## The Dividends of Collaboration: An STTI European Research Taskforce Experience



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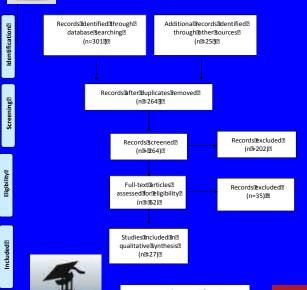
Aim: To share the experience of setting up a successful scholarly collaboration among European nurses, the Research Task Force will (1) report and discuss lessons learned about international collaboration and global partnerships and (2) show the steps taken by the European research collaboration on disseminating the nursing care knowledge gained by writing a review article.

## **Background:**

- Collaboration is often perceived as a compromising endeavour.
- Fostering a common vision, outcome/goal and building a trusting relationship can lay the foundation for partnerships and lead to remarkable achievement.
- Collaboration between nurses is a key ingredient to quality, safety, cost efficient and effective care within health care and nursing research.
- The Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) European regional committee aims to raise awareness and promote fruitful collaboration between nursing scholars in Europe.
- The committee, which is made up of the European chapter presidents drafted and adopted a policy document including a strategy plan for further developing and promoting STTI across Europe. One of the key long-term goals of the STTI European Policy document is to conduct a collaborative research project by 2020.

## Results:

- Several Skype meetings were held to come to the right topic for the international taskforce.
- The criteria for the topic were, having high priority in the European public-health agenda.
- To centre the review on migrants' experiences of using health care services.
- •Within the concept of experiences we intend to explore the sub themes quality of life and satisfaction with the health care that migrants are receiving.
- In further virtual meetings keywords for the search in the literature databases were discussed and decided upon. The participants from the different countries all searched one or more literature databases.
- Working together as an international, virtual group offered a number of valuable learning experiences, particularly since the individual members of the group had not necessarily met face to face before the collaboration.
- Barriers encountered were related to scheduling meetings and to technical problems in using Skype as a medium to conduct the meetings.
- Collaboration brought a wealth of expertise to the topic that enabled a fruitful and stimulating exchange, which will enrich our publication.



Method: Under the lead of the STTI European Research co-ordinator in Sweden, individual STTI members from the Netherlands, Sweden and United Kingdom formed a taskforce group. This taskforce group decided upon the topic of the review, the method of communications and division of work.

Conclusion: The project has demonstrated the richness that comes with exploring a topic within a multinational group. It also highlighted that a successful collaboration in a virtual research group requires commitment and particular organizational and leadership skills. It was made possible by the communality of members being in the STTI European Research Taskforce. This collaborative adventure highlighted differences and similarities and how this STTI European research collaboration group both nationally and internationally can use the results to build new partnerships, to improve communication and the quality of care in the work environment.

## References

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