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AccelEd News

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**Jūratė Macijauskienė**

Project coordinator, Dean of Nursing Faculty of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Kaunas, Lithuania

I sincerely welcome and proudly introduce a new strategic project "Accelerating Master and PhD level nursing education development in the higher education system in Kazakhstan" (AccelEd). As a coordinator of this project, our university and whole management team feel big responsibility and commitment. The project's duration is three years, but already now we believe in its success. I would like express my gratitude to all partners who are contributing to the implementation of this significant project, who will share their good practices and disseminate the accumulated knowledge and who will accumulate shared experiences. I am confident that these three years will be full of challenges, discoveries and achievements. Special thanks to my whole team and special wish for success to all project participants.

**Johana Heikkilä**

Project leader in partner institution, Senior advisor at JAMK University of Applied Sciences, Jyväskylä, Finland

Dear Colleagues!

It is a privilege to be one of the European University partners in the AccelEd project continuing the collaborative development of nursing education and science in Kazakhstan. The collaboration between the practical health care and the universities is the essence in developing nursing practice, education and science. Contemporary nursing research provides so much empirical evidence to solve the practical clinical problems of nursing. It is universities that are the key in translating this evidence to practice. I am looking forward to cocreating new tools and methods applicable in Kazakhstan in this project together with Kazakhstani and European colleagues! Keep safe and healthy! I wish us success in all our endeavors for nursing!

**Zhanar Bukeyeva**

Project coordinator, Director of the Department for Academic Work of the NJSC "Astana Medical University", Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan

Dear friends! The 2020-2021 academic year is full of various events in the life of the international and medical community. Among these events is the start of the AccelEd project, the purpose of which is to strengthen the role of nurses in the health care system of Kazakhstan, as well as to contribute to the development of nursing science.

Let me, on behalf of the staff of Astana Medical University and on my own behalf, congratulate the project participants and the editors of the AccelEd newsletter for their joint efforts to promote nursing education and science.

We hope that the younger generation, using such opportunities, will apply the knowledge gained in the framework of an educational project to improve nursing in their future activities.

I wish you fruitful work, success and achievement of your goals!

Happy World Healthcare Worker Day!



We are glad to congratulate healthcare workers on their professional holiday and thank all for their great services and hard work. Nurses have a key role in this service, too. Without them, the work of medical institutions would not be possible, because nurses' fragile shoulders withstand all the hardships given to them by fate and profession! We should not forget that in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic, healthcare workers, including nurses, put all their experience and professionalism, their best personal qualities into their work.

On this significant day, we sincerely congratulate workers of healthcare field and wish them strong health, full energy, endless happiness and big prosperity, good luck and success in your work!

Best regards, AccelEd team

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About the AccelEd project



The project “Accelerating Master and PhD level Nursing Education Development in the Higher Education System in Kazakhstan – AccelEd” seeks to reform nursing science and research in higher education system of Kazakhstan, focusing on modernization of governance, management and functioning of healthcare and physical-sciences-related higher education practices in Kazakhstan.

Modernization in the framework of AccelEd means improvement of governance, planning, service quality assurance, internationalization and wider recognition of nursing education on Master and PhD level, as well as contribution to the lifelong learning promotion in nursing field. As a structural project, AccelEd will be implemented with assistance of the ministries responsible for healthcare and education, to ensure sustainability of actions and incorporation of them into the following operational plans of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

A set of aims and objectives of the AccelEd project was shaped based on the challenges on nursing higher education and specific needs of the project target groups. Wide range of national, local and international stakeholders, including academic staff and policy makers, were engaged in feasibility of the project proposal, therefore ensuring the aims and objectives are reachable and relevant for the national context in Kazakhstan. Thus, the general project goal to strengthen nursing education on Master level and establishing and launching PhD nursing science in Kazakhstan through changes in policy, legal framework and institutional structures correspond to the strategic interests of the Republic of Kazakhstan and meet the needs expressed by the specialists who are involved in the nursing education, research and clinical practice.

The new Global Strategy for Nursing and Midwifery – new opportunities for strengthening the role of Nurses

The relevance of the AccelEd project can be highly substantiated by the adoption of the new Global Strategy for Nursing and Midwifery by WHO in the World Health Assembly on June 2, 2021, and conferences (round tables, meetings) calling for improving the role of Nursing.

The Strategy for Nursing and Midwifery 2021-2025 sets out policy priorities that could help countries ensure that midwives and nurses optimally contribute to achieving universal health coverage and other population health goals. Totally, these strategic directions are education, jobs, leadership and service delivery, which are based on the health labor market:

Education Strategic Direction: Midwife and nurse graduates match or surpass health system demand and have the requisite knowledge and competencies, and attitudes to meet national health priorities.

