

SOCIAL WORK IN THE 21ST CENTURY: A COMPARATIVE INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Enrique Pastor Seller, y M.^a Asunción Martínez-Román (coord.) (2014). Madrid: Editorial Grupo 5. 290 pp. ISBN 978-84-942-5790-2

This book, coordinated by Professor Pastor Seller (University of Murcia) and Professor Martínez-Román (University of Alicante), has been edited on the occasion of the 1st International Congress of Faculties and Schools of Social Work and the 10th National Congress.

This work compiles contributions of several national and international renowned professionals, both from educational and professional fields. It is structured in two clearly separate parts. The first one, called "Social Work in Spain: current status, comparative analysis and challenges", gathers the agenda, interests and concerns of contemporary Social Work in Spain (chapters 2 to 13) and the second one, named "Social Work at an international framework", approaches Social Work and its challenges from different countries (chapters from 14 to 20).

Chapter 1, written by the coordinators, presents and describes the content of the book; it also points out the connections among the rest of chapters and the main topic of the publication. Chapter 2 reviews, from the perspective of teaching innovation, the learning methodologies traditionally practiced in Social Work from its beginning, even outside university education. Chapter 3 ruminates on the implications of the research and how to transfer them to Social Work. Chapter 4 highlights external practices and supervision as two key elements in the training for Social Work degree. Chapter 5 presents the standard-setting process, its development and implications of the end-of-degree project of Social Work degree. Chapter 6 describes post-graduate education of Social Work in Spanish public university, listing official postgraduate masters and doctorate courses in Spanish universities. Chapter 7 shows the frame of development and evolution of the internationalization process of Social Work in Spain. Social Work in crisis period is developed in chapter 8 and citizenry and Social Work in chapter 9. Chapter 10

proves Social Work commitment in current situation through contributions to the White Book on Design for All in the University. Chapters 11 and 12 refer to two spheres where the theoretical and practical framework of Social Work has been established: conferences in Faculties and Schools of Social Work in Spain and Social Work magazines. Chapter 13 analyses the state of the issue and the challenges of Social Work in Spain. Every chapter from 1 to 13 analyses academic and professional commitments of Social Work.

Chapters 14 to 20 show the current situation and challenges faced by Social Work within diverse countries. Chapter 14 targets Portugal, analyzing current research areas and progress and development of Social Work Training, as well as confronting reality and existing challenges of professionals of Social Work in this country. Chapter 15 analyses the current situation and challenges of Social Work in France, focusing on postgraduate studies. Chapter 16 talks about Italy, giving an overview of the current situation of education at European and international level and analyzing labour integration of Social Work in this country. Moreover, examines research areas and doctorate studies in Italian universities. Chapter 17 focuses on social exclusion and challenges and fields of action of Social Work in Canada. It also analyses the reality of this profession, which is developing between needs and criticism. Chapter 18 revises at the one hand relevant literature about the struggle against oppression and the nature of public social services. On the other hand, it analyses a family care center in Israel using a quantitative methodology of case studies. Chapter 19 deepens in Mexico, discussing Social Work in public policies and scientific and the societal challenges that it faces. Chapter 20 describes historical and political context as well as it assesses the work carried out by National Association of Social Workers in USA.

Actors engaged in this social field will find in this book an instrument for reflection and action in the current circumstances surrounding the academic and professional context, as well as tools to deal with challenges in modern society.

José Luis Rodríguez Díez

Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Sevilla, España