

**“THE FOSTER CARE” IN BULGARIA – FROM DUTY, THROUGH THE
CAUSE TO THE PROFESSION (*OBSERVATION ON THE PRACTICE IN SEVERAL
VILLAGES IN THE REGION OF SMOLYAN IN 2013*)**

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Abstract

The paper compares traditional with modern forms of approaching children deprived of parental care. The institution of “foster care”, gaining ground in the past years, introduced an imported (and established abroad) practice into the Bulgarian social context. It is compared in terms of meaning, functions, objectives, participants and final result with the existing similar forms from the period of the Bulgarian cultural tradition – “guardianship” and “provision”. Based on personal fieldwork material from the Rhodope region (where the foster care is a common alternative for the economic survival of the population), the author argues for the need to further perfect the program in line with the heritage of the purely Bulgarian models from the recent past and moreover – with the peculiarities of the Bulgarian context in the present. The conclusion confirms that the adoption of established world models in the sphere of social policy has to be done creatively, and for it to be successful – it needs to be applied with regard to the Bulgarian cultural-psychological peculiarities and heritage.

