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ProInCa

**Promoting the Innovation Capacity of Higher Education in Nursing during
Health Services' Transition**

D4 Joint International Research Projects on Nursing

WP2.3 Establish HEI research program and networking in nursing



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Summary

Work Package 2.3 of the ProInCa project aims to strengthen Medical Universities' role in building evidence-based nursing research activities in health services. This report focuses on implementing identified focus areas for a nursing research program in medical universities and launching joint research projects in collaboration with international experts. The work was carried out in cooperation with two European universities (JAMK University of Applied Sciences and LAB University of Applied Sciences from Finland) and five (5) Kazakhstani project partners. The activities included joint discussions with dean and department heads of nursing programmes in autumn 2019, a course of five webinars that took place in the spring of 2020, and participatory activities in autumn 2020 with the aim of creating joint interdisciplinary research activities on nursing at each of the medical universities in Kazakhstan with medical institutions and an EU partner.

In the autumn of 2020, online meetings were organized with deans, heads of departments of nursing schools / faculties of Medical Universities of Kazakhstan to plan autumn events. Based on the suggestions of representatives of MU nursing schools and feedback from the spring webinars, an online-seminar and a mini-conference were organized. The aim of the autumn 2020 activities was to ensure discussion and promotion of nursing research in medical universities in collaboration with healthcare practice. As a result, some examples of nursing research covering the most relevant and important topics of nursing research to date were obtained. The participants of both the autumn 2019 and year 2020 events were teachers of medical universities / higher medical colleges, bachelor students, Master and PhD students, nurses, representatives of practical healthcare.

In collaboration with tutors from European universities, Kazakhstani universities have developed five joint international research projects, three of which have been completed and two in the process. The following topics were chosen for the development: 1) palliative nursing, 2) nursing in stroke rehabilitation, 3) diabetes care, 4) nurses' role in anticoagulant therapy 5) prevention of sharp injuries.

1 Introduction

The aim of the WP2.3 is to strengthen Medical Universities' role in building evidence-based nursing research activities in health services. This is important in order to promote the quality and safety of health care system. Activities of the WP2.3 contain supporting the development of research agenda on nursing in Medical Universities by learning from the international practices on nursing research development (2.3.2) and building the joint capacity of Medical Universities and health facilities in nursing research (2.3.3.). This report will concentrate on describing the activities and results of the implementation of the nursing research agenda through creation of international joint nursing research projects. The expected impact of this activity is four joint research projects in nursing.

In order to support this there was organized online meeting, seminars, lectures and webinars which gave possibility to share and exchange experiences and best practices in nursing research methodology and nursing research topics of Kazakhstan with staff and students of nursing faculties. Firstly, creation of common understanding between medical universities about the nursing research was supported. Secondly, networking and discussion between the stakeholders on nursing research was facilitated. Finally, the five medical universities from the Republic of Kazakhstan and a two EU-partners, namely JAMK University of Applied Sciences and LAB University of Applied Science from Finland worked together to create joined multidisciplinary research activities in nursing on from autumn 2019 until December 2020.

2 Creation of common understanding between medical universities about nursing research

Report on recommendations to Medical Universities for creation of nursing research agenda (Heikkilä & Hopia 2019) was sent by email to all medical universities' deans and department heads of nursing programmes in September 2019 not only to collect final feedback on the relevance and the adequacy of the recommendation but also in order to create a common understanding between the the stakeholders about the development of nursing research. First online meeting on creation



of joint nursing research projects was arranged with deans and department heads in September 2019 to discuss this issue. Each of the universities were asked to prepare a presentation on the possible areas of collaboration for October Master Class. Karaganda and Semey Medical Universities were able to suggest possible future research topics of their faculty in the line of the recommendations of the priorities for Kazakhstan however, mostly the presentations held during the Master Class summarized the present research activities of the nursing students. At the online meeting in November 2019 Semey, Karaganda, and West-Kazakhstan medical universities and Nazarbayev University presented their proposals for possible areas of collaboration in research in nursing. The proposed topics were relevant and current, however they were not yet detailed enough nor did they contain international joint research approach. For the December 2019 online meeting the universities were asked to clarify the research topic and to define the research question, relevance of the study, the methods, and the researchers. The online meetings were continued in January 2020 with the deans and departments heads of nursing programmes on launching the joint nursing research projects. Only Karaganda, Semey and West-Kazakhstan MU were able to slowly proceed, therefore it was decided to increase the level of support by the European partners to the staff and students at Medical Universities.

