

**ANNOTATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC PAPERS AND SELF-ASSESSMENT OF
THE CONTRIBUTIONS BY
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR LYUDMILA PAVLOVA VEKOVA, PH.D**

applicant in the competition for the academic position of “**professor**”
area of higher education: **3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences**,
professional field: **3.4. Social Activities**
(Social Protection and Social Work)

The following 33 scientific papers are presented for the participation in the competition: 1 monographs, 30 scientific articles – 25 of which are in Bulgarian language and 5 in English, 2 resource books for university students. All of them are developed and published after acquiring the academic position “associate professor”.

The numbering used reflects the sequential number of the relevant scientific work involved in the competition.

MONOGRAPHS

- 1. Vekova, L.** Social protection under unemployment (Social work with unemployed persons). Sofia, Diomira Publishing House, 2022, 398c., ISBN 978-619-7696-05-9

The monograph "Social protection in case of unemployment /Social work with unemployed persons/ presents the author's concept of social protection in case of unemployment as a complete system, including the subsystems of social security in case of unemployment, social assistance to unemployed persons and active policies of the labor market to promote employment . A special emphasis in the development is the presentation of the theoretical-methodological aspects of social work with unemployed persons, considered in the aspect of a sequence of social activities carried out in the subsystems of social protection in case of unemployment.

The monograph contains *six parts*, and their structure follows the logical sequence of the elements of the unemployment protection system, determined according to the author's view of its content. In the individual parts, the issues under consideration are systematized in chapters.



The content of *the first part* forms the theoretical framework of the concept of social protection in case of unemployment. The definition of the essential characteristics of social protection is based on a theoretical analysis of existing definitions, considering the main challenges to its development. On this basis, the author's view of the social protection system and the relationship with its basic elements - social security, social assistance and interventions on the labor market was formed. The economic and social dimensions of unemployment are indicated, with special attention being paid to an analysis of the main trends in its development for the period 2004-2021. The conceptual position

on the content of social protection in case of unemployment and its essential characteristics such as the unity of subsystems of social security in case of unemployment, social assistance to unemployed persons and active policies to promote their employment are presented.

The second part examines unemployment social insurance as the main element of unemployment protection. Theoretical and methodological aspects of unemployment such as insurance risk and the legal regulation of unemployment insurance are presented. Emphasis is placed on cash benefits in case of unemployment based on a theoretical study of the characteristics and functions, which is supplemented by an analysis of the specific situations related to their legal regulation in relation to their specific parameters. The dynamics of unemployment benefits for the period 2004-2021 have been analyzed. on the basis of general indicators and indicators representing the structure of unemployed persons receiving benefits. Special attention is paid to the additional voluntary unemployment insurance and professional qualification.

As the next element of social protection in case of unemployment, *the third part* of the monograph presents the problems related to the social support of the unemployed. The social benefits paid, as well as the possible services that can be provided to unemployed persons, are examined.

In *the fourth part* of the monograph, active measures on the labor market are presented as a third element of the unemployment protection system, supplementing the effect of the action of the previous two components. The main priorities of the national employment strategies, as well as the content of individual target programs, are systematized in separate applications.

The fifth part examines the potential of alternative forms of employment as an opportunity to limit unemployment with a special emphasis on social entrepreneurship and social enterprises, centers for sheltered employment and centers for employment and social assistance.

The functioning of the unemployment protection system is related to the practical implementation of social work with unemployed persons as one of the subsystems of social work, which is the subject of consideration in *the sixth part* of the monograph. Social work with unemployed persons is presented as a sequence of social activities carried out in individual subsystems. The functions within the scope of social activities in unemployment social insurance, social assistance for the unemployed and active measures on the labor market are examined in detail.

The main conclusions of the theoretical overviews and the specific analyzes considered in the separate parts of the monograph are formulated. The theoretical-methodological part, related to the presentation of existing studies on the issues under consideration in each part of the monograph, is complemented by a study of the relevant legislation and specific analyzes of the dynamics of the processes characteristic of each of the subsystems of social protection in case of unemployment.

SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES IN BULGARIAN LANGUAGE

2. **Vekova, L.** Social work education - specific aspects regarding social activities with unemployed persons In: Pedagogy, Sofia, National Publishing House "Az-buki" ISSN 1314-8540 (Online), ISSN 0861-3982 (Print) /letter of assurance, verifying that the article is approved for print/

Social work education is faced with the serious challenges of adequately reflecting the main trends of practical activity oriented towards individual target groups. In this context, the essential characteristics and specific features of social work with unemployed persons as a mandatory element and basic form for the realization of the functions of social protection in case of unemployment, should be adequately reflected in the content of the training of future specialists. The article examines the conceptual view of social work with unemployed persons as a certain sequence of social activities and a variety of social interventions aimed at individuals, families or certain groups with the aim of material support and employment creation. Focusing on the content characteristics of social work with this target group as a sequence of targeted social activities differentiated by various criteria in the individual components of the unemployment protection system, the research focuses on systematizing basic requirements for the content of training in the professional direction "Social Activities"

- 3. Vekova, L.** Social innovation as a potential and possible approach for educational and social inclusion In: Pedagogy, Sofia, National Publishing House "Az-buki" ISSN 1314-8540 (Online), ISSN 0861-3982 (Print) /letter of assurance, verifying that the article is approved for print/

The created electronic resources for education increase the students' interest and motivation for participation in the educational process in mathematics and increase the teachers' methodological toolset. The purpose of the article is, based on an analysis of basic theoretical concepts about the nature and importance of social innovations, to clarify their role in overcoming challenges of different natures and degrees of complexity with an emphasis on their potential for educational and social inclusion. The views of a number of foreign and Bulgarian researchers on the essence and significance of social innovations are presented, based on which their essential characteristics are systematized.

