

Using a real case scenario in teaching social work with children and families in different practice settings

Families of 21st century have complex and multiple needs and challenges which contemporary social work has to find a proper respond to them. In order to prepare social work students to face with these families, the University of Belgrade developed the curricula based on a real case scenario that encourages them to develop skills and metalize client situation (Reeves **et al**, 2015).

The family outreach service, as an innovative practice in the Serbian social welfare system, has been presented through the case scenario in order to educate students on diverse approaches towards the needs of contemporary families.

The objective of this study is exploring potentials of using case scenarios from direct practice in social work for children and youth for enchasing social work curricula and connecting theory with the inquiry of practice.

In the framework of the Erasmus+ project “Improving the protection and wellbeing of children in Europe: enchasing the curriculum”, professionals and academic from eight countries are developing training modules on child protection using Lefaver scheme of *knowing, being* and *doing* (Lefaver, 2010; 2014). This scheme was chosen as a useful framework for consideration of relevant theories, skills, ethic and values needed for social work practice. During a range of tasks, exercises and simulations (Kinney and Aspinwall-Roberts, 2010) students are encouraged **to explore and reflect on challenges, limitations and possibilities of social work practice with families that have complex needs in different practice settings: child protection, school social work, family outreach, cash benefits, mental health social work and juvenile justice.** Discussion and reflection between teachers, students and professionals at national and international levels provided an opportunity for critical thinking and avoidance of fixed solutions, as value-oriented social work education.