**Response for Call for Papers: 13th International Doctoral Seminar in Social Sciences, 16 – 19 October 2014, Brno** **/ Zsuzsa ÉBL**

**Paper title:** Conditional social transfers’ effects on children of deep poverty in Hungary – Introducing a changing well-fare society

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**Abstract:**

System of social benefits is now changing in Hungary. Social workers have a clear view on effects of these changes on life of children in deep poor families. This paper raises the question that do governmental steps toward a new social system really serve interest of affected social groups or rather serve a short-time survival plan of a well-fare state. Perhaps there are other purposes in the background, and other explanations in the foreground, too. This paper is built on the results of a quantitative research from 2013, completed by information gained by interviews in 2015.

**Extended abstract:**

From 2009 Hungary gradually switched from unconditional social transfers to conditional ones. In 2013 Institute for Family and Social Politics in Hungary made a wide quantitative, representative research on deep poverty of Hungary, which included variables regarding social transfers.

Methods of the research followed the techniques of an electronic large-scale survey with previous field-works, focus-groups and interviews. The research focused on 100 Hungarian micro region selected by the criteria of a complex indicator containing local economical, infrastructural, employment and other factors. Out of 172 micro region we selected the 100 less prosperous and involved all settlements of them. Altogether we got answers from 1169 settlements, with 445 surveys given by social workers of child care system.

After 4 years of working in a changing system of social benefits they were able to give information on first effects of changes considering life of families in need, and especially considering children. Besides negative ones we admittedly experienced positive attitudes of social workers towards changes, especially in settlements, where share of inhabitants living in deep poverty were relatively high. A most relevant type of family benefits conditioned to sending children to school were an entirely positive example of confident attitudes. On the other side we recorded an amount of opinions, which claimed a disruption in groups new system was able to help and groups which drifted even deeper in poverty during the changes.

As a following governmental step, system of social benefits changed again in many ways in March of 2015. Without any financial help, I record interviews with social workers in childcare system using questions of the survey of 2013 give us additional information on progressions in the last two years, in a society where deep poverty is continuously increasing, scapegoating and other negative emotional tendencies are emerging. Starting in March 2015 interviews are still be recorded. Interviewees were selected considering economic area of the country, magnitude of settlement, gender and experience (in years) on field.

I am intend to gain a new picture about attitudes, opinions and advices of the target group regarding effects of new changes in the social system. Certainly, substance of results regarding reality is limited, as we are getting a picture on a highly complex system from the view only one group connected with families and children in deep poverty, but I truly think, opinions and advices of social workers should be taken much more into consideration by governmental decision makers.