

Call for papers Special Issue of “Revista de Asistență Socială” / Social Work Review Issue 4/2018

The Special Issue 4/2018 is edited by Dr. Nicoleta Neamțu, senior lecturer at „Babeș-Bolyai” University, Cluj-Napoca and Dr. Maria Carmen Pantea, senior lecturer at „Babeș-Bolyai” University, Cluj-Napoca. The theme of this special issue is „**Levels of Social Work Practice and their Effectiveness**”.

Social Work practice takes place at different levels: from individual-level, to family, small groups, organizations, community and societal level. Especially in the context of the recent crisis, the variety of social work interventions is growing. New at-risk groups and social problems enter the field of intervention, or call for some form of social work action.

Measuring effectiveness of social work interventions has never been an easy task. Whilst quantitative indicators are important, the type of change cannot/should not always be captured in crude measurement criteria. Indeed, evidence comes in many forms, is dynamic and complex. Also, the intended outcomes may be accompanied by unintended, indirect effects. There is also a risk for organizations to focus on ‘manageable outputs’ and measurable services, at the expense of acting for meaningful social change.

This Special Issue aims to contribute towards informing further research on ‘what works’/‘what sounds promising’/ ‘what does not work’ in the areas of social intervention. As ‘what does not work’ is also part of building up the evidence, contributions exploring potential rationales for failure and analysis of ‘lessons learned’ are highly encouraged.

We will especially welcome original contributions such as:

Empirical research reports – structured to include introduction, population/ group, intervention, methods, results and conclusions;

Social work practice case studies – offering in-depth analysis of system-service users interactions and interventions with an emphasis on evaluating the social work practice.

Literature reviews that are systematic– including meta-analyses, critical evaluations of published materials

Theoretical articles – building on existent research literature aiming to advance new theoretical perspectives, in any of the social work practice areas (at micro, mezzo or macro-social levels, general and specialised practice).

Opinion pieces – emphasising in a persuasive way a point of view on – i.e.: regarding the research gaps that need to be addressed or new interventions that need to be developed or evaluated.

Other relevant aspects of Levels of Social Work Practice and their Effectiveness and innovations in social services are also welcome as “*Letters to the Editors*”.

Book reviews to comprise an analysis of a book (up to 1500 words) aimed to facilitate understanding of a relevant social work book by a wide-ranging audience

This Special Issue welcomes contributions that fall under the broad area of social work practice and their effectiveness. Potential contributions may deal with:

- Descriptions of interventions at individual/family/ group/organizational/community/ societal level and their effectiveness;
- Practice-based experiences of transferring/ replicating an intervention;
- Experiences of participatory evaluation: how clients are involved in the design, implementation and/ or evaluation.

- Dilemmas and tensions involved in the process of organisations reporting practice to donors or in the context of private-public partnerships;
- Theoretical discussions that critically engage with the limitations of measurement in social work and possible ways forward;
- Ethical issues involved in measurement: who defines 'effectiveness', based on what criteria, who is left out etc.

Manuscripts engaging critically with concepts of measurement and definitions of 'effectiveness' are especially welcome. All papers describing an intervention need to include a consolidated section on 'methodology', which presents in a transparent manner the measurement criteria, their application process and the limitations involved. A final section titled 'Results and implications for practice' should draw on the 'lessons learned' that need to be transferred in the social work practice.

We will welcome submissions of articles authored by academics, researchers, postgraduate - PhD and MSc - students as well as social work practitioners and managers in social services and policy makers.

Deadline for submitting papers to be considered for publication in the special issue 4/2018 of *Revista de Asistență Socială* is 15th of September 2018.

The submission is electronic ONLY and should be emailed to ncneamtu@socasis.ubbcluj.ro or to mpantea@socasis.ubbcluj.ro

All communications in respect of this special issue and articles submitted and reviewed are electronic.

The Editors reserve the right to refuse any manuscript and to make suggestions regarding the amendments required before publication. The authors are required to present the manuscript in its final form before publication and the manuscripts that do not conform with the requirements will be returned to the author(s) for further work.

The publishing rules are as stated in the journal website at:

http://www.swreview.ro/index.pl/conditii_de_publicare_en

Revista de Asistență Socială/Social Work Review is indexed in: ProQuest, EBSCO, Social Work Abstracts, CEEOL, Index Copernicus, SCIOPI, GESIS și IBSS. It is also rated B+ by the CNCSIS.

Please feel free to forward the Call to other interested colleagues.