



Newsletter, 22 November 2021

SPECIAL FEATUR ON AMR AWARENESS WEEK 18-24 NOVEMBER 2021



LAUNCH OF THE SPECIALIST NURSES FOCUS GROUP ON AMR; TOWARDS A CONTEXTUAL APPROACH

The European Awareness week has started, and ESNO will launch **4 publications** at the end of the Antimicrobial Resistance Week 2021. We will not only launch these publications, but we will be a kick-off of a **three years program focused on AMR**. This program, driven by a special focus team is established by four specialist nurse experts, all familiar in the field on infection prevention control and on AMR and stewardship. In addition, we have a group of 20 nurses from all over Europe, who will participate as the expert reference group. The focus group has set the following **long term context-driven goals**:

1. Establish an **expert network** on infection prevention and operate as a link to nurses' expertise.
2. Initiate **education** activities on microbes, vaccines, AMR and infection control
3. Develop an **European harmonised standard** for AMR stewardship curricula and infection prevention curriculum
4. Promote **mandatory and continual** national education on microbes, vaccination, AMR and infection prevention for nurses.

5. Develop and update a nurses guide on to topics: Microbes and Mediation, Vaccination, AMR and Stewardship and Infection Prevention Control with Curricula
6. Engage with European high level representatives and **promote the recognition** of specialist nurses roles related to infection prevention, vaccination and AMR.
7. **Contribute to European initiatives** such as networks, congresses, events and any other form of forum to give input from the specialist nurses domain.
8. Contribute and **initiate to research and publications** and **data building**

ABOUT THE ESNO MICROBIAL FOCUS GROUP PROGRAM



About the Program

The ESNO programme and vision for AMR acts in synergy with other activities in infection prevention and control, vaccination and immunisation, and wider public health and health promotion activities. All of which recognise the increasingly wide range of clinical, educational, research and leadership roles held by specialist nurses across Europe.

Where We are Heading

A future-prove specialist nurses' competencies on AMR, IPC and Vaccination. We also strive to continue positioning ESNO as one of the European and international nursing think-tank and advocacy organisations - shaping European nursing education and competencies, as well as influencing the policy landscape. We continue to work to equip nurses with the policymaking and communication skills and attitudes necessary to engage with politicians, decisionmakers and civil society on crucial topics such as drug-resistant infections, infection prevention and control, and immunisation. This cannot be reached in a few years but with a long-term vision and clear targeted outcomes with multi-stakeholders' engagement.

AMR STEWARDSHIP

On the last topics, the team will take a year for the development of an AMR stewardship curriculum profile and an infection control profile. Both will be as an accredited additional competence beside each nurse specialisation. On all domains, we observe that there is no consistency in education, and this can only be achieved with a long-term vision.

“Overtime we see a lot of initiatives telling nurse what to do, how to act, how to behave and given information to them, such as virologists, epidemiologist and regulators and policy makers, but they overlook the competencies we already have on AMR. In the first place, they do not tell us so much news and secondly, it should be the nurses providing this information and act as representative of the European nurses expert on AMR. We need to stop inviting others to inform me and tell me what to do”

Enrique Castro Sanchez – United Kingdom



In this week, it's not about only making a lot of noise and making statements, but to make an impact and especially related to AMR and Stewardship. We need all nurses to be aware of this and be able to take a leadership role, step-up and gain confidence related to information and education. **Only based on information, and inclusion in program, can nurses engage.**

“In the knowledge that in the UK, Netherlands and Scandinavian countries, there are well established standards for special AMR nurses in hospitals. In Italy and many more countries, the issue on AMR not even on the edge of their radar and Stewardship even further away. There is far too much differences in European, and I see a huge role for us, to communicate with the commission on this topic. We cannot do this alone, and cannot reach country by country”

Alessia Arcangeli - Italy

INFECTION CONTROL

If a nurse does not know enough, and he/she is not updated on the latest information, not educated, not facilitated in training, then he/she is can't taking

the quest for good patient care seriously. One may question why care is not efficient if standards are not executed and is fragmented. The team focuses on facilitating the nurses in their wish in competence building, and the issue of mouth caps is a perfect example.

“During the beginning of COVID and the shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) we all became aware that there was an overall lack of knowledge on mouth caps but also how to act wise and overall attitude on infection control. There is an absolute need to have a in cross border context education structure on the essentials on infection prevention”

Noel Abela - Malta



TRANSLATIONS AND CULTURAL TRANSITION

Overtime, experience teaches us that English versions of text are always very well done, but not adoptable to other European countries when they are not translated into other languages. However, it's not only about the language, but also cultural adoption. In some regions specialist nurses are, by standard, educated in a higher standard, but other countries certainly not. Well intentioned and hard working, but nurses can only grow and create perspective for their career when education is provided in their language. In our program, all steps will require good translation as much as possible, and by preference with proof reads of nurses in the national tongue.

“There is an absolute need to put effort in translations, we can do lot of work, but when not in the familiar language, nothing will change. If not translate, it will never work and not able to speak the same language. If we communicate together from very different angles and with other background information, we can start over and over again, year after year”

Jeanette Verkerk

ONLINE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

ESNO has created a special subpage on the ESNO website, with all information and on the website of the ESNO foundation, all activities are separate published where detailed information is available.' Links:

- [ESNO Microbial issues](#)
- [FoNSE Projects](#)
- [Program Microbes and Medication](#) (Module 1)
- [Program, Vaccination](#) (Module 2)
- [Program, AMR and Stewardship](#) (Module 3)
- [Program, Infection Prevention Control](#) (Module 4)

IT'S NOT ABOUT A WEEK OF AWARENESS, IT'S LONG TERM PROCESS

Let this week not only be the week of AMR but the start of a process for many years to come with like ESNO, setting standards and very concrete goals.

“The challenge for the future on prudent use on Antimicrobials and the full AMR issue is to act by substantial support to the specialist nursing initiatives. Do not be wise in words but wise in deeds”.

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