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QUESTIONNAIRE



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Survey on the situation of nursing and midwifery in the countries of the European Region of WHO - 2008

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Nurses and Midwives: A force for health

Survey on the situation of nursing and midwifery in the countries of the European Region of WHO

In the year 2000 Ministers of Health of WHO's European Region adopted the Munich Declaration 'Nurses and Midwives: A force for health' at the Second WHO Ministerial Conference on Nursing and Midwifery held in Munich, Germany. The Munich Declaration is one of the essential international policy documents in Europe that is explicitly devoted to the Public Health challenges of our time and the contribution that nurses and midwives could make to tackle these challenges.

In the Munich Declaration Ministers of Health stressed that nurses and midwives constitute a significant political and social force and are a resource for public health and in ensuring the provision of highquality, accessible, equitable, efficient and sensitive health services to address people's rights and changing needs. The implementation of the principles of the Munich Declaration has been evaluated twice by the WHO Regional Office for Europe. While the first survey in 2001 revealed rather disappointing results and only limited progress in establishing measures and providing the right health systems conditions for nurses and midwives to work to their full potential, actual changes were identified during the second survey in 2004. However, existing obstacles and problems persisted. In addition, countries have to face new public health challenges that emerged during the last decade and call for action by health care decision-makers and the nursing and midwifery professions as well.

The purpose of this survey is to investigate the situation of nursing and midwifery almost a decade after the Munich Declaration and to identify areas that need a stronger international recognition and strategic development. For this purpose this investigation that is conducted by the Nursing and Midwifery Programme of the WHO Regional Office for Europe takes into consideration data from international statistics as well as qualitative and quantitative data that is provided by Ministries of Health and National Nursing/Midwifery Associations by filling in this questionnaire.

You may download this questionnaire from the WHO website or send an e-mail to the Nursing and Midwifery Unit at the Regional Office for Europe in Copenhagen and ask for an electronic version of this questionnaire. The questionnaire is available in English, Russian, French and German. To fill out the electronic version would be the most convenient way for the analysis, but you are also most welcome to print out the questionnaire, fill it in and return it by fax or mail to:

WHO Regional Office for Europe Nursing and Midwifery Programme c/o Bente Sivertsen Regional Advisor for Nursing and Midwifery Scherfigsvej 8 DK-2100 Copenhagen Denmark

E-mail address: <u>bes@euro.who.int</u> Phone number: +45 3917 1355 Fax number: +45 3917 1862.

Thank you for your support in this important investigation.

Please note: In some countries of the European Region nursing and midwifery are quite distinct professions whereas in others midwifery is a specialization of nursing. Where nursing and midwifery are different professions, please fill in this questionnaire for nursing and midwifery separately.

1. Political will and commitment			
This general question is intended to identify political debates from a governmental as well as from the professional associations' point of view.			
Question	Answer		
a) Have there been any relevant governmental statements with regard to nursing and/or midwifery?	□ Yes	□ No	
1. If so, what kind and on what subjects?			
 b) Have the National Nursing and/or National Midwifery Associations made any moves to ensure and/or initiate governmental and/or societal commitment? 1. If so, how has this been done? 	□ Yes	□ No	
2. If not, are there any plans to do so and what are the obstacles for not doing it?			
Additional comments and remarks:			

2. Public Health Challenges in the countries of the WHO European Region

Policies on human resources for health depend to a large extent on the public health challenges that actually exist in countries and those that are anticipated to become challenges in the future. This question is intended to learn about the public health challenges of individual countries and whether they influence policies on nursing and midwifery.

	iestion	Answer
		□ Increasing number of people with chronic conditions
<i>u)</i>		□ Access to primary health care
	66	\Box ensuring an adequate workforce of health professionals in the health
	country? (Please tick the	• •
		□ Increasing health inequalities
		□ Increasing need for long-term care
		□ Communicable diseases
	e	□ Migration of health care professionals to other countries
	country)	\Box Adequate funding for health care
	country)	\Box development of a sustainable health care system
		\Box Increasing number of people with mental health problems
		□ Environmental health risks
		□ Maternal and child health risks
		□ Non-communicable conditions
		□ Injuries
		□ Other (please specify):
b)	Do you see a particular	□ Increasing number of people with chronic conditions
Ĺ		□ Access to primary health care
	midwives in tackling these	□ Ensuring an adequate workforce of health professionals in the health
	challenges? If so, in what	care systems
	areas? (Please tick all the	□ Increasing health inequalities
	appropriate boxes):	□ Increasing need for long-term care
		Communicable diseases
		□ Migration of health care professionals to other countries
		□ Adequate funding for health care
		□ development of a sustainable health care system
		□ Increasing number of people with mental health problems
		Environmental health risks
		□ Maternal and child health risks
		□ Non-communicable conditions
		Injuries
		Other (please specify):

