
Table of Contents

Introduction	9
Poland: Between Family and Foster Care (<i>Magdalena Szafranek</i>)	11
The origins of Polish childcare system: Unification and codification of family law in the years 1945–1964	11
The post-war era and the sovietisation of the law	11
Family law and the Constitution of the Polish People's Republic	14
Family law and the 1956 October events	15
The adoption of the Civil Code in 1959 and its separation from the Family Code	17
Government work on the draft Family and Guardianship Code	18
Legal considerations of child custody under current law	19
Polish Constitution	19
The principle of the child's welfare in the Family and Guardianship Code	20
Divorce and termination of parental authority	22
The scope of parental authority	26
The right to contact the child	36
The situation of a child deprived of parental authority	37
Conclusion	44
Childcare in Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic (<i>Petr Fabián</i>)	49
Childcare in the period from 1918 to 1938	49
Childcare during the communist era	50
Childcare in the democratisation era – after 1989	53

Changes leading to the current concept of the social and legal protection of children (SLPC) in the Czech Republic	54
Deinstitutionalisation	55
Changes in philosophy and related laws	55
Forms of assistance	57
Impact on the performance of social work and social and legal protection	59
Politicisation of assistance	59
Risk areas of the substitution of goals	60
The client in the new approach	60
Children and their world	60
Biological families	61
Foster families	62
Institutional facilities	62
New tasks and challenges for social workers	63
New tools and guidelines for the conduct of the SLPC	63
Accompanying organisations and their tasks	64
Implementing substitute family care under the new regulations	66
Working with vulnerable children	66
Assistance to children placed outside their family	67
Impact on the substitute family	68
Impact on the child	68
Non-family assistance – institutional care	69
Facilities for children requiring immediate assistance	69
Child centres	70
Children's homes	70
Evaluation of the tools of social and legal protection	71
 Context of Changes in the Slovak System of Substitute Educational Care in the Years 1989–2019 <i>(Albín Škoviera)</i>	75
 The wider context of changes	76
Postmodernity as a negation of modernity	76
Political, economic and social changes after 1989	77
Critical reflection on the past	78

Convention on the Rights of a Child – Communication No. 104/1991 Coll.	79
The aftermath of the division of Czechoslovakia	80
Inter-ministerial tensions	81
Professional (un)preparedness of the sector	84
Stages of the transformation process	84
The 1990–1996 period	85
The 1997–2005 period	87
The 2006–2018 period	89
The period after 2019	93
Conclusion	93
 The Child Protection System in England and Wales	
<i>(Joanna Gorczowska)</i>	97
The Cleveland inquiry	101
The Children Act of 1989	102
The Children Act of 2004	106
Taking a child away from family	109
Foster care	111
Adoption	115
Conclusion	118
 Assessment of the Presented Models	
<i>(Petr Fabián)</i>	123
Introduction	123
The Polish model	123
The Czech model	126
The Slovak model	128
The British model	131
Finding new ways	133
Nature and normality	134
What is normal	134
Childhood trauma – Epigenetics and transgenerational transmission	135

Dilemmas of the current models	136
Comparison of the four systems and their overlaps	140
Legal aspects of the change	140
Family forms of assistance	143
Institutional forms of assistance – Children's homes and other institutions	143
Cooperation with the child's family	144
Benefits for practice	145
The change in the philosophy of assistance	145
The time limit of assistance	146
Forms of assistance	147
Assistance management	147
Conclusion	148
About the Authors	151