

Sex and Gender integration in the Swiss Medical Curriculum

(S&G integration) - Summary

It is established that sex and gender integration into medical curricula contributes to reducing health inequalities produced within the health system. The new federal learning objectives for medical education (PROFILES) include sex and gender dimensions at various levels (general objectives, professional activities, clinical situations).

This project aims to guide and support the integration of these objectives in the Swiss medical and nursing schools. It is a joint project developed by 6 medical schools (Lausanne, Zürich, Geneva, Fribourg, Bern, Basel) and one nursing school (University of Applied Sciences of Southern Switzerland, SUPSI-DEASS) in Switzerland.

It includes two main activities:

- 1) the development of a structural concept for integration of sex and gender dimensions in medicine and of a core curriculum including specific teaching/learning materials;
- 2) the creation of a platform to share resources, namely teaching materials, pedagogical tools and literature reviews.

The project aims at involving a range of stakeholders to foster endorsement and sustainability towards a culture of change in each university. Monitoring of activities and communication (internal and external) around the concept, reached milestones and project outcomes will be continuous.

Given the magnitude of the task and the unequal and limited resources available in each university, we identified the need to pool resources, efforts and strategies across universities. Defining common goals and jointly developing educational material and strategies will ensure a successful and powerful integration of sex and gender in the Swiss medical curriculum.

Through this synergistic approach, the quality of education will be enhanced, and ultimately patients will benefit from a better quality of care. This project contributes to the strengthening of social justice and the transformation of detrimental stereotypes and norms. The integration concept will include considerations of the intersection between gender and broader diversity, as well as social determinants of health.

This project groups most Swiss universities, giving it a national visibility. The inclusion of new partners – medical schools, but also other health professions – is planned throughout the project.

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