

ORIGINAL PAPER

Assessment of Knowledge, Attitudes and Competencies of Health Professionals Attended an International Training Programme in Public Health

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Abstract

Background: Continuing education is a fundamental aspect of health personnel professional life. These enable health professionals improve patient-centred care, stay current and provide quality services.

Objectives: To assess knowledge, attitudes and competencies from the interprofessional training programme in public health held in cooperation with WHO/EURO.

Methods: A structured questioner for self-ratings on perceived seminar usefulness and implementation was placed on the internet followed by email notification to the 300 participants. We have received 128 completed questionnaires (42.5%).

Programme effects were tested by categorical analysis using Pearson chi-Square or Fisher's exact test. Logistic regression was used to reveal correlation between implementation of competencies according to discipline and type of employer. All tests were considered to be significant at a 5% level. Analysis was carried out using SPSS 20.0.

Findings: 85.9% ($p = 0.021 < 0.05$) of the participants applied the knowledge they acquired in the seminar. The application of the competencies in public health services differed according to position ($p < 0.05$). Supervisors achieved higher scores (81.4%) in the administration and management than the officers (48.5%). Health professionals felt that their performance has been improved and consequently the quality of the services (75%).

Conclusion: The international programme gave them confidence that the acquired knowledge and skills were equal to those of their European colleagues and that they are able to deal with public health issues and to provide the respective services.

Key Words Public health, international partnership, self-ratings, electronic questionnaire