



PreQual



Education and Culture

Leonardo da Vinci

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INTERNATIONAL PROJECT FOR MIGRANT WOMEN - PRESS RELEASE

Pre-Qualification for Migrant Women in the Health and Care Sectors (PreQual) is a collaborative project of 6 European countries whose main aim is to support migrant women in the health and care sector.

PreQual is an innovative pilot project within the Leonardo da Vinci vocational trainings programme, with the objectives to develop, test and publish a curriculum for the pre-qualification of migrant women to work in the health and care sectors.

The diverse national and international partners have culminated into a partnership manifesting widespread competencies, experiences as well as their range of contacts to the various target groups and their range of spheres of influence. The partnership of PreQual consists of the promoting organisation “Verein maiz” in Austria and organisations in Germany, Italy, Greece, Bulgaria and Spain.

In tandem to developing the curriculum, the relevant experts will research, analyse and develop the appropriate contents and materials for that purpose. The selection resulting from this process will be implemented and tested in the pre-qualification training course in Austria, Germany and Italy.

After completion of all three pilot courses, the feedback and the comments of all participants will be incorporated into the final curriculum of the PreQual project.

A handbook will be produced and will serve as learning and teaching material. The handbook will include a detailed description of the contents of the curriculum to be supplemented by instructions on methodology, learning material, material for self-study and further literature.

The PreQual project intends to match the labour market needs with those of migrant women and to provide a future-oriented and innovative solution.

PILOT COURSES WITHIN THREE PARTNER COUNTRIES

Austria



In Austria between January and June 2006, 12 women from various occupational and educational backgrounds attended the intensive PreQual course. In addition to an extensive spectrum of nursing and care topics from an inter-cultural perspective, the PreQual course covered a variety of migration-related experiences and issues. Within the framework of 2 one-week shadow internships the course participants had the opportunity to observe and experience first-hand the internal workings of various health and care institutions. The course participants also had the opportunity to complete the Certified First Aid course conducted by the Austrian Red Cross as well as to experience excursions to various local health and care institutions.

Further activities included an open house to celebrate the International Nurses Day as well as hosting the director and nursing students from a local institution with the goal of exchanging viewpoints and experiences in nursing training. The women valued the relevance and practicability of the course and appreciated learning and working in an atmosphere that was motivating.

So far several participants have successfully passed the entrance exams and are presently attending a nurse's aid training course. Meanwhile a follow-up PreQual Course has been approved and will start on January, 8th 2007 at maiz.

Germany



In Germany the pilot course started on May 3, 2006 with 13 participants and it is supported financially by the German Employment Agency. The duration is 6 months including a practical part of 4 weeks, where women can train their skills in hospitals, elderly people's homes, geriatric homes etc.

The course contents are strongly related to the health and care sectors but take into consideration the migration background of the participants. The curriculum developed in close cooperation between the project partners includes among others:

- Introduction to the field of nursing – from an intercultural perspective (Concept of work, Law, First Aid),
- Personal orientation within the Health and Social Care Sector,
- Language and communication skills with an occupational-related focus,
- Internship and Coaching.

After successfully finishing the course each woman will receive a certificate showing their gained skills, which can be the basis for further training or the entrance to the target sector.

This course is an important step to improve both – job and integration possibilities – for migrant women in the health and care sectors.

Italy



In Italy the pilot course started later, in October 2006. It has been re-modulated in consideration of the suggestion and demand coming from the women themselves, interviewed during a common group discussion and several individual dialogs.

In consequence of this decisions the course in Italy will have a duration of 400 hours instead of 600 and will be run until the 5th of march 2007, included the internship.

Contents of the curriculum haven't changed, so migrant women will acquire knowledge and competencies on subject related to the health and care practices of assistance at home and at institutes and hospitals, moreover technical language, First Aid, multicultural approach to care and assistance, institutional and low scenarios and organization.

The course trainers and student will be supported throughout all the course period by a pedagogical expert who will assure the application and experimentation of the Paulo Freire methodology.

In the meanwhile it has been taken contacts with the Regione Lazio Direzione Istruzione, Formazione, Diritto allo Studio, with the department called Standard Formativi in order to submit the pilot project to the process of recognition of the professional profile in the regional repertoire of professions. If the evaluation process will be positive, the course will have a formal Regional recognition, and it will possible to release a further certification, very much expected by the women themselves.

Project Partners:

ADBI (Italy), ANTIGONE (Greece), EBG (Germany), CESV (Italy) HCA (Bulgaria), IEPALA (Spain), MAIZ (Austria)

Project-website: www.prequalonline.org



Programme

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