



News Letter

Edition 1/2000

Observatory for the Development of Social
Services in Europe

State Secretary Mr. Haupt Signs General Agreement

In a ceremonial act, state secretary Mr. Peter Haupt from the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ), Dr. Helga Henke-Berndt, chairing the Institute for Social Work and Social Education e. V. (ISS) and Dr. Konrad Deufel, chairman of the German Association of Public and Private Welfare e.V. (DV) signed a general agreement on the establishment of the „Observatory for the Development of Social Services in Europe“ in Frankfurt/Main on 21. June 2000. By signing



Dr. Konrad Deufel, chairman of the German Association of Public and Private Welfare

European Union scale. Despite the fact that social policy and social law in general are still up to the member states now that the Treaty of Amsterdam has come into force, europeanisation is also starting in this area. This means that questions of freedom of competition, freedom of establishment and making social services economical become of increasing importance. There is also the question of the effects of the general conditions of EU law on the provision of social services. It can also be expected that various national social security systems will compete in future. In an increasingly merging Europe, the relationship between public provider and agencies of non-statutory welfare on the market will be redefined. These developments give rise to a systematic analysis of future requirements in this area and to raise potential opportunities for change with regard to the actors involved. In September 1999, the BMFSFJ (Federal Ministry for Family

Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth) commissioned the German Association for Public and Private Welfare and the Institute for Social Work and Social Education with the specific creation of the Observatory, which would be funded by the Federal Ministry.

Objectives

In general, the objective of the Observatory is to cover European developments in social services and to consult the BMFSFJ, the six umbrella organisations of non-statutory welfare in Germany and the central associations of local authorities. Specifically, the work of the Observatory comprises the following objectives:

- covering the European situation of social services based on the national interests;
- gaining an overview of the development in social services in Europe, in particular in EU members states and future member states;
- observing and evaluating the various national and European discussions on the trend in social services under public, non-profit, and private commercial conditions;
- covering developments in the professional and organisational development of social services on a national and transnational scale;
- paving the way for comparison as well as the provision of information and evaluation for institutions involved as far as the development process of social services in the Federal Republic of Germany on a European scale (policy consulting) is concerned.

Editorial

DEAR READERS,

WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME THE READERS OF THE FIRST EDITION OF OUR NEWSLETTER. THE OBSERVATORY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN EUROPE WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION ON PROJECT ACTIVITIES THREE TIMES A YEAR. THE OBJECTIVE IS TO INFORM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES, SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS, POLITICIANS, SCIENTISTS AND THOSE ACTIVE IN PRACTICE BOTH IN GERMANY AND ABROAD, BOTH IN STATES AND MUNICIPALITIES, AND IN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, OF EUROPEAN SOCIAL SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS. ANOTHER PURPOSE OF THIS NEWSLETTER IS TO PROMOTE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT REFORM AND THE FUTURE OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN EUROPE, TO INTRODUCE "GOOD PRACTICE" EXAMPLES INTO THE NATIONAL DISCUSSION AND TO THUS CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL SYSTEMS IN GERMANY AND EUROPE. SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US.

Organisations Involved

Apart from the non-profit organisations DV (German Association for Public and Private Welfare) and ISS (Institute for Social Work and Social Education) which were



State Secretary Peter Haupt and Dr. Helga Henke-Berndt, chairwoman of the Institute for Social Work and Social Education

this agreement, the state secretary has paid tribute to beneficial co-operation between DV and ISS, which were jointly assigned the task of implementing of this project.

Initial Situation

The establishment of the Observatory is closely related to socio-political and social-law developments on a

commissioned, the co-ordination group is of decisive importance as the central consulting committee. The scope of activity of this committee ranges from deciding on priorities of the work of the Observatory and the co-ordination of the contents of scientific work to evaluation of project results and making recommendations to institutions involved as to the above-mentioned topics. The co-ordination group is directed by the German Association. The focus of the Institute for Social Work and Social Education is on the scientific transformation of the project objectives embodied by the Observatory. The contents of this area are mainly focused on the following:

- monitoring developments in social services in practice, research and government activity;
- examining empirical data concerning institutions, persons, literature and research plans;
- monitoring developments as to standards and quality;
- contributing towards socio-political discussions.

For the purpose of implementing these tasks, the Observatory implements partial projects, processes results, calls for expert opinions and transmits the results derived therefrom to the co-ordination group.

In the past year and in the current year 2000, the focus of the project of the Observatory in the ISS was i.a. on the following areas: preparation and documentation of an overview of literature concerning social services in Europe; organisation and documentation of the European expert conference concerning „Valency and change in welfare organizations in a merging Europe – their contribution to the development of a European Civil Society” in Brussels; filing of an application for the 5th framework programme of the European Commission for establishing an information system on social services in Europe; development of a concept for the expert conference concerning „The role of social services in sustainable social development” with a focus on middle and eastern European states which will be staged in 2001 in co-operation with the Council of Europe; assignment and evaluation of expert opinions on the subjects of definition, organisation forms of social services, quality discussion, social services and specific target groups and/or client rights and user structures of social services; preliminary planning and organisation of a colloquium on the subject of “research overview”.