Five online webinars on research methodology in nursing science and research were planned, organized and carried out by experts from JAMK and KMU in spring 2020 (see Table 1). The aim of the webinars was to share experiences and best practices in nursing research between Kazakh Medical Universities and Finnish experts. Every webinar was created so that it contained 1) pre-reading material for participants, 2) an introductory lecture provided by JAMK's expert and 3) exchanging views and opinions on the topic in question between participants from Kazakhstani Medical Universities and Finnish experts. The topics were built in such a way to reflect vital parts of the research plan/proposal in nursing science and thus help Kazakhstani Medical University staff to build their research capacity specifically in nursing research and nursing science for future. The webinars were advertised well in advance for all faculty staff and master students by KMU.

During the five webinars, participants had the opportunity to analyze the current research that is being carried out in medical universities in Kazakhstan in the framework of master's theses, as well



as research of teachers of nursing. The skills to search for information from the CINAHL database was an added value for the participants, as it is yet not available in Kazakhstani medical universities for their staff nor students. These webinars were attended by Master students and teachers of nursing from five universities in Kazakhstan: Karaganda Medical University, Astana Medical University, Nazarbayev University School of Medicine, West Kazakhstan Medical University and Semey Medical University. Altogether 94 professionals took part, gained new knowledge and built their capability in nursing research.

Table 1. Online webinars on nursing science research

Date	Webinar topics	Responsible person	Number of participants
30.1.2020	Databases, literature acquisition, literature	Sari Järvinen/JAMK	40
13.2.2020	Research design	Hanna Hopia/JAMK	18
18.3.2020	Data collection	Sari Järvinen/JAMK	10
15.4.2020	Data analyses	Sari Järvinen/JAMK	13
5.4.2020	Validity, reliability, trustworthiness	Hanna Hopia/JAMK	13

At the end of the webinars, feedback was received from participants, who noted the usefulness of knowledge gained on information retrieval and analysis skills, which in turn will contribute to their own research. Participants gained the skills to analyze articles on nursing research, as well as deepened their knowledge of methods and tools for conducting qualitative and quantitative research. It should be noted that participants were interested in exploring deeper topics such as descriptive quantitative data analysis and qualitative content analysis.

During the discussions on the organization of the work of the working group in connection with the extension of the project, it was decided to hold an online meeting with deans and heads of departments to ensure the sustainability of the project after the end. Representatives from Karaganda Medical University, Astana Medical University, Semey Medical University, West Kazakhstan Medical University, Nazarbayev University School of Medicine took part in this meeting. At the meeting, the main problems and possible solutions were discussed when launching joint research projects on nursing in Kazakhstan. And suggestions were considered what to do in the autumn, based on the spring experience. Deans and heads shared their ideas and problems that arose when launching joint research. They also put forward questions and suggestions for the necessary methodological assistance from European universities. It was proposed to organize autumn events in the form of an online seminar and mini-conferences on the topics of nursing research.

3 Supporting networking and discussion between the stakeholders on nursing research

As part of supporting joint international research of medical universities in the autumn of 2020, an online seminar and a mini-conference on nursing were organized. The autumn events were based on feedback received from participants of spring webinars, as well as on the recommendations of participants in an online meeting of deans of schools of nursing education in medical universities in Kazakhstan.

