

Maternity protection at work: practices, obstacles, resources.

This thesis is part of an interdisciplinary project on maternity protection at work.

Ground findings' clearly indicate that the implementation of existing legal provisions (Federal Labour Law, Ordinance on the Protection of Maternity) aimed at protecting the health of pregnant workers or new mothers and their children contains flaws, both in the employment field and in the health care system.

The project, in which this thesis is inscribed, is conducted by a multidisciplinary team (psychologist, midwife and occupational health physician) in collaboration with the Institute for Work and Health (IST). This study aims to provide an overview of the current implementation of legal provisions for maternity protection in two employment sectors (health care and food production), as well as by gynecologists and midwives in French-speaking Switzerland. It seeks to identify the obstacles and the resources that have an impact on the implementation of these provisions, to evaluate their adequacy with workers' needs and the perceptions of women workers themselves upon these policies.

Data collection will be comprised of two facets:

- 1) Questionnaires for gynecologists, midwives and employers.
- 2) Case studies in 6 to 8 enterprises including interviews with women workers, human resources manag-

ers, occupational health physicians and workplace security specialists.

In a knowledge enhancement's perspective, the present thesis will be able to provide insights on current health protection practices for workers facing professional risks, as well as on work and maternity conciliation in Switzerland.

PhD student

Alessia Zellweger, HESAV

Director of thesis

Prof. Brigitta Danuser

Co-Director of thesis

Prof. Isabelle Probst

Faculty /institute

Faculty of Biology and Medicine,
University of Lausanne.
School of Health Sciences, HESAV