

IDENTIFYING CORE RESEARCH COMPETENCES FOR CLINICIANS IN PALLIATIVE CARE USING NOMINAL GROUP TECHNIQUE: ERASMUS+ PROJECT RESPACC STUDY

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BACKGROUND: The RESPACC project aims to identify core research competencies for palliative care (PC) clinicians. Competence means the ability to apply knowledge and skills to successfully perform an activity at work.

AIM: To identify PC clinicians' perspectives on core research competencies for clinical research in Greece, Romania and Spain.

METHODS: Due to the pandemic context, three online Nominal Group Technique (NGT) were used to elicit palliative care clinicians' opinions and their understanding and needs about clinical research. This technique uses a mixed-method approach to explore participants' views and also rank the priorities for education in clinical research.

RESULTS: Thirty-one PC clinicians participated (12 physicians, 12 nurses, 5 psychologists, 1 social worker, 1 physiotherapist). Following all NGT steps, ideas generated by participants regarding clinical research competencies were grouped in 8 categories: familiarity with the clinical PC context, scientific thinking and research design, ethical research considerations, study and site management, data management and informatics, communication, research leadership and others (researchers' qualitative characteristics, attitudes). After the ranking process, participants decided that PC clinicians need to have knowledge and skills related to: research principles and methodology, ethics in research, critical reading and literature review, building research question and hypothesis, basic statistical notions and interpretation of data, writing research reports/studies, communication and team work.

CONCLUSION: The results of NGTs were integrated to develop a transnational core research competencies framework for palliative care clinicians and will be used to develop an educational programme grounded in the requirements of clinical practitioners.