On October 21, 2020, an online seminar "Nursing Research topics in Kazakhstan: Welcome to discuss!" was held, where master, doctoral students and nursing teachers took part. At the opening, the participants were greeted by the Doctor of medical sciences, Professor, Vice-Rector for Strategic Development and Science of Karaganda Medical University, Anar Akylbekovna Turmukhambetova and Vilen Molotov-Luchanskiy Doctor of medical sciences, professor, Advisor to the rector. The aim of the event was to ensure discussion and to promote research on nursing in medical universities in collaboration with practical healthcare. In total, 104 participants took part in the seminar. The participants of this seminar were teachers of medical universities, higher



medical colleges, Master and PhD students, applied and academic bachelor students, as well as practical healthcare nurses.

During the online seminar lecturers from JAMK University of Applied Sciences: Hanna Hopia, PhD, Principal lecturer, and Sari Järvinen, PhD, Specialist, both from the School of Health and Social Studies presented Examples of nursing research on stroke rehabilitation and Examples of nursing research on diabetes counselling.

After the main presentations, the participants were divided into several groups and discussed ideas for current and future nursing research topics. Each group discussed and identified the importance of topics in relation to their field (practical health care or higher education institutions). Thus, in the course of the activity, the following important topics of nursing research were discussed and identified: “Clinical nursing guidelines and documentation”, “Nurses role and decision-making”, “The essence of nursing care in different fields”, “Patient education in non-communicable diseases”, “Nursing management and leadership” and “Nursing education”.

Table 2. Nursing research topics based on participants suggestion in the online seminar

<p>NURSING EDUCATION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reforming of nursing education leads to new positions. 2. Determine the types of motivation for the growth of the nurse's image. 3. Master's students in nursing and their role in Kazakhstan after graduation 4. Distance education in nursing. 5. Development of nursing education at the academic and applied bachelor's levels 6. Professional training of a nurse in the workplace. 7. Communication skills in nursing
<p>PATIENT EDUCATION IN NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health promotion and patient counselling 2. Self-management of chronic non-communicable diseases.
<p>CLINICAL NURSING GUIDELINES AND DOCUMENTATION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The implementation of a unified database on nursing care 2. Organization of the nursing process, 3. Development of Republican forms of nursing documentation, protocols, guidelines for Delegating medical functions to nursing specialists
<p>NURSES' ROLE AND DECISION-MAKING</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nurses role in nursing process, stroke / oncological diseases / healthy lifestyles / rehabilitation from undergone 2. Clinical decision-making in intensive care nurses and surgical wards
<p>NURSING MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The basis for the wages in nursing / differential payment



2. Leadership in nursing
3. Problems of lack of demand for bachelor of nursing
4. Delegating medical functions to nursing specialists

THE ESSENCE OF NURSING CARE IN DIFFERENT FIELDS

1. Nursing care in burn / hematology departments for children
2. Nursing care for postoperative breast cancer / chemotherapy patients
3. Organization of nursing care for stroke patients
4. COVID-19

To support the development of nursing research, Karaganda Medical University and JAMK University of Applied Sciences organized a mini-conference "Promoting innovation and research in nursing" on November 26, where participants were able to share their planned research as well as results. The aim of this event was to encourage discussion between educational institutions and practical health care and to promote research in nursing. There were 126 participants in the mini conference, out of which the majority from higher medical colleges (46), medical universities (36), and clinical practice. The participants were Master and PhD students, students of academic and applied bachelor, as well as nurses and teachers. From 19 abstracts that were submitted to the mini-conference seven were accepted for presentation. Most of the researchers were from four out of six medical universities that have master level nursing education in Kazakhstan. In addition, there were abstracts prepared by master graduates in nursing and PhD in Nursing science students. Two abstracts were prepared by teachers from higher medical colleges and one by nurses from clinical practice. (Heikkilä et al 2020.)

The abstracts were mostly from the field nursing science (68 %; n=13), however almost one third were from the field of public health (26 %; n=5) and medicine (n=1). Most of the abstracts were descriptive justifications or background information for future research with limited peer-reviewed references. Only four abstracts were empirical studies and two which claimed to be literature reviews. The two abstracts that stated literature review as their method did not describe the protocol nor the type of the literature review in enough detail. (Heikkilä et al 2020.)



