



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme E-learning in Community Care

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Title:	E-Learning in Community Care
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PARTNERS:

National Centre of Nursing and Other Health Professions in Brno (www.nconzo.cz) provides conceptual, analytical, methodical, coordinating, registration, assessment, expert, scientific-research and accreditation activities in the fields of nursing and other non-medical health care professions.

The Centre pursue the activities related to postgraduate and life-long education in the health care sector, namely to education of all persons who are competent to exercise professional health care, such nurses, midwives and other non-medical health care professions. It provides methodical assistance in the area of life-long education in health care sector to contractual workplaces, educational activities within the received accreditation and in specialization areas based on the delegation by the Ministry of Health.

MF & PARTNERS CONSULTING (www.mfpartnersconsulting.com) is a Management Consultancy which has great experience in managing international projects particularly in Central and Eastern Europe Countries with an office located in Brno, Czech Republic. **MF & PARTNERS CONSULTING** has a team of consultants specialising in Management, Marketing, Communication, Trade Development and Partnerships. Their main spheres of specialisation are projects of added high value, very often in innovating sectors. The valorisation of the projects, MF & PARTNERS is in charge of, is part and parcel of these very projects. The high level of expert appraisal of MF & PARTNERS CONSULTING let it become a privileged partner for innovating projects. After many years of practice, MF & PARTNERS CONSULTING became an expert in international management, recognized by French and European companies and organisms.

It has been several decades since **ETI** (www.eti.hu) the Institute of Fundamental and Continuing Education of Health Care Workers, as a reference institute for the Ministry of Health in Hungary, has played a leading role in the field of health education, continuing education and education development.

New training forms, requirement systems and educational programmes are elaborated here; at the same time educational programs, regularly extended and improved, are offered to students and health care professionals. The workers of the distant learning department have 5 years of experience in the development of distant learning as well as in its pedagogical, methodological and organizational requirements. They have a Virtual Training Institution which contains internet based education programme, and a wide range of learning tools, including interactive games, photo gallery, databases and specialized books.

The workers of the Institute have practical knowledge in (establishing) the establishment of a virtual school, (moreover) as well as in the creation of current education material. The Institute has also connections with professional tutors.

The Medical University of Silesia (www.slam.katowice.pl), the largest medical school in Poland, consists of five faculties: Faculty of Medicine in Katowice, Faculty of Medicine and of Dentistry in Zabrze, Faculty of Health Care & Health Education, Faculty of Public Health and Faculty of Pharmacy and Division of Medical Analytics in Sosnowiec. The Medical University of Silesia was established on March 20, 1948, and located in Rokitnica Bytomska. Originally called Medical Academy, it was named Medical University of Silesia in 1949. The Faculty of Health Care and Education offers students of nursing the possibility to obtain baccalaureate (in Polish: licencjat) as well as a master's degree. The Faculty provides also postgraduate study, including specialization in community nursing.

The mission of **Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra** (www.ukf.sk) is to promote free research, scientific and artistic education, to assure higher education based on research and to educate young people so that they could serve their country and humanity according to Cyril-Methodian tradition of education, humanism, democracy and tolerance.

The University functions as a part of the international scientific community. Constantine the Philosopher University focuses a lot on international co-operation in all fields of study and research. Therefore, emphasis is put on the following activities: research and co-operation, research mobility, projects and conferences, student and teacher exchanges, practical training and opening space for studying possibilities for international degree students.

The Department of Nursing participates in our project in order to obtain more knowledge in the field of nursing, both as a science and practice, with the emphasis on modern practice in developed Europe. They want to contribute to the development of such methods of education, which will support prompt application of new methods of nursing and which are part of continuous improvement of quality of nursing services especially in community care in Slovakia.

SUMMARY AND AIMS OF THE PROJECT:

The analysis of the situation in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and Hungary (Visegrád Group) made in 2005 showed that community care is approximately at the same level in these countries and that there are no educational programmes that would efficiently prepare the workers in this area for their tasks. However, it is the area of health care which is given much attention in a number of developed countries due to its undoubtedly great social importance.

