Examples of recent publications in English


Since its beginnings in 2002, the University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland (UAS-WS) has devoted much attention and effort to research in social work.

Number of research projects in social work in the UAS-WS, 2002-2009

From 2002 to 2009, UAS-WS professors and their teams conducted 178 studies, corresponding to a funding of over 20 million Swiss francs by Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF), the European Union (EU), public and private funds.

Type of funding for research in Social Work, UAS-WS, 2002-2009

- SNF: 51%
- EU: 11%
- Public and private funds: 38%

Current social issues have been the focus of research projects, including studies of:
- Social policies
- Social intervention
- Social problems (drug addiction, violence, handicap, quality of life, prevention, migration, integration, citizenship, transition to adulthood, discrimination, etc.)
- Specific populations
- Social work and social care professions.

Research is coordinated by the Research Institute in Social Work (Institut de Recherche en Travail Social, IRTS), four research networks\(^1\) organize scientific debate and encourage and support researchers in their projects.

Research in social work is close to concerns of the field; it aims at improving professional knowledge, and contributes to finding concrete solutions to social problems.

Research partners include: Swiss and foreign universities, other UAS, public institutions, non-governmental organizations, and associations. They view UAS-WS researchers as qualified scientific partners who can contribute to generating theoretical, methodological or practical knowledge. Research results enable field partners to increasing and systematizing their professional know-how and can help them find new approaches to questions stemming from their practice. Research also contributes to fostering a wide and varied range of collaborative endeavours between the UAS-WS, its partners in the field and political authorities.

Close links exist between practice-oriented research and professional training. Research results are conveyed to students in various ways: they are particularly useful for shaping specific aspects of the curriculum in Bachelor and Masters degrees in Social Work programs. They also contribute to the enrichment and diversification of the contents of basic training and continuing education. They strengthen the knowledge base and contribute to the renewal of professional practice.

Social work research in the UAS-WS enjoys an excellent national and international reputation. An active policy aimed at fostering research opportunities for young professionals contributes to its continued success.

The findings of research are systematically disseminated through publications as well as communications at conferences.

\(^{1}\) www.cedic.ch; www.recss.ch; www.resarch.ch; www.reas2.ch