The project

Nowadays, the labour market is extremely competitive and mobile due to open borders and closer cooperation between the old and new EU member countries. One of the professions that are especially subject to these trends is nursing. The European cooperation puts internationalization pressure on the training institutions in the health sector to increase the quality, mobility and involvement of European vocational training. This makes necessary a better linguistic and intercultural preparation.

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

The objectives

To identify the training needs of nurses from different European countries.

To develop new methodological approaches of intercultural education in Europe.

To set up and develop an online platform with information and training which supports the use of learning and training materials and facilitates sharing experience and practices in organizing training activities for nurses on intercultural issues.

To create a learning platform, which contains a learning guide and other materials and tools for intercultural education, which will be used to increase the quality of linguistic and 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.

To develop training materials and a guide useful for trainers which are involved in the intercultural education and training of nurses.

To improve the link between work and education, makers in the field.

To allow further cooperation between partners in the European
The target groups

Nurses in IVET, focusing on nurses being in European mobility or in traineeship placement in companies.

For them, the linguistic and cultural preparation is required to pursue their professional education abroad or to their integration in different linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

Nurses involved in the European labour market, working in different countries.

The increase of their linguistic and intercultural skills is needed to increase their employability and their participation in the European workforce mobility.

Nurses and other medical workers, which are often in contact with patients with different cultures and language.

They need an intercultural understanding and continuous training to increase their competences in dealing with the intercultural issues.

The outputs

A multilingual website, informative guide, learning platform with learning materials and tools for the intercultural education of nurses;

A report on the research on the needs of intercultural education and training of the nurses;

An online informative guide containing information, documents and links related to the European common tools, national level tools in the field of IVET and CVET of the nurses;

A good practice manual for intercultural training activities for nurses;

A model of training activities and materials for nurses being in European mobility (Leonardo mobility pilot projects) and in placements companies or working in the intercultural context;

A multilingual multimedia glossary necessary in the nurses' work in multicultural contexts;

A web-based learning guide and materials on intercultural topics for self-learning and training activities of nurses;

An online informative guide containing information, documents and links related to training programmes and materials in the field of language and cultural training at the European and national level according to the nurses' professional standards and competences;

A model of training activities and materials for nurses being in European mobility (Leonardo mobility pilot projects) and in placements companies or working in the intercultural context;

Creating and developing the multilingual website and posting on it information, documents, learning materials and tools for the intercultural education of nurses;

Creating learning materials and tools for intercultural education of nurses;

Designing and organizing cultural activities for nurses being in European mobility and company placements or working in intercultural contexts;

Creating and developing the multilingual website and posting on it information, documents, learning materials and tools for the intercultural education of nurses;

Evaluating the learning and educational materials through activities conducted in each country;

A good practice manual for intercultural training activities for nurses;

The activities

The partners will participate together at the following activities:

Research in the field of IVET and CVET of nurses;

Collecting the documents and links related to training programmes and materials in the field of language and cultural training at the European and national level according to the nurses' professional standards and competences;

Conducting a survey on the needs of intercultural education and training;

Creating learning materials and tools for intercultural education of nurses;

Designing and organizing cultural activities for nurses being in European mobility and company placements or working in intercultural contexts;

Evaluating the learning and educational materials through activities conducted in each country;

Translating the materials and the dictionary posted on the web site in all countries’ languages;

Collecting materials for the best practice manual and publishing it in all partner countries.

This project will develop a European intercultural educational model which may be applied everywhere.
EDUNET is an educational organisation without a patrimonial purpose, which aims to offer a platform of services and resources for the promotion of lifelong education, for supporting the professional education, the education for active citizenship and for lasting development.

According to this aim, the “EDUNET” organisation develops some offers of non-formal and informal learning and activities of supporting the adults for achieving the abilities and competences necessary to personal development and for professional integration and active citizenship. One of the main objective is to develop solutions of learning foreign languages and developing the digital competences. EDUNET is involved in Grundtvig multilateral Project E-AIDS (www.e-aids.ro) and in other Leonardo mobility projects.

The Vocational School “Sfântul Stefan” is one of the departments of the Romanian Ecological Action Foundation. The Ecological Vocational School from Craiova, Romania is one of the largest in the county of Dolj, reaching 707 registered students. It is authorized by the Ministry of Education and Research to function with the following specializations: Nursing, Pharmacy Assistants and Custom’s Agents. The Ecological Vocational School was established by the Romanian Ecological Action Foundation, the first and the most active environmental organization in Dolj County, established since December 27th 1989.

Middlesex University is a large UK University with teaching and research programmes, extensive overseas experience including ERASMUS, TEMPUS, LEONARDO and many other projects. We have approx 22000 students in London and another 10000 studying MU programmes overseas. We have Schools covering most of the Academic disciplines, with the notable exception of Medicine, Chemistry and Physics. Based in North London, we work in one of the most culturally diverse urban centres in the world and this is reflected in our experience, our curriculum and our research interests. We work regularly with migrants, asylum seekers, excluded social groups, refugees and other groups on the margins of society, both in training programmes and in developing educational opportunity. We have a special interest in transcultural nursing, have had European funding for Programmes in this area and a research centre headed by Prof Papadopoulos.

Centre (Bildungszentrum Preetz) of the welfare organisation Arbeiterwohlfahrt Schleswig-Holstein gGmbH (AWO) is one of three vocational training centres of the AWO in Schleswig-Holstein. It is a State recognized School for Elderly Care Nursing and State recognized School for Further Training. 7 teachers, 3 project coordinator, 2 administrative and more than 50 freelance lecturer work at the AWO-Educational Centre. We offer trainings for Elderly care nurse and Elderly care nurse assistant. Furthermore different further trainings for care belong to the services of the organisation. The AWO- Educational Centre has been involved into different European projects since 2002.

“EUROCENTER TRAINING AND PARTNERSHIP 21 CENTURY” Ltd. is a private company that works in the field of formal and informal adult education. Within this company is established a nationally recognized Center for Vocational Training of Adults that provides professional training for 20 different professions in the following areas: social care, tourism, hotel management, foodstuff, building and business management. It organizes different computer and language courses for different adults groups, arranges special programs for unemployed persons.

KATHO/HIVB department organizes education for Professional Bachelor degree in Health Care and Biotechnology. Some 800 students are enrolled from which about 280 for the Health Care studies. Several specialisations are possible: general hospital nursing, paediatric nursing, geriatric nursing, psychiatric nursing. KATHO/HIVB is one of the 7 departments of KATHO with a total of 6.500 students. KATHO/HIVB is involved in several European exchange programs and has a longstanding tradition for offering training possibilities for its students in third world countries.
The third meeting:
Middlesex University, London, UK
5th – 8th July 2009

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

Outputs of the mobility:
- Evaluation of the IENE website – work completed so far
- Title of project clarified: Intercultural Education of Nurses and healthcare professionals in Europe
- Further work on the Informative Guide
- Further work on the Learning Materials: tasks shared among participants
- Plans for further Leonardo project outlined
- Cultural visit to a Turkish restaurant by the River Thames in London

Next steps...

- Partners will look for pictures that will be suitable for the IENE website.
- Translation of the informative guide into languages of partner organisations.
- Content of the learning materials to be completed, under the headings: Cultural Awareness, Cultural Knowledge, Cultural Sensitivity, and Cultural Competence.
- Definitions of terms for glossary – to be ready for evaluation at 4th Meeting in Bulgaria in November, and translated afterwards.

4th European Mobility:
12th – 13th November in Bulgaria

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.