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Book of Abstracts

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18dgpP21 (064)

Professional competence in nursing (PROCOMPNurse) – a European research project 2017-2021

Sanna Koskinen[1], Helena Leino-Kilpi[2,3], Gertrud M. Ayerle[4], María Cerezuela Torre[5], Natalja Fatkulina[6], Daniela Lehwaldt[7], Helena Leino-Kilpi[1]
[1]Department of Nursing Science, University of Turku
[2]University of Turku
[3]Nurse director, Turku University Hospital
[4]Institute of Health and Nursing Science, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg
[5]Department of Nursing, International University of Catalonia
[6]Faculty of Medicine, Vilnius University
[7]School of Nursing and Human Sciences, Dublin City University

Background and Purpose: Initial professional competence (PC) enables a nursing career start. The transition from a nursing student to a qualified nurse is significant as it may impact to the future career and retention throughout the nursing career. The purpose of this international research project is to assess and compare the development of PC, to analyse the factors (individual, educational, organisational and value-based) connected to PC and model factors promoting the development of PC and a successful transition.

Methods: The design is a prospective longitudinal cohort survey. Data is collected from educational institutions and health care organizations in five European countries: Finland, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania and Spain. The first data is collected in 2018 with structured questionnaires from graduating nursing students at the final stage of their studies (N=2500, N=500/country), nursing administrators (N=500, N=100/country) and patients (N=1500, N=300/country). The one year follow-up concerns the students who are then qualified nurses, and nursing administrators. The main instrument for measuring PC is Nurse Competence Scale (NCS) Meretoja (2004). The data is analysed statistically.

Results: The current phase of the research project and possibly some tentative results will be presented in the conference. The research project produces information about the PC of nurses and the factors connected at the time of transition.

Conclusions: This research project connects two areas – education and working life – when examining the transition of nurses to working life. Based on the results of the study, European nursing education can be developed to meet the needs of health service, and to create means for smoothening the transition in organizations.

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Ensuring adequate supply of long-term care services in rural areas

Bernadette Hof-Kleiner[1], Andreas Büscher, Stefanie Seeling[2]
[1]Institut für Duale Studiengänge, Hochschule Osnabrück
[2]Hochschule Osnabrück, MKT, IDS

Background and Purpose: Rural communities face multiple challenges due to increasing numbers of people in need of long-term care. Limited analysis of local health and long-term care impedes planning processes and raises concerns regarding access to services and health disparities. This project aims at providing a sufficient database for shaping health and long-term care in rural communities.

Model and Methodological and Theoretical Focus: Based on Klainberg's "Alliance for Health" Assessment Model we conducted a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) in two rural communities.

Research Focus: Secondary data gathered from statistical departments have been analysed using quantitative statistical measures. Additionally, we interviewed experts working in community health care services and administration. Primary data will be analysed using content analysis.

Results: The preliminary analysis highlights the fast aging process of Samtgemeinde Freren as one result. Its median age will increase from currently nearly 45 years to more than 51 years in 2030 and will thus exceed the one of Emsland Region by three years.

Currently, a care-mix of family care and home care services supports nearly 80% of people in need of long-term care in Emsland Region and more than 70% in Osnabrück Region.

Although community members could reach different health care services in a 20 km range, home care services in Melle are especially affected by nursing shortage, as they cannot ensure service delivery to new clients anymore.

Conclusions: To monitor local health and long-term care delivery by using a CHNA is not common practice in Germany. However, its broader implementation would be a helpful addition meeting future challenges in health and long-term care.