

Social policy

can be defined primarily as the actions of the state and other subjects of social policy in order to positively influence people's living conditions. It is seen as necessary for the creation of a long-term conception of social policy, which views social policy as a system linked to the social environment.

In the "narrower sense", social policy is perceived as a set of activities, tools and measures designed to respond to adverse social events, such as old age, illness, disability or even unemployment and poverty. In practice, therefore, it is a system of social benefits, health and social insurance.

The aim of social policy is therefore to create dignified living conditions for all citizens, or at least for most of them. Social policy is a part of public policy whose subject matter is social issues.

In terms of approaches to solving social problems, two types of social policy can be distinguished. The first approach is an active (perspective) social policy, which is characterized by an effort to prevent the emergence of social problems and take preventive measures. These can be achieved either by a systemic change in social policy or by intervention. Passive (retrospective) policy focuses on solving already existing social problems. Its nature is always interventionist.

Types of social policy

In each particular country, social policy is the result of a combination of several types. Each of these types characterizes a certain ideological concept. In developed countries since the 1980s, we distinguish:

a) Redistributive (social democratic) type: The central idea is the perception of people's needs as social rights. This type of social policy is characterized by a dominant role of the state and a large extent of redistribution, the activity of non-state entities is limited. Social policy is aimed at the entire population of a given state.

b) Work performance (conservative) type: Social needs should be met on the basis of income and merit. It is based on the social insurance system. The redistribution rate is lower than for the redistributive type. The state guarantees only social minimums. Non-governmental organizations play a greater role in social policy.

c) Residual (liberal) type: The minimal role of the state in social policy. In this type, emphasis is placed on the individual responsibility and work of the individual. The activity of non-state actors is central to this policy.

Subjects involved in social policy/social policy agents define and manage social policy. The most important agent in social policy is the state, other agents are territorial administrative units in the Czech Republic, including regions and municipalities. The non-state agents are mainly employers and their unions and employees' trade unions. Other social policy agents are local communities, non-profit NGOs and churches. International organizations such as the European Union, UNICEF or the ILO (International Labour organization) are also important players.