

PROMeTHEUS – Explanatory Note on Definitions of Medical Doctors, Nurses and Dentists and their specializations as part of the data analysis

This document aims to provide case study authors and correspondents with the information on the following:

- (i) Which **professions** will be covered by the data analysis and how they are defined/the corresponding titles in the different countries in Europe
- (ii) Which **specializations** within the professions will be covered by the data analysis, and
- (iii) What data and which specializations will not be covered by the data analysis.

The comparison of data on health professionals and their mobility within Europe and beyond poses several difficulties. One of the reasons are differences in the **definition of the professions** in the European countries, e.g. what is a medical doctor, a nurse or a nursing assistant, and major differences between **specializations** and existing professional **sub-groups**. Ideally, the data analysis of PROMeTHEUS would include the comparisons of the mobility of health professionals and specializations according to their tasks and areas of work to allow a better comparability between the specializations of medical doctors or nurses across countries. This is however, neither possible nor feasible within the context of the PROMeTHEUS study.

Therefore, the basis for the comparison between health professions and their sub-groups will be the **educational equivalents**, which is the minimum duration of the education of medical doctors, nurses, (nursing assistants, to the extent possible) and their specializations. These minimum equivalents are based on the minimum requirements for mutual recognition of Diplomas within the EU, as stipulated in the EU Directive (2005/36/EC).

We are aware that this is not the ideal solution but the best possible existing option to meet the objectives of the PROMeTHEUS study.

Registry

(General and broad working definition for the objectives of the PROMeTHEUS study)

An official, publicly available (either free access or accessibility upon official request) database on health professionals. Registration in this database is a prerequisite to be able to work as an active health professional.

Please use the available registry in your country, even if it fails to fulfil all these requirements, but indicate accordingly in the data sheets.

Medical Doctors

The data collection covers the following **groups and specializations of medical doctors**:

1. Medical Doctors (in general):

- Medical Doctors (all Medical Doctors)
- Active medical doctors (currently practising as a doctor and/or MDs who are registered/ licensed to be able to work actively and it can be assumed that they really practise)

2. Specializations (see **Annex I** for a comparison of the names of specializations in all 27 EU countries)

- GPs – General Practitioners
- All specialists (in total)
- Internal Medicine
- Surgery
- Anaesthesiology
- Radiology
- Pathology
- Psychiatry

How is “Medical Doctor” (in general) defined in the data collection / analysis of PROMeTHEUS?

For the purpose of the PROMeTHEUS data collection, a “Medical Doctor” is defined according to the minimum requirements as set out in the EU Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications (2005/36/EC), according to which the minimum duration of education and training for **basic medical education** is:

- **six years** (5500 hours) of theoretical and practical training provided by, or under supervision of, a university

The minimum duration for **specialist medical training** is according to these requirements:

- **minimum duration of 3 years** specialist training (depending on speciality: 3-7 years)
- An overview table of the **names of specializations** (in the 27 EU countries in their native language) is provided in **Annex I**, please make sure that the data you provide correspond with these specializations

Table 1: Minimum education requirements for medical doctors in the EU (according to Dir. 2005/36/EC)

	“Basic medical education”	“Specialist medical training” (see Annex I)	“General Medical Practice/General Internal Medicine” (see Annex I)
Minimum education/ training requirements (in years) (2005/36/EC)	- minimum 6 years (5500 hours) of theoretical and practical training	- minimum 3 years (depending on speciality 3-4-5 years) in addition to basic medical education	- 2 years (from 1 Jan 2006, three years) of full-time training - minimum ½ year training in general medical practice - <i>other transitional minimum requirements that are still valid</i>

Nurses (and lower-qualified nurses/nursing assistants)

The data collection covers the following **groups of nurses**:

Category 1. Nurses (General Nurse or other equivalent title and profession):

- Nurses (all nurses with minimum education of 3 years, including “branch nurses” – see graph 2)
- Active nurses (currently practising as a nurse, including “branch nurses”)

Category 2. Lower-Qualified Nurses (in general):