For further information on the project Observatory for the Development of Social Services in Europe, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Beobachtungsstelle/ Observatory

Institut für Sozialarbeit und Sozialpädagogik e. V.
Am Stockborn 5-7
D-60439 Frankfurt am Main

Beatrix Holzer (scientific officer)



Phone: +49-69-9 57 89-1 73
E-mail: beatrix.holzer@iss-ffm.de

Graduate social scientist/ completed her studies at the University of Mannheim, studies at the University of Cape Town/South Africa and post-graduate studies in business management; scientific focus: comparison of welfare states, research into family policy, international relations, methods of empirical social research and European Community Law; previously research assistant at the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research in the project “Developing a Family Policy Database for Europe”

and at the Westf. Wilhelms-Universität Münster, with a focus on: third sector research, social policy, civil society, peace and conflict research; previously: activities at the university, in youth association work, adult education and organisation development.

Johanna Segebrecht, MA
(administrative assistant)



Phone: +49-69-9 57 89-1 21
E-mail:

johanna.segebrecht@iss-ffm.de

Philologist, studies in Frankfurt/Main, studies in Perugia and Urbino (Italy), Belfast (Northern Ireland) as a non-enrolled student. Graduation: English language and literature/Romance languages and literature in Tübingen.

Office of the Co-ordination Group

Deutscher Verein für öffentliche und private Fürsorge
Am Stockborn 1-3
D-60439 Frankfurt am Main

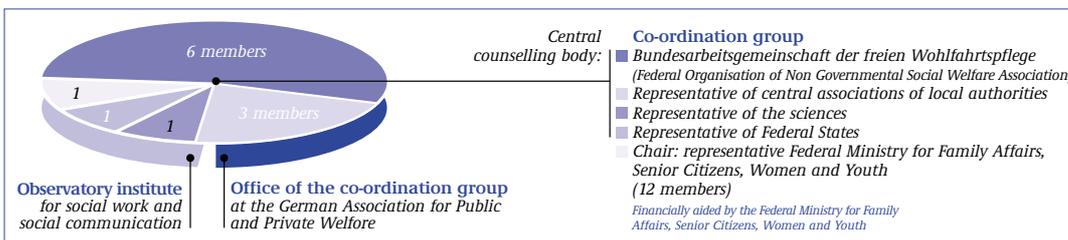
Antje Goy (manager of the coordinating group)



Phone: +49-69-9 58 07-1 33

E-mail: goy.observatorium@deutscher-verein.de

Educational scientist and social worker, organisation developer and therapeutic consultant. Preceding employment with the episcopal diocesan authorities and the diocesan Caritas association of the diocese of Limburg. One-year stay in London for assisting a project ordered by the European Parliament. Scientific focus: social systems (associations and organisations) such as church systems, modernisation and restructuring of companies and organisations, systemic cycles, networks, questions of discrimination, resource utilisation, participative processes in particular. Publications i.a. in journals for ‘organisation development and ‘German Youth’.



The co-ordination group is made up of the following members:

- one representative of each of the six German umbrella organisations of non-statutory welfare;
- three representatives of central associations of local authorities;
- one representative for the Federal states and
- one scientific representative

The co-ordination group shall be chaired by a representative of the BMFSFJ.

Dr. Georg Albers (scientific officer)



Phone: +49-69-9 57 89-1 75

E-mail: georg.albers@iss-ffm.de

Graduate social worker and political scientist, studies at the Kath. Fachhochschule Münster

Fundamental Social Rights as a European Issue

On 18 May 2000, the German Association for Public and Private Welfare staged a conference on „Fundamental social rights as a European issue – proposals for a European charter of fundamental rights“ in Berlin within the project “Observatory for the development of Social Services in Europe” in co-operation with the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. A brief overview of the background and the course of the conference can be seen from the following.

The discussion about a charter of fundamental rights of the European Union has recently become of increasing importance. It is an indispensable condition for its legitimacy and one of the principles of foundation of the European Union to safeguard fundamental rights. The European Court of Justice confirmed and shaped the European Union’s commitment to compliance with fundamental rights with its jurisdiction. In the current status of development of the European Union, according to the European Council in Cologne¹, it is necessary to prepare a charter listing these rights to visibly anchor the outstanding importance of the fundamental rights and their significance for the EU citizens. The question of the possibility of making the fundamental social rights a constitutional element of the European Union is the centre of the discussion.²

On the Background

The acceptance of the Treaty of Amsterdam on 1 May 1999 has demonstrated the urgency of an explicit acknowledgement of the fundamental rights with even more emphasis and has again stressed the importance of creating a European catalogue of fundamental rights which was already requested years ago.³ Increasing European integration at the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century has resulted in a need for defining a common European set of values. The

expansion of the tasks of the European Union makes it clear that the acknowledgement of fundamental rights is not a long-term task but that it rather should be a short-term objective of the European Union.