In the participating countries belonging to Visegrád 4 (hereinafter V4) group there is a persistent problem that the whole health care system is touched very significantly: even though the health care system has as first aims helping people who already need a help of a doctor or a nurse, or promotion of preventive care programmes which are more widely discussed now, still, for many citizens health care is rather declaratory.

The goal of the project is to develop a programme of special education in community care using the modular system and to prepare the individual modules for the e-learning form of study, so that we might be prepared to educate the non-medical health care professionals in the most efficient way.

The programme is planned to be a two-year programme of continuing vocational education. It is prepared in such a way so that it could meet the needs of health care professionals in all the participating countries. The e-learning form of the educational programme will require training of tutors.

Therefore it is necessary to prepare an education programme for general nurses and midwives which would be efficient and at the same time be accessible to them. One of the ways is the realization of the educational programme through e-learning form of study. Although we are aware of such disadvantages of e-learning as the dependence on technology, high initial costs (purchase of technology, training of tutors, authors of the texts, etc.), there are still a great number of advantages of this form of study.

A comparative analysis revealed all V4 countries have similar situations in health care sector, which means that such a programme becomes a real necessity for the development of the collaboration between the countries, mutual interconnection of the education in these countries and, The partner organisations are educational institutions and have long-time experience not only with the development of educational programmes for health care professionals and preparation of e-learning courses as ETI but they also have different ways of promotion of their educational programmes among the potential students - the health care and social workers. They also have adequate capacity and connections for the realization of the above mentioned valorisation of activities. **MF & PARTNERS CONSULTING** has extensive experience in project management and the valorisation of activities.

The results of the project “E-learning in community care” will be incorporated into the system of continuing education in the every country. The e-learning form offers a very good educational program, which is accessible to large groups of students especially because there is a version of the course in English.

The situation of community health care is not completely the same in all the V4 countries. But all these countries have a common problem: community health care workers missing out on education. The aim of our project is to solve the problem of the absence of educational programmes in the sphere of health care services.

All V4 countries prepared a comparative analysis of the health care system structures. Actually, the results of this analysis were used as the basis for identification of the aims of the project. We believe that the target group of the health care professionals (i.e., the professionals working in primary care and home care) could obtain the knowledge they miss out on through continuing education program which is going to be prepared in the framework of the project, i.e., distance education implemented using the form of e-learning.

The objective of our programme is “to encourage improvements of quality and innovation in vocational education and training systems, institutions and practices” concerning education of general nurses, midwives, health visitors and other health care professionals who work in the sphere of health care.

As far as the priorities of the Call for Proposals 2007 (DG EAC/61/06) are concerned, the project is focused on “developing of relevant and innovative e-learning content”, i.e. on learning supported by information and communication technologies. The development of the instruments of e-learning and vocational training of tutors provides a good basis for gaining knowledge without territorial constraints (distance education).

Type of the knowledge transfer:

We assume the knowledge, developed by Western countries during the realization of their educational programs for nurses and midwives, as the basis for our project. We will also use the results of the comparative analysis done by the countries V4 to transfer them into the e-learning form.

Target groups:

The target group will be formed by those professionals who work in the primary health care and home care from the V4 countries. For instance, there are about 95,000 nurses and 5,000 midwives in CR, of which about 2 thousand work in home care. From that we can estimate that about 2 % of all health care professionals could work in community care and thus form the group of final users of the prepared course of special education. The same situation is in the other V4 countries.

The qualification of these professionals in the participating countries is basically similar but there are some slight differences (as our comparative analysis has shown). Care of the adult patients in the community is provided by nurses and specialised nurses, physiotherapists, etc. In the Czech and the Slovak Republics the maternity and child care is provided by midwives and paediatric nurses. In Hungary the maternity and child care (0-18) is provided by health visitors, who basically deal with prevention. The health visitors have a close co-operation with paediatric nurses.

