

The Migration School: A Collaborate educational programme for professional carers of patients with dementia from ethnic minorities in the Oresund Region of Sweden and Denmark

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Description: Background:In Denmark and Sweden, the number of elderly people with dementia is expected to increase which will bring new challenges as the rate of this increase is proportionally higher in ethnic minority populations. Prior to our collaborative program, very little knowledge was available on dementia in ethnic minority populations in the Oresund Region or Europe more widely. In order to meet this challenge, The Neuropsychiatric Clinic in Malmo, Sweden and the Danish Dementia Research Centre in Copenhagen have initiated a collaborative project: The Migration School.

Methods:The Migration School is a three-year program initiated in 2011. The project is a cross-national collaborative program on dementia care for patients from ethnic minorities. The project aims to establish joint regional education and training programs for health professionals focusing on cross-cultural cognitive assessment and dementia care. The development of the program was based on our research, field studies and an extensive review of the literature. **Results:** At the end of the project more than 1000 persons will have participated in the Migration School 's education program. The program was initiated with a cross-national kick-off conference introducing the program and presenting current research and knowledge. 4 courses have targeted dementia care workers and have had a focus on quality of cross-cultural care, especially dealing with cultural and communicative challenges and the challenge of providing person-centred care. 2 courses for dementia clinic staff, focusing on cross-cultural dementia diagnostics and treatment. The courses were based on our research on novel tools, e.g. neuropsychological tools, appropriate for elderly ethnic minority populations. In September 2014, the program will conclude with a cross-national consensus conference where the main findings and products from the project will be presented. **Conclusion:**The project has helped to highlight challenges in cross-cultural dementia assessment and care and provided new tools to improve practice within the field.