

ONED's 10th Anniversary

Argument

ONED's fundamental missions in the service of child protection in France include promoting research on these topics and articulating this knowledge with practices in the field. This is why, 10 years after its creation, ONED is devoting an international conference on this major issue: how to develop scientific research and promote promising practices, both institutional and professional, and more specifically how to articulate this research and these practices. In its 10-year experience, ONED has helped finance and complete an important number of studies and research projects. It has also conducted studies to identify and list existing research and to analyse many different types of intervention and programmes.

What are the main recent findings and how does this information disseminate so as to impact practices? How can one study, in a scientific manner, existing practices in care, and their impact? How, with the help of researchers and practitioners, can one assemble the breadth of knowledge in the field and make it more accessible? This articulation between research and practice has become a key concept, and sometimes a reality, in research or protection institutions in many countries. But it is formulated very differently according to national contexts.

For instance, some countries develop evidence-based practices which rely on this articulation. Others develop collaborative research and action, i.e. research that is conducted both by researchers and actors of the field. "Peer" research, for instance, follows this philosophy.

The political and institutional philosophies that preside over institutional and professional practices can correspond to such and such method or research topic. In some countries, child protection interventions are conceived of as a public service: they are universal, non-limited in time, while other countries promote time-constrained programmes that target specific population and involve quantified criteria.

Finally, research on existing practices and in response to these practices is recognised in some countries by doctoral programmes in social work, while others only recognise research done from afar, as an outside and distant observer of practices.

The articulation of research and practices thus differs according to the cultural, legal or institutional context. The aim of our conference is to study the assets and limitations of these approaches in the field of child protection.