



ETHCOM



Co-funded by
the European Union

A few words about the ETHCOM Project

The full title of ETHCOM project is: „Strengthening the ethical competence of future nurses and midwives: An inter-professional actionlearning project on experiential training methods”.

The project consortium consists of five partners:

- UC LIMBURG (Belgium) - leader and coordinator of the project work
- MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF LUBLIN (Poland)
- ESCOLA SUPERIOR DE ENFERMAGEM DE COIMBRA (Portugal)
- LAUREAAMMATTIKORKEAKOULU (Finland)
- KATHOLIEKE HOGESCHOOL VIVES ZUID, Kortrijk (Belgium).

The project is funded under the Erasmus + program, KA220-HED - Cooperation partnerships in higher education (Agreement Number: 2021-1-BE02-KA220-HED000032015). The main objective of the project is to strengthen the ethical competence of future nurses and midwives through the analysis and implementation of innovative learning methods. **Among the specific objectives of the project are:**

- 1) **Harmonization of nursing and midwifery curricula with the ethical needs of nurses/ midwives**, who face many challenges in the work environment.
- 2) **Development and implementation of interprofessional education methods to improve the ethical competence of nursing and midwifery students** and strengthen the teaching workshop of teachers participating in the education of nurses/midwives.
- 3) **Strengthening the competence of active ethical conflict resolution of health care workers working in interdisciplinary teams** with different approaches, views and beliefs and in difficult cultural situations.
- 4) **Development of interdisciplinary problem solving skills related to ethical dilemmas in modern clinical settings.**



Expected results of the ETHCOM project:

- **ETHCOM TOOLKIT**: the practical output of ETHCOM will be presented by means of an announcement and made available on the ETHCOM Digital Platform and through the local communication channels. The TOOLKIT is accompanied with an ETHCOM e-book, enabling interested parties or stakeholders to apply the ETHCOM methods in a correct manner. In addition, the possibility is offered to follow an ETHCOM course where the developed methods will be presented and explained more in detail;
- **ETHCOM MANIFEST**: ethical competence education line for Nursing and Midwifery: directly presented to the different stakeholders at local, national and European level. A draft of the manifest will be put on the ETHCOM online platform and communicated via de local communication channel;
- **ETHCOM NETWORK**: together, partners lay down the foundations of the ETHCOM NETWORK which systematically will be broadened to a wider network of partners by means of a digital platform and a yearly ETHCOM course, organized by one of the partners. By means of this network, methods, good practices, and experiences will be made publicly available and shared;
- **ETHCOM LIBRARY**: a collection of different writings, of which one open-access research article, written in approachable language to present and share the different project results. The LIBRARY will be placed on the ETHCOM Digital Platform and will be spread via local communication channels.

Project implementation period: 36 months, 01.02.2022 - 31.01.2025.



First Transnational Project Meeting and Learning Training Teaching Activity

On April 25-28, 2022, the first project meeting was held in Belgium.

During these few days, the project participants toured the AZ Zeno Hospital in Knokke-Heist, where the management's solutions allowed the effective combination of the treatment process and nursing care. Within the walls of the hospital, there was a presentation of the main objectives of the project and the work schedule for the coming months, academic teachers during the workshop had the opportunity to learn about innovative methods of learning through, among other things, the experience of being a patient using the Gert® age simulation suit, virtual reality and B-overall®. A proposal for ETHCOM Tools was also developed, which will be used by each partner institution to strengthen the ethical competencies of nurses and midwives in professional ethics classes starting in the fall of 2022.

At the meeting, the other project results were also discussed: ETHCOM Network, ETHCOM Manifest and ETHCOM Library.

ETHCOM Network

A letter of invitation to the ETHCOM Network has been prepared. The goal of the ETHCOM Network is to expand the acquired knowledge, skills and insights outside the ETHCOM partners.

We cordially invite all interested to join the ETHCOM Network, in particular: lecturers, tutors, researchers and

administrators from Higher Education Programs in Nursing and Midwifery; people from the practical field (nurses, midwives and other healthcare professionals, expert in ethics, diversity, patient representatives, and administrators), regional, national, and European associated partners in nursing and midwifery.

Together, we would like to lay down the foundations of the ETHCOM NETWORK which systematically will be broadened to a wider network of partners by means of a digital platform and a yearly ETHCOM course, organized by one of the partners. By means of this network, methods, good practices, and experiences will be made publicly available and shared. The network inspires and empowers all European teachers and tutors (and broader) to share good practices; to cooperate in realizing high standard education; to put ethics on the Nursing and Midwifery curriculum and research agenda.

