

THE NEED FOR A CENTER OF INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION FOR STUDENTS

*Assoc.prof. PhD. MONICA ANGELA BARA
"1 December 1918" University of Alba Iulia, Romania*

ABSTRACT: *University youth group that is prepared for the requirements of a company alleged to evolve in a certain sense. We are dealing here with the theory essentially functionalist, which sees students as trained to reproduce values and norms of society.*

Many social problems facing young people have a high degree of complexity of the support to be given to them to meet them. Experts believe that it is time to develop some standards of social work practice for teens and serve as a guide for social workers in which they fulfill multiple roles. Due to budget cuts, staff and resources, these standards represent the ideals of being conquered, and some agencies and social workers will be able to meet only gradually.

Keywords: *students; information; counseling; young people;*

The main limitation of these steps is to consider youth as a transition phase from adolescence to adult life, in the case of students, university education aims at forming learning, knowledge and work skills for a future place of work. Therefore, the focus is on education in line with labor market requirements and social life requirements.

Many of the social problems faced by young people have a high degree of complexity in the support we need to give them to deal with. Specialists are of the opinion that this is the time to develop some standards of social welfare practice for adolescents and to serve as a guide for social workers in their multiple roles. Due to budget, resource and staff cuts, these standards are ideals to conquer, and some agencies and social workers will only be able to fulfill them gradually.

Youth centers have emerged in the social field as a result of the 1968 youth disputed movements. Currently, there are more than 700 offices in Western Europe. [1]

In Romania these Information and Counseling Centers have appeared quite late. The first centers were at universities in the major cities of the country. These centers have been initiated, supported and coordinated in general by academics from these universities and, in particular, by the faculties of socio-human sciences [2].

The primary goals and tasks of student counseling centers are:

- provide information on the possibilities of organizing multiple leisure time;
- provide various types of counseling to prevent socio-professional integration difficulties;
- contribute to the development of youth autonomy;
- to achieve the collaboration of the individual with the labor offices;
- to help actively integrate youth into social processes in order to convey the issues raised by young people to the local decision-making forums, thus enabling them to influence administrative and political decisions;

- to help young people in diminishing the potential disadvantages of their demographic and social position.

The basic principles of the operation of an Information and Counseling Center are:

- presents accessibility for all persons, without any prescriptions or discrimination, on the grounds that the teenager, by age, does not want to belong to any group;
- it does not force any ideology, it only presents some directions or possibilities for young people to choose in consciousness;
- keep customer anonymity;
- benefits are free of charge.

These Centers must operate according to the following criteria:

- offers a wide range of possibilities, from individual selection of information (press, newsletters, prospectuses, addresses, telephone numbers, and advertising materials) to special and individual counseling (psychological, legal, sexology) activities;
- the method of operation is customer-centered, helps the young person to be able to solve the problems of his or her own life and the differences that have arisen.

The information services provided to students must be grouped thoroughly, be up-to-date and arranged in a form accessible to young people. These services must provide information on opportunities for study abroad, scholarships, so as to have a mass character, be accessible to the general public and not just to an elite group. [3]

The range of activities and information provided by these centers include: cultural and leisure time programs, cheap rentals, low-cost accommodation, opportunities and ways to apply for scholarships and sponsored projects by various foundations, sporting activities, various discounts on youth, information on courses and meditations, tourist information, addresses of foundations and associates, legal, family, medical and

social information, permanent or seasonal job offers, information on the conclusion the employment contract and the obligations and rights that apply to them.

Young people, besides their disadvantaged situation due to social circumstances, are also endangered by the lack of information; for this reason they must be informed and taught how to defend their interests and rights.

Besides information, such a center can offer various types of counseling. Counseling can take place in three ways:

- When the social worker provides help in view of his / her professional competence and the limits of intervention;
- When, in the office, clients are oriented towards competent specialists from different fields (mental, psychological, legal);
- When recommended to outside specialists. [4]

The social assistant never provides institutions but directly people. In this way, the social worker remains responsible for the client also when referring to a specialist because the specialist rethinks the client to the social assistant after the intervention has ended. This avoids the center to assume a role of dispatch. For this reason, the center must keep in touch with various institutions, organizations and foundations.