3. Legislation and professional regulation of nursing and/or midwifery

How nurses and midwives can contribute to the health systems requirements within a country depends to a large extent on the legislation and professional regulation by which professional practice is governed and organised. Legislation and regulation are the means by which it is determined who will enter the nursing and midwifery profession and what scope of practice characterizes the professional performance. In the previous surveys on the situation of nursing and midwifery in the European Region of WHO a lack of financial resources for nursing and midwifery as well as difficulties in defining the roles of nurses and midwives have been identified as weaknesses that prevent nurses and midwives to work to their full potential.

But also very positive developments have been reported by many countries in terms of moving from a definition by custom to a definition by legislation. In this survey the focus should be on how the role of nurses and/or midwives is defined. In addition it would be desirable to have a more detailed overview of existing definitions and the scope of practice in the different countries. Therefore we ask explicitly to include or attach the definition and legislation on nursing and midwifery in your country, if it is available in the English, French, German or Russian language.

Question		Answer
a)	How is the role of a nurse and/or midwife defined?	
b)	What is the definition of a nurse/midwife in your country (you may also attach a file or URL to answer this)?	
c)	What is the scope of practice of nursing and midwifery in your country? (Please tick all appropriate boxes)	• Care in nursing homes
d)	Who is responsible for the regulation of nursing and midwifery? (Please tick all appropriate boxes)	 National Ministry of Health

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e)	-		Definition and scope of a regulatory body
	by the legislative		Definition of nursing/midwifery
	framework of nursing and		
	midwifery in your		e
	country? (Please tick all	0	Entry requirements for programmes of initial professional education
	appropriate boxes)		in nursing and midwifery (such as age and years of school education)
		0	Duration of initial education
		0	Requirements for achieving licensure/ registration to practice as
			nurse/midwife
		0	Requirements for maintaining licensure/ registration to practice as
			nurse/midwife
		0	Educational standards
		0	Practice standards
		0	Continuing education/ Specialisation
		0	Discipline/conduct standards
		0	Other (please specify):
f)	Are there any plans to	П	Yes 🗆 No
1)	change the existing		
	legislative framework?		
	1. If so, for which		
	reasons?		
g)	Are nurses and midwives		
5)	themselves aware of their		
	potential? How do you		
	perceive the professional		
	self-perception?		
	sen perception:		
L			

4. Initial and continuing education and higher education

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One, if not the key aspect for nurses and midwives to contribute their full potential to health care systems is their initial and continuing education. The WHO Regional Office for Europe has launched a Strategy for initial nursing and midwifery education and for their continuing education as well. In previous years the implementation of the strategy for initial education was evaluated using the Prospective Analysis Methodology (PAM). This year the evaluation will be included in this survey.

	iestion	Answer
	How many years of school education are required to enter programmes for initial nursing and/or midwifery education?	
b)	What is the level of professional qualification after successful completion of the initial education?	 Vocational qualification: University (or equivalent higher education institution)
c)	What is the status of students during their initial education?	 Employees of a healthcare facility Student status Other (please specify):
d)	Characteristics of the curriculum for initial nursing/midwifery education (Please tick all appropriate boxes)	Competency basedCompetencies to practice in hospitals
e)	Are the settings for theoretical and practical initial education formally accredited?	□ Yes □ No