Improvement of the quality of theoretical and practical knowledge of these professionals could refine the quality of their work and, consequently, the quality of the health care for the population.

Potential users:

The potential users of the results of our project will be the universities, colleges and educational institutions which will have accreditation for provision of education.

The programme will be prepared in the languages of the participating countries (i.e., in Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Slovak and English) so that the participants could have a course in their own languages. English version of the course will be accessible too, which will make it possible to use this course not only in the above mentioned countries but eventually in other EU countries. Besides, English will be the language we are going to use while working on our project.

The programme will be available online and will be also distributed on CDs (to assure equal chances).

Innovative results or content the project is based upon:

The aim of our project is to develop an innovative educational programme which for health care workers: nurses, midwives, health visitors, etc. An integral part of the project will be tutors training.

Our project will make e-learning system accessible for those who wish to have life-term education program (even for the period of their whole professional lives).

The experts from all the participating countries are going to collaborate to create and to develop the “e-learning” educational programme. The communication between the partners will proceed mostly via e-mail, a web page, which is going to be created specifically for the project, and during meetings.

The above mentioned web page will contain information about the project and the people participating in the project.

European dimension:

Obtaining more knowledge in community care will allow the nurses and midwives from the Visegrad 4 countries to work in any European Union country.

First aims to succeed in the project:

The specific indicators of the project progress:

- To develop an educational programme in community care which will be used as a course of continuing vocational education for professionals working in primary and home care, i. e., general nurses, midwives, health visitors, etc.
- To transform this programme into the form of e-learning – through utilisation of ICT which will enable distance learning and stimulate the speed of knowledge acquisition?
- To prepare tutors who will be methodical guides of the study and evaluators of the results.
- To ensure accreditation the e-learning educational programme.

Expected Results:

R1	
Type of results	Modules of the educational programme
Target group(s)/ potential beneficiaries	Nurses, midwives, health visitors etc. working in primary and community care
Language of the product	Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Slovak and English
Medium used	Internet + CDs
Availability	End 2009
Number of copies	NA
Didactical methodology	Pedagogical methods and techniques

R2	
Type of results	Students' handbook
Target group(s)/ potential beneficiaries	Nurses, midwives, health visitors, etc., working in primary and community care
Language of the product	Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Slovak and English
Medium used	Printed book
Availability	End 2009
Number of copies foreseen	300
Didactical methodology	Pedagogical methods and techniques

R3	
Type of results	Tutor training curriculum
Target group(s)/ potential beneficiaries	Nurses, midwives, health visitors etc. working in primary and community care
Language of the product	Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Slovak and English
Medium that will be used	Internet + CDs
Number of copies	
Didactical methodology	

Rn	
Type of results	Tutors' handbook
Target group(s)/ potential beneficiaries	Nurses, midwives, health visitors etc. working in primary and community care
Language of the product	Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Slovak and English

Medium used	Printed book
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After the end of the project, the programme will be available online and it will be tested by a group of 30 nurses and 30 midwives, whose test-taking experience will be taken into consideration in order to improve the programme. The modular form will enable continuous updating of the course and improvement of its quality depending on the actual needs.

After accreditation these educational programmes will meet the requirements of life-long continuing vocational education. They will enable the nurses and other health care professionals from the participating countries to get credits necessary for the renewal of their enrolment into the programme.

Expected impact:

Short-term impact of the project: participation in the development of a missing educational programme in the area of community care. (Gaining) having access to up-to-date information and experience from the area of community care provision in other countries and their processing and subsequent elaboration of the projects in their own countries. A training course for tutors will be prepared to secure the quality of education. The professionals who are working in the field of community care will have the possibility to acquire up-to-date information with the help of tutors. By this the quality of work of the professionals who will be working in community care will be improved. Continuous assessment will secure updating of the education. Review of the programme will take place according to the needs of the profession, but at least every three years. Long-term impact of the project: Determination of the level of education of nurses working in the area of community care so that it corresponds with the EU requirements, promotion of the image of general nurses and midwives (health visitors in Hungary).

