

**Fribourg : Département de
Recherche appliquée et
Développement (DRaD)**

**Geneva : Centre de
Recherche Sociale (CERES)**

**RESEARCH IN SOCIAL
WORK AT THE UNIVERSITY
OF APPLIED SCIENCES
AND ARTS,
WESTERN SWITZERLAND
(HES-SO)**

Hes·so

Haute Ecole Spécialisée
de Suisse occidentale

Fachhochschule Westschweiz

University of Applied Sciences and Arts
Western Switzerland

**Lausanne : Laboratoire de
Recherche Santé-Social
(LaReSS)**

**Sierre : Institut Travail Social
(ITS)**

The University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland, with 20'000 students – including 2900 in social work – is one of the largest university-level educational institutions in Switzerland. Its multi-cantonal and decentralized structure – 28 sites in 7 cantons – makes it unique.

Social work research contributes to a better understanding of current problems and enriches professional practice. It is deployed along two main axes:

- **Social work and the social policies that frame it.**
- **Target populations of social work interventions.**

It provides policy-makers and private organizations with empirically grounded answers to social policy and intervention questions.

Social work research is conducted with partners from the field, most often at the local or regional level, as well with other universities. For instance, researchers in social work are involved in the Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research LIVES (www.lives-nccr.ch), that includes around 150 researchers from the whole of Switzerland working on issues of vulnerability in its multiple forms – social, economic, professional, familial, cultural and psychological.

The Faculty of Social Work is very active at the international level

More than 60 cooperation agreements in the fields of teaching and research have been signed; the Faculty of Social work also organizes Summer Universities in social work:

- in Switzerland in 2014 and 2016,
- in Canada (UBC at Vancouver) in 2013,
- in China (Shandong University at Jinan) in 2015.

Researchers from the Faculty of Social work take part in numerous projects and are involved in European as well as extra-European networks. The Faculty of Social Work hopes to further these partnerships and plans to develop new collaborations.

Research in the Faculty of Social Work, in line with the strategic plan 2015-2020 of the HES-SO, also pursues the following goals:

- a further strengthening of its regional impact, particularly through obtaining new research mandates from organizations, institutions or public administration,
- a broader dissemination of research results and a higher level of knowledge transfer, e.g. via publications in professional and scientific journals,
- a diversification of its sources of financing.

Financial resources for research in Switzerland come from a variety of sources. Researchers in social work take part in a range of calls for projects issued by :

- the Swiss National Research Foundation (SNF),
- the Commission for Technology and Innovation (CTI),
- European Framework Programmes,
- the Federal administration,
- various foundations,
- other national and international organizations active in the field of research financing.

Researchers in Social work also carry out research projects mandated by local and regional public authorities, as well as by private organizations and associations.

Social work research is coordinated by the Research and Development (Ra&D) of the Faculty of Social work. It takes place at the 4 sites of the HES-SO in which a Social Work programme is offered, i.e. the 4 schools of Social Work (HETS)

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<http://www.hets-fr.ch/fr/recherche/accueil>

Genève : Centre de Recherche Sociale (CERES)

www.hesge.ch/hets/recherche-developpement/centre-recherche-ceres

Lausanne : Laboratoire de Recherche Santé Social (LaReSS)

www.eesp.ch/laress

Sierre : Institut Travail Social (ITS)

www.hevs.ch/fr/rad-instituts/institut-travail-social

A few key figures

En 2015, **39 research projects put forward by the Faculty of Social work** have obtained financial support. This figure includes funding from all sources.

81 scientific publications by Social work researchers of the HES-SO were issued in 2015; 60 more publications in professional journals came out during the same year.

For further information concerning research in Social work at the HES-SO, please contact : University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland

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<http://www.hes-so.ch/fr/recherche-hes-so-31.html>