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Quality Mentorship for Developing Competent Nursing Students

Welcome to the **4th 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).

If you have any queries, please contact us at: qualmentproject@gmail.com

Covid-19 and project activities

The COVID-19 outbreak has impacted us all very hard and has even postponed some QualMent Activities, as the pilot sites testing the [mentorship modules](#). Inevitably, public attention has also shifted to the new coronavirus outbreak, and the majority of government and EU institutions' focus will be placed on COVID-19 research and innovation.

Project partners acknowledge that nurses across Europe and beyond are living in a critical moment. Their competencies are needed more than ever on all fronts; from vaccine production to the epidemiological, economic, social and organisational dimensions of living with and responding to COVID-19.



As the pandemic continues to have a significant impact on citizens, patients, and nurses, this makes the planning of QualMent even more challenging. As such, the project that was due to finish in December 2020 will be prolonged till end of August 2021.

Over the last months, the project continued making progress 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 \(Art 31\)](#). To assure a systematic approach, the project has developed a robust clinical mentors' competence model which supports frontline clinical mentoring in nursing study programmes in Europe, with a course on [advanced mentorship competences](#) developed and in the process of being tested in some European high-level education institutions from the partners' countries (Finland, Lithuania, Slovenia and Spain).

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 Project partners will put together the results of this test, which is the project's outcome first touch with the frontline reality, to fine-tune the modules in line with EU legislation and ensure their fit-for-purpose.

Nurses are at the forefront of the world's response to Covid-19 and will play a crucial part in devising strategic policy and operational solutions to prevent a crisis such as this one from recurring. Within this context, QualMent project partners are more committed than ever to promoting their role and upscaling the quality of their education.

How Covid19 impacts on the EU programmes

After the coronavirus was announced as a pandemic, a lot of things changed as regards the European programmes with the European Commission focusing

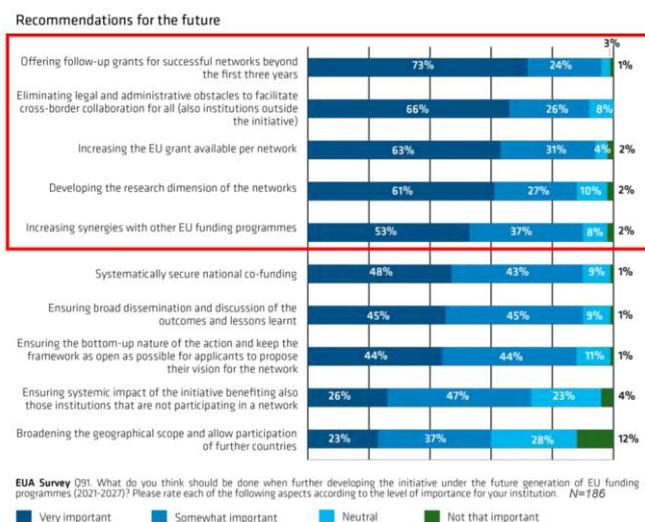
on the protection of European citizens in every way possible. Part of the European Commission's response to the COVID-19 outbreak and our current lockdown has been to [extend](#) some [Horizon 2020](#) and [Erasmus+](#) calls deadlines, including those on health, until 18 June 2020. We all should take advantage of this extension to build strong consortia and apply for EU funds to finance upcoming research projects.

The [European Commission's Research Executive Agency](#) (REA) is also taking several measures to minimise the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. More information is available [here](#).

Erasmus+ 2021 - 2027

One of Europe's biggest financial frameworks – Erasmus+ – has been renewed for another seven years, with a new funding to be increasing with triple the amount of money it had the previous seven years. This will allow more people to take part in the programme and adapt grants to their needs, and make sure that more young people will participate in the programme aiming at increasing the different learning ability schemes. More information is available [here](#).

International strategic institutional partnerships and the European Universities Initiative



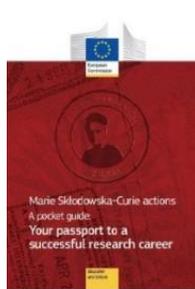
In early 2020, the European University Association (EUA) conducted a [survey](#) on International strategic institutional partnerships and the European Universities Initiative, covering 219 universities in 34 European countries. The [results provide](#) a broad view on international collaborations, first insights into the perceptions and experiences of higher education institutions in the European Universities Initiative, and outlines the sector's views and demands for the future development of the initiative. According to the

EUA survey one of these demands from higher education institutions across Europe is that the European Commission increases funding and cut red tape for European Universities Initiative.

R&D Commissioner aims to 'revitalise' European Research Area

In a recent interview, the Bulgarian Commissioner for research, innovation, education culture and youth, Mariya Gabriel, explained that her priorities for the next 5 years include the establishment of a 'European Knowledge Strategy' that would try to integrate policies for the movement of ideas, researchers and students around the EU, and a revamp of the European Research Area – as an EU effort to get research communities across the EU collaborating more easily. She is also aiming at reducing the east-west performance gap, and "revitalising" efforts to create a real single market for research, education and innovation, bridging the performance gap between eastern and western Europe. This is a key point for all of us to follow closely. More information is available [here](#).

Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions: Pocket guide



The European Commission published a [booklet](#) giving the needed information to make the right first choice when considering a doctoral degree or looking for partnerships between academic and non-academic organisations or staff exchanges. The EU's Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions fund all kind of opportunities for researchers from Europe and beyond. See the booklet [here](#).

Next meetings

4th Transnational project meeting: The project partners upcoming transnational meeting in Kaunas, Lithuania, has been postponed due to COVID19. New date to be set.

Also, 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. It will also be key to start developing EU Guidelines for enhancing mentors' competences in Europe and ensure that the project's outcome can be fully applied across all the EU countries, which is key for EFN. The mandatory course materials will also be made available in all the EU languages (Mid-2021).

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