ELLAN – European Later Life Active Network
Development of European Core Competences Framework for health-and social professionals working with older people
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Background and purpose:
The challenges working in ‘the European healthcare system’ with older people require new competences with increased focus on multi professional cooperation between health and social professionals, physiotherapist included.
The purpose of ELLAN was to develop a Core Competences Framework in the horizon of positive ageing and social cohesion (ECCF).

Description
The ELLAN-project took place in a consortium of 28 HEI-partners 2013–2016.
Developing professional work with older people research including older people, professionals and students as experts of own experiences is essential and five subprojects with several hundred participants have been completed to generate knowledge. A Europe-wide literature review exploring competencies required for working with older people was conducted and qualitative research has been carried out to explore the older people’s ideas about required and desired competencies of professionals. Accordingly, a mixed method’s research related to the professionals and the student’s outlooks was conducted, accompanied by innovative educational approaches.

Summary
Despite cultural differences, the results are now consolidated in ‘The European Core Competences Framework For Health- and Social care professionals working with Older People’. The role descriptions of professionals working in health and social services are based on the 7 CanMEDS roles. For each role several competences are formulated, 18 in total. Each competence is elaborated in performance indicators and for each competence, the outcome is described. To validate the result a Delphi process was conducted with 26 European experts in the field of gerontology.
ECCF is now translated to national languages to ensure the spreading of the competences framework.

Importance
ECCF is developed as a tool for curriculum design, to share good practice and innovative approaches and to develop competences of students working with older citizens. As partner we are disseminating results and exploring possibilities to implement the ELLAN project and ECCF into physiotherapy- occupational and nurse- educations at UCN.

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