It is focused on issues related to social innovations and their practical implementation in various social systems, including education, the systems of social insurance and social assistance, the provision of social services, and the provision of employment for vulnerable groups of the population to achieve educational and social inclusion.

Social enterprises are presented as an established and time-proven successful organizational form for the practical implementation of the social innovations, and good practices of existing social enterprises providing innovative educational and social services are indicated.

- 4. Vekova, L.** Unemployment insurance in Bulgaria - trends and challenges in crisis conditions In: Collection of articles "Economic development and policies: realities and perspectives. Challenges and risks in the conditions of overlapping crises" from the International Scientific Conference of the Institute for Economic Research at the BAS, 2022 /letter of assurance, verifying that the article is approved for print/

The article considers the importance of unemployment insurance as one of the components of the social protection system, which requires in periods of shock changes in the economy and the objective impossibility of increasing employment and

limiting unemployment, to implement adequate legal changes to the function of the paid benefits to replace the lost or reduced income from the exercise of labor activity has been strengthened.

The purpose of the research is to define the main trends in unemployment insurance in Bulgaria with an emphasis on the cash benefits paid in the conditions of the serious challenges that the Covid-19 pandemic has created for the functioning of the national labor market and to assess their compliance with the realization of the functions of unemployment insurance as an element of the social protection system.

The object of the analysis is the changes in the legal regulation of cash benefits for unemployment in the period 2015-2021 and the change of basic indicators for insurance payments for the risk of "Unemployment" for the same period. They are examined from the standpoint of how adequately they reflect the trends in the development of unemployment and whether the legal framework and the dynamics of monetary benefits correspond to the realization of their compensatory function to replace for a certain period to the maximum possible extent the lost income from work.

- 5. Vekova, L.** Social protection in case of unemployment as an element of the social security system In: Yearbook of Shumen University "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski", Volume XXVI D, University Publishing House „Bishop Konstantin Preslavski“, 2022г., p. 454-466, ISSN 1314-6769

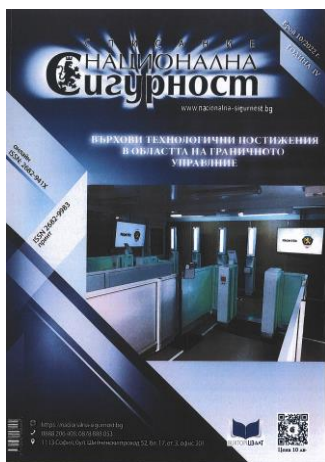
In the article it is considered the main characteristics of social protection in the case of unemployment as an element of the social security system based on the analysis of unemployment insurance and the policy to promote employment through the implementation of active measures on the labor market. Unemployment protection is realized, first of all, by including the "Unemployment" risk in the social security system and secondly, by implementing the measures of the active policy, which is aimed at stimulating the unemployed to return to work more quickly and to realize their knowledge, skills and competences.

The article focuses on the characteristics of monetary benefits in case of unemployment, the legal regulation of the "Unemployment" risk, the conditions for acquiring the right to compensation, the regime for determining the amount, changes in the minimum and maximum daily amount of monetary compensation, the regulated terms for receiving it

Active labor market policies are also presented, which aim to support the growth of the economy by activating and increasing the employability of disadvantaged groups in the labor market and increasing opportunities and access to employment for job seekers

- 6. Vekova, L.,** Legal regulation of pension insurance for those working in the "Security" and "Defence" sectors In: National Security magazine, issue 11, 2022, pp. 37-44, ISSN 2682-9983

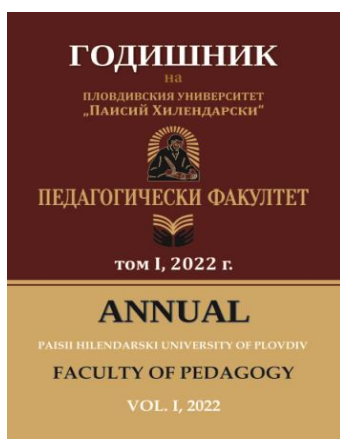
The article aims to present the main characteristics and specifics of the legal regulation of the pension insurance of those working in the "Security" and "Defense" systems



The changes in the retirement regime and the requirements for acquiring the right to a pension for the length of service and age for the different categories of employees in the two systems have been examined. The regime of pension insurance for those employed in the "Security" and "Defense" systems, depending on the change in the legal regulations contained in the Social Security Code and the sub-normative acts on its implementation, can be considered in two periods - until the end of 2015 and from the beginning of 2016.

The categories under Art. 69 of the Social Insurance Code with a special regime regarding the acquisition of pension rights. The focus is on clarifying the principles regarding the method of insurance and the special regime for acquiring pension rights from the categories specified in Article 69 of the Social Insurance Code.

7. *Vekova, L.* Social entrepreneurship - perspectives and opportunities for social inclusion of risk groups, In: Yearbook of PU "P. Hilendarski" - Faculty of Pedagogy, volume I, Plovdiv, Plovdiv University Publishing House, 2022, p.54 - 68, ISSN 2815-4134



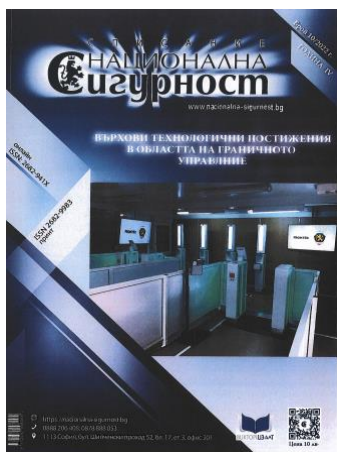
The categories under Art. 69 of the Social Insurance Code with a special regime regarding the acquisition of pension rights. The focus is on clarifying the principles regarding the method of insurance and the special regime for acquiring pension rights from the categories specified in Article 69 of the Social Insurance Code. In the article are examined the various aspects of the concept for the social entrepreneurship and the possibilities of social enterprises from the standpoint of their importance for the implementation of the policy for the social inclusion of the risk groups of the population.

