



Good practice

ENHANCE: European curriculum for family and community nurses

Working Group: Health

Member States: Belgium, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal

Thematic areas: Competitiveness and Innovation, Jobs and Skills, Quality of Life and Equal Access to Services

Basic project details

Lead organisation:

Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) - Italy

Partner organisations:

- Akademie für Wirtschaft und Verwaltung GmbH
- EUROCARERS
- European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities
- ENOSI NOSILEYTON/NOSILEYTRION ELLADOS
- SI4LIFE - Scienza e Impresa per migliorare la qualità della vita delle Persone Fragili
- Università degli Studi di Genova
- Alisa- Azienda sanitaria della Regione Liguria
- Itä-Suomen yliopisto, Future Balloons
- Unipessoal Lda

Project duration: January 2018 - May 2021



Overview and objectives

The project focused on increasing the specialisation level of nurses working in Primary Health Care (PHC), aiming to develop a European curriculum for Family and Community Nurses (FCNs) to address the mismatch between the skills offered by nurses and those demanded by the healthcare sector. This included developing a formalised EU profile for FCNs based on World Health Organization (WHO) and EU recommendations, implementing pilot courses in Italy, Finland, and Greece, and training 150 graduate nurses according to the EU Curriculum, with more than 30 already employed. Another goal was to enhance the shift from old PHC models to new ones. Ultimately, it aimed to improve healthcare quality and reduce costs by empowering nurses with specialised skills, thus improving access to medical services for patients.

Context

The ENhANCE project intended to tackle the existing mismatch between the skills offered by nurses working in Primary Health Care and those actually demanded by the healthcare sector. This mismatch was exacerbated by the recent pandemic, highlighting the need for Family and Community Nurses to decentralise PHC on the territory.

Target groups

Nurses working in Primary Health Care who needed to specialise in Family and Community Nursing skills, VET providers and teachers across Europe who could offer innovative and standardised training for Family and Community Nurses, and nurse professional associations and regulatory bodies across Europe that could benefit from the EU Professional Profile for recognition and mobility of the profession.

Actions

The types of actions included the development of an EU Professional Profile for Family and Community Nurses (FCNs), the creation of an EU Curriculum for FCNs, and providing guidelines to support Vocational Education and Training (VET) designers and teachers in designing effective training for FCNs.

Additionally, the project involved the development of an Open Online Tool to support practice sharing for FCNs, the implementation of a European e-learning platform for VET teachers in the field of nursing, and the creation of free open content targeting VET teachers. It also included the design and implementation of three localised curricula in Italy, Finland, and Greece, as well as conducting of three pilot courses in these countries.

Financial allocation

Total budget: EUR 1 000 000

EU co-funding: Yes

Sources of funding: Erasmus+



Working Group Insights

“The ENhANCE project was selected as a good practice for creating a standardised European Curriculum for Family and Community Nurses (FCNs), which addresses a significant skills gap in Primary Health Care (PHC). The curriculum is designed to be modular and flexible, making it easily adaptable to various national contexts, as shown by pilot courses conducted in Italy, Finland, and Greece. This flexibility ensures that its results can be applied to other areas, including those experiencing health workforce shortages, maldistribution, lack of equity and accessibility.

One of the main benefits of ENhANCE is the creation of a formal curriculum for FCNs, which helps to solidify the professional identity of community health roles. By clearly outlining the necessary competencies, it aids in targeted workforce development, making PHC roles more appealing. This is crucial for regions that have difficulty recruiting and retaining healthcare professionals, as it fosters career development pathways

that align with local health needs. Therefore, ENhANCE provides a scalable model for enhancing healthcare workforce capacity and equity throughout Europe”.

PAOLO MICHELUTTI

Project manager at Programma Mattone Internazionale Salute (ProMIS) – Italy and Health Workforce expert for the Italian Ministry of Health

Results

The ENhANCE project achieved several important outputs and results. These included the development of an EU Professional Profile for Family and Community Nurses (FCNs), the creation of an EU Curriculum for FCNs, and the provision of guidelines to support VET designers and teachers in designing effective training for FCNs. Additionally, the project developed an Open Online Tool to support practice sharing for FCNs, implemented a European e-learning platform for VET teachers in the field of nursing, and created free open content targeting VET teachers. It also designed three localised curricula in Italy, Finland, and Greece, implemented three pilot courses in these countries, and trained 150 graduate nurses according to the EU Curriculum, with more than 30 already employed.

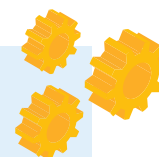


Success factors

The success factors for the ENhANCE project included strong collaboration among multiple European partners, such as academic institutions, healthcare organisations, and professional associations. The development of a standardised EU Professional Profile and Curriculum for Family and Community Nurses (FCNs) ensured consistency and quality across different countries. The implementation of pilot courses in multiple countries allowed for testing and refinement of the curriculum. Comprehensive guidelines and tools for VET designers and teachers facilitated the adoption and localisation of the curriculum. The use of technology-enhanced learning tools, such as the Open Online Tool and e-learning platform, supported practice sharing and training. Finally, the project focused on addressing the skills mismatch in Primary Health Care (PHC) by increasing the specialisation level of nurses in Family and Community Nursing skills.

Implementation challenges

Key challenges encountered included ensuring consistent and high-quality training across different countries and healthcare systems. The project worked closely with policymakers to standardise qualifications, facilitating mobility and career progression for trained professionals.



The conclusion of our expert Paolo Michelutti, project manager at Programma Mattone Internazionale Salute (ProMIS) – Italy and Health Workforce expert for the Italian Ministry of Health

“The standardised European Curriculum for Family and Community Nurses, which was created by this project, is modular, flexible, and can be easily adapted to the needs of other countries who -like us- experience health workforce shortages”.

Useful sources

Official website: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/591946-EPP-1-2017-1-IT-EPPKA2-SSA>
<https://enhance-fcn.eu/index.html>

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