

BASIC ELEMENTS OF SOCIAL-PEDIATRIC DEVELOPMENTAL REHABILITATION BY THEODOR HELLBRÜGGE

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In Germany Prof. Theodor Hellbrügge is regarded as a pioneer of social pediatrics. 50 years ago he founded the Munich e Children's Center and later the Department of Social Pediatrics at the Ludwig-Maximilian-University in Munich. So Social Pediatrics had been institutionalized in Germany. If one examines their history, concepts of social reform and reform pedagogy were designed in the 19th century to improve the situation of the child in family and society. Shaped by the experience of the First World War, children's rights were first formulated in 1924 with the Geneva Declaration, whose realization on a global scale is still relevant today.

Also for Theodor Hellbrügge the own experience in the war and post-war years had been formative. Recognizing the importance of an intact family environment for optimal development, he came to practical conclusions for the inclusive education of children with developmental problems and disabilities. They should gain experience and insights together with all other children. A milestone in the realization of this idea was the founding of medically-led, interdisciplinary and socially well-connected Social Pediatric Centers, which became – step by step – an integral part of medical care. There are 153 such institutions in Germany now. They currently care for about 350,000 patients.

In recent years, there has been a change in epidemiology. For example, while cerebral palsy, postinfectious brain damage, and myelomeningocela take a back seat; mental disorders, behavioral disorders,

and speech development disorders are gaining more and more attention. Intercultural social paediatrics are becoming increasingly important.

Adapted to the current circumstances, the founding ideas of Hellbrügge are also worth considering for the Baltic States. The topics negotiated during the congress should be deepened in the continuing professional discourse in which we would like to participate.