

Sex and Gender integration in the Swiss Medical Curriculum (S&G integration)

Newsletter 3 – July 2022

The S&G Integration project aims to guide and support the integration of sex and gender dimensions into medical and nursing teaching schools. It obtained funding from swissuniversities, P-7 call 2021-2024: Diversity, inclusion and equal opportunities in university development. It is supported by 8 medical schools (Basel, Bern, Fribourg, Geneva, Lausanne, Luzern, Neuchâtel, Zürich) and one nursing school (University of Applied Sciences of Southern Switzerland, SUPSI-DEASS). Two main activities are carried out: a national reference curriculum for teaching and the creation of a platform for sharing teaching materials. Communication actions, involvement of different stakeholders and collection of indicators for evaluation complement the project.

Up to date on the core curriculum

Defining a consensus on what courses to consider for gender integration in medicine is a major undertaking that requires more time than originally anticipated. Universities started by making an inventory of courses already available and then agreed on the teaching disciplines, minimum teaching hours and PROFILES objectives.

A final consultation including medical students will take place this summer and the document will be available at the beginning of new academic year.

The work is being done in an extremely pleasant and respectful context and we would like to thank all the partners!

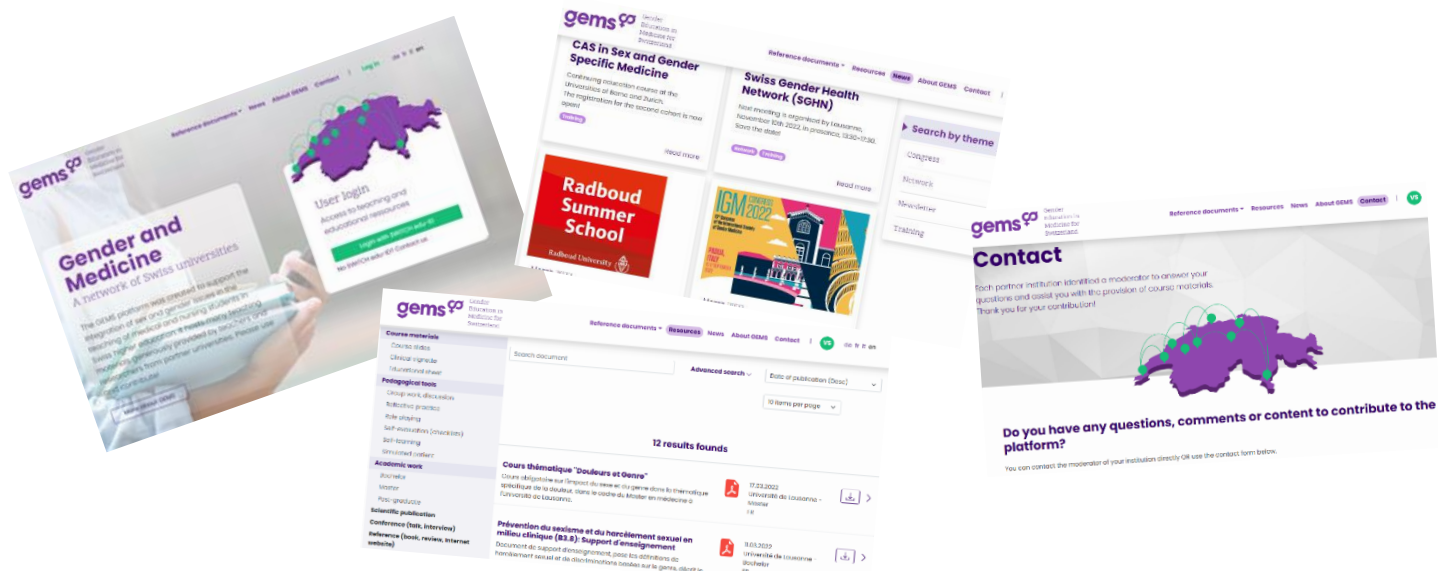
More: vera.regitz-zagrosek@charite.de virginie.schlueter@unisante.ch

The gems platform is progressing

The architecture of the platform is completed and its content is being supplied. All the pages presenting the project, the functioning, the contacts and the latest news have been uploaded and translated into four languages (DE, FR, IT, EN). We are still waiting for more teaching materials and are working to clarify copyright issues with each university.