- Nursing assistants/auxiliary nurses (all lower-qualified nurses)
- Active nursing assistants (who are currently practising as lower-qualified nurse)

Category 3. Nurses and Lower Qualified Nurses Combined (Category 1 and Category 2)

- Please, use this category, if you DO HAVE registry data that include Category 1 and 2, but you cannot have those data separately

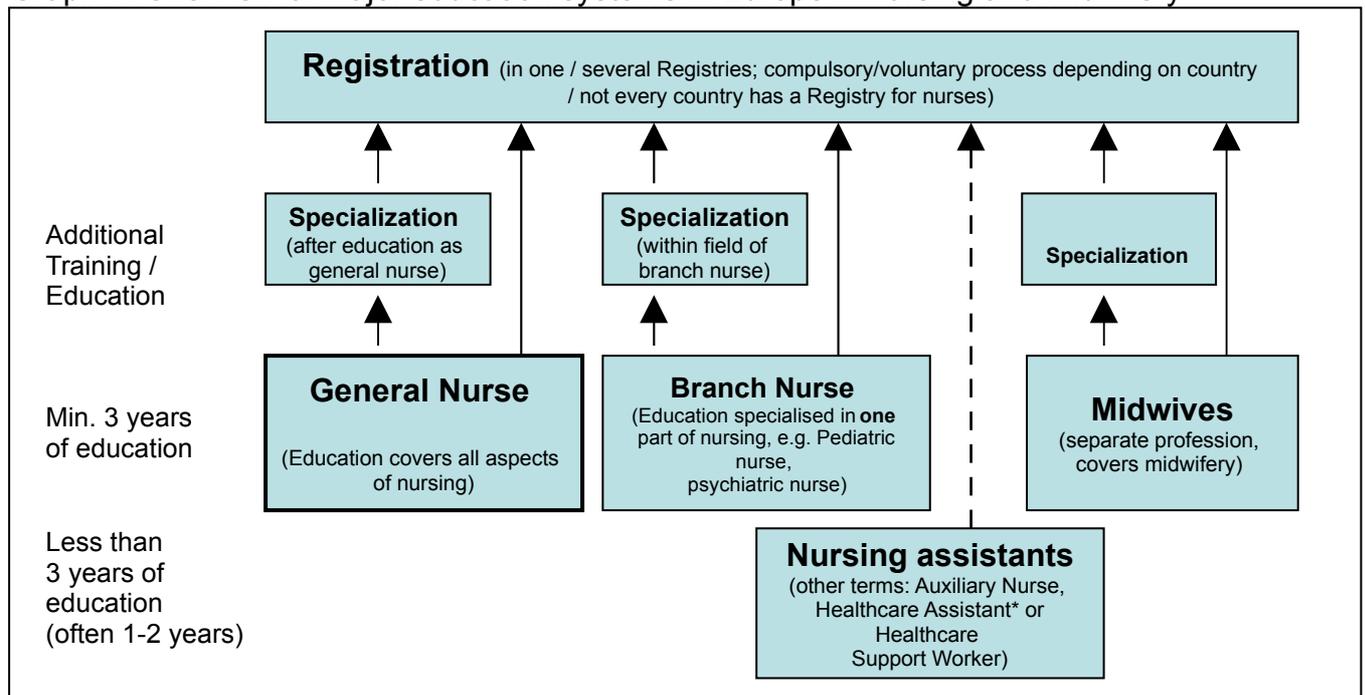
Category 4. All professions / Allied health professionals covered in this registry (Category 1 and 2 and other professional groups)

- Please fill in the data sheets even if many other allied health personnel categories are also included, but indicate that accordingly in the relevant boxes and in explanations

1. How is a “Nurse” defined in the context of the data collection exercise of PROMeTHEUS?

We use the below model to give an overview of the major nursing education systems and titles that exist in most countries of the European Union. All countries have a programme in place that leads their students to graduate as a **general nurse** (often also referred to as RN, Registered Nurse) with a minimum education duration of **three years**¹.