When analyzing the topic areas and research purposes in comparison to recommendations set for the most urgent nursing research topics (referred later in *italics*) in Kazakhstan (Heikkilä & Hopia 2019), it can be noted that there were abstracts concerning research targeted to *stroke and oncology nursing*, which had been recognized as one of the most urgent topics. Several abstracts were concerning the “nurse’s role”, which is very understandable as Kazakhstan is currently modernizing nursing education and there are new job positions such as extended practice nurse and new educational levels such as PhD in Nursing Science. These abstracts can be regarded as examples of the priority area of *professional development*. As these abstracts were typically from some specific clinical area, they could also be included to the priority area of *clinical nursing research*. There were also abstracts on each of the following topics: *nursing education, ICT and eHealth in nursing, nurses’ well-being, and quality improvement in nursing*. (Heikkilä et al 2020.)

However, there were no abstracts on the area of *critical care nursing and emergency nursing, palliative nursing, and heart failure nursing care*. Furthermore, what was interesting is that the abstracts classified as nursing science did not address the topic area *health promotion and disease prevention* regardless of it being one of the high priorities in the strategy Densauyk (ref). Issues of vaccination, use of tobacco products, obesity and health literacy were addressed in abstracts from the epidemiological and public health perspective without yet realizing the added value that nurses and nursing interventions could have to healthy lifestyle. Moreover, these topics could have been approached from the point of view of *patient education*, which was also a missing topic area. (Heikkilä et al 2020.)

As a conclusion, it can be stated that at the moment there is a growing interest and enthusiasm towards acquiring information and conducting nursing research in medical universities, higher medical colleges as well as in clinical practice. As a summary of the topics of the presented abstracts, it is notable that research on the role of nurses and the importance of nursing in clinical practice is growing. Many of the recommended topics are under consideration of individual researchers. It seems that there is an increasing motivation in Kazakhstan to develop high-quality and evidence-based health care and to create new models for organizing nursing services through



research. More opportunities to share planned and ongoing nursing research between educational institutions and clinical practice are needed. (Heikkilä et al 2020.) At the end of the conference, an online collection of the conference was published, where all the abstracts and works of the participants were presented.

4 Creation of joint international nursing research projects

Active work at practical level to create joint nursing research started in the end of spring 2020, after five webinars. Peer coaching sessions were realized to create joint research plan with collaboration of at least two universities one from Kazakhstan and one from Europe. JAMK University of Applied Sciences and LAB University of Applied Sciences experts provided coaching for nursing faculty staff of Medical universities in Kazakhstan by so that in KMU, NU, Semey and AMU tutors came from JAMK and WKMU from LAB University of Applied Sciences.

The aim was to develop five an international nursing research project plans by the end of 2020. The following criteria were set to achieve the objectives of joint international nursing project. 1) The purpose had to be outlined from nursing science perspective or discipline of nursing science. 2) The data had to be collected at least from two countries by using same methods. 3) The research had to be empirical research, not a review.

A folder to the Google Drive (ProInca) was created to support cooperation and learning from each other. Timetable with clear phases was set to achieve the goal. The first phase was to define the topic which motivated all members of the group, was of interest in Kazakhstan and fulfilled the criteria. The topics for joint research plans were 1) palliative nursing, 2) nursing in stroke rehabilitation, 3) diabetes care, 4) nurses' role in anticoagulant therapy 5) prevention of sharp injuries. Research question and literature review had to be ready by October 2020. Third phase was in November when research design (methodology), method, ethics, validity, and reliability had to be planned. In December, all five research plans were expected to have been completed.



The purpose of the online meetings by each phase was to support the progress of the research plan, to ensure the scientific progress of nursing research step by step, and to learn good scientific practice from others. In addition, the purpose of the online meetings was to guide the members of the research group to conduct international research and to take responsibility for the progress of the research as a member of the group.

