

## Foreword

The international interdisciplinary scientific conference Society Health Welfare is an important event in Latvia's scientific life. We can say the same about this international scientific conference's Proceedings: they really are interdisciplinary, based on the experience of Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Great Britain and show many factors that influence our society, health and welfare.

The Proceedings start with a paper that focuses on the importance of Education. And it is symbolic, because Riga Stradins University as the conference organiser has always attached importance to the role of education and science. The papers such as Higher Education as One of the Factors that Influence Regional Performances and Older Adult Education in Lithuanian Ageing Society carry out a comparative study on the contribution of education to society performance. They stress education is the empowerment of life opportunities and the improvement of quality of life.

This part of the Proceedings includes also a paper entitled Students Unjustified Study Delays in General Education and Vocational Education Institutions in Latvia. The paper analyses the current pedagogical and legal issues of absence prevention and gives suggestions for the monitoring of unjustified absence.

The Proceedings include important papers on social work such as Social Worker Involvement in Identifying Problems and Needs of Families with Mentally Ill Members; Experiences of Social Workers Providing Palliative Care for Dying Patients in the Institutions of Palliative Care and the Ways to Overcome Stress; Social Work with Families at Social Risk Promoting Gender Equality; Experience of Social Workers in Assurance of Quality Service for Older Adults in Care Institutions (Lithuanian Context). The role of social workers is increasing from year to year, and they need more and more knowledge. The Proceedings of this conference will help them with new experience in identifying and solving problems and needs of families, older adults, youngsters, children and patients. It is very important in the post economic crisis period.

Many papers focus on Families, such as Childhood Emotional Experience within the Family Relation to the Current Partnership and the Desire to have Children; Leisure Time of Families with Children Suffering from Asperger Syndrome; Football and Family Violence: Learning from the Experience of Great Britain; Mediation for Resolving Family Disputes; Role of the Family, Friends and Significant Others in Providing Social Support and Enhancing Quality of Life in Cancer Patients – all they stressed the importance of the family.

Family is an important pillar of a healthy society. Family member supportive relationships are so important concerning the harmful effect of stressful events, including life-threatening diseases.

On the other hand, sometimes families have conflicts; scientists suggest an alternative dispute resolution method – mediation as an option for resolving family conflicts.

The middle part of the Proceedings of the international interdisciplinary scientific conference Society Health Welfare consists of papers on Health Care. The papers entitled The Rate of the Musculoskeletal Pathology Assessment for Military Personnel and Civil Population; Osteopontin, Osteocalcin and Osteoprotegerin Expression in Human Tissue

Affected by Cleft Lip and Palate relate this field. The health care researchers worked hard on both papers.

These medically focused papers offer new approaches to find, for example, the factors affecting patients' adherence during antihypertensive therapy. We can see a correlation between the value of the body mass index and the percentage of military persons with diagnosis of muscular-skeletal pathology.

Additional papers in the Proceedings focus on such problems as the Prevalence and the Socio-economic Costs of Smoking among the Working Age Population in Latvia; The Difficulties with the European Union's Financial Sectors Legal Regulation; Job Satisfaction on Basic Vital Needs Satisfaction among Working Women. The investigations show that all basic vital needs were satisfied on the lower level among married women, compared with single ones.

Some papers focus on the importance on human rights and policy questions: Sexual Services, Drugs and Human Trafficking, Smuggling in GDP Figures: Quality of Life Indicators; Assessment of the Public Protection of the Legal Interests of Co-owners; Optimization of Work and Rest Hours for Navigation Officers on the Ship; Local Governments Binding Regulations and their Role in the Framework of Port Activities; War and Society.

In conclusion, the Proceedings of the international interdisciplinary scientific conference entitled Society, Health and Welfare are an important contribution to the literature focusing on society, health and welfare. These are reading materials for students, especially doctoral students, for researchers, policy makers, civil servants social workers, patients and people in cities and rural areas.

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