

Challenges and opportunities for nursing education in Spain

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EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF EDUCATORS
IN NURSING SCIENCE

FÉDÉRATION EUROPÉENNE
DES ENSEIGNANTS
EN SCIENCES INFIRMIÈRES



Nursing Education in Spain

- Context / Opportunities
- Challenges



Nursing Education in Spain

Context / Opportunities

- Nursing degree:
- 240 ECTS
- 4 years

Two levels of nursing:

- Nursing degree
- Specialities: midwifery, geriatrics, pediatrics, mental health, occupational nursing, community nursing, medical-surgical nursing
- Nursing assistants



Nursing Education in Spain

Context / Opportunities

- 99 centers where nursing studies are taught in Spain (all of them are part of the Spanish Nursing Deans Association)
- 11,500 graduates per year
- High demand for students to access the Nursing Degree at University
- High graduation rate
- High job placement rate for graduated nurses



Nursing Education in Spain

Context / Opportunities

- Public and private offer with good coexistence between nursing education centers in Spain
- Spanish Nursing Deans Association:
 - Welcome to all centers
 - It works for the common good
 - Dialogue with the Ministry of Universities
 - Dialogue with Spanish Quality Agencies
- Excellent relationship with clinical nurses for the development of practices: teaching-care symbiosis



Nursing Education in Spain

Context / Opportunities

- Good simulation labs development
- High simulation activities in a great number of universities
- Good international connections with other international universities
- Good research development among Spanish nurses



Nursing Education in Spain

Challenges

- Precarious teaching staff in the university system:
 - Only 17% of permanent nursing faculty positions and decreasing every year
 - Retirement rate of permanent teachers in the next 5 years very high
 - Average age of access to permanent places: 48 years of age



Nursing Education in Spain

Challenges

- Unattractive academic career for nurses
- Especially difficult due to the very complex and demanding accreditation system for university teachers in Spain
- Linked teaching staff vacancies not deployed in our university system
- Associate lecturers (nursing clinicians) support teaching at university
- For this reason, it is difficult to train students in evidence-based practice



Nursing Education in Spain

Challenges

- Students are not very attracted for socio-health areas (geriatrics, dependency, mental health...)
- Patient/nurse ratio below OECD ratios
- Lack of nurses in the Spanish Health System
- High demand for nurses at Spanish Health System
- Need to train a great number of nurses



Nursing Education in Spain

Challenges

- Limitation of nursing specialties (in number of them) and in number of specialists and the little use that is given to them
- Graduates think of other opportunities: Norway, Sweden, etc.
- Pressure from the Spanish health system to train more nurses
- No regulation of figures such as advanced practice nurse, case manager, school nurse, etc.



Nursing Education in Spain

Challenges

- The need of the commitment of health centers to train nursing students
- Coordinate 2,300 hours of internships with 15-week semesters

Thank you!

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