

**The European social charter and the global definition of social work: tuning the promotion of people's social rights and the profession**

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This research aims at showing how the European Social Charter (ESC) can be considered an enhancing tool for social work and its purposes. The juxtaposition between the treaty and the new Global Definition of Social Work provides a normative and internationally recognized support to the implementation of the social rights social work is committed to.

The right to Social Assistance is explicitly mentioned in the ESC (together with the rights of children, migrants, people with disabilities, the right to housing etc.), and this has a particular meaning for social work. It ensures the effective availability of adequate social welfare schemes, though granting at the same time the full respect of both social and political rights of the people to whom it is applied. The emancipatory role of social work is therefore reaffirmed, as well as the commitment to use its methods and specific knowledge. Social work researches thus receive an important boost.

The analysis of the ESC, supported by the Committee of Social Rights monitoring activity, is compared to the Definition of Social Work in order to show how they fully match.

Although the ESC is still hardly considered by social workers, it recognizes their key role as professionals and the legitimacy of their aims and methods.

Because of their importance as social and democratic achievements, a wider spreading of those contents is definitely crucial. Moreover, a comparison between the diverse social welfare schemes adopted by different countries can be outlined thanks to the evaluative analyses operated by the Committee, which are supported by statistical, economic and technical data. Such a multivariate comparison could lead to more effective, rational and inclusive systems of human rights protection.