

**WEST UNIVERSITY OF TIMISOARA
THE FIELD OF SOCIAL WORK**

Social work between trends and challenges

THE SUMMARY OF THE HABILITATION THESIS

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SUMMARY

The habilitation thesis entitled "Social work between trends and challenges" represents a synthesis of the author's scientific, didactic, professional activity, carried out after the public presentation, in 2010, of the PhD thesis entitled *"Dynamics of the development of social services in the Jiului Valley "* under the coordination of University Professor PhD Maria Roth.

After the presentation of the PhD thesis in 2010, as well as after the presentation of the first habilitation thesis in the field of Sociology entitled "Modern Social Work At The Confluence Of Challenges, Opportunities And Perspectives", at the University of Bucharest in December 2018, the research activity progressed constantly , so that subsequent scientific interests developed as a natural extension, using new concepts and spheres of interest specific to the field of social work and assistance.

After being granted the PhD in Sociology the scientific and research activity highlights cumulatively the following scientific and professional results :

a) the publication of **35 books and book chapters** in the field of social work and assistance practice, social work intervention methods and techniques, professional deontology in social work, lifelong training of adults, school dropout phenomenon, counseling and guidance of young people with special needs, management and evaluation of social programs, community and risk situations intervention; social services; educational models in social work; vocational counseling of young people;

b) the publication of a number of **7 articles in ISI indexed journals with impact factor of which:** 1 article in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health in 2022 (Impact Factor 4.614), 2 articles in Sustainability, Sustainable Education and Approaches in 2018, (Impact Factor 2.592) and in 2021 (Impact Factor 3.889); 3 articles in Iranian Journal of Public Health (2017, Impact factor 1.053; 2019 Impact factor 1.291; 2020 Impact factor 1.429); 1 article in Archives of Mining Sciences (2016, Impact Factor 0.550); 1 article in Transilvanian Review (2015);

c) the publication of a number of **40 articles published in various international databases or ISI Proceedings; 13 papers published in conference volumes (volumes with ISSN) or indexed in at least one of the recognized international databases, 57 papers presented at international conferences organized abroad and in the country;**

d) *participation as a member or director in 49 grants or research projects.* In this direction of action, regarding the scientific research activities with the social-economic environment, four scientific research contracts concluded with socio-economic agents are highlighted, and regarding the social development activity, the involvement as a member or project manager in various national and international projects with relevance in the field of social work and assistance, obtained through non-refundable European funds through various financing programs: Phare, FRDS, European Social Fund, Grundvig, LLP, EASSW, Ministry of Education, ROSE, other funds, determined the permanent contact with social reality, in this real way anchoring in various aspects of social life.

The thesis forwards an analysis of the author's main original contributions and current research directions. In her previous experience, the author focused on the client system prevention and intervention, on the writing and implementation of social projects and programs, and with the evolution in her university career on the analysis of social assistance aspects focused on the client system and on the realization of practical applied research, combining the theoretical, epistemological and methodological aspects with those of transformation and social practice.

The first section of the thesis, in the first chapter, the author's scientific results and post-doctoral professional achievements are illustrated synthetically. The second chapter highlights certain scientific contributions in social work and assistance, the author underlining within the four sub-chapters her contributions in the education segment in social assistance in the context of globalization, some analyzes and publications aimed at social services in a contemporary context and dynamics to the social services in Valea Jiului, and last but not least highlighting the results of some research that deal with the socio-economic influences of mining decay in Jiului Valley on the community members.

A natural approach carried out by the author addresses the professional contributions at the European level in the field of social work and assistance, highlighting certain innovative perspectives in social work such as the international grant "Cross-European blended learning of part-time students" financed by the European Association of Social Work Schools, which the author coordinated in the period 2014-2015; European social work and the challenges of poverty; coordination of the conference "Education and European projects - mobility opportunities for students and teachers" or illustration of the professional and scientific

contributions within the European social work network ALLISW - Adult Life Long Learning In Social Work (since 2010 – up to the present).

Chapter 4 entitled "Other academic and professional activities - coordination of research teams and coordination of professionals in community interventions" presents the experience and results of three scientific research and community intervention projects of the author implemented after the presentation of the first habilitation thesis in 2018.

The preoccupations and perspectives forwarded by the author in her professional, scientific and academic development are illustrated in the second part of the thesis, which describes the professional development strategy from a scientific point of view; the synthesis of the minimum specific planned actions that will be undertaken and the directions of future research. The habilitation thesis ends with the illustration of the bibliographic sources.