POTENTIAL LONG-TERM RESULTS: Nursing and midwifery students as well as their teachers and tutors become more ethical competent, will experience less ethical and moral distress in clinical practice, and increase their awareness of cultural and professional diversity in the EU. Your contribution is crucial to the success of strengthening ethical competences of future nurses and midwives. We look forward to be able to call you an **ETHCOM NETWORK MEMBER**.

To become a member of the ETHCOM Network, please contact us via email: ethcom.project@umlub.pl



Second Transnational Project Meeting and Learning Training Teaching Activity

The latest information from the Medical University of Lublin



On October 18-21, 2022, the ETHCOM project team from the Faculty of Health Sciences at the Medical University of Lublin hosted the second TPM and LTTA within the framework of the ETHCOM Project.

The guests had the opportunity to visit key places for the education of nurses and midwives at the Medical University of Lublin. The partners were invited to the Clinical Hospital No. 4 in Lublin on Jaczewski Street, where students of the Medical University of Lublin take a large part of their clinical classes. During the visit to the hospital, the facility's strategy for clinical education of nursing and midwifery students was outlined. The participants of the meeting also visited the Integrated Interdisciplinary Medical Simulation Center of the Medical University of Lublin, where they learned about the strategy of education in caring competencies of students of our University.

A very reflective element of our meeting was a guided visit to the Majdanek concentration camp. During this visit, we learned about the history of the camp's prisoners during World War II and considered the ethical values and attitudes of the camp's prisoner nurses and doctors.

During the meeting, participants had the opportunity to listen to a lecture by Ms. Professor Ann Gallagher of the University of Exeter Medical School, UK on the topic: „A slow approach to ethical competence”.

“We concluded that more work needs to be conducted to develop a model of ethical competence”

- Ann Galagher

The lecture provided inspiration for further work on tasks in the project, for example during the meeting, the stage of the work done by the partners in the project was discussed. An important part of the meeting was the presentation of the developed methods for teaching ethics based on experience. We also developed further plans for the results of the project, which are: ETHCOM Toolkit, ETHCOM Manifest, ETHCOM Network, ETHCOM Library.

1st Multiplier Event, 3rd Transnational Project Meeting and Learning Training Teaching Activity

The news from Finland



On June 05-09, 2023, the ETHCOM project meeting was held in Finland. During the meeting, and 1st Multiplier Event were presented to the first results of the project to a wider audience. It was attended by representatives from different countries interested in the topic of ethics, university authorities, teachers, students. During the event, several excellent lectures were presented, delivered by: Guus Timmerman, Linus Vanlaere, as well as Margit Eckardt.

ETHCOM project representatives introduced the participants to the main objectives of the project as:

- ETHCOM TOOLKIT presented by Ann Lammens
- ETHCOM MANIFEST presented by Rogério Rodrigues
- ETHCOM NETWORK presented by Beata Dobrowolska
- ETHCOM LIBRARY presented by Teija-Kaisa Aholaakko.

The following days saw activities related to the third Transnational Project Meeting and the third Learning Training. During the meeting, we had the opportunity to share our progress in preparing experience-based ethics teaching methods and exchange tips to improve ETHCOM TOOLKIT. During the workshop, we developed and refined solutions for ETHCOM MANIFEST and ETHCOM NETWORK. We also worked on the project's mid-term report and the report on the impact of the ETHCOM project on partner organizations, the system, teachers and students. During the visit to Finland, we also had the opportunity to have an ETHIC WALK in the beautiful natural setting of Haltia National Park, the walk was an opportunity to talk freely about the project, as well as to exchange experiences and impressions about participating in the project.

The next meeting of the ETHCOM project team will take place in the summer of 2024 in Portugal.

ETHCOM Toolkit

The latest updates

The ETHCOM Toolkit stands as a hands-on compass for experiential learning methods aimed at enhancing ethical competencies in the fields of nursing and midwifery.

As part of the ETHCOM project, the following experimental methods of teaching ethics are currently being tested:

- open dialogue for students,
- involving an expert by experience in an action learning team,
- exposure through meal care,
- simulation in midwifery, using low to high fidelity techniques,
- boardgame patient participation, → reflecting images,
- dialogue with parents of a stillborn child,
- photovoice and story telling,
- case analysis and group work,
- case analysis and film making - using multimedia in learning ethics,
- simcase: alcohol use in preoperative preparations,
- game_ decision making,
- simulation_ autonomy.

We cordially invite you to visit our website (link below) where you can read descriptions of these experimental methods of teaching ethics and follow the progress of the project.



Important links:

-  <http://www.ethcom.project.umlub.pl/>
-  <https://www.facebook.com/people/ETHCOM-Project/100083315592517/>
-  https://www.twitter.com/ethcom_network
-  <https://www.linkedin.com/company/ethcom-project/>