



European interprofessional postgraduate curriculum in palliative care: A narrative synthesis of field interviews in the region of Middle, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe and Central and West Asia

WHO Regional Office in Europe and Paracelsus Medical University (PMU) in Salzburg have made an agreement to strengthen palliative care across the region.

This work is a result of Targets of references (TORs) set for years 2016-2020

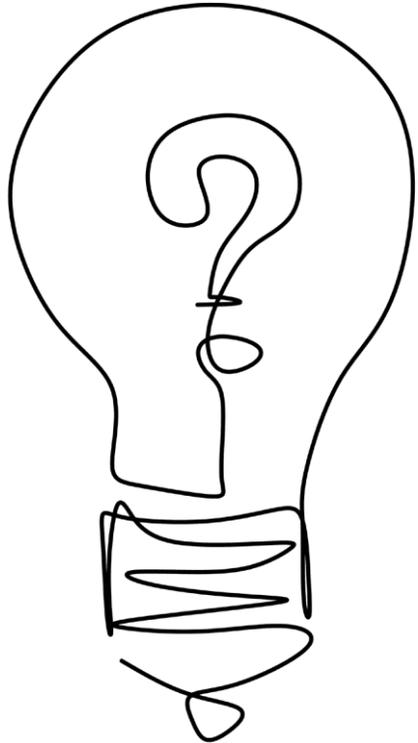
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Who should read the paper?

- All health professionals
- Teachers
- Stakeholders
- Politicians



What's it about?



It aims to explore the special knowledge and experiences of experts in postgraduate palliative care education that result from the actions, responsibilities, and obligations of their specific role.

- **Postgraduate palliative care education**
- **Curricula**
- **Cultural issues**
- **Core curriculum**

Study design

What did the researchers do?

Methodology and data acquisition:

Ethnographic research based on semi-structured expert interviews

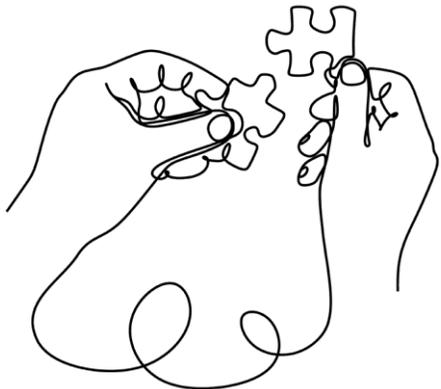
Setting: Countries in the region of Eastern and Southern Europe and Central Asia

Participants: People who could give a detailed description of palliative care education in their region and who were willing to take the time to talk about related issues

Data analysis: Thematic analysis was used for data extraction. Narrative synthesis was chosen as an appropriate method to systematically present and critically discuss the findings.



What did the researchers find out?



What did the researchers find out?

- The principles of palliative care are universal and allow each person to be treated with compassion and respect as a unique person.
- Fear of death and dying in the context of serious illness transcend cultural and religious differences and should not be neglected but treated as a universal phenomenon.
 - Palliative care education is necessary to overcome this fear.
- Curricula from other countries are a useful support, but they need to be adapted to local possibilities, values, and needs.

How can the results be used?

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- The need for palliative care is expected to increase in low and middle income countries. **Educational recommendations and quality assessment criteria** validated by high-level nongovernmental organizations, governments, or professional bodies **are crucial to advance postgraduate education** nationally and internationally.
- As palliative care education development is critically underfunded, a number of human rights, including the right to autonomy, bodily integrity, equality, and protection from inhuman or degrading treatment, cannot be fulfilled in the WHO European region. Without significant investment in the training of palliative care practitioners and future leaders, the expected growth of palliative care could come to a stop. The results can be used in the **political realm to for decision-making about an** increase of funding for palliative care education and training.

