ECCE was held in August 1999 in Modra. One of the key contributions to its organisation was the personal engagement of the late doc. PaedDr. Štefan Strieženec, CSc., within the framework of the ECSPRESS project. Thus, after ten years, the Slovak academics active in the field of social work had an opportunity to take part in the face-to-face discussion directly in the centre of one of the poorest Slovak regions; and to learn about the opinions and attitudes of their colleagues from the

Czech Republic, Germany, Switzerland and Italy. It was exactly this dimension of the conference that was valued the most according to feedbacks of participating Social work students of the University of Prešov.

The key-note speakers' conference papers were recorded and their audio-visual recordings are available at the address http://www.unipo.sk/avs/aktivita/20091002_konfer_ecce_video_dh_ff/.

The proceedings we hereby present to you include the key-note presentations of doc. PhDr. Oldřich Chytil, PhD. (the Czech Republic) – President of ECCE; and of doc. PhDr. Kvetoslava Repková, PhD. (Slovakia).

After these, papers of participants in the following three sections are included:

- Consequences of modernisation on aid provision (analysis of social professions status in the current society).
- Social responsibility of educators in the field of social professions (identification of contemporary social demand in Western, Central and Easter European countries).
- New social work target groups (overview of new social programmes in Europe).

Conference proceedings editors wish to thank all the authors for taking their time to share their know-how and, above all, their attitudes and opinions on the discussed topics also in this form. Having done that, they have contributed to the development of the so-much needed European dialogue.

Oldřich Chytil – President of ECCE, University of Ostrava, CZ
Tatiana Matulayová – University of Prešov, SVK