4.1 Rural palliative health care professionals' knowledge and attitudes and the perceived need for telehealth support

The research proposal “Rural health care professionals palliative care related knowledge and attitudes, and the perceived need for e-health support” was designed jointly with Semey Medical University and JAMK experts. Access to palliative care is a common challenge and recently the Lancet commission on Palliative Care and Pain Relief described the widespread lack of access to inexpensive and effective palliative interventions as a travesty of justice (Lancet, 2020). Palliative care in the rural community care setting is even more challenging with long distances, lack of health care professionals with palliative care training, and working alone in demanding circumstances to name a few. A systematic review by Bakitas et al. (2015) highlights positive outcomes with the use of telehealth approaches. Hence, it could be hypothesized that access and use of telehealth/telemedicine services could provide support for the health care professionals working in the challenging rural conditions. The results of this study can be used to give focus on the telehealth/medicine services which the service users themselves perceive as valuable. Therefore, **the purpose** of this research study is to gain understanding of the health care professionals opinions, subjective norms, perceived difficulties, and knowledge related to palliative care in rural context and to explore their perceived needs as well as the barriers related on how telehealth could support the palliative care delivery.

Two research questions were proposed: 1) What are the health care professionals' opinions, subjective norms, perceived difficulties, and knowledge about palliative care in rural Kazakhstan and Finland? 2) How do palliative health care professionals working in rural context perceive the needs and barriers related to telehealth in palliative care? As there currently is a reported lack of



evaluation and a robust study design to study clinical application of telehealth in palliative care (Hancock et al. 2019), a cross sectional mixed methods design is planned to study palliative health care providers in community settings in rural KZ and Finland. A mixed method is used to gain understanding of the health care professionals opinions, subjective norms, perceived difficulties, and knowledge related to palliative care and explore the different perceived needs and opportunities telehealth could offer to support the palliative care delivery in the rural context. The planned study participants are health care professionals providing palliative care in rural settings.

The study utilizes the following **instruments**; 1) RotterdamMove2pc questionnaire - for the assessment of knowledge and opinions on palliative care health professionals; 2) Semi-structured interview – to explore the perceived barriers and needs related to telehealth opportunities in palliative care in rural contexts. The sample size for the quantitative survey is calculated using EpiInfo© software. The qualitative part utilizes a purposeful sampling aiming to 10 – 20 semi-structured interviews.

The selected topic is in line with the high priority nursing research areas based on the results of the previously conducted Delphi study. The team was able to complete the research proposal and it is ready for ethical approval and/or financial application. However, some details are required to be updated as needed as for example the sampling locations, sample size and the local approvals. As the proposal is for a mixed method design it would be beneficial to have persons with quantitative and qualitative competencies in the research team.

4.2 Nursing in stroke rehabilitation

A research proposal titled “Nurses’ role and participation in multidisciplinary stroke rehabilitation teams in Kazakhstan and Finland” was jointly created by the participants from Karaganda Medical University and JAMK University of Applied Sciences. The selected topic is in line with the high priority nursing research areas based on the results of the previously conducted Delphi study. As stroke being one of the top diseases in Kazakhstan, it is justifiable to study what are nurses’ role and participation in stroke rehabilitation overall. Another reason for the selected topic is that very



little is known about the role and participation of nurses in the area in question. In light of the above, it is imperative to explore the attitudes, expectations and experiences of healthcare providers towards the role of nurses and in addition to learn nurses' experiences and expectations when working in a multidisciplinary stroke rehabilitation team. It is also worth comparing the results of Kazakhstani healthcare workers with Finnish counterparts to have an international understanding of the role of the nurses and their involvement in stroke rehabilitation. In table 1, the phases of the research proposal are described.



