



Agència
per a la Qualitat
del Sistema Universitari
de **Catalunya**

Cross-sectional report

BA/BSC IN NURSING: IMPROVING THE TRAINING OF NURSES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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Under the overarching structure of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), all recognised bachelor, master's and doctoral degrees must undergo a series of quality assurance reviews, which in Catalonia are designed and introduced through AQU Catalunya and its Framework for the ex-ante accreditation, monitoring, modification and ex-post accreditation of recognised degree programmes (VSMA framework). As an active actor/stakeholder in the system of higher education and universities in Catalonia, AQU Catalunya also develops and carries out other actions that produce valuable information on the system.

Within this context, the intention of AQU Catalunya is to go one step further and, in the case of degree programmes in the applied sciences such as Nursing, move forwards in the use and application of quality assurance procedures on the basis of its extensive experience together with that of professionals working in different health care and educational contexts so that improvements in the quality of nursing services better fulfil the needs and requirements of society in Catalonia.

The starting point for this was one year's work by a group (panel) of experts, which included academics, professionals and managers of different health care centres around Catalonia, organised by AQU Catalunya's Health Sciences Committee. The initial information that was available was the Agency's employability report and the outcomes of the programme accreditation procedures in Nursing.

On the basis of the group's work, and without restrictions, each expert then gathered information from his/her work environment, using different work methodologies, which was pooled at the different panel meetings where it was presented and shared.

The focus of the study was courses of study in Nursing within the context of the 2013 EU directive, with consideration being given to health care resources and the needs and requirements of nursing professionals; the need to link theory and practice together and the suitability of the teaching staff profile; and the possibility of accrediting places for work experience placement in accordance with training requirements, the patient's rights and resource availability.

The result and findings are set out in the following report, which is aimed at educational and health care authorities, which puts forward several innovative aspects in the field of nursing that can lead to improvements in both the quality of health care and in training of nursing professionals, in addition to contributing to scientific developments in Nursing.

Proposed areas for improvement, aimed at the system of higher education and universities in Catalonia and the Government of Catalonia's Ministry of Health:

- Design and development of new courses of study
- Cooperation at HEI and health care centre level



- In terms of cooperation agreements
 - In terms of the recognition of teaching activities at health care centres and resources
- Accreditation of health care teaching units with regard to first-level (bachelor) degree programmes:
 - Commitment to quality assurance by the two government departments responsible for health and higher education.
 - The criteria for accreditation need to be worked on and agreed to jointly by the corresponding government department with jurisdiction over higher education institutions and the Ministry for Health and be based on the quality assurance of programmes to ensure acquisition of the skills laid down by the CIN Order and the EU directive dealing with degree programmes in Nursing.