**THE SOCIAL AND PEDAGOGICAL BOARDING SCHOOL BETWEEN INSTITUTIONALIZATION AND DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION**

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***Abstract****. This text refers to the current Social and Pedagogical Boarding School. It traces its development since its establishment in 1970 as a specific form of institutionalization. The answer to a number of questions is sought: how this institution exists under the conditions of transformation of Bulgarian society; how it changed since the regime changed in 1989; what is its place in the existing transition zone (both temporal and spatial) between the boarding school and home protection. To answer these questions, a brief history of this educational institution is presented tracing back its establishment, development and transformation happening in parallel with the ongoing process of deinstitutionalization in the country. The results from a field survey in the present-day Social and Pedagogical Boarding School are presented.*

***Key words****: labor school; Boarding school for hard-to-learn students, Educational boarding school, Anti-social change, Criminal care. institutionalization, deinstitutionalization*