

Abstract for The Habilitation Thesis

The development of social work as a domain and as a profession cannot be achieved without fundamental and applied research, without a constant concern to identify the particularities of the contexts of events and social phenomena, the viable resources - in a latent or active state - optimal strategies for prevention, limitation and diminution social risks, programs tailored to individual, family, community and societal needs, integrated social development policies.

The purpose of my habilitation thesis is to highlight the contexts and resources for developing the relationship between person and society through academic research into social work.

The common point of the papers I have published so far is meant to be represented by the contribution to the identification of a necessary social work' approach, oriented towards development, to the dynamization of the risk prevention services, to the activation of the beneficiaries and the valorisation of the community involvement, to the development of the social assistance research. At the same time, we acquaint students with the undergraduate and master students - the future PhD students - with the new life course approach developed by G.H. Elder Jr. (1975, 1997, 2003). The individual, the person can be an active agent of his own change, but in a historical, social, economic, political, community context that intervenes and influences personal experiences, events and transitions (Şoitu, D. 2016). This approach in the formation of future and current social workers enables us to invest in qualitative research to look for peculiarities, understand, interpret and act in the social contexts of beneficiaries / service users. Recent authors and writings (Carey, 2009; Daly, 2003; Crotty, 1998) encourage such perspectives. For some themes, we have used and will still do the mixed methodology research.

The research carried out in teams of professionals as well as the research exercises with the students concerned both fundamental researches - for increasing knowledge, the theoretical understanding, abstract - as well as applied researches, by situational and critical analysis of the Romanian and European governmental policies, legislation and their impact, especially on the field of work of the social worker (Şoitu, D., Şoitu, C., Morariu, C. 2013; Şoitu, C., Şoitu, D. 2010).

The theme will be continued, by undertaking researches from other perspectives than the constructivist one used mainly for the interdisciplinary team during the postdoctoral studies in the period 2010-2013.

The PhD thesis offered one of the first postmodern research in our country on the resources at this stage of life, on the relationship between goals, needs and resources (Şoitu 2006). The person in society - the elderly person, this time - has guided the study of that time by looking at contexts and development resources, shifting the focus from policy analysis to a bottom-up approach, interviewing older people about needs, resources and goals. I pointed out, along with the coordinator of the thesis, starting points for a theory

of latent resources and subsequently independently of their valorization (Şoitu 2017). The research carried out during doctoral studies highlights the existence of multiple personal and external resources not used by older people, which influences the level of subjective well-being and the degree of satisfaction with the quality of life.

The key dimension of the professional career is that of development: personal and professional development, own development and investment in the development of others, choice and support of theoretical approaches to development and their application in personal, professional, academic writings, research projects, in intra and inter-institutional relations. The chosen approach was to allow for the internal control of resources, a bottom-up approach that relates to the top-down approach.

Over the past decades has been developed an extensive debate around a new concept: that of resilience. Through our studies we highlight the routes of the resilience impact on social work, in relation to vulnerability. Vulnerability, seen as a key paradigm in social work, is now rivalled by a postmodern approach, which emphasizes the ability of individual, of a group, of community, to cope, to adapt, and to transform. The main route is the one that change a problem focused approach to the one of transformation. From a relatively stable characteristic, as the first specialists believed on this issue, resilience is now addressed through researches that highlight the importance of the context, of the time, age, gender, and cultural experiences, in a multidimensional perspective. As a general feature, developed in different contexts, resilience is studied in these second and third generations of researches, in relation to different target groups and social situations. Despite a major interest now enjoys, resilience remains a complex concept, difficult to be harmonized in a global culture. Along with vulnerability, sometimes in competition with, resilience continues to develop as an important new paradigm in social protection.

Social vulnerabilities are often linked to the ageing process and to persons or cohorts over a certain age. The social dimension of vulnerability reflects the exogenous or extrinsic factor and mechanism of vulnerabilities. Among these, the most cited factors having the potential to influence older adults' life are: socioeconomic status (SES), deprivation, social support, social isolation or exclusion, social networks, social engagement, mastery and sense of control over life circumstances, social capital, and social cohesion. Article brings up these issues focusing on the danger of stereotyping on ageing. Features of social vulnerability are highlighted in specific contexts, including that of migration. We are concluding on aging as an individual process, underpinned by different lifestyles, various personal and social problems of older persons, their expectations and the solutions proposed. A stereotype on the homogeneity of the ageing process and the association of a certain age with frailty and risks are factors that sustain social vulnerability on this context. (Şoitu, 2015 b; Şoitu, Şoitu 2012).

Demographic transformations, technological challenges, intragenerational and intragenerational values, labour market dynamics compete in the challenge of the person-society relationship, outlining contexts that require academic and scientific resources for development and research in social work and we would like to contribute to these developments.