Graph 1: Overview of major education systems in Europe in nursing and midwifery



After the graduation as a general nurse, generally there is the option for nurses to specialise in a specific field in nursing. However, the areas of specializations vary considerably across countries, e.g. operating theatre nurse, diabetic nursing, paediatric nurse, wound management, nursing manager, etc. The specialization programmes have in common that they build on the education as a general nurse.

In several countries of the EU however, in addition to the education programme as general nurse and their specializations, there are also “direct-entry” education programmes that focus on one specific part of nursing only. These categories of nurses are subsumed under the term “**branch nurse**”. Examples of a branch nurse are paediatric nurses, psychiatric nurses (who are not trained as a general care nurse but for very specific nursing duties such as for newborns and children or in the field of psychiatry). An overview of the existence of Branch Nurses is provided in the following table:

¹ Irrespective of whether the education and training is organised at nursing school level, higher professional schools/Polytechnic or University level

**Please note, in some countries the terms “Assistant” and/or “Assistant Nurse” are also used as category of nurses, sometimes these persons are even specialised nurses, for instance: Cardiology Assistant, Nephrology Assistant. Please, make clear distinctions to avoid misunderstandings, if that is the case in your country.*

Table 2: Overview of “Branch Nurses” in selected European countries²

Country	Title of “General Nurse”	Does “Branch Nurse” exist?	Titles of “Branch Nurses”
Austria	General Care Nurse	Yes	Qualified psychiatric nurse / “ <i>Diplomierter psychiatrische Gesundheits- und Krankenpfleger oder –schwester</i> “ Qualified pediatric nurse / „ <i>Diplomierte Kinderkrankenschwester, -pfleger</i> “
Belgium	“Diploma or Brevet of general nurse” “HPS/BA degree of general nurse (infirmier gradué)”	Yes	Psychiatric nurse / “ <i>Infirmier-orientation santé mentale et psychiatrie / verpfleger in de geestelijke gezondheidszorg</i> »
Denmark	BA degree Polytechnic in nursing (<i>Sygeplejerske</i>)	No	-
Finland	HPS/BA degree in nursing	No	-
France	Diploma of general nurse (<i>infirmier</i>)	No	-
Germany	General Nurse (Krankenschwester/ - pfleger)	Yes	Pediatric Nurse / “ <i>Kinderkrankenschwester, -pfleger</i> ”
Greece	HPS degree in Nursing – and BA degree in nursing	No	-
Ireland	University Diploma in nursing for general nurse (General Nurse, RGN) BSc degree in nursing of general nurse (General Nurse, RGN)	Yes	University Diploma or BSc degree in mental health or intellectual disabilities
Italy	BA degree in nursing science	Yes/no	<i>Unclear, whether paediatric nurse and “health visitor” (assistente sanitaria di sanità pubblica) exist as branch nurses in Italy</i>
Luxembourg	Diploma of general nurse	no	-
Malta	BSc degree in	Yes	Psychiatric nurse (BSc)

² Sources: (1) European Commission (2000): Study of Specialist Nurses in Europe. Markt/D/8031/2000, Brussels 1 August 2000; (2) Spitzer, Perrenoud (2006): Reforms in Nursing Education Across Western Europe: Implementation Processes and Current Status. *Journal of Professional Nursing*, 22, (3): 162-171.

	nursing studies		
Netherlands	HPS/BA degree of general nurse (HBOV)	no	-
Norway	BA degree in nursing	no	-
Portugal	BA degree in nursing (licensure)	no	-
Spain	University diploma in nursing	no	-
Sweden	University diploma of general nurse (BSc degree in nursing)	Yes	Diagnostic Radiology Nurse / "rontgensjukoterska"
Switzerland	Diploma of general nurse – and HPS/BA degree of general nurse	No	-
UK	University diploma of general nurse – and BSc degree in nursing	Yes	Pediatrics / University Diploma or BSc degree in pediatrics Mental health / University Diploma or BSc degree Intellectual disabilities / University Diploma or BSc degree

For the purpose of the data collection, the case study authors and country correspondents should bear in mind these groups of professions to include in the data analysis if possible. In many countries in Europe, Branch Nurses are registered in the same registry than the General Nurses but not in all countries.

