Translating International Recommendations into an Undergraduate Palliative Care Curriculum
EDUPALL Project


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Background: WHO recommends “palliative care (PC) should be integrated as a routine element of all undergraduate medical education.” In Europe 6/43 countries have compulsory undergraduate programmes in PC. In Romania, the promoter of present project, since 2017 PC is a mandatory discipline for medical and nursing students; EDUPALL Erasmus+ Project Strategic partnership Ref. no.: 2017-1-RO01-KA203-037382 comes as support for medical faculties to foster high quality PC education in their settings.

Aim: to develop an undergraduate palliative care standardized curriculum with adjacent materials, to improve teaching and assessment methods in undergraduate education and to train faculty to deliver the new curriculum.

The project activities include development of six intellectual outputs:

- **O1 – Model Curriculum**
- **O2 – Online training**
- **O3 – Trainers’ toolkit**
- **O4 – Technology course**
- **O5 – Mentoring course**
- **O6 – Assessment methods**

Method and results:

**Phase 1 – Development of blended curriculum**

Based on “EAPC recommendations for the development of undergraduate curricula”, including 72 hours of teaching: 14 h classroom, 28 h seminar/bedside teaching and 30 h online.

**Phase 2 – Development of trainers’ resources**

(O3) including lesson plans, PPTs, exercises, case studies, assessment methods. Faculty will be empowered to use technology in training (O4), develop mentoring skills (O5), use innovative assessment methods (O6) by attending 3 short-term trainings of one week each.

**Phase 3 – Implementation:** The curriculum will be piloted in six Medical schools (Romania and Ireland), starting with October 2019, for about 700 students.

**Phase 4 – Assessment**

a) of students’ knowledge and b) of how the curriculum works from two perspectives: experts and trainers’ opinion (what was positive in the experience, facilitating conditions or barriers in uptake of the curriculum) and students perspective (how they experienced the curriculum as learners).

Conclusion: EDUPALL addresses a problem shared by many countries. The development of a universally adaptable and applicable curriculum, freely available in multiple languages, will provide a platform for the greater integration of palliative care within undergraduate medical training programmes across Europe.

Note: The whole curriculum together with the lesson plans can be viewed at the EAPC stand and obtained in electronic version free of charge by registration on the dissemination list. If you are interested in becoming associated partner please CONTACT daniela.mosoiu@unitbv.ro