In June 1999, the European Council resolved on the preparation of a **charter of fundamental rights in the European Union** in Cologne. The European Council justified this requirement with the necessity to visibly anchor the outstanding importance of the fundamental rights and their significance for the EU citizens. In the opinion of the European Council in Cologne, this charter

1. is to comprise rights of individual liberty and equality as well as procedural rights (European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and general principles of Community law),
2. is to comprise fundamental rights to which only EU citizens are entitled and finally
3. is to take economic and social rights contained in the European Social Charter and

Annotations

1 Press and information office of the Federal government; bulletin No. 49 / p. 509 of 16 August 1999; Bonn

2 European Commission; General Directorate Employment, employer-employee relations and social affairs; report V/D.2 (ed.) (1999): Die Grundrechte in der Europäischen Union verbürgen. Zeit zum Handeln. Luxemburg; 3. [safeguarding fundamental rights in the European Union. Time to act. Luxembourg]

3 European Commission; General Directorate Employment, employer-employee relationships and social affairs; report V/D.2 (ed.) (1999): Die Grundrechte in der Europäischen Union verbürgen. Zeit zum Handeln. Luxemburg; 9 et seq.

4 European Commission; General Directorate Employment, employer-employee relationships and social affairs; report V/D.2 (ed.) (1999): Die Grundrechte in der Europäischen Union verbürgen. Zeit zum Handeln. Luxemburg; 9.

5 Position Prof. Dr. J. Meyer in a statement of 7 July 2000 by Dr. M. Engels



the Community charter of fundamental social rights of employees into account unless they merely justify objectives for actions by the European Union.

The European Council further stipulated that a committee made up of the representatives of the heads of state and heads of government, a representative of the European Commission, members of the European Parliament and the national parliaments as well as a number of observers are to elaborate a draft of this charter and to forward the preliminary results to the Council. The former Federal German President Prof. Dr. Roman Herzog shall chair over this so-called Convent.

The European Council shall make a proposal to the European Parliament and the Commission to solemnly proclaim a charter of fundamental rights of the European Union together with the Council. Thereafter, what will have to be analysed is the extent to which and the manner in which the charter is to be integrated into the treaties.

The political dimension of these plans is of outstanding importance. On the one hand, the European Community is confronted with the fact that its citizens hardly identify themselves with the ‘European Union’ project; on the other hand, it is about to be expanded to an extent unknown to date. A common charter of fundamental rights could prove to be an easy basis for the values of this Community and thus help create value and identity. A charter of fundamental rights of the European Union constitutes an important element of a

European Union which describes itself as a “territory ruled by freedom, safety and law”.

On the Basic Significance of a Charter of Fundamental Rights

This position of necessity of the acknowledgement of a number of fundamental social rights was already specified by a ‘Committee of the Wise’ commissioned by the European Commission in March 1996. In its documents ‘European Union and Human Rights Project’ as well as ‘Human Rights Agenda for the European Union for the year 2000’, the European University Institute emphasised the urgency of an explicit acknowledgement of the fundamental rights by the European Union. They will not be satisfied with a general assessment of the significance of such a decision. Rather, they have made reference to the necessity of „integrating any future efforts into an institutional and administrative framework which safeguards a sustainable reinforcement of fundamental rights and their consistent integration into current activities and political decisions of the European Union.“⁴

What exactly are we to gain from a European charter of fundamental rights as compared to the existing catalogues of national fundamental rights and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights? We will briefly explain it on the basis of two examples. If French truck drivers barricade a border to enforce their claims concerning working conditions, would there be a problem if a European authority were to request the cancellation of the strike with reference to the fre-



edom of goods and services.² Is the Union to respect the national right to strike in the charter of fundamental rights? Could not a European authority weaken national social standards? Prof. Dr. Jürgen Meyer, for

example, made this proposal in the discussions of the Convent. As far as data protection is concerned, the use of registered data, for example at Europol, must be safeguarded by surveillance in accordance with the rule of the law and it must be made an element of a charter of fundamental rights. The standard of a European charter of fundamental rights can and must by no means be below existing national standards of fundamental rights. This request is regulated in the horizontal provisions of the charter: it confirms "that the level of protection safeguarded with the charter of fundamental rights must not be below that of national constitutions or international agreements. Moreover, the charter is only to commit the bodies of the European Union and the member states to exercising European law and, as a consequence, the safeguarding of



national fundamental rights is not affected thereby.⁴⁵ It will have to be analysed after the proclamation in Nice how a charter of fundamental rights is to be integrated into the treaties. But as of today, many people agree that the right of recourse to law must be guaranteed to enable individuals to safeguard their fundamental rights against the European Union before the European Court of Justice.