Table 3. Phases of the study

PHASE 1	Conducting a scope review to describe the key aspects of stroke patient's rehabilitation from the international point of view.
PHASE 2	Face-to-face interviews with Kazakh multidisciplinary stroke rehabilitation team members (including nurses) on the attitudes, expectations and experiences towards the role of nurses and their involvement in team work.
PHASE 3	Phone interviews with Finnish multidisciplinary stroke rehabilitation team members (including nurses) on the attitudes, expectations and experiences towards the role of nurses and their involvement in team work.
PHASE 4	Compare the results of the phases 2 and 3.
PHASE 5	Based on the results of scoping review and comparison of the interviews, recommendations will be developed in order to develop and improve nurses' role and participation in multidisciplinary stroke rehabilitation team.

As for the jointly designed research plan, the planned interviews have been conducted partly and the scoping review is ongoing at the moment. The recommendations will be composed when all the phases of the study have been completed.

4.3 Diabetes mellitus type 2 self-management patient education in Kazakhstan and Finland

Purpose of this research is to assess nurses' in Kazakhstan and Finland perceived and actual knowledge of type 2 diabetes health education content in order to provide patient/health education. In addition, the aim of the study is to find out what kind of education and support nurses will need to develop the care of a patient with type 2 diabetes. The research answers to **research questions**: 1) what is the level of perceived and actual knowledge of Kazakh and Finnish nurses on type 2 diabetes health education content in order to provide patient/health education? 2) What education and support do respondents need to provide patient/health education? And 3) what are the roles of nurses in providing type 2 diabetes patient/health education?

In Kazakhstan, the target population will be nurses (N=1025) from selected hospitals in Nur-Sultan by using online questionnaire by Qualtrics. In Finland the target population will be participants

who participated on “Nationwide Virtual Diabetes Day” in 2021 (N=50) by using online questionnaire by Webropol. This research is quantitative, and data will be analysed by using statistical methods, i.e. mean, interval and relative frequency.

A three-part self-report questionnaire will be used to collect data. Section one captures respondents' demographic characteristics, such as, age, gender, education, years of experience. Section two measures respondents' perceived knowledge of self-management patient education using the Diabetes Self Reporting Tool (DSRT). The instrument consists of 20 items assessing varied content of diabetes mellitus, and responses are set to 4-point Likert scale format. Section three measures respondents' actual knowledge of self-management patient education using the Diabetes Basic Knowledge-test (Ledbetter 2011.)

This time with COVID-19 has challenged everyone and it is understandable that things which related to COVID-19 comes first. As there is a need to develop nursing in Kazakhstan, evidence-based knowledge is needed. The topic of this research could give information of current situation of nurse's competence of type 2 diabetes care.

4.4 Practices to prevent nurses' sharp object injuries in Kazakhstan and Finland

This study aims to examine and compare the practices in preventing nurses' sharp object injuries in hospitals in Kazakhstan and Finland in regard to universal sharp objects injury prevention guidelines. The research can offer comparative data which can be used to assess the level of sharps injury prevention guideline implementation, pinpoint problematic areas and suggest recommendations for improvements. Comparison between the facilities in Kazakhstan and Finland makes it possible to identify useful preventive practices that can be transferred.

The research is quantitative and would utilize partly WHO's Revised Injection Safety Assessment Tool (Tool-C – Revised). The Tool-C includes interview part and observational part, and the Tool-C handbook suggests very detailed instructions how to carry out the research methodologically and



practically (WHO revised injection safety assessment tool, 2008). The permission to use and translate the Tool-C will be asked from WHO. Data analysis will be conducted according to Tool-C instructions using cluster effect and 95% confidence intervals. The participants will be nursing managers and nurses carrying out injections in surgical, laboratory and emergency care units of hospitals. The number of target hospitals and sample size are yet to be calculated and decided. Due to global COVID-19 pandemic, it has been planned to apply the interview part of the Tool-C in online survey form, creating one survey for nursing managers and one for nurses. In addition, some of the structural observation part of the tool can be adapted in an online survey, but otherwise due to pandemic the observations must be left out of the data collection to ensure nurses and patients' safety.

