

InovSafeCare Project: Educating nursing students for innovative infection prevention and control practices in healthcare settings

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Keywords: Healthcare-associated infections, Infection prevention and control, InovSafeCare Project, Nursing curriculum



INTRODUCTION

Structured education and training in the field of healthcare-associated infections (HCAIs) is recognized by the European Council as a key-action for nurses' professional development (Council Recommendation 2014/C 438/05 of December 6th, 2014). Therefore, in order to improve the quality of the current undergraduate nursing curriculum in this scope, a consortium of five Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) from four European countries, Portugal, Spain, Poland and Finland, conceived the InovSafeCare Project.

OBJECTIVES

The InovSafeCare project's aims to develop the InovSafeCare Model; train nursing students, teachers/professors/mentors and other interested healthcare professionals in the InovSafeCare Model's core and principles; motivate nursing students' entrepreneurial spirit as well as reinforce the collaboration between HEIs, healthcare Institutions and technological companies within this thematic scope.

METHODOLOGY

To achieved the main goals of the project, several activities will be conducted, which include: i) the development, adaptation and validation of two InovSafeCare questionnaires (for nursing students and teachers/tutors); ii) the conduction of focus groups and interviews for qualitative assessment; iii) educational sessions with simulation scenarios, followed by group analysis and ventilations; and iv) regional and international seminars to disseminate the project goals and results with the academic community of other HEIs and healthcare professionals.

RESULTS

At the project's end, it is expected that the InovSafeCare Model to be ready to help nursing students to improve their HCAIs prevention and control competences, critical thinking and entrepreneurial skills. Moreover, teachers will have access to pedagogical tools that will guide their educational approach on HCAIs prevention and control, enhancing the student's abilities on how to explore and analyse the current realities existing in their teaching and clinical settings. Finally, the InovSafeCare Community will be established and expanded beyond the consortium and geographical settings, creating an open channel for the dissemination and discussion of current HCAIs-related trends and challenges.

CONCLUSIONS

The consortium hopes that this innovative model and tools will improve the current pedagogical approach to HCAIs prevention and control in several European HEIs, helping to define essential key-competences and recommending best practices that will improve the quality and safety of nursing care.

References: Council of the European Union. Council conclusions on patient safety and quality of care, including the prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance (2014/C438/05). Official Journal of the European Union, C 438, 6.12.2014, p. 7–1. Retrieved from: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A52014XG1206%2802%29>.

Financing entities: Authors would like to thank the ERASMUS+ Programme for the InovSafeCare Project funding (2018-1-PT01-KA203-047453).



Consortium:

