“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 competences with respect to gender and diversity through mutual dialogue and learning processes supported by strong international networks.

PRO GED aims 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

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 academics, 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

II. Bridging the Gap between Academia and Society

III. Network and Institution Building

Three thematic fields

Gender, Memory and Development

Gender and Diversity Knowledge in Public and Private Organizations

Gender, Diversity and Public Space

Funding

swissuniversities

Partner Institutions

University of Zurich

University of Addis Ababa and the African Institute for Gender and Development