Jobs Strategic Direction: Increase the availability of health workers by sustainably creating nursing and midwifery jobs, effectively recruiting and retaining midwives and nurses, and ethically managing international mobility and migration.

Leadership Strategic Direction: Increase the proportion and authority of midwives and nurses in senior health and academic positions and continually develop the next generation of nursing and midwifery leaders.

Service Delivery Strategic Direction: Midwives and nurses work to the full extent of their education and training in safe and supportive service delivery environments.

Each direction includes several policy priorities. You can get acquainted with the full document by the [link](#).

Thus, for Kazakhstan, development of the nursing system means its development at all levels of education, monitoring of education quality at the level of international standards, introduction of nursing job positions in accordance with the level of education into practice. Along with the reform of nursing education, it's important to support nursing organizational structures, redistribution and clear delineation of functional responsibilities, empower nurses to act according to the gained competencies and strengthen the associations uniting nurses.

Key directions of the project's work

In order to reach the main aim, the project is moving in four directions:

1) Strengthening nursing science in Kazakhstan through the capacity building of teaching staff based on contemporary issues in global nursing (WP 2.1 (WP – Work Package)).

AccelEd intends to develop competencies of nursing faculty members to ensure smooth implementation of three cycles of Bologna-type reforms in education, and will enact the trinity of the education, practice and research of nursing in the country.

Responsible partners: Åbo Akademi University and Astana Medical University.

2) Joining the broader international community of nursing researchers to build the capacity of nursing faculty in research methodologies (WP 2.2).

Best European practices and methodologies are to be transferred for applying them by the teachers of nursing research (peer-learning, counselling and internship experiences).

Responsible partners: Lithuanian University of Health Sciences and Nazarbayev University Medical School.

3) Creating sustainable structures and systematic processes for cooperation in nursing research between medical universities and healthcare institutions to foster evidence-based nursing (WP 2.3).

New approaches and tools are to be introduced to the project target groups in order to facilitate creation of sustainable continuation and application of nursing education and research to practical innovation development in healthcare system.

Responsible partners: JAMK University of Applied Sciences and Karaganda Medical University.

4) Initiating structural and institutional changes in managing Master and PhD level nursing education and quality assurance of post graduate education in nursing according to best European practices (WP2.4).

Activities carried out by the project address improvement of quality assurance system in nursing Master and PhD level education, developing competence in nursing research

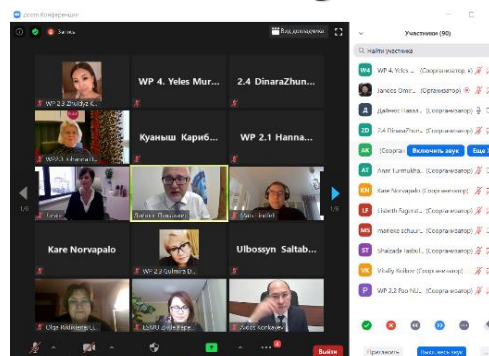
and final theses development and setting clear guidelines for graduates and evaluators of nursing faculties of KZ medical universities.

Responsible partners: Utrecht University Medical Centre, S. Asfendiyarov Kazakh National Medical University.

For strengthening the role of nurses in healthcare system of Kazakhstan, progress and results of the project will be promoted among appropriate target groups (WP4). Stakeholders of nursing science will be approached and encouraged to apply the experiences developed by the AccelEd project in teaching of nursing science and research, as well as developing policy framework for the benefit of nurses as significant element of healthcare services' modernization. clinical practice, but also in teaching and research work.

WP1, WP3 and WP5 – manage and control activities within the project in order to assure their quality.

Project's start – kick-off meeting



In order to launch the AccelEd project, on January 11-13 and February 10, 12, 2021, a two-session online kick-off meeting was held. At the meeting, the Kazakh and European partners discussed the project's objectives related to modern challenges in the field of Nursing, innovations in Nursing, new prospects for students in this specialty and practicing nurses.

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the event took place on the ZOOM platform, having assembled more than 150 people: lawmakers, academic staff, doctoral, master's and bachelor's students, nurse practitioners and representatives of public associations. The meeting was attended by representatives of the National Office of the Erasmus+ Program, WHO, the Ministry of Education and Science of the

Republic of Kazakhstan, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republican Center for Health Development, the "Paryz" Nursing Association, JAMK University of Applied Sciences, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, University Medical Centre Utrecht, Abo Akademi University, Astana Medical University, S. Asfendiayrov Kazakh National Medical University, Karaganda Medical University, South Kazakhstan Medical Academy, Nazarbayev University School of Medicine.

