

## **Social Pedagogy in the Slovak Republic in Theory and Practice – Genesis and Present State**

### **Abstract**

The history of social pedagogy in the Slovak Republic is much shorter compared to European social pedagogy. It started to develop only in the 1970s. The paper deals with the development of social pedagogy in the Slovak Republic from its beginning up to the present. Its most important representatives and their work, problematic orientation, the institutionalised representation of educators of social pedagogues as well as legislation with respect to social pedagogues in practice.

*Key words: social pedagogy, social pedagogue, personalities of social pedagogy, educators of social pedagogues, legislation of social pedagogue profession, competences of social pedagogues, prevention of socio-pathological phenomena.*

### **1. Theoretical basis, origin and development of social pedagogy in Slovakia before 1989**

Social pedagogy in Europe has over 165-year-old history. J. Schilling (1999, p. 65) states that the first concept of social pedagogy was depicted in 1844 by K. Mager, the author of this term. The theoretical principles of social pedagogy were worked out by P. Natorp in his book “*Social Pedagogy*” (1898), where he also described the focus and tasks of this science in detail. On the one hand, in Germany and also in other West European countries, social pedagogy was developing intensively at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. On the other hand, its development stagnated in the former socialistic countries, with the