

Conclusions and recommendations from the TAIEX workshop on Harmonization of the Education for Nurses and Midwives INT MARKT 50826 organised in co-operation with the Association of Health Workers of Serbia (National nursing organisation), Belgrade, 21. and 22. January 2013.

More than one hundred Serbian Nursing and Midwifery leaders, representing the 70 different stakeholders, namely associations, unions, regulators - Chamber of Nurses and Medical Technicians, educators and clinical practice institutions, met in Belgrade with TAIEX Nursing and Midwifery Experts to discuss the current situation of the Serbian education of Nurses and Midwives and to consider what would be the best way to move forward in order to achieve successful EU accession and integration.

The atmosphere of the workshop was highly interactive, as expected. Key participants (TAIEX experts) and stakeholders have contributed in a positive way, achievement of objectives, together sharing the desire to be successful workshop. All participants have contributed: the search for common solutions to common challenges in terms of democratic change in the field on harmonization of education of nurses and midwives in accordance with EU Directive 36.

All interested parties wishing to continue their mutual cooperation, which is expressed during the workshop. Therefore, experts believe that the results of this workshop provides a clear basis for a fruitful process of accession EU in this area.

Workshop participants and experts of TAIEX agreed that the conclusions and recommendations be submitted to Addresses:

1. The President of Government of Serbia Republic, Mr. Ivica Dacic:
kabinetpremijera@gov.rs
2. The Vice President of Government of Serbia Republic for European Integration, Ms. Suzana Grubjesic eu.integracije@gov.rs
3. The Minister for Health of Serbia Republic, Ms. Slavica Djukic Dejanovic:
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4. The Minister for Education, Sciences and Tehnology Development, Mr. Žarko Obradović: kabinet@mpn.gov.rs
5. The Ministry for Work and Social Protection, Mr. Jovan Krkobabic
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6. The National counsel for higher education, the President, Mr. Srdjan Boskovic,
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7. The Assistant Minister for Health of Serbia, Ms. Dubravka Šaranovic-Racic:
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8. The Office for European Integration, The Director, Mr. Milan Pajević:
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9. The Office for World Health Organisation in Belgrade, Head of Country Office, Ms. Geraldine McWeeney: secretariat@who.org.rs
10. The Provincial Secretariat for Health of Vojvodina, Ms. Vesna Kopitović:
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11. The Secretariat for Health in Belgrade, Secretary Ms. Vera Dražić:
zdravstvo@beograd.gov.rs
12. The Board for Health and Family – National Assembly of Serbia, The President, Mr. Dušan Milisavljević: sekretar@parlament.rs
13. The Health Council of Serbia, The President, Mr. Dragan Delic:
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14. Chamber of nurses and medical technicians Serbia Director, Mr Dragan Sasic,
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15. Association of Health Workers of Serbia, President Ms Radmila Nesic,
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16. Union of Nurses and Medical Technicians of Serbia, the Secretary-General,
Ms Dragica Dašić: smsts@sbb.rs
17. High Medical School of Professional Studies Zemun, Belgrade, Director, Ms Andjelka Lazarevic: lazarevic.andjelka@gmail.com
18. High Health Sanitary School of Professional Studies "Visan" Assistant Director,
Ms Aleksandra Malivuk: skola@vzsvisan.com
19. **All participants in the Workshop with the obligation to submit directors of health institutions and other relevant organizations and educational institutions.**

After a two-day workshop, we came to the following unanimous conclusions:

CONCLUSIONS:

- That the EU accession process is desired by Nurses and Midwives and is a golden opportunity for both professions to contribute to the full extension of their capacities in order to give the Serbian and European citizens the high quality Nursing and Midwifery and to ensure mobility of the workforce across Europe;
- That the huge number of Serbian nurses and midwives will be of great use in the accession process and integration in the EU;
- Nursing and midwifery education, that while responding to the current needs and expectations of Serbia, nursing and midwifery education does not meet the requirements of the Directive 2005/36 in the district primary education to high professional medical schools, and changes have to be introduced so that Serbia Nurses and Midwives are able to make full use of all the rights of the European citizens, namely free movement;

RECOMMENDATIONS:

We Unanimously recommend that:

1. All Serbian nursing and midwifery stakeholders and health and Chamber, education authorities and institutions for nursing and midwifery educations initiate a joint process of reflection to decide how Nursing and Midwifery education should be in the future to best serve the Serbia society and meet EU requirements and what will be the best way forward to achieve this vision and implement the necessary changes;
2. A Nursing and Midwifery Act/Law is prepared in order to constitute the national framework to ensure the necessary conditions to implement the changes;

3. To form the entry level for Nursing and Midwifery education programmes, as soon as possible, in accordance with the 2005/36 Directive, and that means to extend the duration of general education which lasts for 12 years, and then to continue further nursing education
4. Immediate plans should commence to support practicing nurses, midwives and current teachers that wish to undertake the higher education degrees that will be needed to establish the harmonized nursing and midwifery education programmes;
5. Association of Health Workers of Serbia (National nursing association) should apply to TAIEX in order to continue these kind of events, to inform and assist during the accession and implementation process;
6. Discussions commence on supporting current nurses who wish to avail of free movement to achieve "bridging" courses
7. All the Workshops participants disseminate these conclusions and start discussions and reflections on their own workplaces and among their members;

Experts therefore suggest that the above suggestions, as made by all participants, should be taken seriously for the following reasons:

- Their unanimous acceptance,
- The importance of most of the recommendations in the light of the full membership of the EU accession and harmonization with the Directive 36/2005 EU
- The possibility of these staff mobility within the European framework
- Their potential impact on patient safety,
- As well as their potential impact on the effectiveness and usefulness of the health system of the Republic of Serbia.

Experts TAIEX mission, INT MARKT 50826:

1. Mr. António Manuel V. A. da Silva, *Centro Hospitalar do Porto and Member of the Ordem dos Enfermeiros, Portugal,*
2. Ms. Olga Riklikiene, *University of Health Sciences, Lithuania,*
3. Ms. Ana Giménez Maroto, *Ministry of Health, Spain,*
4. Ms. Anne Marie Ryan, *Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland,*
5. Ms. Mervi Jokinen, *Royal College of Midwives, UK*
6. Ms. Beata Cholewka, *Department of Nurses and Midwives, Poland and*
7. Ms. Gerlinde De Clercq, *Erasmus University College Brussels, Belgium*

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