

Jolanta Spętana

Wielkopolska School of Socio-Economics in Środa Wielkopolska

**Report on the International Scientific Conference
“Determinants of the effectiveness of support
of people at risk of social exclusion”
Środa Wielkopolska, 25–26.05.2015**

Honorary patronage: Committee of Pedagogical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences

In numerous analyses of contemporary societies there appear categories of exclusion and social dissonance, unequal educational opportunities, roads distancing human biographies and social inequalities, and they have become the inspiration to take up the discussion on the possibilities of support and prevention in relation to the problem of exclusion. As a result, together with representatives of many Polish and foreign research centers and practitioners in the area of prevention and support, the next Third edition of the International Scientific Conference was organized under the series “The contexts of the effectiveness of prevention, social rehabilitation and social readaptation”.

On 25–26 May 2015 at the headquarters of the Wielkopolska School of Socio-Economics in Środa Wielkopolska, the Third International Scientific Conference “The determinants of the effectiveness of support for people at risk of social exclusion” was held, combined with training workshops, over which the Committee of Pedagogical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences took honorary patronage. The organization of the event involved the following universities and institutions: Wielkopolska School of Socio-Economics in Środa Wielkopolska, Gnieźnieńska Wyższa Szkoła Milenium, Pedagogium School of Social Sciences, University of Zielona Góra, Laboratory of Prevention, Social Rehabilitation and Social Readaptation and the Global Partnership Management Institute (Canada/USA). Partners

of the Conference were: University of Rivne (Ukraine), State Higher Vocational School in Piła, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Wielkopolska Association of Probation Officers, Wielkopolska Association of Social Rehabilitation "Horyzont", Correctional Institution in Poznań and the Association "KARAN".

The conference was inaugurated by academics representing the organizers and guests, including: Prof. Dr Ireneusz Kubiacyk, Vice-Rector of WWSSE in Środa Wielkopolska and Dr Hubert Paluch, Rector of GSW Millennium. In the first plenary session important topics relating to issues of social exclusion were raised, among others, by: Prof. Dr Wiesław Ambrozik (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań) in a speech on the reorganization of the local community as an essential element of support for people socially excluded and marginalized, Dr Beata Maria Nowak (professor at Pedagogium School of Social Sciences in Warsaw), who introduced the issue of cooptation strategies, as a particular form of integration and new approach to thinking about the effectiveness of readaptation support, Dr A. Szczuciński (professor at Wielkopolska School of Socio-Economics in Środa Wielkopolska) exposing in his speech the philosophical dilemmas supporting others. Also in this part of the conference debate voices were heard from Dr Czesław Kuśtra (professor at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń) emphasizing the role of parish communities in the prevention of exclusion of youth feeling the futility of life and the representative of the Wielkopolska Provincial Police Commander in Poznań, who presented the Project of the prophylactic "Observatory of risks for young people" implemented in cooperation with the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań.

A continuation of the problems of exclusion were speeches in the second part of the plenary session, whose speakers included: Prof. Dr Zbyszko Melosik (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań) with the paper on Equality in education and controversy over affirmative action in the United States, Dr Kazimierz Kotlarski (professor at Wielkopolska School of Socio-Economics in Środa Wielkopolska) with a speech on the structural, social and individual causes of social exclusion, Dr Renata Rasińska (Poznań University of Medical Sciences) touching on issues of social campaigns as an example of effective social support in the fight against addiction, and Dr Barbara Toroń-Furmanek (University of Zielona Góra), exposing the importance of a woman, man and child in prison isolation in the context of social rehabilitation through social inclusion, Dr Maciej Bernasiewicz (University of Silesia in Katowice) discussing alternative ways of dealing with juveniles – European trends, Dr Kazimierz Wojnowski (professor at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań), who outlined the current problem of employment migration of parents in their children's experience.

To sum up the speeches of both plenary sessions there was a discussion about the current conditions, dimensions and areas of exclusion, in which both moderators of the session and representatives of various scientific communities spoke.

Detailed analyses of the problems of diverse forms of exclusion, prevention and support were continued after the break in five thematic panel sessions led by moderators.

The subject of the first panel concerned the issue of preventing exclusion in the field of social rehabilitation and social readaptation (moderators: Dr E. Koprówiak, Dr P. Frąckowiak). The second panel was devoted to the environmental dimensions of exclusion and prevention in the aspects of education, family and upbringing (moderators: Dr A. Woźniak, Dr A. Knocińska). The subject of the third panel focused on prevention and support in relation to modern threats of social exclusion (moderators: Dr J. Spętana, Dr D. Domagała). The issue of social exclusion in selected stages of human life in the context of health and gerontology – this was the canvas for discussion under the fourth panel (moderators: Dr D. Krzysztosiak, Dr E. Włodarczyk). The last of the proposed panels concerned the problem of social welfare and social work as areas of support for people at risk of exclusion (moderators: Dr K. Wojnowski, Dr M. Madej).

On the second day of the conference, the organizers offered training workshops, separately certified. The training workshops offer included:

1. Model of cooperation in helping (conducted by: Dr A. Woźniak).
2. Recognizing preferences and motivation of charges through Prof. George Nelson's method (conducted by: S. Dec, MA, A. Kruszyk-Pytlik, MA).
3. The development of social competence as an effective form of support for human capital (conducted by: B. Zięba, MA).
4. The use of elements of cognitive behavioral therapy in individual work on change (conducted by: Z. Kowalska, MA).
5. The development of psychological competences as a prophylactic element for preventing social exclusion (conducted by: M. Ignaczak, MA).
6. Social and therapy work with family at risk of social exclusion (conducted by: A. Kaczmarek, MA, Z. Waszak, MA).

Methodological workshops:

1. Workshop on qualitative methodology – beginners group (conducted by: Dr P. Chomczyński).
2. Workshop on qualitative methodology – advanced group (conducted by: Prof. Dr K. Konecki).

Both deliberations in the panel sections, as well as numerous participation in training workshops allowed the exchange of opinions and dissemination of solutions to counteract different forms of exclusion in many dimensions of social practice.

The conference brought together a total of about 150 participants who were given personal certificates of participation and conference materials.