

## **Lesson 2. The social professions in Spain**

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Slide 1: Professions related to the social field have different names. Concerning your future profession, social educators have historically been named in different ways, for instance: sociocultural animators; juvenile animators; and specialised educators. Nowadays, there is not an international agreement about the name of the social education profession; accordingly, the same professionals are named in different ways depending on the country. This diversity of terminologies highlights the need to clarify the roles, functions and competencies of social educators, because, in addition to the lack of a single name for the profession, there is not an international agreement concerning the functions of social educators.

Slide 4: Pedagogues carry out a social profession, named Pedagogy. In the workplace, pedagogues are involved with different tasks, for instance: design of formative programs to foster employees' talent; assessment of learning needs; and development of work competencies.

Slide 5: The evolution of social professions in Spain has been slow. Several historical events have conditioned the progression of the professions related to the social field.

Slide 6: The dictatorship in Spain (Francoism) impeded the development of first training initiatives, that is, it impeded the implantation of formal training at universities. Moreover, support initiatives were influenced by the regime's ideology (national-Catholicism). Then, social assistance was provided by women, as care is part of the traditionally gender roles assigned to women. Moreover, the Catholic Church was involved in providing with social assistance.

Slide 7: As a result, during the dictatorship there was an important delay in the definition of the social work profession: there were not official university courses (degrees) and the professional field of social work was not clearly defined and delimited. The lack of professional recognition led social work to be regarded as a voluntary and charity activity.

Slide 10: Pedagogy is a profession that became part of the social field more recently than social work and social education.

Slide 11: in the following slides it will be shown the complexity of social professions in Spain. As we will see, social professions share functions and intervention areas.

Slide 12: as shown in this slide, concerning professional areas related with social services, there is a bigger overlap between social work and social education than between social education and pedagogy. Social educators work at different sub-areas of primary social care services and specialised social services. As shown in the slide, social educators may be involved in any social service area.

Slide 13: professional areas related with health predominantly count with social workers. Social educators also play a relevant role in health-related professional areas; for instance, they work in social healthcare centres (servicios sociosanitarios). Moreover, social educators have a predominant presence in professional areas related to justice.

Slide 14: in formal and non-formal educational settings, pedagogues have a predominant presence. A key distinction between social educators and pedagogues is that social educators can't teach and provide students with educational guidance. Moreover, the slide

shows that social workers barely have functions in educational settings, and they are limited to formal education.

Slide 15: concerning other professional areas, pedagogues have functions in the public administration, at workplaces and in non-profit organizations to a greater extent than social educators.