Valorisation (Dissemination + Exploitation of Results):

- after the beginning of the work on the project: preparation of a leaflet with information about the goal and prospective result of the project
- presentation in professional journals intended for general nurses and midwives (health visitors in Hungary)
- presentations and suggestions during professional conferences and workshops organised for nurses in the area of home care, especially on the international level
- co-operation with the representatives of relevant specialised sections of the professional nursing organisations
- presentation on web pages of all the partner organisations

Planning:

Introductory meeting:	10/2007
Specification of the study contents:	10-12/2007
Elaboration of the individual thematic modules:	01-09/2008
Development of e-learning courses:	10/2008-06/2009

Pilot testing:	07-09/2009
Valorisation:	10/2007-09/2009
Project management:	10/2007-09/2009
Quality management:	10/2007-09/2009

The National Centre of Nursing and Other Health Professions will create and operate a website both in English and Czech languages. The website will provide information about the project and the e-learning courses which are being created. The links to the website of the project will be put on the websites of all the partners and on the search services websites. Educational materials with the basic information about the project will be printed out and distributed by the partners of the project.

The information about the e-learning courses for nurses and midwives in community care will be presented at conferences, seminars, workshops, in which the partners will take part (during the duration of the project) as long as the project lasts and also after (its end) it is over.

Potential users will also be able to participate in national workshops and training programs which will take place in every country- partner. The project will be also supported through cooperation with the media (radio, newspapers, etc).

Each partner, as an exclusive national guarantee, will subsequently sell the developed courses in order to get financial support to update and to extend the course, which will ensure sustainability of the results of the project. Interested organizations from other countries can contact the project coordinator who will provide them with the English version of the course and a course guidebook.

The distribution of the course guidebook and of all other materials pertaining to the project will be carried out by all the partners. The basic information about the courses will be on web pages. The French partner will promote the e-learning courses in other European countries. Valorisation activities will be performed by all the partners while the project is being realized and after its fulfillment.

Timelessness of the project:

The results of the project “E-learning in community care“ will be incorporated into the system of continuing education in certain countries. The e-learning form offers highly acceptable alternative for large groups of students, because there is an English version of the course.

After the end of the project, we suppose utilisation of the e-learning form of education of nurses and midwives (health visitors in Hungary) as one of available ways of obtaining special education.

The proposed form of the educational programmes is applicable not only for general nurses and midwives but also for other types of non-medical professions working in health care in the countries participants of the projects. We plan on the training of tutors who will actively participate later in updating of the existing form of the educational programmes.

According to the comparative analysis we have made in partner countries, an extensive application of this e-learning form of education in community care is possible. After the realization of this project the partners will have also the possibility to extend the sphere of application of the form e-learning into other fields of education.

Diffusion of the project into other European countries:

The project 'E-learning in community care' is inspired by the educational policy of certain Eastern Europe countries. The aim of this project is to improve the quality of education for health professionals, particularly for nurses and midwives in Central Europe (Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia). The project is going to be realized as a part of educational and health European policy and will offer a life-long educational program.

Distance education is recognized as a modern and fast way of knowledge acquisition, especially if we consider international character of the project and the aim pursued, which concerns the whole European zone. The latter can be extended depending on the impact of the project.

Thus, it is important to continue observing the situation in European countries as well as to make the project and its evolution known among health care personnel in these countries, despite their diversity or because of their diversity.

This is why, it seems to be especially important to also test the educational modules with the nurses and the midwives in these countries in order to collect their opinions so that they participate in the improvement of one of the units of the educational program that they may use themselves.

It also seems to us very important to inform all the actors concerned with the questions of education and health and who are susceptible to be interested in our project.