Initiative and Contents

It is against this background that a discussion on proposals for a European charter of fundamental rights from the point of view of Germans was held with approx. 100 high-ranking representatives and experts from a wide range of social organisations and associations in the Federal Republic of Germany at the headquarters of the Bank for Social Economy in Berlin. The question of which fundamental social rights concerning families, seni-

or citizens, women and youth were to be integrated into a future European charter of fundamental rights and what the consequences of non-integration could be were the centre of the discussion. The objective of the event was as follows,

- to take the resolution taken by the Council of Europe in Cologne into account to the extent that social groups were to be included into the process of elaboration of the charter of fundamental rights,
- to invite dialogue on anchoring fundamental social rights in the European catalogue of fundamental rights,
- to form a forum of discussion for talking about fundamental social rights within the framework of a European charter of fundamental rights and
- to support German political bodies and the Convent in the process of preparation of the charter of fundamental rights with consulting services.

In this context, various associations and organisations positioned themselves in terms of representing the interests of their members and in the spirit of constructive political consulting and they have elaborated and presented the respective statements.

Course of the Conference

Dirk Jarré, the head of the international department of the German Association for Public and Private Welfare, opened the conference by citing a statement by Romano Prodi, in which particular reference was made to the inclusion of the citizens in the process of designing the European Union. Then, the **Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Dr. Christine Bergmann**, who offered an introduction into the subject, took the floor. She particularly emphasised the new quality of fundamental social rights in Europe. **Prof. Dr. Rainer Pitschas**, from the Administrative University in Speyer, presented a detailed report of existing fundamental social rights and social policies for the target groups family, senior citizens, women and youth in the member states of the EU. **Prof. Dr. Jürgen Meyer**, a



*Dr. Christine Bergmann
Minister for Family Affairs,
Senior Citizens, Women and Youth*

member of the German Bundestag as well as a member of the Convent, had already before as well as in the context of this conference made reference to the fact that European states had repeatedly insisted on the inalienability of fundamental and human rights in innumerable contracts and declarations. **Dr. Christine Fuchsloch**, judge at the social court of justice in Hamburg and currently research assistant at the Federal Constitutional Court, subsequently explained the principle of equal treatment in German constitutional law and its further development in EU law. After a break, **Prof. Dr. Gerhard Naegele** from the University of Dortmund treated the subject "responsibility of generations". **Dr. Manfred Ragati**, the chairman of Arbeiterwohlfahrt Bundesverband e. V., elucidated the question of which part a civil society would play in the EU and how the civil society could be included. After the lunch break, **Prof. Dr. Ilona Ostner**, University of Göttingen, reported on the "diversity of familial life forms in a EC charter of fundamental rights". Finally, **Prof. Dr. Meinhard Hilf**, University of Hamburg, lectured on the question of the potential consequences of a European charter of fundamental rights without fundamental social rights. In the subsequent round-table discussion, **Dr. Engels** representing Prof. Meyer, **Dr. Adamy** from the German Trade Union Association, **Mrs. Hornung-Draus** from the Federal Association of German Employers, **Countess Soscha zu Eulenburg**, Vice President of the German Red Cross and **Mr. Gohde**, President of Diakonisches Werk had a dis-

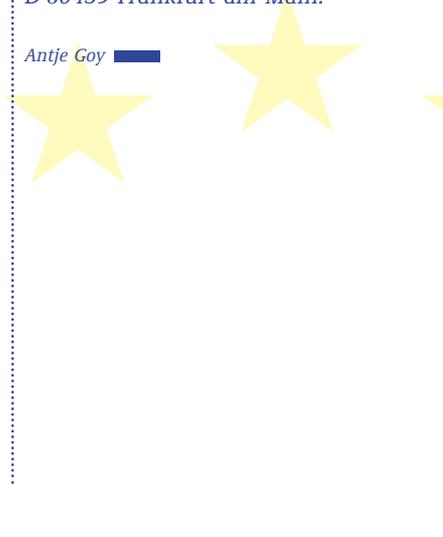
ussion. The discussion was chaired by **Dr. Bernd Schulte** from the Max-Planck Institute. A special emphasis was placed on rectifying the fact that a charter of fundamental rights would not expand competence but that it would rather create a gap in the protection of fundamental rights as a result of the fact that competence is transferred to the European Community, and that this gap, would have to be filled.

Dr. Schulte stated that the conference had not only provided stimuli but that it had also motivated us to move on. At the same time, however, it was also an occasion to call for modesty to the extent that one could be satisfied with codifying approx. ten core rights. Finally, **Mr. Löher** thanked the participants on behalf of the German Association of Public and Private Welfare and emphasised that the presence of representatives from the independent welfare organisations stressed the necessity of networked and manifold discussions.

At the end of the conference, a reception was held and the participants were given another opportunity to exchange opinions.

