

Polona Dremelj

### **SOURCES OF SOCIAL SUPPORT IN FAMILIES IN THE LATE MODERNITY**

The main sources of assistance and support in the families in Slovenia are examined. For analysis, two empirical studies were used: a study of time consumption, conducted by Statistical office of Slovenia (2000), and a study on social support networks of Slovenian residents (2002). The data shows that people in need mostly rely on family and kin and that support between family members is still based on the traditional gendered division of household labour. Two problems arise from these findings: the problem of families which are facing the lack of social support sources in family and the problem of women who perform the majority of household tasks and are also the main sources of social support for adult individuals in the family. The article offers some solutions to these problems in the framework of family centres which can be, on the one hand, seen as the area for strengthening the social support networks of families and, on the other hand, as an important source of social support for families.

**KEYWORDS:** family, social support, social support networks, formal support.

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### **FAMILY CENTRES IN DIFFERENT WELFARE SYSTEMS**

Family centres as a form of family help programmes are an important measure of the welfare state in the promotion of family friendly environment for the reconciliation of work and family life and for equal opportunities policies. Existing welfare systems, such as the conservative-corporatist, social-democratic, liberal, catholic and former state-socialist types are based on different hierarchies of spheres (such

as the market, state, civil society and community) from which we obtain resources for social protection and welfare. The consequences of these differences in the hierarchies are the different levels of decommodification and defamiliarisation in society. As a consequence, the role of family centres also differs among different welfare systems. On the basis of comparative analysis of the characteristics of family centres in chosen countries the article shows that the welfare system and its defamiliarisation level have an important influence on the development and the role of family centres.

**KEYWORDS:** family policy, defamiliarisation, services for families.

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### **FAMILY CENTRES IN SLOVENIA**

**ANALYSIS OF ACTIVITIES AND A PROPOSAL OF A CONCEPT OF AN STANDARDISED EVALUATION MODEL**

In the article, family centres in Slovenia, which were subsidized by Ministry of labour, family and social affairs, are described and analysed. On the basis of the results of the analysis, the article compares family centres in Slovenia with trends and models operating in the EU region. The analysis contains different

aspects of activities of family centres, such as regional distribution, structure of financial resources, work methods, analysis of target population. Special focus is given to the question how did the family centres organizations adapt to the current definition of family centres (positive experiences are observed as well as problems and difficulties, confronted by workers in family centres, such as lack of suitable infrastructure, inadequate financial resources). On the basis of standardised model of evaluation of social protection programmes and current characteristics of the open call of Ministry of labour, family and social affairs, the article presents a proposal of evaluation model. The proposal combines the existing form of family centres programmes with the possible form, which this programmes might get in the future, if they would adapt to the family centres in other European countries. Systematic evaluation of the programmes is essential for comprehending the effectiveness and contribution of programmes to the quality of life of families of children.

**KEYWORDS:** activities of family centres, quality of life of families with children, systematic programme evaluation.

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### **NEEDS OF MODERN FAMILIES AND A STATE PERSPECTIVE OF FAMILY CENTERS IN SLOVENIA**

In the article, the needs of the families as perceived by the parents, are related to the supply of the family centres as support institutions for assistance to families in meeting their needs. The activities the family centres offer are defined by the state and reflected by the definitions of family centres in the criteria for co-financing of these institutions by public calls. The needs of the modern family have been defined in two researches carried out in Slovenia on the topic in the past two years: *The needs of the families for support services* (2010) and *The needs of the families with the preadolescent children in Slovenia* (2010). The analysis shows a significant correlation between the state conceptualization of family centers and family needs. This is especially important for the two most important needs – need for socialising, networking, and the need for occasional child care. However, some of the family centres' activities, such as providing information, could be further strengthened in the future. In addition, we propose that the conceptualization of family centers focuses on the needs of families (not at the same time on the couples who do not yet have children) and that certain substantial requirements are more precisely defined.

**KEYWORDS:** podporne storitve za družine, definicija družinskih centrov, druženje.

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### **DEVELOPMENT OF FAMILY CENTRES IN SLOVENIA**

#### **A MUNICIPALITY PERSPECTIVE**

The article addresses the perception of Slovene municipalities of their role in ensuring the quality of life of families with children, their knowledge about activities of family centres according to the current definition set by Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, and their attitude towards these centres. The main focus of the article is given to the analysis of municipalities' perspective towards establishment of family centres based on the models operating abroad – for non-Slovene centres it is characteristic that they provide the place that enables socializing and integration, and that they are strongly embedded in local communities. Here particularly the needs and interests of municipalities and their role in potential implementation of family centres are being investigated. The article is based on the analysis of representative sample of representatives of 141 municipalities and on the analysis of 10 semi-structured interviews among selected municipalities. The obtained results show that municipalities support the idea of family centres – they recognize the possibility for integration and upgrading the existing institutions that offer these kind of services. Concerning the implementation of family centres, analysed data implicates that the majority of municipalities are prepared to take an active role in this field in cooperation with the government..

**KEYWORDS:** activity of family centers, quality of life of families with children, local community.

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