

Call for Papers: Special Issue, “Foster Care in CEE Countries”

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Social Policy Issues (Problemy Polityki Społecznej) is a peer-reviewed scientific journal dedicated to social policy, the welfare state, and social problems. The mission of the journal is to **deepen the understanding of social policy and social issues in Central and Eastern European countries.**

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2021 marked the 10-year anniversary of the adoption of the Act concerning Family Support and Foster Care in Poland. This legislation has profoundly reshaped casework and the institutional social assistance system in Poland as they pertain to foster care. In regard to casework, this change involved reassigning social work with multi-problem families from social workers to family assistants (a newly created profession). Additionally, institutions that provide support to multi-problem families saw changes to their collaboration mechanisms. Moreover, this legal change removed foster care from Poland's social assistance system, of which it had been a part since 1999, and made it an autonomous subsystem of the family policy system (Raław, 2017).

The basic structures of foster care, i.e. institutional foster care and family care, have also changed over the past decade. They were meant to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the social welfare system and family policy in Poland. However, their implementation produced numerous unintended consequences (emergent effects), as reported by researchers and practitioners.

Research carried out in Poland has also showed that members of new welfare professions—family assistants, foster care coordinators—were vying for position



with frontline workers in other social services, eg. those representing the judiciary (probation officers), the education system, and the health service.. The emerging groups strive to be recognized in the public discourse, making social work with families a highly politicized issue.

The focus on the leading, collective actors of the social welfare and foster care systems raises a number of questions: What position and role did children occupy during the implementation of the changes and now? How is children's welfare is actually understood? How is it achieved in the case of children placed in foster care, including children of refugees and migrants, children in families that have successfully reintegrated, children of biological foster carers, and children with disabilities placed in foster care?

In this call for papers we invite authors to submit analyses of the **changes that have taken place in the foster care system in Poland and in other Central and Eastern European countries**. We are interested in **the relationship between foster care , social welfare, and family policy**. Our focus is on the development of **family assistance. Comparative analyses in this area, relating to various experiences of Central and Eastern European countries, are of particular interest**.

In this context, contributors are requested to take into account the following issues:

- What characterizes and distinguishes the practice of supporting / assisting multi-problem families in CEE countries?
- What is the rhetoric of the changes in foster care?
- How has the profession of the social worker changed and how is this change related to changes in the foster care system?
- What are the key features of diagnosis, care planning, assistance, interventions and evaluation of action-related practices?
- What impact has the war in Ukraine had on foster care in the region?
- What is the rhetoric of child's welfare used in social work and foster care?
- What is the meaning of social work and foster care politicization, and what are its consequences for social policy?
- How has the pandemic changed, accelerated or limited the development of family assistantships in CEE countries?





Abstracts should be sent to guest editors Dobroniega Głębocka and Mariola Raclaw: dobroniega.glebocka@amu.edu.pl ; mraclaw@wp.pl

by June 20, 2022, and complete articles no longer than 9,000 words in length, including the abstract, references, and footnotes, should be submitted in English through the journal's website <https://www.editorialsystem.com/ppsen> no later than **September 30, 2022**.

For more information about submission guidelines, please consult the journal website:

<http://www.problemypolitykispolecznej.pl/Technical-requirements,2304.html>

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