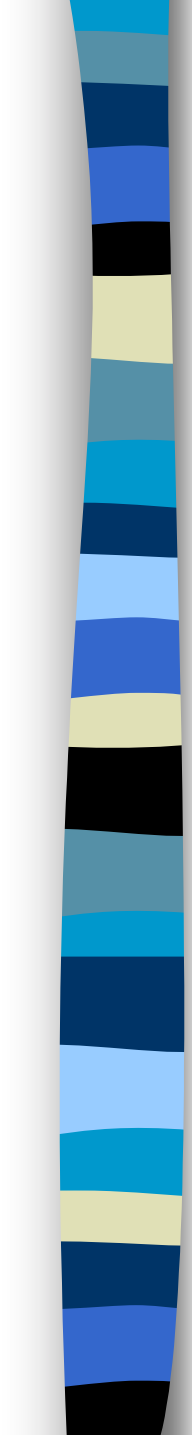


In the SR, but in other middle and east European countries as well, two concepts of social policy have prevailed:

1. The so called broad view concept, according to which social policy represents actual behavior, mainly of the state but of other subjects as well. That behavior consequently affects the social sphere of the society. Social policy has been perceived as activities, which bear directly on living conditions of people. More specifically, this means emphasis on long-term, conceptual reflections on social policy, selection of suitable type of policy and design of a definite social program. Social policy in broad concept then means a system with internal links and relationships, possessing ties to other systems of public policy, mainly to economic policy.

2. The so called narrow view concept, according to which the principal role of social policy is to take care of social perils and their possible consequences (such as e.g. old age, illness, disability), support families with children in distress and mitigate social hardship, as they are inevitably generated by the market economy (e.g. unemployment, poverty). Such perception reduces social policy to a system of measures aimed mainly at areas such as unemployment, family policy and social security. In the period of economic transformation the narrow view concept prevails, social policy "reaps the fruits" of economic transformation. In essence the narrow view concept overlaps neatly with activities of the government department in charge – the Ministry of labor, social affairs and family.