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f)	Is the teaching in both	\Box Yes \Box No
	theory and practice done	
	by nurses/midwives?	
	1. If so, do these nurses	\Box Yes \Box No
	and midwives hold a	
	degree equivalent to	
	the requirements for	
	teachers in other	
	professions?	
	2. If not, who is teaching	
	nurses and midwives	
	in the theory and	
	practice of nursing	
	and/or midwifery?	
g)	Have university	□ Yes □ No
0)	departments/faculties/	
	schools been established	
	to provide the full range	
	of professional education	
	for nurses and midwives	
	(pre-registration, post	
	basic, continuing	
	education, Master and	
	PhD level)?	
h)	How do such departments	
	fit in within the national	
	educational and health	
	care system?	
	-	
i)	When have these	
	programmes been	
	established?	
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
j)	Have there been important	Post secondary school/undergraduate (initial) education
J)	changes in nursing and	- Higher education
	midwifery education	
	during the last five years?	
		\Box No Changes
	(Please tick all the	
1 >	appropriate boxes):	
k)	In your judgment (and on	\Box Yes \Box No
	what grounds) will the	
	health sector's needs for	
	university-educated nurses	
	and midwives be met?	
	1. What proportion of	
	nurses and midwives	
	should be educated to	
	this level?	
	2. What are the current	
	proportions?	
	proportions:	

 Are there any existing opportunities for nurses, midwives and physicians to learn together in your country? If so, at what educational level and with 	□ No
what scope or focus? m) Are there opportunities for interdisciplinary learning with other professions (such as social workers, physiotherapists etc.)?	□ No

5. Fair rewards, recognition and opportunities for career advancement

In order to make a significant contribution to tackling the public health challenges of our time nurses and midwives need to have fair rewards, recognition and opportunities for career advancement. In 2004 a very heterogeneous picture was found on these issues. While in some countries this principle has almost been fully achieved, in others nurses and midwives were not able to make a living on the salaries they got. As nursing and midwifery are strongly gendered professions an important question is, whether and if so in what way that influences rewards, recognition and career prospects.

-		A newer
-	lestion	Answer
a)	What is the salary of	
	nurses and/or midwives?	
	1. In relation to other	B*
	professions how high	□ Higher than average
	is the national average	\Box Lower than average
	wage (where known)?	-
b)	What has been the trend	
	over the past five years?	
c)	What career prospects are	
	available within nursing	
	and/or midwifery?	
	-	
d)	Is there a formal pay and	\Box Yes \Box No
	career structure? If so,	
	what are the guiding	
	principles?	
e)	Are there gender issues	□ Yes □ No
	related to the pay and	
	career structure?	
f)	Is there any trend for	□ Yes □ No
	nurses and midwives to	
	seek better career	
	prospects outside their	
1	professions?	
	professions:	

6. Workforce planning strategies

In the 2004 evaluation on nursing and midwifery 2.9 million nurses and midwives constituted the actual workforce in the participating countries (30 out of 50). But only in few countries a targeted workforce strategy had been implemented. In this survey it is of particular interest whether the stated reasons for not having a workforce strategy (lack of data, lack of funding, and lack of assessment of future needs) have changed or do still exist.

1		American	
	estion	Answer	
a)	How many trained nurses	-	
	and midwives are in the	$\Box < 250$	
	country?	□ 251- 1000	
		□ 1001- 10000	
		□ 10001-50000	
		□ 50001-100000	
		□ 100001-200000	
		□ 200001-500000	
		□ >500000	
		Nurses:	Midwives
b)	How many nurses and	Nurses:	
	midwives constitute the	Midwives:	
	current workforce?		
c)	According to estimates,	Nurses:	
	how many nurses and	Midwives:	
	midwives are needed		
	currently and in the future		
	in the health care system?		
	-		
d)	Has there been a	□ Yes	□ No
	significant increase or	□ Increase	
	decrease of trained nurses	□ Decrease	
	and midwives over the		
	past years? If so, for what		
	reasons (retirement,		
	migration, move from/to		
	other professions etc.)		
e)	Is there a workforce	□ Yes	🗆 No
	policy based on explicit		
	assumptions about future		
	needs? If so, please		
	specify:		
f)	Is there a workforce	\Box Yes	□ No
	planning strategy in the		
	country? If so, please		
	specify:		
g)	Are there any problems	□ Yes	🗆 No
	with workforce planning		
	strategies? If so, please		
	specify:		

0		
h) Are policies and	□ Yes	□ No
programmes established		
which ensure healthy		
workplaces and quality of		
the work environment for		
nurses and midwives? If		
so, please specify:		

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7. Obstacles for nurses and midwives to work to their full potential

