

Call

Development of a competence profile extension for the working field of a “Surgical Nurse”



For the Erasmus+ project **HCEU “HealthCareEurope: Fostering transparency and recognition of prior learning within geographical mobility of professionals in the health care sector”** we are inviting interested candidates to apply for the **development of a competence profile for the profession “Surgical Nurse”**.

HCEU is a three year project lasting from September 2015 to September 2018 aiming at fostering labour market mobility in the health care sector through recognition of foreign qualification. In order to streamline and make recognition processes within health care comparable in and among EU countries and therefore foster cross-border mobility of health care professionals, the HCEU project develops tools and instruments applicable in different national contexts within cross-border recognition processes and based on work practise as basis for comparison. The projects’ major focus is on the professional profiles “nursing” and “elder care nurse.” The HCEU outcome equips recognition authorities, employers, supporting organisations and migrating health care professionals with valid and helpful tools for recognition processes.

The HCEU products are based on the learning outcome approach and existing European instruments such as ECVET (European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training) and ESCO (European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations) and will use the widely recognised and award winning VQTS (Vocational Qualification Transfer System) approach as common basis for comparison and recognition across borders. The HCEU project utilises the VQTS matrix approach in the context of comparing and recognising health care qualifications obtained within other learning contexts than the national formal qualifications system. The whole set of matrices, tools, instruments, module outlines and guidelines necessary to practically use the VQTS approach within cross-border mobility of health care professionals is applied to the key positions nurse “nursing” and “elder care nurse” and exemplary specialisations. In this way an objective and transferable set of instruments valid all across Europe is prepared independently from a specific (national) formal qualification context.

Project key elements are:

- Competence matrix on “Professional Care” (incl. nursing and elder care nurse) based on learning outcomes
- Organisational profiles displaying qualifications from different European countries for certificates/ qualifications on “nursing” and/or “elder care nurse”
- Web-based tool for the interactive presentation of the matrix and the related HCEU tools

Description of the task

This contract aims to develop additional competence descriptions for the specialisation “Surgical Nurse” as an extension to and based on the already developed matrix “Professional Care”. The different elements to be developed are supposed to be expressed in work

processes, underlying steps of competence development and learning outcomes (knowledge, skills and competences) for the defined competence development steps.

The development of a learning outcome based description of the work related to the field “surgical nurse” will be based on the VQTS matrix approach (further information to VQTS matrix: <http://www.vocationalqualification.net/>). The HCEU consortium is going to support the development of the competence profile by introducing the VQTS approach via a webinar and providing further methodical support regarding application of the matrix and the learning outcomes approach.

The description should express the competence areas, sub-competence areas and the steps of competence development. According to European standards the description has to be formulated in learning outcomes (knowledge, skills and competencies) and has to display core tasks in the work process.

The core elements of the VQTS matrix for the “surgical nurse” are:

- additional matrix elements displaying additional tasks and work processes
- competencies are structured according to core tasks and the progress of competence development
- the competence profile is formed from individual parts of the competence matrix

In order to achieve the aim, reviewing the national curricular material and involving experts’ own expertise in the field of “surgical nurse” through interviews and consultations is required. Further information on the work done so far can be obtained at the project website (www.project-hceu.eu regarding the matrix “Professional Care”) or from the project coordinator (contact katja.kalusch@dekra.com regarding learning outcomes descriptions on different steps of competence development).

Expert’s profile in the field of “surgical nurse”

The potential candidate should have a strong background in the field of “surgical nurse”. She/he should demonstrate practical experience as “surgical nurse” or equivalent knowledge of the work processes of “surgical nurses”. Moreover, the applicant has expertise in the national education and qualification structures in the respective field. Prior experience in competence assessment is highly appreciated. It is expected that the applicant is willing to familiarise themselves with the VQTS (Vocational Qualification Transfer System) and the learning outcomes approach of the European Qualifications Framework (EQR). The candidate should also have excellent command of the English language (both verbal and written).

Budget

Our project allows for a maximum contract amount of up to Euro 6.000 (incl. all related costs) for the development of a competence matrix for the profession “surgical nurse”. However, this tender is transparent, fair and based on principles of equal treatment, which also means candidates are able to propose different financial offers according to their own estimated costs. All candidates are expected to specify at least the following items in their offer:

planned working days for (1) desk research, (2) interviews and consultations with experts, (3) development of the matrix (4) (virtual) meetings with coordination team for the duration of the contract. Furthermore, candidates are requested to specify her/his VAT status. The contract will be awarded to the bid offering best value for money (best-price-quality ratio).

Timeline

Proposals incl. a concept note (max. 3 pages) and budget should be sent before **15 September 2017** by e-mail to Katja Kalusch, DEKRA Akademie GmbH Stuttgart, Deutschland (katja.kalusch@dekra.com). It is expected to implement the research and development contract between September and December 2017.

For further information you may also contact Ms Katja Kalusch.

Further information on the HCEU project: <http://www.project-hceu.eu/>

Further information on the approaches used in the project:

VQTS: <http://www.vocationalqualification.net/>

ECVET: https://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/vocational-policy/ecvet_en

ESCO: <https://ec.europa.eu/esco/portal/home?resetLanguage=true&newLanguage=en>