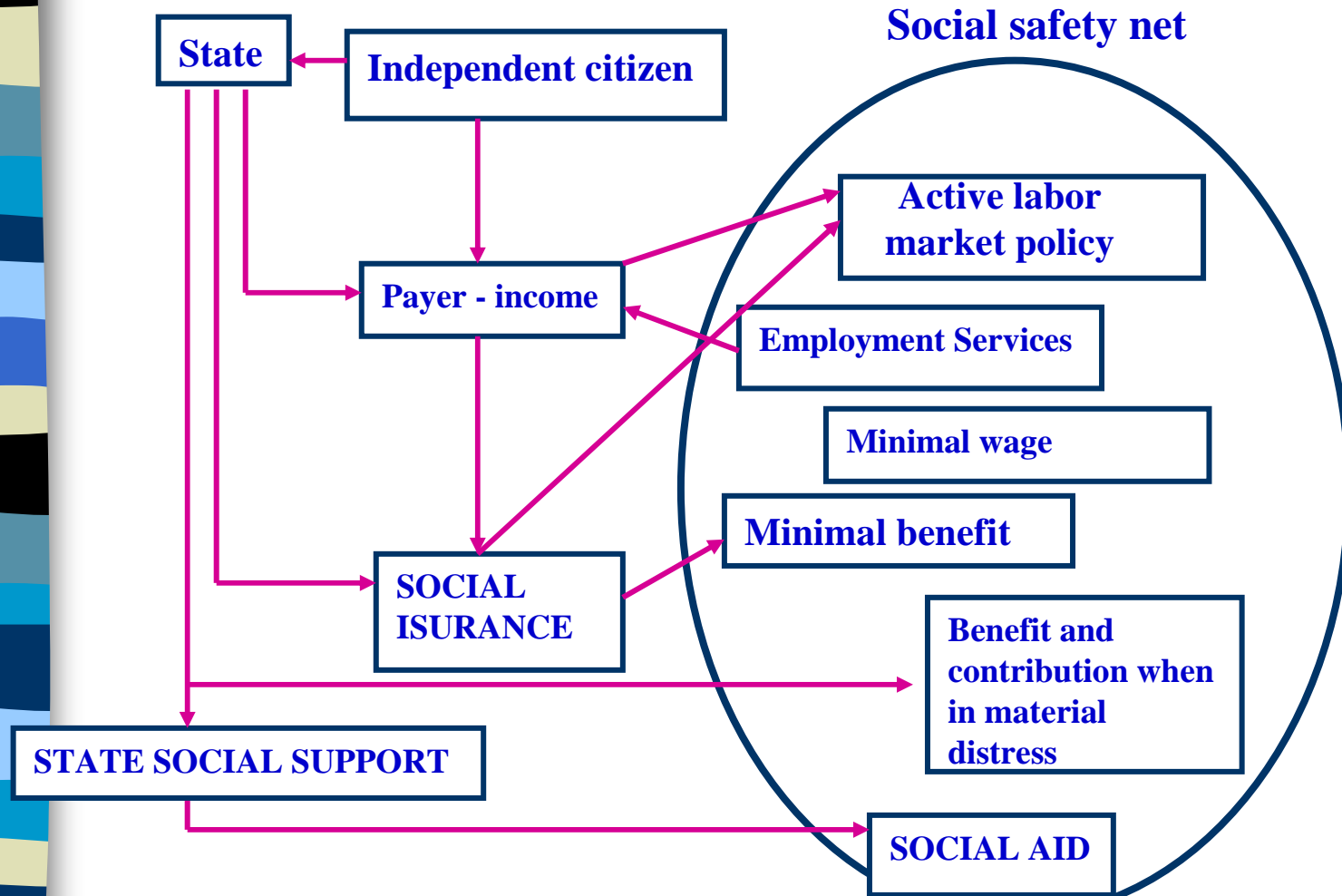


The specific features of such narrowly perceived - speak institutional or departmental delimitation of social policy - (not those pertaining to the content) depend on what priority, dominant tasks have been assigned to it:

1.1. Active social policy, with emphasis on prevention, forestalling social problems by taking „ex ante“ measures. Prevention can be achieved on the one hand by amendments and modifications of the social system itself and its rules of operation (the so called systemic social policy), on the other hand by taking measures, which a priori create provisions for effective solutions of anticipated social problems (the so called interventionist social policy).

1.2. Passive (retrospective) social policy represents activities that focus on finding „ex post “ solutions of social problems. In its character it is always an interventionist policy

Chart of social security in the SR



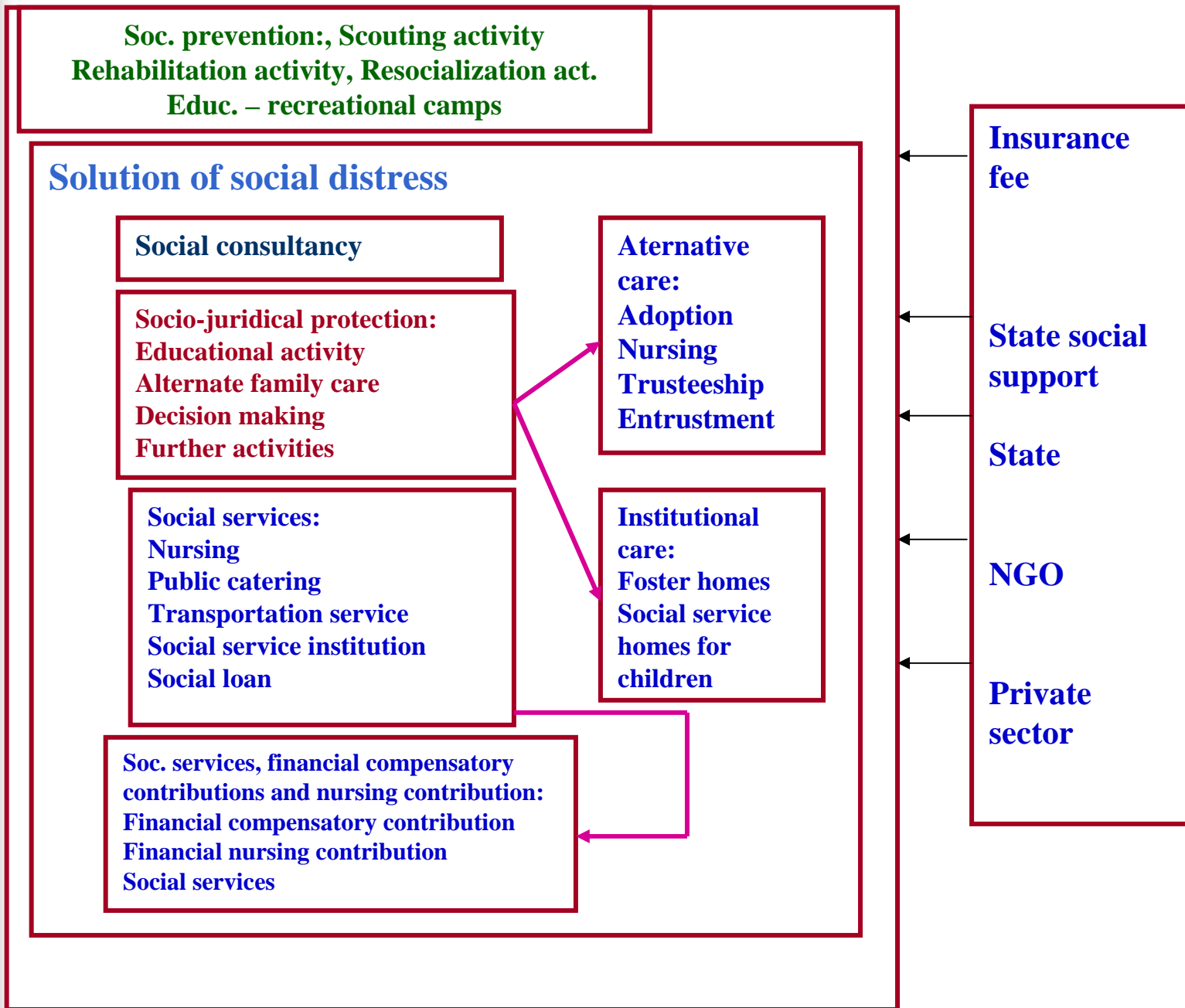
Social security: sickness, retirement (old age, disability), casualty, guarantee, unemployment insurance

