

## Towards new learning environments in nursing education

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We are moving towards a multicultural reality, to some extent existing in a virtual room, which influence on education and educational systems. It is a challenge to incorporate and use the new possibilities a virtual learning environment brings. During 2013 - 2015 YH Novia launched a ESF supported project named "Developing new learning environments at DP in Nursing". As a part of the project YH Novia and HKPU made a pilot study aiming at exploring and describing how a virtual course in intercultural communication can support the development of cultural competence (1). We adapted an idea of Global Classroom (2,3) and blended learning was adapted as teaching method. The introductory parts and supervision were held as traditional teaching, but most of the course was self-directed and conducted through different social media. Students, in pairs consisting of one student from each university, wrote essays where reflecting on cultural competence, similarities and differences concerning health and nursing care. The essays were presented and discussed at a seminar, held in real time through skype. Through this intercultural experience students uncovered their cultural selves and others based on their own reflective understanding and collaborative discourse with each other. Through intercultural encounters they learned to appreciate each other with cultural differences yet with much in common, and to recognize their assumptions and the value of subtleties and nuances. They could explore solutions within an unfamiliar context through their own efforts and with the support of peers and teachers. This led to a deeper understanding of cultural sensitivity and competence. The pilot study has inspired a new project named "Nordic/European Classroom" which is on its starting point. The idea is to find common courses at the participating universities, courses including elements of cultural competence, to be shared. The expected outcome is home-internationalization and a better understanding for nursing care in the multicultural world in which we live. The new project will be conducted during 2017.

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3. Nyback, M-H. 2015. Ett besök i piraternas land. Vård i Fokus 32 (4)