

# Newsletter

# ELLAN



## European Later Life Active Network

All over Europe there is a need to educate students and professionals in health and social care with the proper competences to work with older people. Therefore the European Core Competence Framework for health and social care professionals working with older people was developed in the context of international cooperation between 26 European higher education institutions as part of the European Later Life Active Network (ELLAN).

### **ELLAN promotes European cooperation, exchange of innovation and good practice related to the ageing population**

The main result is the European Core Competences Framework for health and social care professionals working with older people (find translated document at <http://ellan.savonia.fi>). The project directly targets educators and management staff at the partner organizations and other higher education institutions in Europe. The indirect target groups are the students, professional communities and older people themselves.

### **New European Core Competences Framework for Health and Social Care Professionals Working with Older People**

The consortium conducted analyses of competences required by professionals working with older people based on literature, qualitative research among older people themselves and quantitative research among professionals. These research studies were used to develop the European Core Competences Framework. The competence framework was verified by two rounds of Delphi research among a group of experts and a group of researchers from different countries all over Europe.

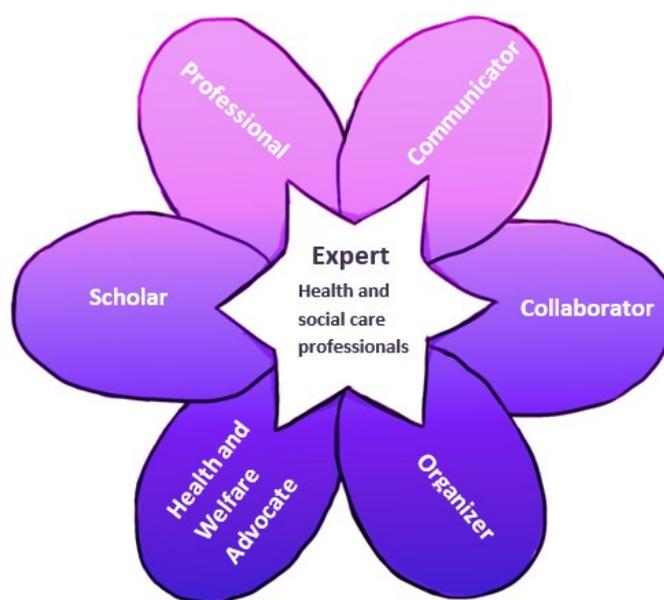
In addition, within the ELLAN project, research was conducted on the attitude of students to ageing and working with older people as well as on innovative educational approaches to gerontology that influence the attitude of students.

## Roles & Core Competences

The competences of health and social care professionals need to meet the challenges of providing care and services in the growing multi-cultural world. This competence framework is worded in such a way that it is applicable in different European countries and different cultures. This cultural competence is integrated within different roles and explicitly noticed in the role of the Professional. Acquiring a certain level of competence can be seen as the ability of an individual to use and combine his or her knowledge, skills and wider competences according to the varying requirements posed by a particular context, situation or problem.

Each professional performs tasks specific to different roles and each of these roles requires different competences. For this set of competences, 18 competence descriptions and desired outcomes altogether, the ELLAN consortium agreed to use the CanMEDS Physician Competency Framework for describing the different roles of professionals in health and social care.

The following roles for working with older people were defined and described in depth: Communicator, Collaborator, Organizer, Health and Welfare Advocate, Scholar, Professional and Expert - with the latter role being of central importance (*Figure 1*).



*Figure 1: CanMED Role model, adapted for health and social care professionals*

Project partners have disseminated ELLAN's results widely nationally and internationally in conferences as well as in publications. Implementation of the competence framework into study processes in higher education institutions has also started and first reactions have been positive. The competence framework can also be used for continuing education.

Project partners have translated the European Core Competence Framework into variety of different languages. You find them at <http://ellan.savonia.fi>

More information about the ELLAN project, activities of the Partners, the **European Core Competence Framework** in different languages, different research reports and additional documents can be found in our homepage:

<http://ellan.savonia.fi>

## Partners

- Savonia University of Applied Sciences, Finland
- Karelia University of Applied Sciences, Finland
- Liverpool John Moores University, UK
- Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, Bulgaria
- Universidad de Granada, Spain
- University College Cork, Ireland
- National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece
- Pučko otvoreno učilište Zagreb, Croatia
- Riga Stradins University, Latvia
- University of Maribor, Slovenia
- Hanze University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands
- Kaunas University of Applied Sciences, Lithuania
- Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, Poland
- Dokuz Eylul University, Turkey
- University Stefancel Mare of Suceava, Romania
- Tartu Health Care College, Estonia
- Instituto Politécnico de Setúbal, Portugal
- Scuola Universitaria Professionale della Svizzera Italiana, Switzerland
- University of Applied Sciences Hamburg, Germany
- University College of Northern Denmark, Denmark
- Sapienza University of Rome, Italy
- University of Malta, Malta
- Cyprus University of Technology, Cyprus
- Semmelweis University Faculty of Health Sciences, Hungary
- Katholieke Hogeschool Leuven, Belgium
- Carinthia University of Applied Sciences, Austria