*Should you request further information on this conference, please order the documentation of the conference (please enclose a prepaid return envelope Din A4 (C4)) by contacting:
Deutscher Verein für öffentliche und private Fürsorge e.V./
German Association of Public and Private Welfare, Geschäftsführung der Koordinierungsgruppe Observatorium für die Entwicklung der sozialen Dienste in Europa, z. Hd.
Antje Goy, Am Stockborn 1-3,
D-60439 Frankfurt am Main.*

Antje Goy



Strengthening the role of welfare associations on a European scale

More than 150 participants from 22 EU member states and acceding countries participated in the conference „Valency and change in welfare organizations in a merging Europe – their contribution to the development of a European Civil Society” on 17 December 1999 in Brussels.

The first major challenge of the Observatory ISS was the organization of the conference „Valency and change in welfare organizations in a merging Europe – their contribution to the development of a European Civil Society” in co-operation with the BAGFW



(Federal Organisation of Non Governmental Social Welfare Associations) and the European Economic and Social Committee which was funded by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and the European Economic and Social Committee. In particular, the main concern was to give welfare associations from Finland, Portugal, France and Germany an opportunity to make a contribution towards a European „social model”, to explain the complexity of their tasks in various countries and possible parallels and common interests. In addition, this pan-European event helped forward the findings and stimuli provided by the statements of the Economics and Social Committee on the subject „cooperation with charitable associations as economic and social partners in the field of social welfare (initiative statement) of December 1997 and integrate developments since Amsterdam.

In the inaugural address, the Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Dr. Christine Bergmann, placed an emphasis on the particular significance of welfare associations for creating a social, humane and citizen-oriented Europe. In this context, the special part of the German welfare associations, which constitute an indispensable element in the German social system, became obvious. But reference was also to the variety of underlying conditions and structures on which the actions of welfare associations in individual member states are based. This variety is understood to be a considerable opportunity and wealth which should not be levelled out on a European scale. Instead, the role of non-profit organisations in Europe is to be reinforced as they make a key contribution towards the establishment of a civil European society.

In her address, the new EU Commissioner for employment and social issues, Ms. Anna Diamantopoulou, mentioned the fact that it was the objective of the newly elected Commission to assign an active role to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) which also include social associations. She also announced far-reaching changes in co-operation between NGOs and the Commission which would also be reflected in financial support by the Commission in the near future. According to Ms. Diamantopoulou, drastic measures can be expected to be taken in the course of this year.

In the following scientific contributions by Prof. Dr. Adalbert Evers (University of Giessen) and Prof. Robert Lafore (Institut d'Etudes Politiques/Bordeaux), the third sector was elucidated in detail. Prof. Evers makes reference to the added social value contributed by welfare associations in Europe. In particular, this is illustrated by the significance of non-governmental organisations and associations in the establishment and development of the “civil society” and thus the reinforcement of a democratic culture in Europe. According to Prof. Lafore from France, the third

sector is, however, subject to great strain by the free market forces. This is increasingly the case in the social service area. This tendency is reinforced by the influence of the EC law, the EC competition law in particular. For this reason, he requests the creation of a common legal structure for the entire third sector with the objective of creating a common identity in the third sector. This would be the only way to further reinforce the particular significance of welfare organisations on a European scale.

In the concluding statements by the representatives of the welfare associations from the four EU member states and the subsequent round-table discussions, it also became clear despite differences in the respective national systems that the associations play a very important part in safeguarding social rights and establishing a European civil society. An emphasis was also made on their significance as the advocates and representatives of those affected in the battle against social exclusion. Moreover, reference was made to the particular importance of the associations in the context of further development of the employment models. This spe-



cial role of the third sector is reinforced by a tendency which can be observed in individual member states of the European Union to the effect that social services are further reduced by the state. According to a number of participants, this trend is associated with the expectation – which is not said aloud – that

non-profit organisations increase their commitment to compensate for social injustice. The focus of participants in discussions was also on the role of the European welfare associations at European Union level. What was condemned above all in this context was the lack of political influence



of non-governmental organisations on European decisions. In this context, the non-profit organisations financing issue was also mentioned. Full and/or partial financing of the organisations by public authorities which can be found in a number of European member states was assessed from a very critical point of view by a number of participants in the meeting. In their opinion, non-profit organisations become directly dependent on the state as a result. On the other hand, other participants voiced their opinion that this form of funding offers a material basis for safeguarding a manifold social services offer.

On the whole, this conference offered an excellent platform for reinforcing the position of the third-sector organisations and thus also welfare associations on a European scale. In order to further implement the steps which were introduced, the European Economic and Social Committee will, however, be required to act as a partner as it is able to represent the interests of the welfare associations in a more vehement manner as an institution.