Social entrepreneurship through the created social enterprises is also a legal organizational form for the employment of disadvantaged people and a way to develop and diversify social activities and services aimed at these groups. An assessment of the existing legislation in Bulgaria, regulated in the Law on Enterprises of the Social and Solidarity Economy, has been expressed, and together with the positive aspects, potential weaknesses have been indicated and problems have been formulated, which may prove to be an obstacle to the adequate development of social enterprises.

The development of the concept of social entrepreneurship in Bulgaria is analyzed, and some gaps in the regulatory framework are indicated

Possible directions for the development of the regulatory framework with the aim of creating and developing more social enterprises as an effective form of social inclusion of representatives from the various risk groups are also indicated.

8. **Vekova, L.** Pension insurance as an element of the social security system In: National Security magazine, issue 10, 2022, pp. 36-44, ISSN 2682-9983

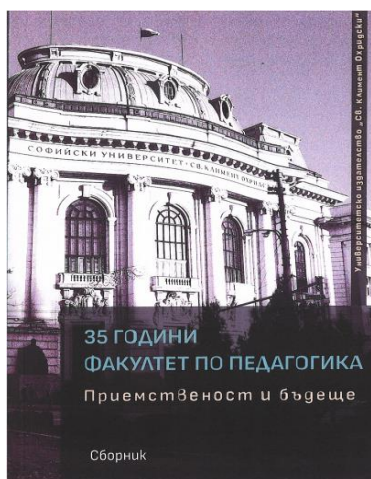


The article aims to examine the pension insurance system from the standpoint of its importance in ensuring the necessary social protection of the population and as one of the most important elements of the social security system in any country. Its essential characteristics and principles of functioning are presented.

Emphasis is placed on clarifying the meaning of the pension as a periodic payment in the nature of a replacement income, paid for life or for a certain period, which is granted upon the occurrence of the insurance events of old age, disability, and death to persons who meet the legal requirements for acquiring the right to the corresponding payment. The main features of pensions as an insurance product are systematized.

The conditions for acquiring the right and the different types of pension payments are indicated - old-age pensions, disability pensions due to general illness, and disability pensions due to occupational accidents and occupational diseases, as well as inheritance pensions.

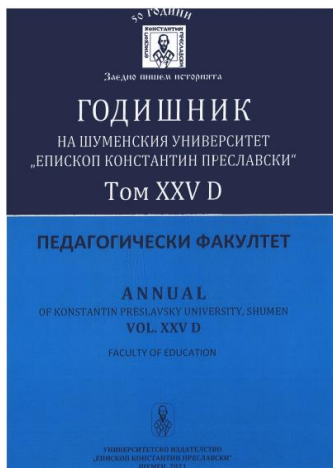
9. **Vekova, L.** Education in the professional direction "Social activities" and the practical implementation of students - problems and challenges In: 35 years Faculty of Pedagogy - continuity and future, Sofia, University Publishing House "St. Kliment Ohridski", 2021, pp. 405-417, ISBN 978-954-07-5345-4



The article examines, according to the author, main problems in education in the professional field of "Social Activities" on the basis of an analysis of quantitative indicators for the number of studying and graduating students by educational and qualification degrees (OKS) in general and in individual higher schools and an assessment of objective quality characteristics of social work education.

Trends in the practical implementation of students in the field of social work as a whole and in individual higher schools were examined. Based on the analysis of quantitative indicators and qualitative criteria, problems in social work education with the nature of challenges for the functioning of the social protection system have been systematized.

10. **Vekova, L.** Pension insurance for employees in the school education system in Bulgaria - legal changes, development and challenges In: Yearbook of the Shumen University "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski", volume XXV D, Shumen, University Publishing House "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski", 2021. , pp. 465-477, ISSN 1314-6769



The article aims to analyze the pension legislation with an emphasis on the specific regime regulated for those employed in the school education system and the extent to which changes in the legal framework take into account objective trends in the dynamics of the number and structure of employees in this system.

The legal regulation of the pension insurance of pedagogical specialists employed in the school education system is presented, with the emphasis being on the application of an independent special regime, for the implementation of which a separate Teachers Pension Fund is created within the framework of the state social insurance system.

Special attention is paid to the activities of the Teachers' Pension Fund. The purpose of its creation is clarified, the main changes in the legal framework regulating the rights of those insured in the Teachers' Pension Fund are presented, the types of pension payments and the conditions for their acquisition are indicated.

In order to objectively assess the changes in the legal regulation of the pension rights of those employed in the school education system, the changes in the number and age structure of pedagogical specialists for the period 2015-2021 were analyzed on the basis of data from the NSI and the main trends were systematized.

11. **Vekova, L.** The social protection system in the aspect of contemporary challenges for its development in Bulgaria In: Education and Arts: Traditions and Perspectives, Sofia, University Publishing House "St. Kliment Ohridski", 2021, pp. 95-105, ISBN 978 -954-07-5345-4

The social protection system in Bulgaria is still in the process of necessary adaptation to modern reality, and this is reflected in serious challenges to its functioning. The article aims at formulating important challenges to the development of the social protection system in Bulgaria based on a certain concept of its content, researching the ongoing processes in the individual subsystems and systematizing the main problems in its functioning as a whole and in the individual constituent elements.



The article aims to formulate important challenges to the development of the social protection system in Bulgaria based on the analysis of the factors, influencing its condition and development and the ongoing processes in the individual subsystems. Based on the adopted concept of the content of social protection, main problem areas in its functioning as a whole and in the individual subsystems related to demographic, financial, social and political factors have been systematized.

