

## **The issue of professionalization of social work services in Armenia**

The distributive approaches inherited from the Soviet system got reflected in social services provision “style” created after the independence of post-Soviet countries. Those approaches are isolated from people’s real needs, and this creates challenges for social work profession and social protection system.

Currently Armenia has faced a somewhat chaotic situation. On one hand, people have become dependent of social services and financial support. Nonetheless, we speak about the need to consider people’s needs on a larger scale. On the other hand, there is the need to implement empowering approaches. Recognition of human needs seems to be the possible way of switching to modern, human rights based approach for social work. At the same time, debates intensify over the creation of own model of social work in post-Soviet countries, particularly in Armenia.

The workshop/presentation is dedicated to possibilities of switching from distributive (resource based) services to human rights based professional social work in post-Soviet countries, with a focus on Armenia.

*Key words:* social service; Soviet system; social protection system; human rights; institutionalization of social work; professionalization of social work; social work post-soviet “own model”

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