

SOCIAL WORK IN ROMANIA

**Interview with Prof. Elena Zamfir¹, Ph. D.
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(ARPAS)**

After the revolutionary events of December 1989 an activity domain and, implicitly a profession, have been re-established in Romania: the domain of social assistance, respectively the profession of graduate social worker, abusively abolished by the totalitarian communist regime. The paper emphasizes the beginnings of social assistance in Romania, the history of this activity domain being tightly related to the sociological school from Bucharest, led by Professor Dimitrie Gusti, immediately after the first World War. The interview also analyzes the development of the national system of social assistance during the last years, the expected reforms in the near future, as well as problems related to the professional training of human resources for the social services. Another issue upon which it focuses is the role of the social worker in the complex process of institutional reforms within the field of social protection, required by the integration of Romania in the European space.

What can you tell us about the issuing of the Social Work Review? What is its role in developing social work in the present moment?

This is not an entirely new publication. It is reviving a tradition of a very good social work publication in the past, initiated by the Bucharest Sociological School under the co-ordination of D. Gusti. The "Social Work Magazine" has been issued between 1929 and 1938 as a periodical newsletter being an instrument for learning about the social problems and dissemination of the practical and theoretical results of the social work system, as well as the possibilities for active intervention for rapid solving the cases requiring social

¹ Prof. Elena Zamfir is the Director of the Social Work Review. This interview was published in the Social Work Review, No 1 / 2002. The Social Work Review has a frequency of 6 issues per year and a circulation of 6000. The address of the Review Editorial Board is: Transilvaniei Street, No 6, Bucharest, Romania. E-mail address: spreda@iccv.ro