Summarizing different points of view on the essence of social protection and the adopted concept of its content is a starting point for the systematization of problem areas in its functioning as a whole and in the individual subsystems.

- 12. Vekova, L.** New moments in the development of supplementary mandatory pension insurance In: Social work, management and social development: contemporary challenges, perspectives and innovative practices, Varna, TU Publishing House - Varna, 2021, pp. 5-15, ISBN 978 -619-202-073-6



The article examines the additional mandatory pension insurance as an element of the three-pillar pension system in Bulgaria, created as a result of the pension reform carried out in 2000.

The development of pension provision in Bulgaria is oriented towards the better functioning of the assumed adopted model and constant changes in the legal framework, corresponding to the need to solve significant problems in the individual elements/pillars of the pension system. In this context, it emphasizes the legal changes related to the capital elements of the system - additional mandatory pension insurance and the solution of an extremely important problem such as the regulation of the phase for paying additional pensions from the universal pension funds (UPF).

- 13. Vekova, L.** Legal regulation of the opportunities for employment of students from the professional field "Social activities" In: Problems and perspectives of social activities, Plovdiv, Plovdiv University Publishing House, 2021, pp. 7-20, ISBN 978-619-7663 -00-6

The definition of the possible spheres and the specific professions and positions in which the students from the professional direction "Social Activities" can make achievements is the basis of the formation of interest in studying in the relevant educational and qualification degrees and determines to a large extent the motivation of the students for the future of their professional career.



The article examines the opportunities for employment of students from the professional field of "Social Activities" from all occupational and educational degrees on the basis of the existing positions for managers and specialists in the field of social work, regulated in the National Classifier of Professions and Positions (NCPP) in Bulgaria.

Separate groups are systematized depending on the minimum educational and qualification level required to occupy the respective position, and the main functions and responsibilities for the respective position are indicated. The aim is to present the various possibilities that the legislation defines as professions and positions for the future realization of the students.

The analysis of the regulations governing the possible professions and positions in the field of social work allows for the formulation of recommendations in terms of complementing the existing positions and for raising the requirements for the educational level of personnel in the social protection system.

- 14. Vekova, L.** Key competences as a potential for the development of social work
In: Development of key competences, Plovdiv, Plovdiv University Press, 2021,
pp. 146 - 156, ISBN 978-619-7663-02-0

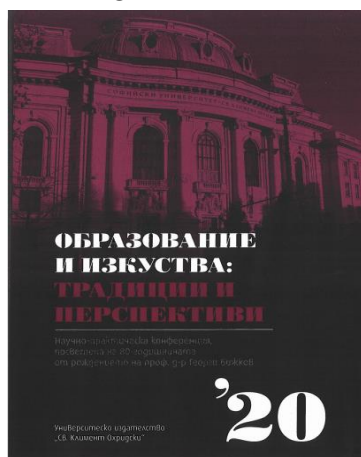
The article examines the validation of competencies as a basic structural element in the organization and management of social work and the need to define the key competencies for the main positions in the social institutions of the social assistance system.



Theoretical statements related to the definition of basic categories such as competences, competencies, key competences are indicated. The prioritization of the basic competences and the determination of the key competences that the specialists in the field of social work must have are among the most important objectives that are the basis for achieving more effective personnel management and for the better functioning of social institutions. The publication addresses fundamental requirements for the key competencies of social workers, which should take into account the essential manifestations and specific characteristics of social work, as well as the process of their determination. Emphasis is placed on the specific approach to developing a competency model in social organizations by defining key positions and defining the most important competencies for the respective position.

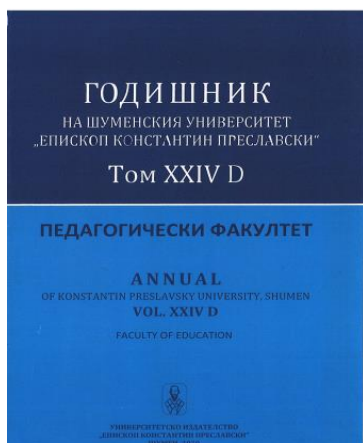
- 15. Vekova, L.** Education in the professional direction "Social activities" - development, problems and perspectives
In: Education and arts: Traditions and perspectives, Sofia, University Publishing House "St. Kliment Ohridski", 2021,
pp. 95-105, ISBN 978 -954-07-5345-4

The article presents the author's position on the state and development of education in the professional field of "Social Activities" in higher schools that train social workers in Bulgaria, argued with an analysis of quantitative measures for the scope of the students and criteria that enable the assessment of the quality of the training.



The students' education from the positions of the correspondence between the modern requirements for social work and the organization of the educational process as theoretical and practical preparation is analyzed. The main problems in the preparation of social workers in Bulgaria and the serious challenges facing higher education institutions for its implementation are defined. Important guidelines for the development of training in the professional direction Social Activities have been formulated in order to meet the growing demands on social work for the staff engaged in the implementation of social activities.

- 16. Vekova, L.** Social services in Bulgaria - legal changes, development and challenges In: Yearbook of Shumen University "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski", volume XXIV D, Veliko Tarnovo, Faber Publishing House, 2020, pp. 503-517, ISSN 1314 -6769



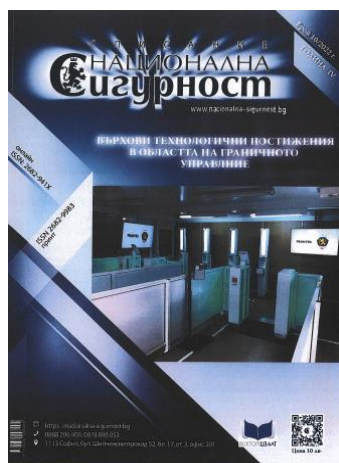
The article draws attention to the main changes in the legal framework related to the adoption of the Law on Social Services, to an assessment of its content from the perspective of the opportunities it creates for solving the most important problems and challenges facing social services as an element of the social assistance system.

