

UDINE Careers Project

Understanding Developmental Issues for Nurse Educator
Careers

Background

Career pathways for nurse educators are an area of emerging interest in a number of countries across Europe.¹²³⁴ Educator careers in nursing often lack a defined career structure and nurses in academic institutions have to balance academic career development with teaching, research and clinical roles.

There is a paucity of evidence around the collective intelligence of career pathways of nurse educators in Europe and the Bologna Declaration (1999) with its proposals for advancing academic and professional recognition in nursing, provides a sound rationale for a pan European study of nurse educators.

Aim and objectives

The aim of this project is to conduct a preliminary investigation into the career pathways of nurse educators in Europe in order to develop a substantive proposal for funding in 2007/08. This will be achieved by:

- Reviewing the current literature around nurse education reforms in Europe (1990-2007)
- Identifying the extent of and reviewing the literature about the career pathways of nurse educators in Europe.
- Establishing a data base to support fact finding exercise on current career pathways
- **[not fully discussed in Udine]** Preparing a questionnaire survey about the career pathways of nurse educators working in twelve European countries to gain an insight into the differences and similarities on a range of dimensions between the countries.

¹ Butterworth, A, Jackson C, et al. Clinical academic careers for educators and researchers in nursing. Journal of Nursing Research. London, 2005

² Developing the best research professionals. Report to the UKCRC Workforce Careers Nursing Group, London 2006

³ Zabalegui, A et al. Changes in Nursing Education in the European Union. Journal of Nursing Scholarship. 2006

⁴ Spitzer and Perrenoud. Reforms in Nursing Education Across Western Europe: From Agenda to Practice. Journal of Professional Nursing, Vol 22, 3 2006

Our First pan European meeting

This took place in Udine University, NE Italy 19-22nd November 2007

The purpose of the first meeting was to

- identify expertise/knowledge in each country around nurse educator careers
- consider expertise from other appropriate countries
- discuss the literature review and create an editorial team
- review the current status of the data base, identify gaps and refine as appropriate
- **[not fully discussed in Udine]** prepare the questions from each of the 12 countries perspective which will form the pan European questionnaire
- **[see above]** agree the process for questionnaire dissemination and data collection/analysis

Participant countries

England

Hungary

Iceland

Ireland

Italy

Slovenia

(Croatia and Spain could not attend but wish to participate)

Meeting Structure

Day 1

Aim

- **To share knowledge and perspectives on nurse education and nurse educator career pathways across Europe**
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Presentations:

1. Introductions and context setting/proposal
2. Participating country presentations on geographical and health data, requirements for nurse training and nurse educator careers

Important comments/actions from Day 1

Agreeing terminology for nurse educator career pathway

Understanding the different educator roles across Europe

Agreeing a definition of clinical academic nurse

Day 2

Aims

- To share Pan European research on nurse educators through a literature review
- To develop and complete a data base to support fact finding exercise on current nurse educator career pathways
- *To develop a pan European questionnaire (this aim was not considered during the meeting)*

Presentations

1. The Pan European literature review (articles requested from each country)
2. Developing a pan European data base to support nurse educator career developments

Important actions from day 2

1. Refine and further develop the literature review and establish an editorial board for publication
2. Add additional sections within database and continue completion by each country

Day 3 (final day)

Aims

- To make a decision and agree to final projects, name of main project and outcomes, project management, editorial board, funding opportunities, conference, participating countries and timescales

The following was agreed

The name of the main project: **UDINE C** project
(Understanding Developmental Issues for Nurse Educator Careers)

Project Management Team

Dr. Christine Jackson (England) Chair
Dr Majda Pajnkihar (Slovenia)
Dr Alvisa Palese (Italy)
Prof. Sara Owen (England)
Clare Walsh (Ireland)

The Project Management Team will

- Oversee progress of UDINE C project(s), publications and meetings. Checking the key connections in the EU.
- First line tasks- defining the outcomes, inviting new countries, timescales for projects and communication strategy

Editorial team

Prof Sara Owen (England) Chair
Louise Bell (England)
Michael Bergin (Ireland)
Dr Christine Jackson (England)
Prof Arun K Siguroardottir (Iceland)
Dr Adelaida Zabalegui Yarnoz (Spain)

The Editorial team will

- Write the first Pan European article on issues for nurse educators in Europe (early 2008)
- Further develop the literature review and database

Conference team

Dr Majda Pajnikihar (Slovenia) Chair
Prof Alvisa Palese (Italy)
Nora Szabo (Hungary)
Clare Walsh (Ireland)

The Conference team will

- Develop the conference proposal / date/venue/structure
- Explore and apply for funding to support the conference

Next UDINE team meeting : Waterford, Ireland

John Wells (Chair)

It has been suggested that we combine the UK Royal College of Nursing 2nd International Education Conference (Dublin 9-11th June 2008) with our 2nd UDINE C meeting (Waterford 12-13th June 2008) to be confirmed.

Action: Comments please

The Projects

We have agreed a number a small (mice/mis) projects to inform our larger UDINE C (elephant) project. (For those not able to attend, the animal theme seemed to capture our imagination)

The mice/mis projects

Project topic	Lead countries
Workforce issues: Gender	Ireland and England
Different types of scholarly activity undertaken by nurses	England (at a later date)
Research undertaken by nurse academics which contributes to the evidence base (Practice)	England (at a later date)
Exploring academic autonomy	Slovenia and England (using data base)
Critical differences in nursing across Europe	Slovenia and England (using data base)
Influences and perceptions of nurse academics by students	Iceland
Cultural differences	Possibly Slovenia
The implications of age profiles of the nurse academic workforce- recruiting the next generation of nurse academics	Ireland and England

Developing clinical academic career pathways and definitions	Italy
Establishing a diary-keeping project	Italy, Ireland, England
Conference funding opportunities	Slovenia, Italy, Ireland, Hungary
Lifelong learning opportunities	Hungary

Please note:

- Spain and Croatia could not attend the Udine meeting and will therefore need to consider their contribution to the above projects (or perhaps add/amend the list)
- We may have additional countries to add to the group projects

Key points for January 2008

The Project Management Board members will propose target dates and actions for the teams and mice projects and circulate to the participants.

Action: Project Management Team

Christine will contact new countries/participants suggested by members:

Thus far

Helen Olt (Sweden) email sent by CJ

Awaiting details for Romania, Bulgaria, Austria and Poland from Majda.

Christine Jackson
December 20th 2007