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## Quality Mentorship for Developing Competent Nursing Students

### Welcome to the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the QualMent Project eBulletin!

This eNewsletter will be published on regular basis. For more information/updates, you can visit our [website](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) (@QualMentProject).

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### Covid-19 and project activities

The continuous impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Europe is changing the way the EU institutions operate and prioritise the topics they work on. As of today, much of the focus is given to dealing with the health crisis and its economic consequences – however, research and innovation are getting high on their political agenda.

In this context, the QualMent Project continues “on hold”. The latest development was the testing of the [mentorship modules](#) across Europe, at different pilot sites (Finland, Lithuania, Slovenia and Spain).

The Lithuanian University of Health Sciences continued teaching mentor’s education, within the framework of the QualMent project, despite the challenging COVID-19 pandemic.



Due to the impact of the pandemic, the project, which was due to finish in December 2020, will be prolonged till the end of August 2021. The aim of this delay is to allow sufficient time for the pilot testing of the modules under optimal conditions. In the meanwhile, project

partners will continue developing the guidelines for mentoring nurses during their clinical practice.

Project partners would like to remind all EU citizens and health stakeholders of the very valuable contribution of nurses to our healthcare systems and the adaption of living with the “new normality” of COVID-19. Upscaling and improving nurses’ competencies are now more needed than ever before.

The QualMent Project is addressing the clinical mentor’s skills development in nursing student mentorship and developing the clinical mentor’s competences in line with [Directive 2013/55/EU](#) (Art 31). With a view to coming up with robust results, project partners are developing the clinical mentor’s competence model to support frontline nurses in the clinical placements of their study programmes across Europe. This competence model will be supported by a course on [advanced mentorship competences](#), which partners are developing, too.



This Mentorship Course will include three modules: 1) General competence module; 2) Module on

mentoring culturally and linguistically diverse nursing students; 3) Module on evaluation and reflective discussion in mentoring of nursing students.

The content of these three will be fine-tuned after the results obtained during the pilot-testing phase, in line with current EU legislation. The project's outcome will be fit-for-purpose.

### **How the European Commission is redrafting Horizon Europe to reflect 'lessons learned' during pandemic**

The European Commission is going to re-draft some parts of the Horizon Europe research programme to allocate €13.5B from COVID-19 recovery fund into it. The multiannual budget plan put forward in May 2020, which includes €13.5 billion going into Horizon Europe from the pandemic recovery fund, should be read as a signal that research is going to play a key role in Europe's recovery from the pandemic.

Research Commissioner Mariya Gabriel has said that *"it's clear that after the crisis we should reorient some of our priorities in a more strategic way. [...] One of the most important things is really to integrate our lessons learned during the crisis."*

### **EU Research & Innovation Days – an opportunity for nursing researchers**

The 2020 edition of the [EU's Research and Innovation days](#) will happen virtually. In this event, participants will debate and shape the future of Research and Innovation in Europe and beyond.

This will be a 3-days event happening from 22 to 24 September, featuring intensive policy co-designing, thought-provoking panels, and matchmaking opportunities.

Events such as this are a great opportunity for nurse researchers who can access programmes to fund their research, and by doing so, provide answers needed by the nursing profession, reassuring to have evidence-based solutions to the challenges being faced by the frontline and our healthcare systems.

### **Manifesto to maximise the accessibility of research results in the fight against coronavirus**

The European Commission has launched a [Manifesto](#) to maximise the accessibility of research results in the fight against Covid-19. The Manifesto provides guiding principles for beneficiaries of EU research grants for coronavirus prevention, testing, treatment and vaccination to ensure that their research results will be accessible for all and guarantee a return on public investment.

### **Nurse researchers to share their views on Horizon Europe's priorities for the next four years**

The nursing research community is invited to participate in a [survey](#) to have a say on the Horizon Europe's first Strategic Plan, which will guide the work programmes and topics for the new programme's first four years. The first Horizon Europe Strategic Plan will define the strategic orientations for our research and innovation investments over the period 2021-2024 and will act as a compass to stay on course with the political priorities of the European Commission.

### **Erasmus+ European Universities pilot with an additional 34 million from Horizon 2020**

The first 17 alliances of [universities](#) selected under the [Erasmus+ programme](#) will each receive a complementary EUR 2 million support from Horizon 2020. With this support, the European Universities will explore further integration and transformation in their research and innovation missions. The 17 European University alliances will focus on priority transformation areas such as sharing research and innovation infrastructures and resources, strengthening the attractiveness of researchers' careers, reinforcing digital infrastructures and embracing open science principles, facilitating cooperation with other actors like businesses, and promoting engagement with citizens and society.

### **One-stop shop for coronavirus research and innovation funding**

The European Commission launched the new [European Research Area \(ERA\) corona platform](#). The platform provides useful information, dedicated support and real-time updates on funding opportunities for coronavirus related research and innovation.

The ERA corona platform brings together information on funded and ongoing projects, updated information on the extension of H2020 call deadlines and more.

### **Next meetings**

The project partners upcoming transnational meeting have been postponed due to COVID19. New date to be set.

In Autumn, the project partners will need to discuss the next phase of the project and fine-tune the framework of the three educational modules, as well as agreeing on the best quality training materials for those. They will start developing EU Guidelines for enhancing mentors' competences in Europe, too. The mandatory course materials will also be made available in all the EU languages (Mid-2021).

More information on meetings on QualMent [Website](#).