The specified goal determines the need to formulate the new moments in the legal framework of social services and to define possible gaps that would cause problems both in the overall organization of providing social services and in the aspect of the specific implementation of the legal texts. The most important changes in several directions are presented: quality and efficient provision of social services; deinstitutionalization of the system of social assistance and the provision of social services and decentralization of the process of management and delivery of social services.

Basic challenges related to the development of social services in Bulgaria are also defined - legal, institutional, structural, personnel.

- 17. Vekova, L.** The social security system - characteristics and prerequisites for strengthening national security In: magazine National Security, issue 6, 2020, p.34-39, ISSN 2682-9983

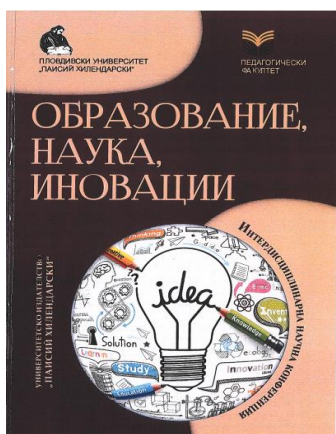
In the publication it is considered the social security system in the context of the social protection of the population and from the position of its role as a factor for the national security. Based on the analytical review of existing definitions, its content is substantiated as a system including three main and complementary subsystems - the social insurance system, the social assistance system and the labor market policies in relation to employment.



The essential characteristics of social insurance and social assistance as two mutually complementary systems that ensure the social security of the population in their capacity as "first and second safety nets" have been examined. The main differences between them in several directions are also indicated - in the scope of the categories of the population, in the way of providing the necessary funds for the functioning of the relevant system, in the principles of acquiring rights from the relevant system, in the way of providing the payments. The importance of the social security system is also explained through its main functions: - protective, reproductive, redistributive, economic, stimulating.

Emphasis is also placed on the requirements and the need for coordination of social security systems within the European Union, and the effect of the main regulations is presented.

18. **Vekova, L.** Education in the professional direction "Social activities" - opportunities for innovative solutions In: Education, science, innovations, Plovdiv, University Publishing House "P. Hilendarski", 2020, pp. 54 - 67, ISBN 978-619-202 -599-1



The article presents innovative solutions as an opportunity to overcome important challenges facing the education in the professional field of "Social Activities". Based on the clarification of the content of the innovations, their specificity in relation to higher education is indicated. Emphasis is placed on the importance of innovation and innovation practices as a major European and national priority for the development of the higher education system.

The publication examines specific forms of implementing innovative solutions in the conduct of the educational process and the presentation of educational content in higher schools. Possible solutions are also formulated that allow the potential of innovations and innovative practices to be used to overcome some of the challenges facing social work education.

19. **Vekova, L.** Social entrepreneurship in Bulgaria - concept, problems and opportunities In: Yearbook of Shumen University "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski", volume XXIII D, Shumen, University Publishing House "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski", 2019, pp. 536-546, ISSN 1314-6769

The article examines the development and validation of social entrepreneurship as a concept and its practical implementation in the creation and functioning of social enterprises from the standpoint of their potential and opportunities to achieve effective



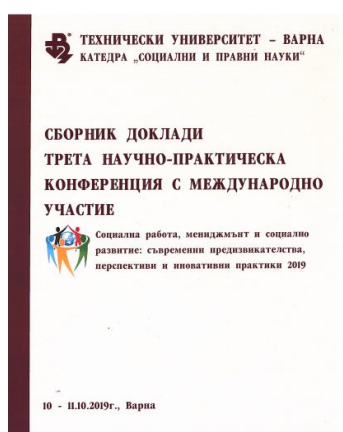
long-term results in solving the problems of vulnerable groups of the population through the use of economic approaches and mechanisms. Its practical and applied significance is determined by reasons of an economic, social, and technological nature, which are indicated and require the adoption of the principles of economic efficiency in the organization of the social sphere.

The relationship between social entrepreneurship and the social economy is examined in terms of the importance of social enterprises for the construction and development of the social economy and as a form for its practical implementation.

The development of the concept of social entrepreneurship in Bulgaria has been analyzed, and some gaps in the regulatory framework - mainly the Law on Enterprises of the Social and Solidarity Economy - have been pointed out, which may prove to be

an obstacle to the adequate development of social enterprises in Bulgaria. The development of social entrepreneurship in Bulgaria requires, in addition to legal regulation, the promotion of good practices and the results achieved, and the resolution of problems that may create obstacles to the establishment of social enterprises as a promising form of stimulating individual initiative and directing it to solve various social problems. The formulated weaknesses of the legal regulation and the existing practice are the basis for determining the possible guidelines for the development of social enterprises and for improving their sustainability.

- 20. Vekova, L.** Challenges and prospects for social work in Bulgaria In: Social work, management and social development: contemporary challenges, perspectives and innovative practices, Varna, TU Publishing House - Varna, 2019, pp. 19 - 28, ISBN 978- 954-20-0803-3

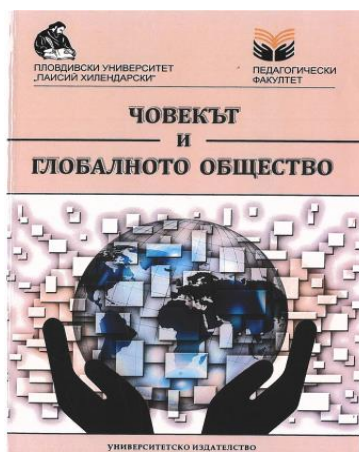


The article examines the main challenges facing social work in Bulgaria in terms of the requirements that legislative changes and their practical implementation impose on the organization and management of social activities at the national and regional level. The impact of ongoing demographic, economic and social processes on the substantive characteristics of social work has been analyzed and, on this basis, problem areas defined as the most important challenges have been formulated. They are systematized into several main groups based on the analysis of the situation in Bulgaria and taking into account the degree of compliance between the requirements for social

work and the assessment of the real situation.

