

VIA University College to lead EU-funded project in nursing

VIA is leading a new international development project aimed at increasing the use of simulation in schools of nursing across Europe.

By Camilla Victoria Marcinkowski, journalist and MSA, cama@viauc.dk

Before they even enter a hospital room, nursing students learn and practice their skills using advanced computerized model-patients in simulated hospital environments. The use of this advanced technology places demands on nurse educators to develop new skills to make best use of simulation in the classroom.

In collaboration with international partner universities, Randers School of Nursing at VIA has just been awarded 250.000 Euro to adapt and refine a curriculum for nurse educators across Europe.

“We are excited to start working on this 2-year project, which will help meet an increasing demand for the use of simulation. Our plan is to develop a programme for continuing education that builds on the latest research and offers nurse educators the skills they need to integrate simulation technology in their teaching,” explains Tina Hartvigsen, lecturer at Randers School of Nursing.

Setting new standards

The use of simulation in healthcare education is growing rapidly. Today, nurse students “treat” computerized models that bleed, talk and need resuscitation. According to research, this training increases patient safety ensuring that newly qualified nurses are well prepared to treat “real” patients.

“We believe this project will set new standards for Nurse Educator Simulated Learning around the world”, says Elina Erikson, Director of the Faculty of Health Care and Nursing, Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences.

A team from the University of Huddersfield is excited to be a part of the project group.

“We believe this project, which is based on original work done in Huddersfield and refined through our collaborative, evidence-based work, has much potential for establishing European and international benchmarks for simulation in nurse education” says Annie Topping, professor of nursing at the University of Huddersfield.

Increasing international cooperation

Educational institutions increasingly work in international partnerships. In addition to the University of Huddersfield and Helsinki Metropolia University, the simulation project includes Tallinn Healthcare College, Johns Hopkins University, and Wollongong University in Australia. The private company Laerdal Medical, which produces medical equipment, is also a project partner.

An important aspect of the new development project is to strengthen the international cooperation in nurse education.

“Developing a network of international educators is a way to increase the quality of our education of future nurses, which is important as the healthcare profession increasingly turns inter-

national in scope,” Tina Hartvigsen says.

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