The project

The “IENE – Intercultural education of nurses and other health professionals in Europe” project aims to create approaches, methods and tools for the intercultural education of nurses and other medical staff participating in European mobility or working with patients from different cultures, in order to facilitate their participation in the European labour market and their integration in different cultural backgrounds.

The objectives

- To identify the training needs of nurses from different European countries in order to set up an active cooperation between teachers and trainers from partner institutions to develop new methodological approaches to intercultural education as part of IVET and CVET, according to the key European policies and documents (Lisbon Key Competences, Copenhagen objectives, Europass documents, European Chart of Mobility). This approach focuses on developing intercultural competences of health care professionals that are required to increase mobility in Europe.
- To set up and develop an online platform with information which supports the use of learning and teaching materials and facilitates sharing of models of experience and practises in organising training activities for nurses on intercultural issues.
- To create a learning platform that contains a learning guide and other materials and tools for intercultural education, which will be used to increase the cultural competences of nurses.
- To promote the exchange of experience and good practice between partners in creating and implementing a European model for intercultural training, adapted to their needs, in order to facilitate their participation in the European labour market and their professional insertion in different cultural backgrounds.
• To develop training materials and a guide useful for trainers who are involved in the intercultural education and training of nurses.
• To improve the link between work and education, by promoting new relationships at transnational levels between IVET schools, CVET training centres, universities, and work enterprises.

The partners

EDUNET: an educational organisation in Romania, together with Vocational School ‘Sfantul Stefan’, Romania

KATHO/HIVB, Belgium: Public non-profit organisation engaged in bachelor level programmes in health care, including nursing.

Arbeitwohlfahrt (AWO) Schleswig-Holstein GmbH, Germany: Private, for profit, vocational training centre for nurses in elderly care, initial and continuing education.

Eurocenter Training and Partnership 21 Century, Bulgaria: Private, for profit, organisation engaged in formal and informal adult education for different professions, including social care.

Middlesex University, London: Public, non-profit, university engaged in higher education covering a wide range of academic disciplines, including diploma and degree nursing courses.

The seventh meeting: Middlesex University, London 12th – 13th July 2010

The meeting was attended by representatives of all 5 participating organisations/countries.

Outputs of the mobility:

1. Congratulations are to be conveyed to Mieke Maerten (KATHO, Belgium) on the birth of her daughter: Mieke could not attend this meeting.

2. The implementation of elements of the Training Plan was discussed:

• The Training Plan has been piloted in Romania and the results were discussed at the previous meeting in Berlin.

• In Romania, elements of the Training Plan were implemented with two groups of students: one group of nursing students, and one group of nurses who are working with Roma people and are also preparing to work abroad. This course has been approved by the National Nurses Association in Romania.

• In Bulgaria, a seminar took place in a hospital with medical staff. The focus was on non-verbal communication. The PTT model was used. The seminar was evaluated very well and featured in the local news.

• In the UK, a half day session took place as part of a series of Staff Development study days for qualified nurse teachers, who teach multicultural groups of nursing students to care for multicultural client groups. The PTT model was used to raise cultural awareness and develop cultural knowledge. Another half day session is
planned. The session was evaluated well: participants liked the activities. Participants were directed to the IENE website.

- In Belgium, two sessions took place: one was a staff training session with 30 – 40 staff members. The PTT model was used to share examples with participants of how to teach the various constructs of the model. The second session concerned students.

- In Germany 22 nursing students participated in a session which included activities relating to cultural knowledge. The IENE website was sued. Another session took place for qualified nurses working in palliative care and focused on cultural issues at the end of life.

3. The Good Practice Manual was discussed and is being finalised.

4. Evaluation of the IENE website – work completed so far and plans to finalise the content.

5. The Final Report (Part A) was discussed and agreed, with a few small areas still to be clarified/completed. Part B was also discussed.

6. Dissemination and valorisation was discussed.

7. Evaluation of the mobility.

8. Cultural visit to an Italian restaurant in London.

Next steps:

This is the final mobility of the IENE project

Plans have been made for a further IENE2 project.

Middlesex University

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