Beside the legislative and regulatory framework there may be other obstacles that either support or prevent nurses and midwives from working to their full potential. In previous surveys medically dominated health care systems and a lack of financial resources have been identified to be major obstacles. But also societal aspects such as the role of women in society or the availability of young people who may enter the nursing and midwifery profession may be influential. Question Answer a) What obstacles exist that \square Medically dominated health care systems prevent nurses and \square Lack of financial resources midwives to work to their D Problems of defining their professional roles full potential? (Please tick \Box Other (please specify): all appropriate boxes) b) Are there obstacles for \square Yes □ No nurses and midwives related to gender? If yes, please comment. c) Are there obstacles for \square Yes \square No midwives nurses and professional related to status? If yes, please comment. d) Is there national \square Yes а □ No recruitment and retention policy in place? If so, is it gender-sensitive? e) Do recruitment policies of \square Yes \square No other countries (such as countries from Western Europe attracting nurses from Eastern Europe) have an impact on the nursing and/or midwifery workforce in your country? f) What is the approximate within the nursing profession: 0 ratio between women and men: • within the health care system as a whole

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g) How is the public	
perception of nurses and midwives?	
	□ Yes □ No

8. Decision-making at all levels

Strengthening the role and contribution of nursing and midwifery in national health care systems includes the participation of the professions in decision-making at all levels of policy development and implementation. A Chief Nursing Officer in Ministries of Health has been reported to be the most powerful way of ensuring the participation of nurses and midwives in decision-making. Regular participation and membership in executive and advisory boards also enables nurses and midwives to contribute to decision-making. Of particular interest in this section is on what kind of decisions nurses and midwives are participating, those related to nursing and midwifery issues or also those on general health care affairs.

	lestion	Answer
a)	How are nurses and midwives acknowledged to be relevant stakeholders at the different levels by	
	government and how are they involved in decision- making processes by national and sub national health administrations?	
b)	What is the current nursing and midwifery input into the policy- making decision process on health related issues?	
c)	What strategies do nurses and midwives themselves adopt to contribute to decision-making at all levels?	
d)	How are the contributions of nurses and midwives received by the relevant authorities? Are they taken into account in policy formulation?	
e)	How does the involvement of nurses and midwives in decision- making compare with the involvement of other interests in the health sector?	
f)	To what extent nurses and midwives were involved in decision-making on health related issues in your country? (Percentage of number of decisions)	• First sub national level (Regions, Federal States, Districts etc.):

9. Role in public health and community development

During the last years considerable achievements have been reported in terms of nurses and midwives playing an increasingly important role in public health and community development. However, there have been aspects that limit the contribution of nurses and midwives to public health and community development such as lack of financial resources and reimbursement policies for health care services. An important part of public health nursing and midwifery are family-focused programmes and services that acknowledge the invaluable role that families play in establishing health behaviours and taking care for sick family members. Such programmes and services could be provided, for example, by the Family Health Nurse.

Qu	lestion	Answer
a)	Do nurses and midwives contribute to debates on public health priorities at governmental level?1. If so, in what way?2. If not, what are the reasons?	□ Yes □ No
b)	 Do nurses and midwives receive any special training in public health and public health policy? 1. If so, in what way? 2. If not, do plans exist to include public health and public health policy into the educational curricula? 	□ Yes □ No
c)	What measures are required to establish/consolidate a public health and community-oriented role for nurses and midwives?	
d)	 Are there any family-focused community programmes or services established? 1. If so, where are they based? And how are they structured? 2. If none, what are the reasons that no such programmes and services have been established? 	□ Yes □ No

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e) Has your country	
implemented the WHO	
concept of the Family	
Health Nurse or parts of	
it?	
1. If so, to what extent	
and what are the	
experiences?	
2. If not, do plans exist to	
do so in the near	
future and is there a	
need for particular	
support?	

10. Evaluation and quality of nursing and midwifery services

Only very few countries in 2004 reported measures for the evaluation of nursing and midwifery services. Where measures were in place the evaluation usually is done according to predefined indicators.

