

The relations between social workers and political organizations in Russia

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The presentation refers to a branch of evolving investigations in the domain of social work in Russia. More precisely, it considers the issue of potential of Russian social workers to interact with political organizations promoting the solving of certain social problems. The presentation is based on the results of the large empirical research project conducted within the framework of research and educational group "Professions in Social State". Despite the current rise of professionalization processes in the domain of social policy initiated by the state, this sphere is still characterized by the under-professionalization and relatively low professional autonomy. The main objective of the project is to analyse the ideology of the professional group of specialist in social work in order to reveal existing problems caused by the lack of professional self-regulation. One of the research questions deals with the level of power resource of social workers that implies their abilities to interact efficiently with political organizations. The project includes both qualitative and quantitative data gained through a survey of specialist in social work in a number of subjects of the Russian Federation. Presentation will include the results of the analysis of quantitative data; the total amount of sample is 1167 people. The frequency and effectiveness of contacts with representatives of political organizations are examined in their relation with the level of specific knowledge in the field of social work and the level of work experience. It seems to be one of important sites of social work practice since social workers can be seen as agents of change in the social sphere of life. The results obtained could highlight the main problems related to the participation of social workers in political life of the state, thus providing possible ways to improve the communication between different levels of social policy in Russia.