University of Bucharest
Faculty of Sociology & Social Work

Understanding the context:
Research + Legislation - 4 weeks, 2nd year students

Erasmus+ Project: Improving the protection and wellbeing of children in Europe: enhancing the curriculum
Left Behind Children Phenomenon

Define the stated issue as social problem, according to the definition provided within the Introduction to Social Policy (ISP) class.

Bearing in mind the ISP knowledge, point out the characteristics based on which Left Behind Children issue should be considered a social problem.
The migration of one or both parents as labor force to West European countries, while leaving at home their underage children either in the care of a family member, neighbour, friend, acquaintance or without ensuring somebody is taken care of the child/children left behind.
Legislation linked to LBCP

- Law no. 272/2004 for the promotion of Children’s Rights with changes and revisions - Section 4.
- Government Decision no. 691/2015 for the adoption of Monitoring Produce of the Manner of Raising & Caring for the Child with Parents working abroad and of the Services they can benefit from as well as the Approval of Working Methodology regarding Cooperation between GDSWCPs and SWPSs and the Standard Model for used documents.
Legislation linked to LBCP

Examples of children rights breached by not informing GDSWCP about transferring parental responsibilities to a third party:

• To establish & preserve his/her identity

• To be raised in conditions that his/her physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development

• To benefit of best medical care

• To benefit of education that will allow him/her to develop his/her skills and abilities.

• ....
LBCP

Use the problem-analysis tool Problem Tree* to establish the causes & effects of this social problem.

Explore what are the long term social problems determined by LBCP.
See Exercise #1 Module L+R.
The aim of the exercise is to determine widespread of the phenomenon.

Part 1 - individual work, 15 minutes. Fill in the provided form.

5 minutes break

The exercise takes into account that there are SW Romanian students that were such children. The exercise might not be relevant for other countries and therefore, it might not be useful in class.
Part 2 - group work. Organizing groups of 4-5 students, consisting of both students with personal experience of parents working abroad and lack that experience. Discussion based on the answers provided in Part 1. Duration: 15 minutes + 5 minutes reporting/group.

Aim: identify types of interventions, services providing support to children with parents working abroad based on faced issues.
Insights on LBCP


After watching the documentary, engage in discussions regarding the following topics:

1. Relationship between Georgiana and her siblings
2. Mother’s attitude towards social services
3. Children rights breached
4. Identifying appropriate interventions from social services
Exercise #2
Based on the reading materials distributed two weeks ago, each group will make a brief presentation of the reviewed articles. Duration: 5 minutes/ group.
Summarize findings.

Exercise #3
Distribute to students copies of Evolution of Home Alone Children and adopted special protection measures by GDSWCPs, period 2008-2017.
Discussions on the identified trends. Summarize. Duration: 45 minutes
Other perspectives on Left Behind Children

Left Behind Children - German Perspective

Discussion: around 30 minutes
Whom should pay the children’s benefit?

How should be the amount establish?

Whom should receive the money?
Children’s benefit in Germany

1\textsuperscript{st} & 2\textsuperscript{nd} child: €194 each

3\textsuperscript{rd} child: €200

from 4\textsuperscript{th} child: €224
Other perspectives on Left Behind Children

Number foreign beneficiaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018/Jun</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>61615</td>
<td>232189</td>
<td>243234</td>
<td>268336</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Amount paid (Millions €)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>343</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other perspectives on Left Behind Children

Number of recipients of children`s benefit living in their home country

- Italy: 3880
- Slovak Republic: 4304
- the Netherlands: 5422
- Bulgaria: 6089
- Hungary: 9550
- France: 15787
- Czech Republic: 16421
- Romania: 16926
- Croatia: 17427
- Poland: 102939
Remigration Children vs. Left Behind Children

Remigration /returned migration
• Act of returning to the country of origin, after temporary migration
• Reasons:
  • Economical
  • Family-related issues
  • Social
Remigrated Children

• Re-adjustment to:
  • Family situation
  • Social environment
  • School setting
  • Economical circumstances, etc.
Remigrated Children

Exercise – time 30 minutes.

There will be organized groups of 4-5 students.

- Discuss within the group on the issues highlighted on the previous slide.
- Set up an interventions/services plan,
- Detail the duration of provided services,
- Types of professionals involved and nature of their involvement.

Present your group’s work to class and argue the decisions taken.