

“PreQual Steps”

European dimensions within the intercultural qualification for migrant women entering the health and care sector

Pre-Qualification for Migrant Women in the Health and Care Sector (PreQual) is a collaborative project of 5 European countries within the Leonardo da Vinci Vocational Trainings Programme

The primary goal of the prequalification measure PreQual was to fill a gap in the international education system for nursing and social care occupations, by specially implementing an innovative course concept for the companionship and qualification of the target group. This scheme focused on the increasing need throughout Europe for certified nursing staff, the necessity to facilitate access to the qualified labor market for migrant women, as well as tried to match the labor market needs with those of migrant women and to provide a future-oriented and innovative solution.

The PreQual project, already being completed in Austria, Germany and Italy, was also implemented, within the PreQual-steps course “Prequalification for migrant women in the health and care sector” in Hungary, Czech Republic, Spain and Greece during the academic year 2008-09.

The concept of the project drew upon the following experiences:

- Work and results within the framework of PreQual (international EU project, LdV program)
- Experiences from the implementation of the course in the years 2006, 2007, 2007/08 and 2008/09 and that from the international innovation transfer project PreQual steps within whose framework PreQual courses were implemented in the following countries: CZ, ES, GR and HU.
- Cooperation with educational institutions: courses were partly held on the premises of a nursing school or a retirement home
- Institutions offering care and other facilities of the healthcare system
- External experts from various areas (registered nurses with additional qualifications/university degree, lecturers at nursing schools, caregivers, doctors, experts from the social sector ...)
- Regular contact and sharing with experts in conjunction with the well developed network in this sector

PreQual-Steps and its qualification measure PreQual are based on a completely new concept of education, which represents an interface between regular educational programmes within the field of health and care, educational institutions and migrant women. The concept

of the project is based on the pedagogy of Paulo Freire and Augusto Boal following the principles of participation and intercultural education.

Project partners:

Greece: Antigone - Information & Documentation Centre on Racism, Ecology, Peace and Non Violence, www.antigone.gr

Hungary: DemNet - Foundation for Development of Democratic Rights, www.demnet.org.hu

Spain : IEPALA - Instituto de Estudios Politicos Para América Latina y Africa, www.iepala.es

Austria: maiz - autonomous centre by and for migrant women, www.maiz.at

Czech Republic : Sofia, www.cet-sofia.cz

PreQual-steps project website: <http://prequalsteps.maiz.at>

Fore more information, please see the deliverables of the project.