

DIFFERENT WAYS OF SOCIAL SERVICES - CASE STUDIES OF THE SOCIAL SERVICE PROVISION IN BALATONLELLE (HUNGARY) AND BLED (SLOVENIA)

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This presentation is supported by

- the János Bolyai Research Scholarship of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- the ÚNKP Bolyai+ Research Scholarship

This presentation is supported by KÖFOP-
2.1.2-VEKOP-16-2016-00001



Methods and approaches

INTRODUCTION



Mixed methods: jurisprudential and empirical

- The analysis is based on an empirical examination:
 - Semi-structured interviews with local leaders (mayors – István Kenéz, László Káldi, Janez Fajfar – and municipal clerks and directors – Tamás Kovács, Matjaž Berčon)
 - Analysis of the budgets and the professional documents
- Jurisprudential methods:
 - Analysis of the central and local regulations
- Comparative element



Comparison of the Hungarian and the Slovenian legislation

GOOD PRACTICES IN DIFFERENT MUNICIPAL SYSTEMS



Different municipal structures

Characterisation	Hungary	Slovenia
1. Municipal model	Continental model (based on the general powers of the municipalities in local public affairs).	
2. Municipalities and central government	Centralised municipal systems (the municipalities are responsible for the basic services, the specialised services are organised and provided primarily by the central government or by the agencies of the central government)	
3. Municipal structures	Two tier system: 1 st tier communities (község), towns (város), district HQ towns (járászékhely város), county towns (megyei jogú város) and the capital and its districts (főváros és kerületei) (more than 3155); 2 nd tier: counties (19). 1 st tier system is very fragmented (average population of about 3 100 people).	One tier system: municipalities (občina) and city municipalities (mestna občina) Fragmented, but partly merged system (212 municipalities, average population of about 12 500 people)



Social care in Hungary and Slovenia

Hungary

- Provider of the basic services (for every municipalities: home care, meals, family and children support, providing accession to other basic and specialised services).
- Other basic services are mandatory to different municipalities (municipalities with more than 3000 inhabitants: general day care, municipalities with more than 10 000 inhabitants: general and specialised day care, municipalities with more than 30 000 inhabitants: elderly care centre, night shelter, temporary accommodation of homeless people)

Slovenia

- Provider of basic services (primarily home care, day care, meals, family and children support)



An inter-municipal solution

THE GOOD PRACTICE IN BAATONLELLE



Situation of Balatonlelle

- Surrounding of a small town: 1 small town (ca. 5000 inhabitants) and 7 villages (ca. 3500 inhabitants)
- Tradition of inter-municipal cooperation (social care: since 2005, than 14 municipalities, now: 7 municipalities)
- Inter-municipal association:
 - One member – one vote
 - Common financing
 - Common framework:
 - Social care
 - Controlling



Social care in Balatonlelle micro-region (1)

- Joint provider: *Balatonlellei Közös Család- és Gyermekjóléti Szolgálat és Belsőellenőrzési Társulás*
- Services:
 - Social home care
 - Social meal
 - Social day care
 - Child welfare basic services
- Model of provision:
 - Centrally organised services (for example: day care)
 - Locally organised services and cooperations within the inter-municipal associations



Social care in Balatonlelle micro-region (2)

- Grassroot system
- The local identity and the local service provision is guaranteed by this solution
- Local decisions
- Provision organised by a larger entity:
 - Economy of scale
 - Better professional background



A merged municipality

THE GOOD PRACTICE IN BLED



Situation of Bled

- A merged municipality: center is a small town: 1 small town (ca. 5000 inhabitants) which was merged with 3 villages (ca. 3000 inhabitants)
- Merged municipality (reduction of the territory in 2006)
- Bled-centered administration



Social care in Bled (1)

- Provider: Municipality of Bled
- Basic services provided by the municipal provider
- Model of provision:
 - Centrally organised services → Bled social care center
 - Mobile social home care service for the villages



Social care in Bled (2)

- Grassroot system
- The local identity is strengthened by the mobile social home care system
- Provision organised by a larger entity:
 - Good availability of the services in Bled
 - Economy of scale
 - Better professional background



A multi-dimensional analysis

CONCLUSIONS



Different systems – different good practices

- Different municipal model – similar micro-regions
- In Blataonlelle: an inter-municipal model which is based on the cooperation between small municipalities and the town
- In Bled: a merged municipality, where the availability of the citizens living in small communities is provided

