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Competences for Poverty Reduction

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Introduction

The European Commission has dedicated 2010 to the European Year for Combating Poverty.

Since the enlargement of Europe poverty and cohesion problems have increased, 16% of the EU population currently live at risk of poverty. It is expected that their number will rise, not least as a consequence of the financial crisis and the effects this will have on labour markets and society.

The European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education (ENOTHE) together with other Health, Educational, Social Sciences and Clients' networks have applied for a European wide project- "Competences for Poverty Reduction" (COPORE). This consortium want to draw the attention on health inequalities, related to disadvantaged groups and aim to develop new competences and approaches in higher education focusing on affordable health care, health literacy and empowerment of clients and their community.

Objectives

- Increase awareness about the relationship between poverty, disability, health inequalities, occupational deprivation and social exclusion
- Develop a shared set of understandings
- Increase knowledge of possible approaches to action
- Involvement of communities
- Present recommendations defined for the competences of health, social and educational workers

Description

The consortium will study and gather good practice of tailored prevention and health promotion for people at risk of social exclusion and integrated care models.

Special emphasis will be put on the Community Oriented Primary Care (COPC) approach and the relation with social services. Through this focus professionals and the local population attached to health and social centres will automatically have more attention for poverty problems.

The following actions will be undertaken:

- Identification of projects of good practices in social inclusion
- Develop a common language on social determinants of health and indicators of poverty
- Increase knowledge and experience of possible approaches to action
- Develop a shared set of competences, specific learning outcomes and teaching and learning approaches
- Relate education to society

Strong emphasis will be placed on involving those that experience poverty first hand in the different phases of the project.

The multi-disciplinarity of the project must tackle the multi-dimensional aspects of poverty through integrated approaches.