

THE SYSTEM OF SOCIAL PROTECTION. INTERGENERATIONAL AND INTRAFAMILY SOLIDARITY IN ROMANIA*

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1. Preliminary considerations

The importance of the system of **social protection**, as one of the aims of social policy, is correctly highlighted within the context of analysis of the source and level of population income, of each individual and household apart. We can thus determine the requirements for social protection, the response of society to these requirements, the efficacy and efficiency of the intervention, the consequences of the intervention/nonintervention and the possible recommendations for future actions.

We consider therefore that the approach of social policy issues should not focus on ideological and political aspects, because such aspects might be very remote from the actual situation. Obviously, the decisions should not be strictly technical either as issued by an expert.

At the same time, we should be cautious with the assessments according to which social policy should depend strictly on the economic situation, or that only the elements of general human nature (ethics) should count when actions of social policy are to be adopted. For the same level of economic development, various levels of intervention in social policy are possible and the practice of different countries is a proof to this. It is also the social practice which shows that political decisions are very complex, they involve important changes in society which requires us to relate them to the other means of living of the population, such as their legitimacy (population support); they are also supposed to have as sound as possible basis,