

IMPROVING PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH NUTRITION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH: SUPPORT TO PROACTIVE PARTNERSHIP TO PRODUCE QUALITY EDUCATION STANDARDS FOR NUTRITIONISTS

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Abstract

Education and nutrition are important fundamental conditions and resources for improving public health. Unhealthy nutrition is one of the key risk factors for developing main non-communicable diseases. Studies have confirmed that the country's population has unhealthy eating habits. Dietetics is not included in the curricula of Macedonian Medical Faculties. In order to improve population health, by improving the quality of nutrition education and research, we determined the following objectives: - Supporting proactive partnership in defining national standards for the formulation of Doctoral study program for the innovative technology for food and nutrition"; - Forming a set of competencies upon completion of studies; - Application of information and communication technology (ICT) and e-learning.

Analyzing the results of numerous scientific findings that confirm the important role of food and nutrition in health promotion and prevention of nutrition-related diseases, we developed the Doctoral study programs for the innovative technology for food and nutrition". The model of designing, planning and implementation of curriculum is in accordance with Bologna Declaration (1999), Dublin description (2004), EC "Tuning" project (2009), European standards for improvement of academic and practical curricula (2010) and DIETS2 advanced competencies (2013). Proactive work with the industry and private companies is related to practice placement. Innovative application of ICT, e-learning and creating a website are intended for collaboration with other national and European nutrition networks.

This doctoral study program will allow: education of our own nutritionists who will be able to meet the domestic and global issues relating to food and nutrition, inclusion of the researchers and experts in the projects and in the: healthcare teams, HEIs, food industry and they will be qualified to be responsible for production of healthy, quality, safe, environmentally friendly and affordable food for domestic and export needs. Also, these nutritional experts will contribute to changes in public health policy and health education strategy (2014-2020) in the area of "Health Enhancing through Nutrition Education".

Key words: Nutrition education, Research, Descriptors, Competencies, Doctoral degree.