Hybrid curriculum in patient safety: integration of academic master’s education and continuous professional education in Estonia and in Norway (2019–)

Aim of the project: To develop a hybrid curriculum in patient safety for masters’ and continuous professional education in education and management

Partners: Department of Nursing Science, Tartu University (PI) and University of Applied Sciences West-Norway

Funding: Archimedes Foundation

Contact person in the University of Tartu: Kaja Põlluste, Mari Kangasniemi

Abstract: During the last decades, the interest in patient safety has notably increased in the society, thus, the continuous improvement of competence in patient safety among the health care staff and managers is essential. This project aims to develop the hybrid curriculum of patient safety module integrating academic master’s education and continuous professional education (CPE) in nursing. This kind of integration enables to merge academic and clinical knowledge what is required in implementation and managing patient safety interventions in research and clinical practice. It is achieved by appropriate training of the teaching staff, development of the innovative teaching and learning resources (TLR), and through adding the international dimension by common training and exchange of knowledge and experience between University of Tartu and University of Applied Sciences. Moreover, this curriculum and resources will be applicable for the undergraduate training of medical students as well for the CPE of physicians and other health professionals. Therefore, besides the development of new innovative TLRs and exchange of good practices between the project partners, this project will support the integration between higher education and employment.

Patient centered care in multicultural society and its ethical implications (2019–)

Aim of the project: To develop an Intensive Course is to enhance students learning and meet the needs of various types of learners and creation of knowledge in Latvia, Tartu, Finland, Demark and Iceland.

Partners: Riga medical College of the University of Latvia (PI), Department of Nursing Science, Tartu University, Kaunas University of Applied Sciences, Latvia; Metropolitan University College, Denmark; Novia University of Applied Sciences, Finland; University of Iceland, Iceland

Funding: Nurdplus Higher Education

Contact person in the University of Tartu: Mari Kangasniemi

Abstract: Over the last decades many countries around the globe have been experiencing a demographic shift in their populations, due to several factors, including immigration, acculturation, mobility of workforces, etc. These factors have contributed to the creation of multicultural environments characterized by differences in cultures, values, beliefs, ethical and moral perspectives, and languages, as well as historical, political and economic circumstances of their members. In healthcare settings, such diversity and the associated socio-political factors can pose ethical challenges for healthcare providers, and patients and their families alike. Ethical competence has an increasingly important role in the societies, due to the patients with different cultural backgrounds, (e.g. immigrants and refugees) as well as there are problems with ethical sensitivity (e.g. awareness to recognize the needs, social and cultural background of a patient) and respectful
PATSAFE: Developing the University of Tartu to a well-networked Patient Safety research center in Estonia (2019–)

Aim of the project: To improve and strengthen knowledge and skills in methods, technics and experiences for patient safety research among the early stage researchers (ESRs) and staff from the Institute of Clinical Medicine of the University of Tartu (ICM-UT)

Partners: Tartu University (PI), Avedis Donabedian Foundation (FAD), Spain; IQ Healthcare (IQ-HC), Netherlands

Funding: Twinning, EU

Contact person in the University of Tartu: Kaja Põlluste, Mari Kangasniemi

Abstract: The project aims to strengthen and raise the research profile of the ICM-UT academic staff and early stage researchers (ESRs), by implementing the hands-on training on the methods, techniques and experience in patient safety research. In addition, the aim is to encourage the active participation of ESRs in patient safety research by increase their soft skills, to ensure the continuity and sustainability of patient safety research in ICM-UT and to develop the research strategy on patient safety and establish the Estonian Patient Safety Research Network for the long-term sustainability of patient safety research in Estonia. To implement these activities, PATSAFE foresees a comprehensive strategy consisting of knowledge exchange (training materials, seminars, staff visits), soft research skills capacity building, strategic planning and strong dissemination and exploitation efforts.

Design Thinking in Health Technology Education (2020–)

Aim of the project: The network aims to introduce and use Design Thinking in the development of learning and learning environments to promote a new culture of innovative thinking, and to apply it in health technology education.

Partners: University of Turku (PI), University of Tartu, University of Oslo, The University of SouthEastern Norway, Åbo Akademi University

Funding: NordPlus Higher Education

Contact person in the University of Tartu: Mari Kangasniemi

Abstract: Evidence-based knowledge and health care ethics creates the base for designing technology in health care. This first intensive course organized by the Design Future Health Network serves as a proof of concept for design thinking, DT, as an educational tool for solving complex problems in health technology product development. The objective for this course is to deepen the understanding of the health technology innovation process. This will be accomplished by tackling challenging clinical problems from a human-centered perspective combined with innovative thinking. All six DT process phases are used: Empathize, ideate, define, prototype, test and develop.

The impact of COVID-19 emergency on nursing care (2020–)

Aim of the project: To investigate the impact of the COVID-19 emergency on nursing care, for evaluation nurses' satisfaction with the care provided during the COVID-19 emergency,
as well as to guide health policies in the reorganization of care, management and training processes in case of future health crisis.

**Partners:** University of Torino, Italy (PI), University of Tartu, and collaborators in Austria, Canada, Croatia, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and UK.

**Contact person in the University of Tartu:** Visiting Professor Mari Kangasniemi, project researcher Gerli Usberg.

**Abstract:** During the health and social emergency linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, nurses faced a sudden increase in the number of patients admitted to hospital and had to take measures to reduce the risk of infection in all contexts. Throughout the world, nurses have been faced with a radical change in their usual care, facing scarcity of resources, organizational and educational difficulties. Since this phenomenon has never been investigated, the aim of the project is to describe the impact of the COVID-19 emergency on nursing care. This cross-sectional study will use a specifically developed questionnaire, which will be administered online, to collect changing in nursing care, ethical-deontological, organisational and educational information. The results could be used to evaluate nurses' satisfaction with the care provided during the COVID-19 emergency, as well as to guide health policies in the reorganization of care, management and training processes in case of future health crisis.

---

**Developing Occupational Well-being of Health Care Teachers in Estonia – participatory action research (2021–)**

**Aim of the project:** The aim of this action research project is to describe and evaluate health care teachers’ occupational well-being, develop the occupational well-being by community based developmental intervention and assess the impact of developmental intervention on health care teachers’ occupational well-being in Estonian. This developmental intervention is expected to increase the occupational well-being activities at the individual and organizational level, reducing workload and promoting recovery from work. In the future, this intervention can be applied in different fields and levels of education.

**Partners:** University of Eastern Finland, Department of Nursing Science (PI) and University of Tartu, Department of Nursing Science in collaboration with Tartu Health Care College and Tallinn Health Care College.

**Contact person in the University of Tartu:** Visiting Professor Mari Kangasniemi, Assistant of Nursing Science Janne Kommusaar.

**Abstract:** Challenges in education sector such as aging population, digitalization, work management and corona pandemic and their connections to occupational well-being are also reflected in the work of health care teachers in national and international level. Health care teachers experience work stress, mental strain, and heavy workload, but research on occupational well-being of health care teachers is very limited. The work community based occupational well-being developmental intervention (autumn 2021-autumn 2022) is implemented as a participatory action research in Tallinn and Tartu health care colleges using the Moodle e-learning environment. This project is also part of a larger research entity of the University of Eastern Finland, Department of Nursing Science, called Occupational Well-being in Education (OWE).