In the information and counseling centers for students there may be the following types of counseling:

- counseling on vocational education and reorientation;
- counseling: legal, sexual, educational, life leadership, etc.

The work of those working in the center is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Ethics for Social Workers. The Center must operate according to the European Youth Charter adopted on 21 February 1990. Its principles are:

- information services must be open to every young person without exception;
- information services claim to ensure that each student has equal access to

information without regard to their financial situation.

The information provided must be based solely on the requirements of the applicants and be independent of any other interests. The center has to deal with all the problems the student has:

- each client must be accepted as an independent personality and the services must be appropriate to its needs and requirements;
- information services must be accessible throughout the program;
- respect customer anonymity;
- benefits are free of charge;
- the information provided is complete, impartial, accurate, practical and up to date;
- information is provided professionally by trained staff for this purpose;
- efforts must be made to make the information objective;
- information must be independent of any ideology, political or economic interests [3];
- information services must be open to every young person without exception;
- information services claim to ensure that each student has equal access to information without regard to their financial situation.

The student information and counseling center is therefore a service that provides students with support (social, psychological, legal or other advice) to provide them with a level of life appropriate to their physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.

In the current socio-economic context, many students face a significant deterioration in living conditions, resulting in isolation, destabilization, sometimes ill-treatment of all forms, incurred or exerted on others. [5]

By developing the addressability of the center, counselors and students who are not in difficulty but who wish to be guided and seek specialist support can benefit.

The idea of setting up centers that meet the needs of students, potential students and the labor market is also supported by the MEN that recommend the existence of such a center. The existence of such departments at foreign universities has also boosted their development in Romania, which was due to the European programs carried out. In the absence of extra-budgetary funding, the support of these centers is very difficult.

As well as information, counseling is provided to both direct and indirect recipients. First of all, counseling should replace those advice parents are directing their children before starting an independent life.

Counseling given to the young person in this service can be: psychological; social education, legal, professional, medical, health education (including anti-drug education programs, anti-alcohol, anti-AIDS, sex education and contraception, etc.).

The qualitative accumulations to be acquired by volunteer students refer to the management center's experience, know-how in the field of educational and career counseling, the development of counseling skills, communication optimization and information exchange between partners and universities in the country and from abroad.

All these qualitative accumulations have been materialized by producing promotional materials for both the Information and Counseling Center and for the University.

One of the objectives of the Information and Counseling Center can also be called "In the present society information is power". What does it accomplish?

–Career orientation or re-orientation (career planning);

–Educational counseling on study opportunities at the University of Alba Iulia or other universities in the country and abroad;

–Supporting participation in national and international educational projects (Leonard, Socrates, etc.);

–Advice on looking for and getting a job

(capitalizing on career opportunities).

The Center also proposes some research actions, such as: adapting the university curriculum to the real requirements of the labor market, evaluating the academic training of students and graduates; to carry out some statistical studies on the placement of graduates and their integration into the labor market, to carry out studies on the options of high school students for the University of Alba Iulia, to elaborate forecasts of youth demand for different faculties and specializations, etc. [3].

In conclusion, a synthesis of the main attributions of this Counseling and Information Center includes: counseling activities for students in the field of study abroad; preparing training programs for interviews; assistance in drafting CVs; carrying out studies on the quality of vocational training at the Alba Iulia University graduates; studying the options of high school graduates from Alba Iulia; forming a team of volunteer students for career counseling; raising awareness among teachers about the center's issues.

REFERENCES:

- [1]. Neamțu, G. (coord.), (2016), *Encyclopedia of Social Assistance*, Ed. Polirom, Iași
- [2]. Dimen, L.; Palamariu, M.; Ludușan, N. (2016), *Environment and lanscape - a computing approach*, in PANGEEA, no. 16, Ed. Aeternitas, Alba Iulia
- [3]. Ludușan, Mărioara, (2007), *Social assistance in schools*, Ed. Risoprint, Cluj-Napoca.
- [4]. Denizia, Gal, (2002), *Education and its social stakes*, Ed. Dacia, Cluj-Napoca.
- [5]. Neamțu, G. (coord.), (2003), *Social Assistance Treaty*, Ed. Polirom Iași.