

## ***Pulse 2.0 in short***

The Erasmus+ project “Pulse 2.0: Assessment of language and communication skills for foreign nursing assistants and caregivers” aims at reinforcing and facilitating language, communicative and intercultural competences relevant to the medical workplace in the nursing and caregiving sector.

The project addresses health associate professionals, nursing assistants and personal care workers in mobility or planning mobility, training organizations providing tailored training for health care staff, and employers in the health care sector with the aim to contribute to developing solutions to the identified challenges by:

- ▶ designing, piloting and validating assessment tools aimed at measuring language proficiency in Swedish, Italian and German as foreign languages in an occupational context, more specifically in the nursing and caregiving sector in Sweden, Austria and Italy.
- ▶ providing an autonomous access to innovative language learning resources and instruments for language skills testing;
- ▶ facilitating the development of innovative language learning and assessment practices in the field of vocational education and training;
- ▶ rising awareness of needs of inclusion and of cultural and linguistic diversity in a professional context.

## ***Kick-off meeting in Rotterdam***

Partners got together on the 12th of November, 2019 for the kick-off-meeting of the project in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Within the aims of the meeting the most important aspects were for partners to get to know each other, alongside discussing about the project objectives. Partners already involved in the previous project shared their experiences with the newcomers in order to achieve the best project results possible.



## ***First steps taken***



As one of the first action items in the project, the Pulse 2.0 research study was performed with the aim of getting a clear picture of language, communication and intercultural competences needed by foreign nursing assistants and caregivers. The research phase consisted of two parts: (1) desk research and (2) interviews with the target groups: practitioners in the health-care sector, as well as educators and language experts.

The report summarizes the findings from the desk research phase and the interviews/surveys carried out in Italy, Sweden, Austria and Romania in November 2019-February 2020 with further input from interviews carried out with practitioners and experts across Europe (overall 171 respondents). It outlines specific working situations for which healthcare assisting staff need to improve and test their language, communication knowledge and skills and which implications this has for the further product development of the Pulse 2.0 project.

## ***What comes next?***

Taking into consideration the research report findings, partners in the recent months were working on the development of the methodology for the assessment tool and also the syllabuses which will represent the basis of the training material which will help nurses and caregivers improve their language and intercultural skills for better employability conditions and provision of higher quality services in the foreign countries they opt to work in. In addition to that, in September the joint development of the Assessment tool and also the Learning tool will begin. Should you be a medical sector or language provider institution representative, follow us and we'll keep you updated with the latest news and developments.

## ***Partners who are working on the project***

- ▶ CFL Söderthamn, Sweden
- ▶ Inthecity Project Development, Netherlands
- ▶ University for Foreigners of Siena - International University, Italy
- ▶ Spektrum Educational Center Foundation, Romania
- ▶ „die Berater“ Unternehmensberatung GmbH, Austria