

Editorial

The editorial team of the *Revista de Treball Social* (RTS)

With this issue, the current RTS editorial team concludes its tenure. Four years ago, we presented ourselves as a transitional team that would take over the important work undertaken by previous teams but would nevertheless look forward to the future with a desire for modernisation. During this period, we have wanted to make the RTS an accessible journal, adapted to the new forms of communication and knowledge management, which expands boundaries, promotes critical analysis of social reality and highlights professional experiences, as well as scientific knowledge generated from practice and research.

We set ourselves ambitious goals, and many of these have been achieved, whereas others still have some way to go. We have worked towards an accessible journal that promotes the free presentation of articles and favours the participation of all social workers who want to share their knowledge and expertise. The new web page and use of social media have improved accessibility and dissemination of content and have also brought us closer to a younger audience. The design has been modernised, both in paper and digital format, and work has been carried out to bring it into line with the quality standards of scientific publications.

During this period, the RTS has also expanded its presence at an international level and has been included in new scientific publication databases, which has improved its impact.

The external review team – consisting of more than seventy social workers – has ensured the quality of the publication's content and, on many occasions, it has facilitated the improvement of the work presented through its recommendations. We give our thanks for the valuable and generous contribution of this team.

Composed of professionals with renowned expertise, the Advisory Council has accompanied and encouraged us throughout these years, sharing its knowledge and assisting us in the process of change set in motion. With each comment made, the Council has conveyed its esteem for the RTS.

Although the journey we have made fills us with satisfaction, we have also had to experience difficult times, from which we have learned. Of particular note is the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has compelled us to reinvent ourselves. The increased pressure on care that we as professionals have experienced over the past two years, the uncertainties, the widening of roles, the difficulties in carrying out face-to-face care, the closure of services, the barriers people have encountered when trying to access professionals and the administration in general, etc., have also had an impact on the RTS. There has been a reduction in the number of articles received during this period, because the priority of the profes-

sion has been to care for the more fragile individuals; it was not the right time to sit down to think and write (although it would have been good to dedicate time to reflection as well as action).

Now that the nightmare seems to be over, we are experiencing bewildering times. We try to reconnect with the normal routine, to what was known and familiar to us before the pandemic, to our points of reference built up over the years, to what gave us peace of mind. But, at the same time, we feel a certain wariness, a subtle sense of alert that calls for caution, to not rush to avoid repeating the same mistakes, to observe the environment, to think before doing the same things we have always done and not to regain, with the return to normality, the undesirable things, the things we can now transform.

It is a time of change for social work. Our profession has seen a blurring of its boundaries. Unquestionable dogmas are no longer so unquestioned: the care relationship, the bond with the person cared for, can be set up in different ways; privacy has lost value, professional secrecy is now less secret; the defence of professional spaces is losing the meaning it once had, it appears that we can do everything together, in a transversal way, in a network and collaboratively; citizenship has adapted to live together with uncertainty, it has understood that the welfare state is fragile and that the guarantee of rights can be suspended in a matter of hours; vulnerable people are now even more so.

The thinking and voice of social work must once again have a strong presence, as they have throughout our recent history, shedding light on what we do not want to see, proposing alternatives, defending rights, from all areas of activity and with all disciplinary knowledge.

The sharing of thinking and knowledge is more important than ever and the RTS must play a part in the change, it must speak up for innovative and modern social work, explaining to society all that is being done well.

The current editorial team is ending its journey here, but we are convinced that the team that is taking over will stand alongside social workers and citizens in this new phase of transformations.

Our discipline needs to dig deep into its roots and its transformations, and it is for this reason that we encourage all professionals to join the challenge of writing about social work, to share knowledge generated from research, reflection and experience. This is also the path that will guarantee the future of the RTS.