The role of digital competencies in the professionalism of future social worker

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Objectives

The analysis of EU documents highlights the main areas for increasing competences of social workers in working with children and youth. Among others upskilling social workers' digital competence and developing digital skills of children are youth is emphasized. New technologies emerge rapidly. Digital literacy and 21st century skills play a crucial role as part of modern-day citizenship and modern life in general.

Materials and Methods

The methodology is based on documents analysis, theoretical analysis of scientific literature. Document analysis was done aiming to find out new digital skills for future social work professionals.

Results

Document analysis shows that there are a lot of youth work practitioners who lack the digital skills or attitudes to fully benefit from the opportunities created by digital technologies for delivering quality youth work (European Commission, 2018). Many youth workers see digital media only as social media. Their understanding of the possibilities of digital media and technology should be widened.

Conclusions

Research date identified a set of innovative practices in both delivering digital youth work and also upskilling youth workers' digital competences: using social media in sharing information, online youth counseling, supporting digital literacy, enabling participation with digital tools, supporting cultural youth work online, supporting the development of technological skills, using digital games in youth work.