Question	Answer
 a) Are there measures established for the evaluation of nursing and midwifery services? If so, 1. Who is responsible for the evaluation? 	□ Yes □ No
 2. Is there a legislation or regulation on the quality of nursing and midwifery services? 	□ Yes □ No
 Are there professional standards of practice available? If so, could you give examples? What indicators are used to determine the quality of nursing and midwifery services? 	□ Yes □ No
5. If there are no measures in place, do plans exist to introduce such measures?	□ Yes □ No
 b) Are there reports on the quality of nursing and midwifery that are publicly available? 1. If so, what have been the main concerns, problems and achievements on the quality of nursing and midwifery services? 	□ Yes □ No

11. Database on Nursing and Midwifery

Data and information on nursing and midwifery are needed for several regional, national and international purposes. In this section it is asked on what database the information on nursing and midwifery in Member States is based and who is collecting, analysing and presenting the data. Question Answer a) Is there a national nursing \Box Yes \square No register? 1. If yes, who is responsible for the administration and accuracy of the register: 2. If no, are there other means of monitoring the actual number of nurses/midwives in your country? b) Are facts related to \Box Yes \square No nursing and midwifery included in national statistics?

 1. If yes, what kind of data is included and Numbers of midwives:

 what are the current Employers of nurses and midwives: figures: Number of hospitals: Number of nursing homes: Number of home care services/agencies: Number of educational institutions for nurses and midwives: Other (please specify): c) How often are the existing \Box continuously databases on nursing and \Box every year midwifery updated? \Box every second year \Box every three years \Box every 4 years \Box every 5 years

12. Knowledge and evidence base for nursing and midwifery

The 2004 survey revealed that nurses and midwives in many countries initiated their own research or participated in interdisciplinary health care research. However, funding for nursing and midwifery research on a regular basis is only available in some countries as is the opportunity for nurses and midwives to pursue a career in nursing/midwifery research.

_	midwives to pursue a career in nursing/midwifery research.			
-	lestion	Answer		
a)	Is there a national nursing and midwifery research strategy? If so, what topics does it include? 1. What institutions exist to support nursing and midwifery research?	□ Yes	□ No	
b)	Do nurses and midwives have the opportunity to study for research-based degrees in their field of practice?	□ Yes	□ No	
	1. or are such options only available in other disciplines?		□ No	
	2. or do they have to go abroad in order to pursue research training and careers?	□ Yes	□ No	
c)	What research questions are students interested in?			
d)	e j			
	research facilities do not yet exist: 1. Are there any links with other countries that do provide	□ Yes	□ No	
	 research training? If so, please specify 2. Are there other professional groups within the country for the purpose of developing research capacity? If so, please specify 	□ Yes	□ No	

	Region of W110 - 2000		
e)	How are research results		
	disseminated in the		
	country?		
	1. Are there journals for	\Box Yes \Box No	
	the dissemination of		
	research results? If		
	there are Journals, do	1. Professional Nursing/Midwifery Journals:	
	you know how many:	2. Academic/scientific Nursing/Midwifery Journals:	
f)	Is funding available for	\Box Yes \Box No	
	nursing/midwifery		
	research? If so, where	□ government,	
	does the funding come	□ private sources,	
	from (Please tick all	nongovernmental organizations,	
	appropriate boxes)	□ commercial companies?	
		□ Other, please specify:	

13. International Collaboration and Guidance from WHO

Over the last years several documents on nursing and midwifery have been produced and disseminated by the Nursing and Midwifery Programme at WHO Europe. To develop materials that will be used and are helpful for nursing and midwifery policies in Member States it is important to know how these materials have been used and what future needs on support and guidance exist.

Beside direct support from the WHO Regional Office for Europe collaboration between countries and different organisations within countries have been reported to be very helpful. An example for such collaboration were twinning projects and direct partnership agreements between organisations and/or countries.

Qu	iestion	Answer
	Has any of the guidance from WHO Europe on nursing and midwifery been used in shaping the nursing and midwifery policy in your country? 1. If so, which one and for what purpose? What support would be helpful in the future?	
c)	What mechanisms have been set up that have been helpful in strengthening international collaboration and ties with counterparts in other countries?	
d)	In what areas has international collaboration been particularly useful?	
e)	What organizations have been most helpful?	

The WHO Regional Office for Europe

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations created in 1948 with the primary responsibility for international health matters and public health. The WHO Regional Office for Europe is one of six regional offices throughout the world, each with its own programme geared to the particular health conditions of the countries it serves.

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World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe

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