



# ASFDU/SVA Triennial Report

2007 - 2010

The **Swiss Association (ASFDU/SVA)** has worked in the last three years on several levels: local, national and international. On the European level some members attended every year the meetings of UWE. Trying to attract more members – perhaps not willing to speak English- we joined the German speaking group in Vienna in 2008 and we called this new entity DACH. We plan to create the same language selected group for French speaking members in Switzerland, France and, if possible, in Belgium and Luxemburg. At the first meeting of DACH in Solothurn (Switzerland) we founded the Young Member Section of Switzerland offering a workshop about self-presentation in job searching. Young members from Germany and one from Slovenia came to share their experiences and exchange best practices. Sightseeing, culture and friendship completed the weekend. In 2009 the same theme brought a few Swiss members together to Munich and in 2010 we will meet in Vienna for a short cultural travel to Hungary, organized by the Austrian members.

Our Swiss meetings in autumn were dedicated to training courses in public speaking and networking and in 2010 a training course for happiness (based on scientific researches) will follow. It has to be presented both in French and German to bring together all our members!

We have been working for three years with two women's organisations on a programme for students at the beginning of their professional career. We offered them two workshops with specialists to help them to train their aptitudes to start a career. We received a financial support from the government to develop such a programme of a gender sensitive work-life balancing reflection, with the participation of men's organizations. We are convinced of the importance of the contribution of men as partners, and colleagues in the civil society and in politics in order to create a new society with better conditions for women.

We also organized a workshop for girls to show them how is the life of women in academic professions (with our members as speakers). This had to be stopped for the moment because we have not found persons willing to continue. We hope we will be able to do it again, because a lot of girls in Switzerland in high schools and even in Universities are concerned about the opportunity to conciliate professional life and family.

We try to work concretely for the best of the young academic women collaborating with other national women's organisations, even with the new men-umbrella-organisations to increase our visibility and attract new members.

In 2008 we joined other organisations to provide information about the situation of the forced prostitution in our country and the international women trafficking. We translated posters and a booklet from German into French and presented them at our General Assembly and also at the occasion of a workshop on this subject in Manchester.

Following the idea of a national Think Tank proposed by the French Association at the IFUW Conference in Perth, we tried to have such a prospective reflection at the Swiss Assembly in spring and /or at our national meeting in autumn. Because the members definitely prefer a one-day meeting, time is not enough for organizing this form of Think Tank: a new solution should be found in order to involve more members.

Our Foundation provides every year a financial help for advanced studies to 4 women students.

For our members we produce a « bulletin » twice a year. We created an electronic membership list and a homepage. Each of our nine local groups has newsletters or half-year-bulletins or a monthly letter to inform their members of the planned activities or events.

Even though the number of our members diminishes, we are going on with hope and we try to do our best for women in academic professions in Switzerland.

*Verena Welti*

*President, Swiss Association of University Women*

*June 2010*