The topic is important and relevant for both countries and the results would be beneficial in developing nurses' work safety. However, the situation of this research plan is open and the plan still needs revising before it can be submitted for ethical review. The Kazakhstani perspective of the topic is lacking from the research plan, and research methodology still needs clarifying regarding sample sizes and considerations of the challenges of online data collection, how to choose target hospitals and timetable of the research. In addition, the actual responsible researchers need to be named, so that the permissions for research and data collection tool can be granted to those researchers and that the plan can be actualized into research. Working with joint research is a great opportunity to develop research skills and work with foreign researchers. However, collaboration requires everyone's interest, motivation and taking responsibility.

4.5 Nurses involvement in anticoagulant therapy at different stages of the nursing process

West Kazakhstan Marat Ospanov Medical University's research interest is in nurses' involvement of the anticoagulant therapy at different stages of the nursing process. Internationally nurses have an important role in implementation and in follow up of the anticoagulant treatment of the patients. In addition, nurses have a key role in educating and giving an emotional support for the anticoagulant therapy patients and their caregivers. In Kazakhstan nurses are not having such



independent role in a care of the anticoagulant patients, though there would be a need for the nurses to have an independent role for example in educating and supporting the patients' self-management skills in anticoagulant therapy. In this research the specific interest is on patients with arterial fibrillation, as it is the most common arrhythmia, and its prevalence is increasing in a growing and aging population. The research plan is done jointly with the West Kazakhstan Marat Ospanov Medical University's and LAB University of Applied Sciences experts.

The purpose of the study is to describe the involvement of nurses in anticoagulant therapy at various stages of the nursing process. The concrete **research question** is: How nurses and doctors describe the involvement of nurses in anticoagulation therapy in patients with atrial fibrillation? The sub-questions related to this question are: a.) How nurses describe their involvement in anticoagulation therapy with the patients with atrial fibrillation? b.) How nurses would develop the nurses' involvement in anticoagulation therapy with the patients with atrial fibrillation? The research has a qualitative approach. The data will be collected by interviewing nurses and doctors with the experience in practice of patients having the anticoagulant therapy. There is planned to be interviewed 12 nurses and 12 doctors from the cardiology department of the Aktobe city outpatients. The collected data will be analyzed by using the inductive content analysis.

The research plan has been done, and some interviews have already completed. The research will be a Master thesis of the nurse student. The topic of the thesis is concrete and relevant for the nursing work in a situation where the roles and the responsibilities of nurses in health care setting are important to develop. The research will bring out the challenges for example related to the task sifting from the doctors to nurses. The major challenge in this research work is the qualitative approach as it is not a familiar research methodology in West-Kazakhstan Medical University. This is also a possibility to get an experience of the qualitative research approach which is a common research tradition in nursing science. It is strongly suggested that the qualitative research methodology training would be organized for the teachers responsible of the methodology courses. Also, introduction to the international joint research work and launching international nursing research cooperation is suggested.



5 Conclusions

The aim of the WP2.3 was to strengthen Medical Universities' role in building evidence-based nursing research activities in health services. This report described the activities and results of the implementation of the nursing research agenda through creation of international joint nursing research projects. The expected impact of this activity was four joint research projects in nursing.

Based on analysis and reflection discussion with all research groups during the final online meeting in December 2020, four of the research plans can be regarded as ready and one of the research is not finished (AMU). Based on the feedback, the Kazakhstani medical university participants from the research groups were very satisfied with the collaborative and phased working together with Finnish nursing research experts. They explained that all that was learned in theory during the preparation and piloting the teaching and learning materials for the two Master level courses (Research and development projects in nursing and Qualitative research methods) was now put in practice. writing joint research proposal was recognized as a very effective method to learn all phases of nursing research from justification of topic, doing literature searches and delineating the purpose and aims to choosing proper methodology. The skills about the planning and collaboration in international nursing research was regarded as invaluable.

There is still a vast need of assistance and guidance in Kazakhstani medical universities nursing researchers and master and PhD students to be able to define research topics from the nursing science viewpoint, to have deep enough knowledge on the results of contemporary international nursing research and to choose justified research methodology to correspond to the research question.

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