

# To enhance Master's level education in mental health practice with eLearning materials - eMenthe: an European project 2014 - 2017

## Background and Motivation

Mental illness is increasingly widespread, affecting all ages over life-span. A need to develop different aspects of mental health promotion, prevention and more community-based care has been addressed and reported in several international, EU and national documents. To make the development possible there is a need for competent developers. For example nurses have been identified by the WHO to be in a key role because they are familiar with public health challenges while also being familiar with mental distress and illness.

## Research Problem and Approach

There are wide differences in the quality and content of mental health nurse education throughout Europe. These are evident in the course structures, emphasis and specific content. This diversity between programmes creates possibilities for countries to learn from one another and to share and benefit from the diverse approaches.

These concerns, challenges and development needs of mental health practice form the basis for the EU-funded eMenthe-project (2014-2016) which aims to enhance Master's level education in mental health practice by developing eLearning materials through a European co-operation.

## Goals

The project's aim is to develop eLearning materials with an action research approach in collaboration with Master's level students from these universities and associated partners from clinical practice. eLearning materials on three central themes: recovery, mental health promotion and prevention, the role of families and caregivers will be launched for students in Master's level and clinical practice to use.

## Results so Far

- Datacollection with stakeholders (see Table 1)
- Critical reviews (N=3) and stake of the art over the themes/problem areas
- Making eLearning materials and test the material among stakeholders during autumn 2015
- During 2016 eLearning materials will be made available to students undertaking Master's level education and professional nurses working in clinical practice.
- This dual approach to dissemination will support the professional competencies of practitioners as well as academic progression.

Knowledge Foundation



**Ireland**  
Trinity College Dublin  
**Netherlands**  
Utrecht University of Applied Sciences  
**United Kingdom**  
University of Nottingham  
**Sweden**  
Halmstad University  
**Finland**  
Diaconia University  
Turku University of Applied Sciences  
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In total, 139 stakeholders was interviewed including students n=40, colleagues'/leaders (n=63) and users/families (n=36) (see Table 1).

Table 1. Characteristics of interviewed stakeholders (N=139)

Stakeholder	Student	Colleague/Leaders	User/Family
Tampere	7	13	2
Trinity	4	4	2
Halmstad	7	11	10
Utrecht	10	8	6
Turku	5	7	2
Diaconia	2+1	14	13
Nottingham	4	6	1
Total	40	63	36

## Publications

2015

To enhance Master's level education in mental health practice with eLearning materials - eMenthe: an European project 2014 - 2017. International Philosophy Of Nursing Society (IPONS) Conference 2015, Technology, Health Care and Person-centeredness: Beyond Utopia and Dystopia. Thinking the Future, August 24-26, 2015, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

2014

eMenthe: a European co-operation project to enhance Master's level education in mental health practice with eLearning material. 3rd European Mental Health Conference 10.-12.9.2014. Organised by EviPro Oy in association with Tallinn Tervishoiu Korgkool, Turku University of Applied Sciences and AA unity service recovery.

Developing eLearning materials to support professional competencies and clinical careers on Master's level mental health practice in Europe. 18-20.8.2014 IPN/APNN conference in Helsinki. Organized by ICN and Finnish Nurses Association.

Developing Master's level eLearning material in mental health - Phase one, consulting with key stakeholders. 33rd Annual International nursing and Midwifery research and educational conference 2014, on 20 February.

2013

eMenthe: a European co-operation project to enhance Master's level education in mental health practice with eLearning materials. Horatio, European Psychiatric Nursing Congress, October 31-November 2, 2013, p. 152. Istanbul/Turkey.

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