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The comparison of knowledge and attitudes of Polish and Spanish students of Nursing with respect to Evidence – Based Practice

The use of the most recent scientific literature that is the source of reliable information about nursing contributes significantly to improve knowledge of future nurses and inspires the research career development. Thus, it is extremely important to expand students’ of European nursing studies the level of knowledge and awareness and to improve the competencies related to methodology of research and critical analysis of scientific literature. The aim of the study was to compare the knowledge and attitudes of Polish and Spanish students of Nursing with respect to Evidence-Based Practice (EBP).

Material and methods: The study involved 120 students of Nursing, including 60 Polish students of Nursing at the Medical University of Warsaw randomly selected from a group of 127 students, consistent with DIEHARD “random sampling procedures” (group PS, 4 male) and 60 Spanish students of Nursing at the University of Valladolid (n=47) and University of the Balearic Islands (n=13) (group SS, 9 male). Average age in the groups was equal: PS 23,75 years (min.22, max.51, SD=5,71), SS 22,33 years (min.21, max.38, SD=3,08). Voluntary, anonymous online survey, standardized Evidence-Based Practice Profile Questionnaire from University of South Australia. Statistical analysis: non-parametric U Mann-Whitney test: STATISTICA version 12.

Results: In 4 of 6 domains of the questionnaire statistically significant differences between the level of knowledge of Polish and Spanish students of Nursing about EBP were demonstrated (p<0.05). SS showed much higher level of knowledge of terminology related to scientific research than the PS (the
sum of the ranks R=4142 versus R=3118, p=0.007). Spanish students (SS) also more frequently declare the desire to expand their competencies and skills in this area (R=4152 versus R=3108, p=0.006) and are more likely to include elements of the EBP into professional practice than Polish students (R=4076.5 versus R=3183.5, p=0.019). Conclusions: 1. Nursing students of both compared groups PS and SS recognize Evidence-Based Practice as an important area and a necessary element of modern professional practice. 2. The research showed that the level of knowledge about EBP is not sufficient and requires urgent upgrading in terms of both knowledge and skills of students, especially in Poland. Moreover the educational programs as part of Nursing studies in Poland should be supplemented by the content related to Evidence-based Practice in order to expand students' knowledge in this area.