

Towards improved quality – developing nurses' continuing vocational training in psychiatric hospitals and inpatient units



ePsychNurse.Net



BACKGROUND

Mental health problems are an international and national concern in various European countries. Use of patient restriction is a complex dilemma in psychiatric care that is linked to the questions of an individual's right to self-determination and ethical responsibilities of nurses. Psychiatric nursing of a high ethical standard requires personnel who are professionally skilled and committed to their mission. This is not possible without goal-oriented, systematic continuing education. However, the quality, content and methods of continuing professional training for qualified nurses working in European inpatient services are fragmentary. Thus, the professional competence of nursing personnel in mental health care has been declared to be a major challenge in Europe.

AIM

The aim of the ePsychNurse.Net project is to ensure ethically appropriate and therapeutically effective interventions to enable nurses to manage distressed and disturbed patients in psychiatric hospitals and inpatient units in six European countries: Finland as a coordinator, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal and England.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Maritta Välimäki, University of Turku (mava@utu.fi)
Anne Scott, Dublin City University (anne.scott@dcu.ie)
Renzo Zanotti, University of Padova (renzo.zanotti@unipd.fi)
Mary Chambers, Kingston University & St George's Medical School (mary.chambers@swlstg-tr.nhs.uk)
Vida Staniulienė, Klaipeda College (vida.s@email.lt)
Maria Antónia Rebelo Botelho, Escola Superior de Enfermagem de Francisco Gentil (rbotelho@netcabo.pt)

OBJECTIVES

1. To identify qualified nurses' education needs and existing educational provision in various European countries
2. To reform continuing vocational education in European mental health nursing care by developing a new multinational portal and training programme for use in psychiatric hospitals, inpatient units, and nursing education in Europe.
3. To develop national and international collaborative networks among nursing, education and administration in order to improve the transparency, quality assessment and to promote co-operation between education and working life in different European countries.

BENEFITS

- The portal will support the professional competence of nurses and thereby ensure the ethical quality of compulsory interventions implemented in psychiatric hospitals.
- A new co-operative network among individuals (nurses, teachers, nursing executives), groups (ward personnel, education units, class, nursing students), organisations, and various regions and countries will be developed.
- Supporting nurses capacity to provide high quality ethically appropriate therapeutic interventions will ultimately support the quality of European labour forces.