2. How is a “Nursing Assistant” defined in the context of the data collection exercise of PROMeTHEUS?

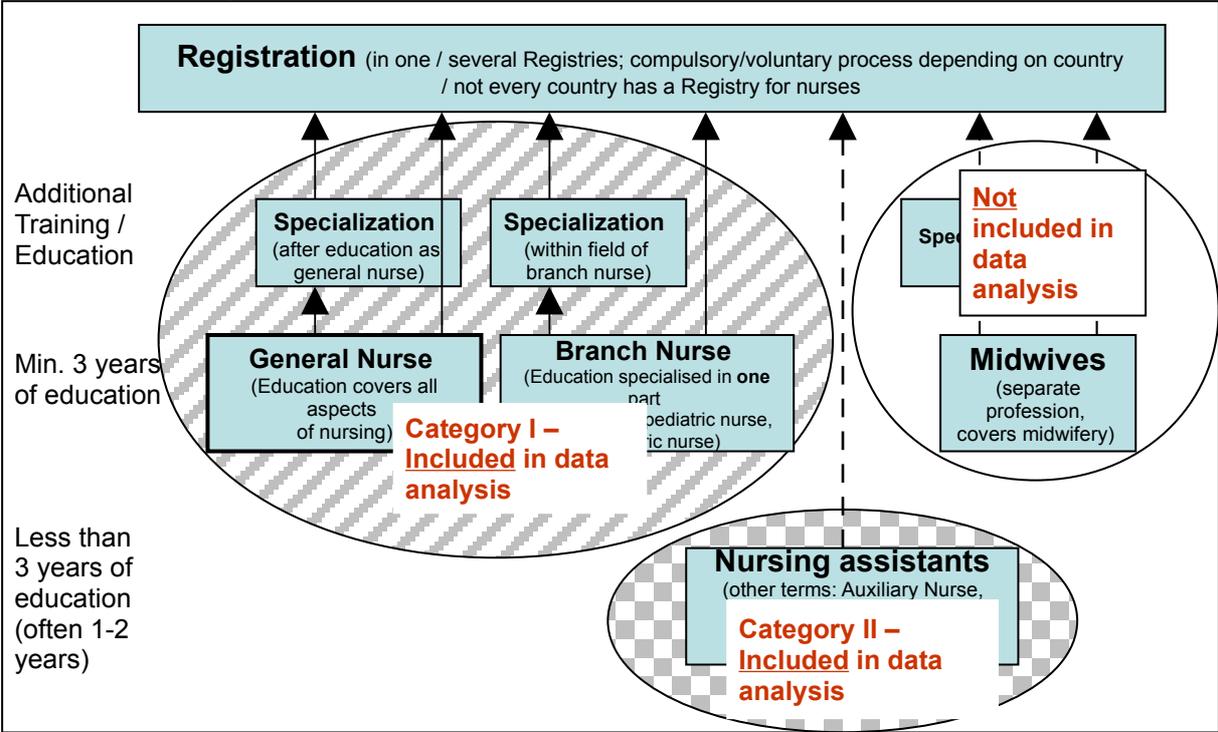
The terms *nursing assistants* or *Auxiliary Nurses/Healthcare Assistents* subsumes a group of lower-qualified nurses with an education of 1 - 3 years who usually assist the General Nurses and Branch Nurses in their tasks and basic duties. They have in common that they were trained at least for one year (up to 3 years according to different education schemes in countries) but did not follow the education as a general nurse or branch nurse, thus are lower qualified nurses or nursing assistants.

If possible, data on nursing assistants should also be included in the data analysis, subsumed in one category.

3. Are midwives included into the data analysis?

Please note that the data collection sheets will ask to provide data on (i) nurses in general (including General Nurse and Branch Nurses plus their specializations – Category I) and (ii) Nursing assistants (Category II). Data about midwives will **not** be included in the data collection and analysis. If the registry data or other data sources cover midwives, if possible please **exclude** them from the data analysis. If this is not possible, please specify in the data collection sheets that midwives are included in the data.