Employment services: job seeking, filling of job vacancies, active labor market measures

Benefits and contributions when in material distress: benefit, contribution to health care, activation contribution, accommodation contribution, safety contribution, lump sum benefit

Material distress: income of the citizen and associated persons under subsistence level, and cannot be improved by citizen's own devices

Diagram of the contemporary system of social assistance in the SR (by course of law)



Institutions of social protection

Ministry of Labour, Social affairs and Family of SR

**Sickness insurance
Disability insurance
Old age insurance
Casualty insurance
Guarantee insurance
Unemployment insurance**

Family benefits

Employment services

Social assistance

Social insurance

**Center + offices
of Labour,
Social Affairs
and Family**

**Center + offices
of Labour,
Social Affairs
and Family**

**Center +offices
of Labour,
Social Affairs
and Family+
Selfgovernment+
Regional
selfgovernment**



Relationship between social security and risk factors of social exclusion:

Social security

Problem situation

Risk situations

Employment

Unemployment

**Long-term
Unemployment**

Wage

Soc. Insurance

**Social benefit,
assistance**

Labor market

Social security

Social exclusion

Main factors determining poverty and social exclusion (and creating pressure on system of social benefits) are : education status, position at labor market, demographic characteristics (number of unprovided-for and dependent members of household) and level of regional development.



W

hen we thus narrow our view of social policy and review competencies of the Ministry of labor, social affairs and family, the main tasks of social policy are the following:

-

Motivate for steady improvement of educational status and professional skills, in other words make social benefits conditional on further education and training (not just support for a child, but support of child that is being educated). This should bring about changes on the quality of available workforce.

-

Motivate to participation in the labor market, hence preference for own activities rather than remaining idle in the social safety net, by offering jobs to long-term unemployed, and poorly skilled people, and by creating a gap between income from social benefits and that from a job.

-

Expand possibilities and functions of safety systems, i.e. safety systems clearly distinguishing between individual and group protection.



T
he three-sector model, when applied in real life is
often accompanied by:

-
Decreasing number of „key“ well paid employees,
with high employment and title to social benefits

-
Growing number of „typical“ employees (many
of them women) receiving low wages, with low
employment and title to social benefits

-
Growing number of those long-term "excluded"
from the labor market (e.g. long-term unemployed,
disabled, women burdened with familial duties).



N

ovel strategies of social policy or those of „welfare“ state attempt to respond to some of the most pressing contemporary problems:

-
Increasing poverty and social exclusion

-
Growing of regional differences and segregation of marginalized territories and groups

-
Growing unemployment and the need to improve ways and possibilities to find and hold a job

-
Development of novel (atypical) forms of employment and the need to incorporate them into the social security system

-
Demographic changes, including changes in family structure and the need to modify provisions of social policy, based on a traditional family and household, population ageing and early retirement

-