The individual contributions of the participants in the conference and a detailed summary of contributions to the discussion are available in the form of documentary report. Should you wish to order it, please apply to one of the following:

Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
D-11018 Berlin
Phone: +49-30-2 06 55-0
Fax: +49-30-2 06 55-11 45

or

European Economic and Social Committee
Rue Ravenstein 2
B-1000 Brussels
Phone: +32-2-5 46-96 15
Fax: +32-2-5 46-97 66
E-mail:
jean-pierre.faure@esc.eu.int

Beatrix Holzer ■■■

Social Services in Europe

In the following editions of our newsletter, we will introduce trends, current discussions, research results etc. in social service sub-groups in individual EU member states and new member states under this heading.

Social Services – What are they?

As a basis of future tasks and future activities of the Observatory, we first of all think it is indispensable to explain the term “social services” at this point and to elaborate a basic definition.

The reason for this necessity is that there is no such thing as a uniform definition of this term. Related terms are used in various ways; they designate various circumstances and subjects and they are also interpreted in different ways. The dimension of the terminology varies greatly and meanings partly contradict each other. It is therefore our aim to ensure systematisation and order, classification, evaluation and a critical assessment. The result is to be a definition of the term “social services” acceptable and accepted both in Germany and in other European countries. An expert opinion on the “definition of the subject” prepared by Prof. Dr. Rudolph Bauer from the University of Bremen shall form the basis thereof. In a first attempt to



integrate definitions currently available from expert literature, Prof. Bauer comes to the conclusion that although attempted definitions can be systemised and typologically classified, they must be equipped with a wider meaning and become more detailed.

As an intermediate result, he sub-divided the term into the following four dimensions:

- services relating to persons in the direct context of accomplished services referring to time and place of accomplishment;
- social services in terms of competent services rendered by qualified expert staff (with varying degrees of qualification);
- social services in the context of institutional organisational services by bodies responsible for employment and employers in social service institutions etc.;
- the social service system of the welfare state including control media, i. e. law (i. a. social security legislation) and finance (i.a. transfer payments).

Based on the sub-division of this term into dimensions Prof. Bauer has elaborated proposals as to how the term “social services” could be defined:

- Services relating to persons are characterised by simultaneous and location-specific interactions by two persons and/or groups of persons with different needs.
- Social services are professional services performed by social workers and social education workers.
- Social services are organisational structures which con-

stitute the general institutional (legal, contractual and financial) conditions for the remunerated professional rendering of social services relating to persons.

- The social benefits system of a welfare state includes the totality of rights stipulated by law including types of benefits, competent organisations liable to provide the insured benefits and financing.

On the whole, this limitation forms an excellent basis for the activity of the Observatory. It is also suitable for a treatise on trends in social services.

It has yet to be analysed, however, to what extent this analytical separation can be applied on a European scale. The definition of the term would have to become more detailed for Europe.

Beatrix Holzer ■■■

News from the Observatory

Literature Overview Project

One of the key objectives of the observatory is to cover the current situation as well as trends in social services in Europe. The comprehensive literature overview project constitutes a fundamental basis for translating this objective into practice. Within the framework of its series, the observatory will publish a commented bibliography in the year 2000 which was prepared under the direction of Prof. Dr. Helmut K. Anheier from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences. It comprises the entirety of EU member state literature and it is, in general, available in the English language. A German translation is available for bibliographical literature references in Germany and Austria. This overview forms an excellent basis for comparing the current status of knowledge, information and discussion concerning social services in Europe on a national basis. Order the bibliography at: *Institut für Sozialarbeit und Sozialpädagogik e.V./Institute for Social Work and Social Education*

Beobachtungsstelle für die Entwicklung der sozialen Dienste in Europa/Observatory for the Development of Social Services in Europe
Am Stockborn 5–7
D-60439 Frankfurt am Main
Phone: +49-69-9 57 89-121
Fax: +49-69-9 57 89-190
E-mail:
johanna.segebrecht@iss-ffm.de

Beatrix Holzer ■■■



German Welfare Conference Project

„Daseinsvorsorge in Europa heute und morgen – die Zukunft der kommunalen und frei-gemeinnützigen sozialen Dienste“/“Services of public interest in Europe today and tomorrow – the future of municipal and non-profit social services”

A special event staged by the Observatory for the Development of Social Services in Europe on the occasion of the 75th German Welfare Conference on 14 and 15 November in Hamburg

There is a considerable and partially confusing wealth of public welfare services, also referred to as services of public interest, in individual member states of the European Union; to a particular degree, they are an expression of socio-cultural, socio-political and economic trends and traditions, structures and practices in the respective countries.

Despite the fact that the values determining this area and its principal significance for the cultural identity and social cohesion of the European society are generally in harmony, there is currently only a rudimentary concept of a common scheme with the central elements of solidarity, social cohesion and the free play of

the market forces.

There is an urgent need for action on a national scale as well as, to a certain extent, on the level of the EU, as the underlying situation for benefits in the context of services for the public have been subject to fundamental changes for some time. Municipal as well as voluntary welfare agencies – not only in the Federal Republic of Germany but also in other member states of the European Union – explore and test new structures, types of organisation and work. Initial situations, however, vary greatly from member state to member state.