The launch is planned at the beginning of the academic year 2022.

More: diane.auderset@unisante.ch



Collaboration

The project “Sex and gender integration in the bachelor curricula of nursing, physiotherapy, and occupational therapy” started in January. It is held by SUPSI, HES-SO, ZHAW and supported by swissuniversities. It is close to our project and is an excellent opportunity to progress in an interdisciplinary manner. An update on preliminary findings from literature review addressing sex and gender in nursing, physiotherapy and occupational therapy curricula, was presented at last meeting of the Swiss gender health network (SGHN). Next step is the creation of a questionnaire to assess the inclusion into teachings. An expert board will start, inviting representatives of our project. Ultimately, the gems platform will host teaching materials.

More: tiziana.sala@supsi.ch Enrica.Massardi@supsi.ch

Evaluation

In **Basel**, the needs of the students regarding sex and gender education are being evaluated. The survey has been developed in collaboration with students and questions address knowledge, skills and expectations. It took place recently and the analysis of the results will be carried out in the next semester. More: sonja.merten@swisstph.ch

An evaluation of students’ opinion about education on sex & gender at medical school is also ongoing in **Geneva** as part of a Master’s thesis (launch expected in October 2022). It contains 22 questions, 11 of which are common to the evaluation in Basel. The survey will be passed in September. More: angele.gayet-ageron@hcuge.ch

As is the case in Geneva, **Bern** is currently carrying out an online evaluation including all 1-6 year medical students as well as all lecturers on their awareness of the relevance of sex and gender within the medical studies and the medical field. The evaluation is being carried out as part of a Master’s thesis and results are expected early next year. More: vanessa.banz@insel.ch

Parliamentary impact of the Frauensession

In October 2021, 246 women from all regions of Switzerland took their seats in the National Council and discussed the most urgent measures to achieve equality. At the end of the session, petitions were formulated to be presented to Parliament and Federal Council.

We were pleased to learn that two petitions were taken by the Committee on Social Security and Public Health of the National Council and transformed into two Motions both tabled on 23 June 2022.

More about the two PETITIONS:

- [21.2035](#): Equal opportunity for women's comprehensive sexual health
- [21.2036](#): Setting up a national research program on discrimination and implicit bias in health care

More about the two MOTIONS:

- [22.3868](#): Gender approach in medicine: women should no longer be an exception (launch of a PNR/NFP on gender medicine; integration of gender criteria in the application for FNS/SNF; increase research on women’s health)
- [22.3869](#): Promotion of research and treatment for diseases particularly affecting women.

More about the Frauensession: Deutsch-[here](#); Français-[here](#); Italiano-[here](#)

PROFILES

Taking advantage of the revision of learning objectives for medical students ([PROFILES](#)), we asked the Commission of the Swiss Medical Schools to include a recommendation regarding the prevention of sexism and sexual harassment in teaching (in purple below).

GO 7.8 : recognize and respond appropriately to unprofessional and unethical behaviour by physicians and other healthcare professionals, including situations of sexism, sexual harassment and other forms of discrimination. Act with respect towards colleagues and other healthcare professionals, especially against any form of sexism, sexual harassment or other forms of discrimination.

The letter was supported by 20 health professionals from all over Switzerland. Thank you to all of you who supported the letter!

Think Tank Gender and Diversity /FORUM

Within the framework of the [P-7 projects](#) funded by swissuniversities, a forum has been created. It facilitates information sharing and collaboration between the different projects. Subscribe to the Think Tank newsletter to get information on the events: info@thinktank-gender-diversity.ch

Press, media

Several press requests are regularly received by the different institutions taking part into the project. This illustrates the extent to which this topic is gaining visibility and interest in our society.

University of Zurich's media interventions, can be accessed [here](#).

Health and Gender Unit, Unisanté, Lausanne can be accessed [here](#).

University of Geneva can be accessed [here](#).

Selected scientific publications 2022

Next meetings

Swiss gender health network: Thursday 10 November 2022, 1:30-5:30 pm, in Lausanne. Program will follow. More: virginie.schlueter@unisante.ch

If you have questions or wish to contribute to the newsletter, please contact virginie.schlueter@unisante.ch

Wishing you a great summer!