On the basis of the most important challenges for social work in Bulgaria, the main directions for improving its organization and management have been formulated, and they can be characterized as perspectives for its development and for the better professional realization of social workers

- 21. Vekova, L.** The social protection of man in the aspect of global challenges In: The man and the global society, Plovdiv, "P. Hilendarski" University Publishing House, 2019, pp. 331 - 347, ISBN 978-619-202-503-8

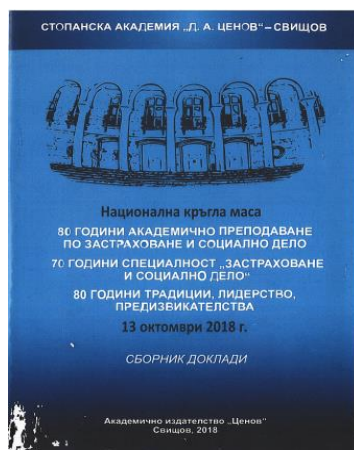


The article examines the social protection system from the standpoint of the opportunities it creates to guarantee human rights in the modern world. New essential characteristics of the system have been defined, which the new social realities require when considering its scope, content, and specific features on a national and global level in an effort to ensure the necessary degree of protection for all groups of the population. The ten most important challenges facing the social protection system are

systematized in light of the changes in public life, the economy, and the social sphere.

The impact of labor markets and the digital economy, inequalities throughout the life cycle, differences in coverage, as well as population aging, and health and long-term care on social protection systems and the need for adequate changes in their content and scope are examined. The problems that challenges such as the employment of young workers, the technological transition, the protection of migrant workers, higher public expectations, as well as new risks, upheavals, and extreme crisis events, pose the functioning of social protection systems are also affected, being an attempt has been made to formulate possible approaches to overcome them.

- 22. Vekova, L.** Trends in the development of pension insurance companies in Bulgaria in the period 2010-2017. In: 80 years of academic teaching in insurance and social work. 80 years of traditions, leadership, challenges, Svishtov, VFSA "D.Tsenov" Academic Publishing House, 2018, pp. 219 - 229, ISBN 978-954-23-1712-8

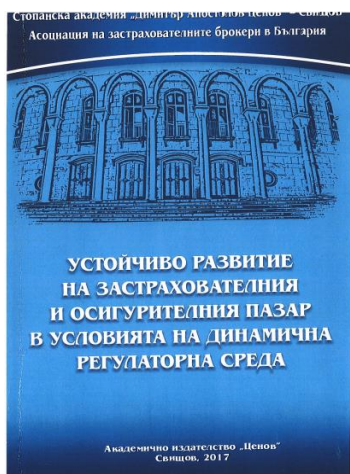


In the present study, the main trends in the development of pension insurance companies in Bulgaria in the period 2010-2017 have been analyzed in the aspect of the necessary financial stability and investment results in the management of the assets of universal and occupational pension funds to meet public expectations to the capital element of the pension system as part of the social protection system.

The article examines the main indicators characterizing the results of the management of the pension insurance companies of the funds from the second pillar of the pension system in Bulgaria for the period 2010-2017. on the basis of public and representative information about their status and change. The aim is to substantiate the trend for their sustainable and positive dynamic change in the specified time interval, characterizing the period after the global financial and economic crisis, as well as the financial stability and the results achieved in the management of additional pension insurance funds.

The generalization of the trends in the dynamics of supplementary pension insurance is aimed at proving the thesis about the ability of pension insurance companies to realize the legally regulated obligation to pay supplementary pensions from the second pillar.

- 23. Vekova, L.** The sustainable development of supplementary pension insurance funds in the context of objective processes and political decisions In: Sustainable development of the insurance and insurance market in the conditions of a dynamic regulatory environment, Svishtov, Academic Publishing House VFSA "D.Tsenov", 2017, pp. 149 - 162, ISBN 978-954-23-1382-3



The article examines the development of supplementary pension insurance since the start of the pension reform in 2000 from the positions of the change of certain quantitative indicators characterizing the dynamics of the capital element of the pension system and of the changes in the legislation regulating the functioning of the pension system in Bulgaria. The publication focuses on the dynamics of the supplementary mandatory pension insurance funds as elements of the Bulgarian pension system for the period of their operation - from 2001. for professional pension funds and since 2002 – for universal pension funds. The assessment of the state and prospects of the supplementary pension insurance funds is based on an analysis of empirical data for the period 2001-2016. and the impact of amendments to the Social Security Code after 2010. The trends and prospects for the change of the main parameters characterizing the development of supplementary pension insurance funds are also analyzed in terms of the most important legislative changes that have a certain impact - positive and negative - on their functioning

- 24. Vekova, L.** The strategy for lifelong learning - challenges for the implementation of innovative practices in education, In: Collection of scientific reports "Perspectives in creating an innovative educational environment", Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" Publishing House, Plovdiv, 2017, p.316 -329, ISBN 978-619-202-297-6



The article examines the "Lifelong Learning" strategy as an opportunity to develop the quality of the workforce in the context of its importance for increasing the competitiveness of the European and national economy and as a perspective for the implementation of innovative practices in the field of education.

The concept is explored as a continuous process of assimilation and acquisition of knowledge and skills in the process of human activity, which includes all learning activities with the aim of increasing knowledge, skills and qualifications for personal, social or professional reasons. In this regard, the main problems and challenges for the implementation of innovative practices in the field of education have been analyzed as a prerequisite for the realization of the "National Strategy for lifelong learning. Some possible directions for improving the education-business link as a goal of the Lifelong Learning Strategy are discussed.