Current situation within the project

Thanks to workshops, seminars and internships within the framework of the project, master's and doctoral students, teachers will be able to expand their knowledge and scientific cognition of their activities. Science has always played an important role in promoting resource efficiency and finding new methodologies and development tools. In this regard, nursing science should also develop in the right direction, as it is an important component in the search for possible ways to ensure the sustainable development of the medical field.

WP 2.3: A lot has been happening!

A lot has been happening! First, we benchmarked the best European practices on collaboration between universities and healthcare organizations focusing specifically on master and doctoral levels of nursing education. Prior to that we conducted a literature review which revealed numerous of international practices on academic-healthcare collaboration. We also analyzed the current state of nursing research collaboration between Kazakh medical universities with regional HCF.



After the final seminar on benchmarking, recommendations on collaboration were finalized and their adaptability to Kazakh society was discussed. Secondly, we organized the JBI Comprehensive

Systematic Review Curriculum (CSRTP) training program for 25 academic staff and 6 PhD students of Kazakh medical universities, upon completion they will possess skills and knowledge to conduct reliable systematic reviews of various types of evidence to provide the most compelling evidence for decision-making or clinical recommendation into Kazakh healthcare.

As for autumn 2021 activities, we are planning to organize online webinars for Kazakh nursing personnel to discuss burning nursing topics that are debated in workplaces now. The purpose is also to discuss how to implement recommended collaborative structures and practices.

Last activity in autumn is a master class on "Theory of service design in healthcare (nursing services) development" held in Karaganda in 06.12-10.12.2021 where burning nursing topics and current clinical issues will be raised and discussed. Doing so participants learn modern methodology for developing nursing services based on the perspective of clients and in collaboration with practitioners and end users.

We will be glad to see colleagues from practical healthcare and representatives of the academic sphere of medical universities in Kazakhstan among the participants.

WP 2.4: The master-class "Benchmarking of international best practices in managing the work of nursing faculties, cooperation in organizing PhD educational programs and assessing Master's and PhD theses"



In WP 2.4 the first Masterclass (MC) which includes five days, took place from May 14 till June 1, 2021. The MC aimed to benchmark international best practices in management of nursing faculties in organizing PhD education, assessment of Master and PhD thesis and national and international collaboration. A group of 30 participants was invited to take

part, with representatives from all partnering institutes including the MoH and MoES. The MC days start with presentations which partnering organizations give on the topic of the day; followed by group discussion in break-out rooms and ending with plenary reporting from groups focusing on recommendations on the topic area. A group of experts was approached to provide input on the recommendations. This has resulted in range of draft recommendations which will be further discussed and developed during the last day of the MC. This first MC has been a highly successful with partners engaging in fruitful discussions with experts from both Kazakhstan and European partners. In this way we are hopeful that the activities carried out will improve and strengthen the Master and PhD education within nursing faculties (schools of nursing) of KZ universities.

Upcoming events in 2021

June 21-23, 2021

The first part of the training course for academic staff and PhD students "The substance and theory development of nursing-caring".

Academic staff and PhD students of medical universities can take part.

Organizers: Åbo Akademi University and Astana Medical University.

Venue: online.

Contact person: Lisbeth Fagerstrom, lisbeth.fagerstrom@abo.fi

September 20-21, 2021

The second part of the training course for academic staff and PhD students "The substance and theory development of nursing-caring".

Academic staff and PhD students of medical universities can take part.

Organizers: Åbo Akademi University and Astana Medical University.

Venue: online.

Contact person: Lisbeth Fagerstrom, lisbeth.fagerstrom@abo.fi

December 6-10, 2021

Master-class "Theory of service design in healthcare (nursing services) development". Part I.

Academic staff of medical universities and staff of their university hospital clinics, Master, and PhD students, chief nurses and nursing coordinators from practice can take part.

Organizers: JAMK University of Applied Sciences and Karaganda Medical University.

Venue: Karaganda, Kazakhstan.

Contact person: Zhuldyz Kuanysh, kuanysh@kgmu.kz.

October-December, 2021

Webinars with healthcare organizations and medical universities on nursing challenges in clinical practice in regions.

Chief nurses and nursing coordinators from practice can take part.

Organizers: JAMK University of Applied Sciences and Karaganda Medical University.

Venue: online

Contact person: Zhuldyz Kuanysh, kuanysh@kgmu.kz.

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Schedule of issues: It is planned to issue e-newsletter twice a year: every June and December. The second issue's date: December 13, 2021.