The 75th German Welfare Conference concerning "Shaping Europe's social characteristics" which will be staged in Hamburg in November 2000 offers an excellent platform for discussing conceptual, structural and



operational aspects of services for the public in a socio-political context. More occasion to deal with this subject may result from the communication "Benefits of Services for the Public in Europe" which has been published recently by the European Commission. Experts are to be invited from member states of the European Union as well as from acceding countries (Poland and the Czech Republic) to describe the current situation in their respective countries and to participate in the comprehensive debates.

The special event will be staged in parallel to the 75th German Welfare Conference in Hamburg from 14 November 2000 1 p.m. to 15 November 2000 in the evening. The official languages will be German, English and French.

The German Association for

Public and Private Welfare in Frankfurt/am Main shall be responsible for staging this event in co-operation with the partner of the Observatory, the Institute for Social Work and Social Education, which is also based in Frankfurt am Main. The conference will be sponsored by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior citizens, Women and Youth.

Dirk Jarré

This publication is used for the public relations activities of the government of the Federal Republic of Germany. It is provided free of charge and is not destined for sale. This publication does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the government of the Federal Republic of Germany. Responsibility shall remain with the publisher and/or the respective author.

Current Events

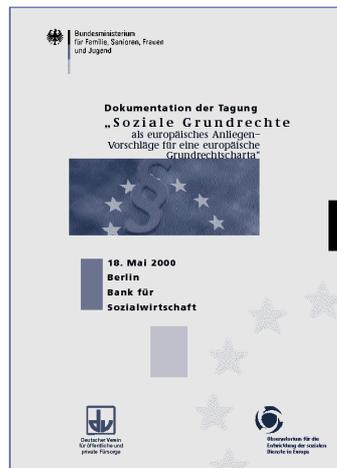
Publications

Documentation:

- Conference „Valency and change in welfare organizations in a merging Europe – their contribution to the development of a European Civil Society” of 17 December 1999 in Brussels: *published by the European Economic and Social Committee and the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth; ordering address: Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend; D-11018 Berlin and the European Economic and Social Committee, Rue Ravenstein 2, B-1000 Brussels*
- Conference „Soziale Grundrechte als europäisches Anliegen – Vorschläge für eine europäische Grundrechtscharta“/”Fundamental social rights as a European issue – proposals for a European charter of fundamental rights” of 18. May 2000 in Berlin; published by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and the Observatory for the Development of Social

Services in; ordering address:

Deutscher Verein für öffentliche und private Fürsorge e. V., Am Stockborn 1–3, D-60439 Frankfurt am Main



- Conference „Strukturwandel und seine Folgen für den sozialen Sektor“/”Structural changes and their consequences for the social sector” of 3/4 November 1999 in Brussels; volume 12, BBJ Consult; *ordering address: BBJ Verlag, Hildburghäuser Str. 19, D-12279 Berlin*
- 4th Colloquium of the NPO research organisations „Nonprofit-Organisationen im Wandel: Herausforderungen, gesellschaftliche Verantwortung, Perspektiven“/”Non-profit organisations in change: challenges, social responsibility, perspectives” of 16/17 March 2000 in Friburg/Switzerland; R. Schauer, E.-B. Blümle, D. Witt, H. K. Anheier (eds.); *Universitätsverlag Trauner, Linz*

Literature:

Otnad/Wahl/Miegel: „Zwischen Markt und Mildtätigkeit – Die Bedeutung der Freien Wohlfahrtspflege für Gesellschaft, Wirtschaft und Beschäftigung“/”Balancing act between market and welfare – the significance of non-statutory agencies for society, economy and employment”;

D a t e s

November:

14/16/Hamburg: 75th German Welfare Conference „Europa sozial gestalten“/”Shaping Europe's social characteristics” (For information and application please apply to: Deutscher Verein für öffentliche und private Fürsorge/German Association for Public and Private Welfare, Am Stockborn 1–3, D-60439 Frankfurt am Main, etc.)
3/Nuremberg: „Wie überlebt die freie Wohlfahrtspflege?"/”How will the non-statutory welfare survive?”, Expert Conference (For information please turn to: Arbeiterwohlfahrt, Kreisverband Nürnberg e. V., Karl-Bröger-Str. 9, D-90459 Nürnberg, Phone: +49-9 11-45 06-0

December:

7/8/Frankfurt: Expert Conference „Forschungsüberblick über die sozialen Dienste in Europa“/”Research overview of social services in Europe” (For information please apply to: Dr. Georg Albers, Institut für Sozialarbeit und Sozialpädagogik/Institute for Social Work and Social Education, Am Stockborn 5–7, D-60439 Frankfurt am Main)
18/19/Frankfurt: ESSIS (European Social Services Information System) Conference (For information please apply to: Dr. Georg Albers, Institut für Sozialarbeit und Sozialpädagogik/ Institute for Social Work and Social Education, Am Stockborn 5–7, D-60439 Frankfurt am Main)

