

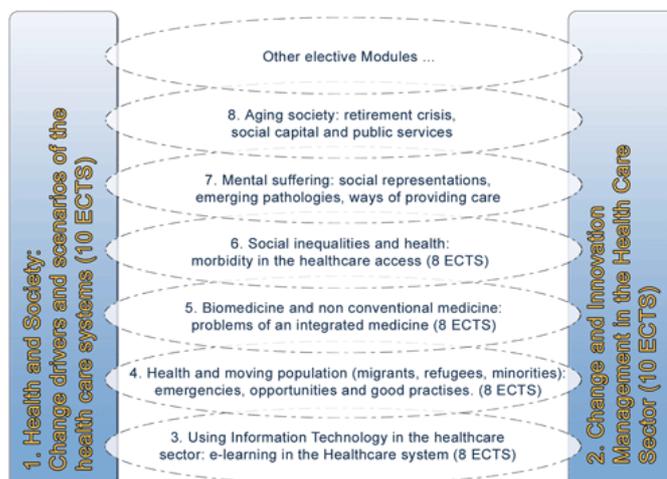
1. What is new at the Virtual Academy for Health

Virtual Academy for Health is facing very exciting moments: one of the project outcomes - the modules of the Master's programme "**European Master's Degree for Intercultural and Societal Healthcare Studies**" - is now available on-line for pilot students.

The "**European Master's Degree for Intercultural and Societal Healthcare Studies**" is a European program of study. It is build up and will be constantly run by 8 European partners participating in WHOLE project. The partners are German, Greek, Slovenian, British, Italian universities and research centres. Study language is English to guarantee the exchange between participants from all over Europe. The Master's programme is build according to the requirements of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (*ECTS*). The programme of study is a first level Master's degree (60 Credit Points) with option to a 90 CP degree which aims to explore and provide innovative content in the field of healthcare policies and strategies.

The Master's degree focus on themes that are the results of an international consultation with relevant stakeholders and professionals of the Healthcare System: the objective is a modular and flexible Master's degree which addresses the needs of professionals in the healthcare sectors (respective future professionals) and develops contents and solutions applicable in related work environments.

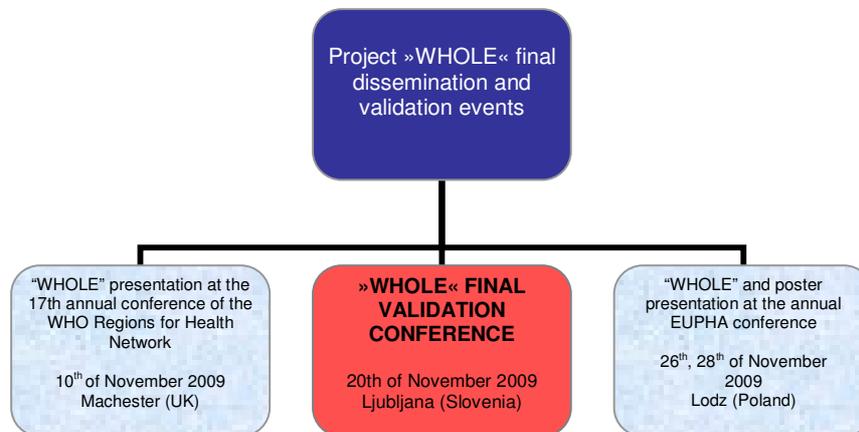
Modules of the European Masters Degree for Intercultural and Societal Healthcare Studies



For more information please go to the www.whole-academy.eu or contact project coordinator on ulrike.mangwa@fim.uni-erlangen.de

2. Project “WHOLE” Final Validation Events: Manchester/Ljubljana/Lodz

The project “WHOLE” is about to (officially) end on 31st of December 2009. In order to present the value of the “WHOLE” programme and to enhance the impact of the project outputs while integrating them into mainstream practice at local, national and European level, the project partners organized final dissemination and validation activities. The main event was “WHOLE” Final Validation Conference in Ljubljana with two satellite actions: presentation at two key European annual international scientific conferences on health care in Manchester and Lodz.



- Italian project partner Regional Agency for Health and Social Care of Emilia-Romagna has presented the Virtual Academy for Health and Master’s programme on the 10th of November in Manchester (UK) at the 17th annual conference of the WHO Regions for Health Network in the framework of the North West Wellbeing conference NHS hold at The Midland Hotel. In the presentation for about 50 members of RHN the possibilities and future collaboration potential of Virtual Academy were presented and suggested to the audience who expressed great interest in the project.
- German project partner University of Applied Sciences Magdeburg Stendhal presented the Whole project at the Annual EUPHA scientific conference in Lodz (Poland) at two occasions: on the 26th of November Arnd Hofmeister held a presentation of the Virtual Academy for Health for the EU-Australia Exchange Project for 10 Academics in the field of Public Health who would like to join the Academy with their project in September 2010 and initiate teaching activities with their students. On 28th of November prof. Hofmeister held a shorter general poster presentation for



Academics to present the possible future ideas of the new European Masters programme at the Virtual Academy for Health.

The main validation event was organized by the project partner University of Ljubljana with support of the project coordinator FIM New Learning (University of Erlangen) in Ljubljana (Slovenia) on the 20th of November 2009. About 60 people, mostly academics, medical professionals and students, were present at the event.

The key speakers were medical doctors from Slovenia and medical anthropologists from Slovenia, Nederland and UK. From the project WHOLE consortium partners from Slovenia, Italy and Germany were present. Rajko Muršič introduced the idea of the project to the audience, Claudio Dondi (Scienter) gave the keynote speech “**Changing learning approaches in a changing public health care system**” and Ulrike Mangwa contributed to the afternoon hands on workshop **Co-designing learning opportunities within the Whole virtual academy**. Uršula Lipovec Čebren and Jana Šimenc were moderators of the whole event.

The main idea of the validation conference was to introduce the Virtual Academy for Health to the professionals and students and show all its possibilities and opportunities in the field of public health education, interdisciplinary collaboration and public involvement in health care issues.

Dondi spoke about the public health which is exposed to major factors of change: demography, migration, individualisation and value shifts in society, technology and several others. These changes “from the outside” stimulate and accompany “change from inside”. This transformation process requires a massive amount of commitment to change and a new approach to learning, able to grasp and integrate the large amount of informal learning that is produced by exchange of practical experience on the workplace and the creation of professional/learning communities online. The WHOLE Virtual Academy proposes an on-line environment and combination of learning opportunities for the European public health community, based on the seamless integration of formal courses with academic structure and recognition and informal learning opportunities based on experience exchange among practitioners.

In the afternoon hands on workshop audience was asked about the relevance and efficiency of the current Virtual Academy for Health mechanisms. Participants were also asked to comment and suggest on content of the Academy. Useful recommendations about the better responsiveness, user friendliness and recognition of the Virtual Academy came from the public. Project partners embraced the prepositions since the sustainability and implementation of the Academy is crucial at this stage of the project. The possibilities for interdisciplinary collaboration at the academic level have shown great potentials for the public as well.

Ljubljana Final Validation Conference picture gallery

Ljubljana City Hall, 20th of November 2009: Presenters and audience





Photo by: Matjaž Rebolj and Ambrož Kvartič

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