- 25. Vekova, L.** Pregnancy and maternity insurance as a form of state policy to support children In: Socio-pedagogical aspects of child development, Plovdiv, "Paisiy Hilendarski" University Publishing House, 2017, pp. 188 - 207, ISBN 978-619- 202-279-2

The article examines the possibilities of supporting families and children through the social security system as an element of the social protection of the population, with the emphasis being placed on the benefits granted during pregnancy and childbirth and for raising children. The topicality of the issue is substantiated by examining the main trends in the demographic development of the Bulgarian population in the years after 1990.



The amendment in the legislation regulating this insurance risk, in the requirements for acquisition and in the regime for the payment of benefits for pregnancy and maternity and for raising children for the period from 2011 to 2017 was studied.

The main trends in the indicators characterizing these social payments in the specified period were also analyzed based on the study of the dynamics of the indicators number of benefits, total amount of the amount paid, number of days paid, amount of average daily benefit and average amount of the benefit.

The possibilities of the social security system for the implementation of the state policy to support families and children have been assessed and some proposals for its amendment and development have been formulated

- 26. Vekova, L** Contemporary challenges to social work and their impact on professional competences In: Innovations and competences in education, "Paisiy Hilendarski" University Publishing House, Plovdiv, pp. 435-447, ISBN 978-619-202-178-8



The article examines the main challenges facing social work in the context of the dynamic conditions in which it takes place and their impact on the competencies of social workers.

Defined are basic demographic, economic and social processes that place certain requirements on social work and impose new standards on the educational and professional training of personnel.

Competencies have been analyzed as determinants for successful employment on the labor market, including and regarding the activities of social workers. An attempt has been made to systematize these competencies, the possession of which is essential both for the better professional realization of social workers and for the implementation of social activities in accordance with the modern challenges imposed by dynamic social changes and in response to growing needs and user requirements.

SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

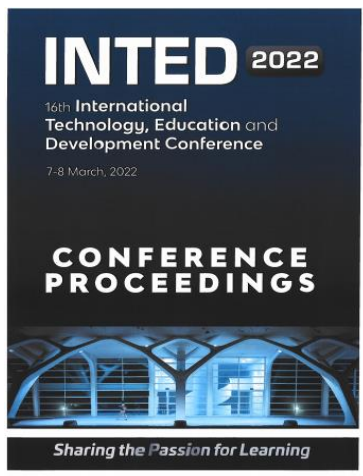
27. *Vekova, L.* Legal changes in the regulation of social services In: EDULEARN 2022 14th International Conference on Education and New Learning Technologies, 2022, p. 4816 – 4821, ISBN 978-84-09-42484-9, doi:10.21125/edulearn.2022.1144



The article examines the changes in the legislation with an emphasis on the adoption in 2019 of a special law regulating the system for the provision of social services. With the Law on Social Services, an important and substantial change was made in the direction of creating a regulatory framework, regulating their separation and a completely new way of organization and management. In this context, the changes in the legislation can be evaluated as an important challenge regarding the formulation of the substantive aspects of social work education in Bulgaria.

The report emphasizes the most important aspects of the legal changes and the specific aspects in which the change in the content of social work training must be carried out as a mandatory condition in order to adequately reflect the adopted amendments in the regulatory framework.

28. *Vekova, L.* Adult education as a possible direction for the development of social work education: In: EDULEARN 2022 14th International Conference on Education and New Learning Technologies, 2022, p. 6953 – 6959, ISBN 978-84-09-42484-9, doi:10.21125/edulearn.2022.1144

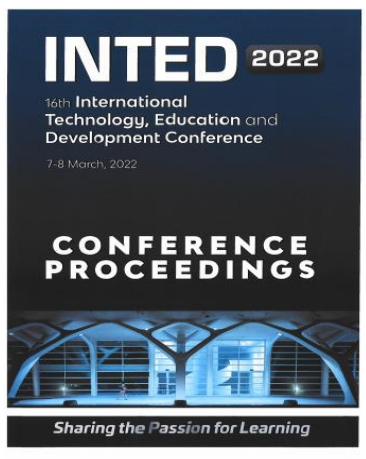


Both the current demographic situation and the projected negative trends for its future change in the direction of serious aging of the Bulgarian population determine the growing importance of policies aimed at older people.

The report examines the development of adult education in terms of its importance in limiting the negative impact of the intensive aging of the Bulgarian population on the labor market and as an opportunity for more active economic and social inclusion of older people. The opportunities for more active participation of the elderly in formal and non-formal education and training aimed at acquiring skills and competencies for work in the field of social services are indicated. In this regard, social work training in universities preparing future social workers can be presented and analyzed as a possible direction for the development of adult education and an important element of the policy for their social inclusion.

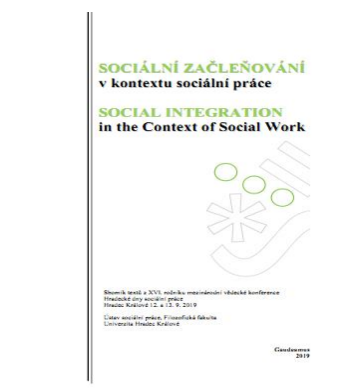
- 29. Vekova, L.** Problems of the motivation and adaptation in the practical training on social work in the condition of the Covid – 19 Pandemic In: INTED 2022 13th International Conference on Education and New Learning Technologies, 2022, p. 4697 – 4702, ISBN 978-84-09-37758-9, doi:10.21125/inted.2022

The purpose of the article is to analyze and systematize the factors that have a motivating influence on the behavior of students of the "Social Activities" specialty in their practical training, carried out in a whole or in a part in remote form of education to make the necessary changes to adapt the learning process to new conditions.