January 2001:

25/Bonn: Conference „Leitbild zur Europäischen Sozialpolitik“/”Model of a European Social Policy”, host by AWO Bundesverband, AWO International, ISS and Solidar (for information please apply to: Beatrix Holzer, Institut für Sozialarbeit und Sozialpädagogik/Institute for Social Work and Social Education, Am Stockborn 5–7, D-60439 Frankfurt am Main)



Communications of the Observatory

*Networks in the area of Social Work in Europe – Basics of international organisations and transnational social work co-operation within the framework of the process of European unification/
Prof. Franz Hamburger,
Dr. Ralf Sängner*

The purpose of the research project financed by the German Research Association at the paedagogic Institute of the University of Mainz called „Netzwerke der Sozialen Arbeit in Europa“/“Social networking in Europe” is to carry out research into the process of creation and development of networks within the framework of social work in the European Union. What is of interest is the conditions and the course of already existing networks on a European scale such as the intention and the role of



various aspects of social work, existing co-operation structures, concepts, activities, areas of activity, members, genesis or the process of creation of the networks. This means that the data base can be used as a practical services facility (EU Commission, national organisations, professional associations, welfare associations, European sections of social work, independent organisations, private individuals etc.) as well as for research primarily dealing with social and socio-political problems associated with the process of European integration as well as with transnational co-operation. But the data base also constitutes a useful source of information for the network organisations themselves and it facilitates transnational co-operation in the context of social work.

2. On the other hand, the data base is based on the scientific theoretical approach of a network concept for carrying out research into complex political, economic and social structures. This means that the data base can be used as an instrument for operationalising and implementing the analysis procedure. Systematisation and structuring of networks and organisations involved as



German institutions in the area of social work in inter-regional co-operation. The project procedure is sub-divided into three steps: (1) stock-taking, (2) standardised mail survey and (3) high-quality expert interviews. During the first phase, approx. 400 German as well as European institutions and networks were contacted and asked to provide information material (articles of association, self-portraits, brochures, year-end reports etc.). At the same time, the Internet was used to web sites and find download information. A data base with two specific objectives was also developed and established:

1. On the one hand, as a source of information, permitting enquiries and research. The data base permits enquiries i. a. on trends in and the current status of European networks in

well as brief concepts and focuses of networking are already possible. At the end of the project, the data base is to help find an answer to the question of how the conditions for an innovative social policy can be created on the basis of existing social work organisation and networks in Europe and what a theoretical model for establishing networks and network co-operation might look like.

The current status of approx. 400 data records is only the beginning. The objective of the project is to gain a comprehensive overview of the German situation and European networks. This is why communications are welcome. For additional information on the project as well as the data base please contact us via e-mail or mail under the address below mentioned. In a further step, organisations in other member states could gradually be included to fill the gap. Co-operation with the Observatory for the Development of Social Services in Europe is already being considered.

*Prof. Franz Hamburger,
Dr. Ralf Sängner
Johannes Gutenberg Universität
Mainz
Pädagogisches Institut
Colonel Kleinmann Weg 2 SB II
D-55099 Mainz
E-mail:
Franz.Hamburger@uni-mainz.de
or ralf.saenger@gmx.de*



**Observatory for the
Development of Social Services
in Europe**

Imprint

Publisher:

This is a publication of the „Observatorium für die Entwicklung der Sozialen Dienste in Europa“, the Observatory for the Development of social services in Europe.

The agencies of the Observatory are:

Institute for Social Work and Social Education
Am Stockborn 5-7
D-60439 Frankfurt a.M.
Phone: +49-69-9 57 89-0
Fax: +49-69-9 57 89-1 90
E-mail: Info@iss-ffm.de
Internet: www.iss-ffm.de

German Association of Public and Private Welfare
Manager of the coordinating group
Am Stockborn 1-3
D-60439 Frankfurt a. M.
Phone: +49-69-9 58 07-1 33
Fax: +49-69-9 58 07-1 61

The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, 11018 Berlin, is funding the project “Observatory for the Development of social services in Europe.”

Editor:

Beatrix Holzer (responsible)
Institut für Sozialarbeit und Sozialpädagogik e. V.
Beobachtungsstelle für die Entwicklung der sozialen Dienste in Europa
Am Stockborn 5-7
D-60439 Frankfurt a. M.

Design: UVA Kommunikation und Medien GmbH

Print: Druckerei Arnold

Translation: c.a.r.s. GmbH, Frankfurt a. M.

Circulation:
German: 1500
English: 500

Date of publication:
November 2000

The newsletter of the Observatory shall be published three times a year.

Ordering address:
Institute for Social Work and Social Education
Observatory for the Development of Social Services in Europe
Am Stockborn 5-7
D-60439 Frankfurt a. M.