Rethinking Social Work intervention in times of financial and economic crisis in Portugal

Abstract

This communication aims to contextualize the transformations of social policy in the context of economic and financial crisis in Portugal. We analyze the social emergency programme, which replaced the national plan of action for inclusion, and the evolution of the implementation of the national network of long-term care. We reflect on the mutations of social policy and the social work, highlighting the negative aspects to the professionals.

To achieve the goals we opted for the analysis of these programs, including bibliography, statistic data and studies carried out in recent years on this issue.

In a context of financial cuts in policies and guidelines for the emergency, social work is challenged to rethink as a sociopolitical profession, having as reference the temporality of the intervention, the allocation of resources and the professional’s training. It is essential to the development strategic of actions where are urgent the critical dimensions driven by rights, social justice and equity.

Keywords: Social policies; social work; financial crisis; social emergency; long-term care.