

MASTER PROGRAM: SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL ECONOMY

Adina Rebeleanu^[1]

This master program is developed by the Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, at Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca. This program is accredited since 2009.

The introduction of economic concepts into the domain of social work and also into the practice of the social organizations represents the subject of many discussions between social workers. This aspect is considered, on the one side, a developmental factor, and, on the other side, a risk. The fundamental concept of this master program is the specialization in the socio-economic field, grounded on the particularities of social work. The basic idea is the transposition of the specialized knowledge of the economical-administrative field into the practice of social organizations and also into the social work activity in general. This specialization is all the more relevant in the Romanian context, as the sector of social economy is less developed. Furthermore, the legislation in this area is not yet issued and the development of social economy enterprises is consonant with the evolutions within the European Union.

The specific objectives of this master program are: a). Providing competences for planning, funding and managing social economy entities; b). Stimulating the empirical-scientific research, and also the development of new concepts and models in social work and respectively in social economy; c) Understanding and making use of the European/international evolution and its impact on the fields of social work and social economy.

^[1] Assoc. Prof. Ph. D., Department of Social Work, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, 21 December 1989 nr. 128, 400604, Romania, e-mail: adina.rebeleanu@socasis.ubbcluj.ro.

The master program is interdisciplinary and it is addressed to graduate students of social work, economical sciences, sociology, law sciences, administrative and political sciences, communication sciences, and also to those specialists already active in the social work system.

Hereinafter we synthetize some components included in the training offer:

1. Knowledge about social economy and social work;
2. Knowledge about financial management, accountability and cost analysis;
3. Developing the capacity to analyze social problems and policy;
4. Competences in working in intercultural projects;
5. Exercise in the implementation and evaluation of social programs and services;
6. Developing the necessary and useful professional competences for private practice;
7. Empowerment for transforming the entrepreneurial spirit in entrepreneurial action;
8. Conceptual clarifications regarding the social economy (basic notions; principles; fields of activity; legislation in this area);
9. Developing competences specific to the social economy, at all its stages (idea-project-implementation-sustainability);
10. Opportunities for interacting with best practices in the field of social economy from Europe (international lectors and internships in the partener european institutions);
11. Adequate conditions for study and research in well-equipped laboratories.

The professional opportunities are varied: management of social enterprises; coordination of nongovernmental organizations; management of public and private structures; counseling in the field of social economy; coordination and evaluation of social services and economical and social development programs; consultancy for European projects; project management; development of social entrepreneurship.

This is a Joint Master developed in cooperation with higher education institutions from the European Union: University of Applied Sciences – FH Campus Wien (Austria); University of Applied Sciences Munchen (Germany), Institut Régional du Travail Social Poitiers

(France), Debrecen University (Hungary), Ostrava University (Czech Republic), University of Applied Sciences Lucern (Switzerland). The master program is developed on a period of two academic years (4 semesters, 120 credits).

The curriculum includes compulsory and optional disciplines. We mention some of the most relevant disciplines for this specialization: Social work and social economy; Social theory and research (qualitative and quantitative in-depth study); Economic-and social policy within the European Union; Cost management and funding; Accountability and financial reporting for private entities; The legal framework of the organizations and enterprises; Labour law; Human Resources Management; Structures and mechanisms of the European projects funding; Intercultural project management; Evaluating social policy and programs; Funding social enterprises; Community development; Case management; Economic evaluation and estimation of social work.

During the training process, the students can count on the professional experience of an interdisciplinary teaching staff, consisting of teachers from the Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, the Faculty of Economical Sciences and Business Management, the Faculty of Law Sciences – from Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca. Moreover, for practical training, the master students also benefit from the support from professionals working in the partner organizations and services from the field of social work and social economy, which are the Faculty's partners for this specialization.

In the end, we mention some testimonials of the graduate students of this master developed by the Faculty of Sociology and Social Work – Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca:

12. *“New ideas, wider horizons, creativity development and, not at least, the need to be innovative... new themes, extremely useful in my activity”* (Arpad Mathe, executive director Foundation for People Development, Cluj-Napoca);

13. *“Specialization that developed me as an individual and helped me to acquire a new vision regarding social work ... to focus on the potential of an individual in need, and the result is amazing – the individual becomes a resource for the community instead of a burden (assisted)”* (Petruța Drăghiciu, social worker);

14. *“The entrepreneurial spirit and the humanization of the economy by promoting the activities included in the social economy could be a modern and European solution which could contribute to social inclusion”* (Mihai Vădean, sociologist).