



Promoting Gender Equality and Diversity Through Shared Knowledge Production

“Promoting Gender Equality and Diversity through Shared Knowledge Production” (PRO GED) is an international Consortium for Education and Research (COFER) funded by swissuniversities devoted to fostering research-based exchange in the field of gender and diversity. It is a joint cooperation between **three Swiss Institutions of Higher Education** (the University of Zurich, the University of Geneva and the Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz), and several **partners in the Middle East and North Africa** (the ISIS Center for Women and Development and the International Institute for Languages and Cultures, INLAC, in Fez/Morocco; the Women and Memory Forum in Cairo/Egypt; the Institute for Women’s Studies in the Arab World, IWSAW, and the Department of Social Sciences, DSS, at the Lebanese American University in Beirut/Lebanon). PRO GED is coordinated by the Chair of Gender Studies and Islamic Studies, which is part of the Institute for Asian and Oriental Studies at the University of Zurich.

The main objective of PRO GED is to develop a **collaborative and interdisciplinary platform for gender and diversity expertise and excellence in research and education between Switzerland and North Africa / the Middle East**. The tasks of developing high-quality education and research, reducing inequalities and strengthening institution-building processes between the Global North and the Global South require **high-quality cooperation in knowledge production and exchange, involving joint efforts at disseminating competencies** with respect to gender and diversity through **mutual dialogue and learning processes** supported by **strong international networks**.

PRO GED aims at **critically assessing** the different ways in which terminologies of gender and diversity as well as related forms of expertise are produced, translated, transferred, and put into practice globally. It **seeks to create new, democratic and self-reflexive perspectives** on how to deal with the complexities of relations of difference and inequality in a globalised world through **cross-regional, transcultural and interdisciplinary dialogue**, cutting across established boundaries in **education and research**.

Expected outcomes

PRO GED aims at producing the following main outcomes:

1. Organising academic events, such as conferences and major workshops centred on three main thematic fields.
2. Designing and implementing educational programmes, such as a graduate course on collaborative cross-regional and transcultural gender and diversity studies, as well as exchange programmes.
3. Preparing targeted joint publications for both academic and non-academic fora.
4. Facilitating transfer of knowledge and expertise in gender and diversity among academia, activists and practitioners across the involved regions with a strong focus on competence and capacity building.

Sustainable Development Goals



Three main focal points

I. Research, Knowledge Production and Knowledge Circulation

In making knowledge production and knowledge circulation its main focal point, PRO GED privileges an innovative, interdisciplinary approach that combines social sciences, the humanities and natural sciences with transcultural competencies. PRO GED aims at overcoming traditional disciplinary boundaries and at developing new, perspectives on existing concepts and terminologies through cross-regional, transnational and interdisciplinary dialogue, while promoting research „with” instead of research „on” a region of utmost social and political relevance.

II. Bridging the Gap between Academia and Society

PRO GED focuses on shared knowledge production and knowledge transfer in order to contribute actively to reducing inequalities based on gender, religion, class, ethnicity and nationality. PRO GED aims at academic, as well as practical solution-finding in different institutional settings and methodological contexts, and adds new value by enabling collaborative efforts to bridge gaps between „theory” and „practice”, research and implementation, and, between academia and society at large.

III. Network and Institution Building

Building upon previously established contacts, PRO GED aims at intensifying and concentrating these networks, extending them to new partners, and fostering targeted collaboration between Swiss and Southern partners via shared knowledge production, the collaborative exploration of clearly defined research fields, exchange and mutual learning in institution building and the creation of shared teaching and outreach programmes.

Three thematic fields

Gender, Memory and Development

This field covers processes of gender and change via the theme of memory that we will tackle, through the prism of archives. Within this PRO GED thematic field, we suggest looking at archives not only in their narrow institutional understanding. We explore their production and usages as a specific discursive regime in their connection to the construction and transformation of collective memory and identity, studying archives not only as a source of information about gendered social and representational regimes, but also as an object of inquiry in itself.

Gender and Diversity Knowledge in Public and Private Organizations

This field is devoted to problems of organizational knowledge production and circulation in the realms of gender and diversity, the intersection of gender, sexuality, gender identity, class, „race”, and disability. It focuses on organizational development and the transformation of work and jobs as embedded within constructions of power, status and hierarchy. This PRO GED thematic field will investigate the organizational conceptualization of gender and diversity, as part of both organizational practices and organizational equality and human resources policies.

Gender, Diversity and Public Space

This field focuses on space, the circulation of people within public spaces, and public policies, in the light of power relations. Processes of inclusion and exclusion – along the lines of gender, sexuality, class, race, age, and disability – are a core issue when researching both public space and public policies. This thematic field aims at highlighting how public policies produce hierarchical organization in access to public space at different scales, thus contributing to the making of spaces of difference.

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swissuniversities

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Partner Institutions