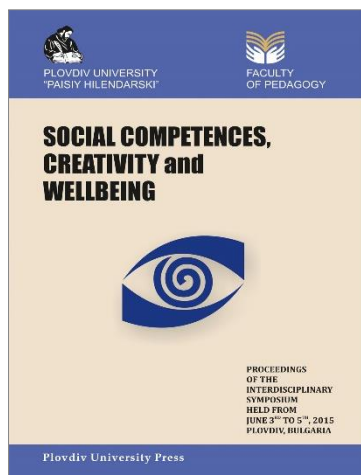
On the basis of a survey among students majoring in "Social Activities" at the University of Plovdiv are defined factors that are crucial for the formation of motivation for active participation in implementation of practical training in distance form of education. The main problems are presented and the positions and reactions of the different parties involved in the process of practical training on the necessary and adequate actions for motivated and active participation in the practical training of students in the field of "Social Activities" are analyzed.

- 30. Vekova, L.** Challenges to social work in Bulgaria for social inclusion. In: Social integration in the context of social work, XVI Hradec Days of Social Work, 2019, p. 266 – 273, ISBN 978-80-7435-767-1



The article presents the most important challenges in the field of social work in Bulgaria in the context of achieving a balance between national goals and European priorities. The main demographic, economic and social processes that set certain requirements for the quality of social work are considered. Expectations on the education and professional training of social workers and the need to introduce new standards in this area are discussed. The author's views are systematically presented regarding the main directions for improvement of social workers' training in line with the dynamics of social conditions and the capacities of higher education institutions. An attempt has been made to systematize the competences that are formed and developed in the higher education of social workers in order to effectively meet the challenges of dynamic social change and support the process of inclusion.

- 31. Vekova, L.** Social competences as a factor for successful implementation of the social workers In: Social Competences, Creativity and Wellbeing, Plovdiv, Plovdiv University Press „Paisii Hilendarski“, 2015, p. 62 – 66, ISBN 978-619-202-023-1



The article argues the importance of social competencies for the realization of social workers and the need for them to be adequately reflected in the content of the curricula for their education and professional training.

Emphasis is placed on the definition of social competencies as a model of social behavior and the need to specify those competencies that can be defined as socially significant and crucial for the effective work of social workers in relation to the contingents falling within the scope of labor is considered their activity. In this context, special attention is paid to the inclusion of social competencies in the preparation and training of social workers and their inclusion in the curricula as a basis for the strengthening of the relationship between education and the labor market.

TEXTBOOKS AND RESOURCE BOOKS FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

32. *Vekova, L.* Pension insurance system - first part, Plovdiv, "Paisiy Hilendarski" University Publishing House, 2021, ISBN 978-619-202-297-6, ISBN 978-619-202-625-7, 259 pages.

The textbook on "Pension insurance system" presents basic knowledge about the nature and main characteristics of pension insurance as a main component of the social insurance system, emphasizing the specifics of the Bulgarian pension model



The textbook is divided **into two parts**. The first part of the textbook presents basic theoretical positions of the pension insurance system in the aspect of a basic element of social insurance and the development of the pension insurance system in Bulgaria.

Section one of the textbook examines the basic theoretical aspects of the pension insurance system. The essential characteristics of pension insurance are presented, which are supplemented by clarification of basic categories such as pensions, pension products, the pension plan, pension scheme, pension fund with an emphasis on capital pension funds. It is focused on considering the issues of the financial organization, the different types of pension payments, the elements of the pension system.

In *the second section* of the textbook, the main points in the development of the pension insurance system in Bulgaria are presented. The management of the pension insurance system is presented by clarifying the functions and responsibilities of the structures implementing the management of the mandatory state pension insurance and the capital component - the additional pension insurance in the second and third pillars.

The third part of the textbook examines the functioning of the mandatory state pension insurance system as the first pillar of the pension system in Bulgaria. The characteristics of the main categories in the system are presented and meaningful questions regarding the financial organization, the main types of pension payments and the requirements for the acquisition of rights, as well as the way to determine their amounts, are clarified.

33. Vekova, L. Pension insurance system - Additional pension insurance, Plovdiv, "Paisiy Hilendarski" University Publishing House, 2021, ISBN 978-619-202-625-7, 303 pages.

The textbook examines the capital-based system of supplementary pension insurance in Bulgaria, uniting the second and third pillars of the pension model. Special attention is paid to the essence, meaning and main characteristics of the additional mandatory pension insurance (the so-called second pillar of the pension system) and the additional voluntary pension insurance (the third pillar of the pension system).



The textbook is divided *into three parts*, each of which contains chapters and separate topics clarifying the issues under consideration.

The first part presents the organization of additional capital pension insurance based on the clarification of the main theoretical positions relating to pension insurance companies. Essential characteristics of supplementary pension insurance and their reflection in the legal regulation of the activities of pension insurance companies and the supplementary pension insurance funds managed by them are indicated. The functions and importance of the institutions related to the functioning of the pension insurance companies have been clarified.

In section two, the content, features and characteristics of the additional mandatory pension insurance as the second pillar of the Bulgarian pension system and the current legal and regulatory framework are presented. The focus is on clarifying issues related to insurance in universal and occupational pension funds. Special attention is paid to the investment policy, the investment opportunities and restrictions in connection with investing the assets of the supplementary pension insurance funds.

The third section of the textbook examines basic theoretical positions on the essence, principles, characteristics and forms of additional voluntary pension insurance and specific questions to clarify its importance as the third pillar of the Bulgarian pension model. The possibilities and potential of additional voluntary pension insurance as a target saving and investment opportunity are indicated. The current investment regime and existing tax benefits are presented.

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Plovdiv

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