Graph 2: PROMeTHEUS data analysis – sub-groups and categories of nurses included in analysis



Dentists

The PROMeTHEUS data collection covers the following **sub-groups of dentists**:

1. Dentists (in general):

- All dentists
- Active dentists (currently practising as a dentists)

The data collection covers the following **groups and specializations of dentists**

2. Specializations

- All dentist specialists (total)
- Ortodontics
- Oral Surgery

1. How is “Dentist” (in general) defined in the data collection / analysis of PROMeTHEUS?

For the purpose of the PROMeTHEUS data collection, the definitions and minimum requirements as set out in the EU Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications (2005/36/EC) are used, according to which the minimum duration of education and training for **basic dental education** is:

- **five years** of theoretical and practical training provided by, or under supervision of, a university, in a higher institute providing training recognised as being of an equivalent

The minimum requirements for **specific training in Dentistry** are:

- **three years of full-time training**
- It shall involve the personal participation of the dental practitioner training to be a specialist in the activity and in the responsibilities of the establishment concerned,
- and other transitional minimum requirements that are still valid

There is no mandatory mutual recognition in the field of dentistry at present. There is an existing recommendation for mutual recognition of two specialities, namely: oral surgery, ortodontics. This recommendation comes from the Council of European Dentists. The 2005/36/EC directive does not contain the exact name of these specialities in each European languages, thus it is not mandatory at this point of time.

Annex I – Overview of medical specialisations in the European Union

	anaesthetics	general (internal) medicine	general surgery	pathological anatomy	psychiatry	radiology
Belgique/België/Belgien	Anesthésie-réanimation/Anesthesie reanimatie	Médecine interne/Inwendige geneeskunde	Chirurgie/Heelkunde	Anatomie pathologique/Pathologische anatomie	Psychiatrie	Radiodiagnostic/Röntgendiagnose
България	Анестезиология и интензивно лечение	Вътрешни болести	Хирургия	Обща и клинична патология	Психиатрия	Образна диагностика
Česká republika	Anesteziologie a resuscitace	Vnitřní lékařství	Chirurgie	Patologická anatomie	Psychiatrie	Radiologie a zobrazovací metody
Danmark	Anæstesiologi	Intern medicin	Kirurgi eller kirurgiske sygdomme	Patologisk anatomi eller vævs- og celleundersøgelser	Psykiatri	Radiologie a zobrazovací metody
Deutschland	Anästhesiologie	Innere Medizin	(Allgemeine) Chirurgie	Pathologie	Psychiatrie und Psychotherapie	(Diagnostische) Radiologie
Eesti	Anestesioloogia	Sisehaigused	Üldkirurgia	Patoloogia	Psühhiaatria	Radioloogia
Ελλάς	Αναισθησιολογία	Παθολογία	Χειρουργική	Παθολογική Ανατομική	Ψυχιατρική	Ακτινοδιαγνωστική
España	Anestesiología y Reanimación	Medicina interna	Cirugía general y del aparato digestivo	Anatomía patológica	Psiquiatría	Radiodiagnóstico
France	Anesthésiologie-Réanimation chirurgicale	Médecine interne	Chirurgie générale	Anatomie et cytologie pathologiques	Psychiatrie	Radiodiagnostic et imagerie médicale
Ireland	Anaesthesia	General medicine	General surgery	Histopathology	Psychiatry	Diagnostic radiology
Italia	Anestesia e rianimazione	Medicina interna	Chirurgia generale	Anatomia patologica	Psichiatria	Radiodiagnostica
Κύπρος	Αναισθησιολογία	Παθολογία	Γενική Χειρουργική	Παθολογοανατομία — Ιστολογία	Ψυχιατρική	Ακτινολογία
Latvija	Anestezioloģija un reanimatoloģija	Interna medicina	Ķirurgija	Patoloģija	Psihiatrija	Diagnostiskā radioloģija
Lietuva	Anesteziologija reanimatologija	Vidaus ligos	Chirurgija	Patologija	Psichiatrija	Radiologija
Luxembourg	Anesthésie-réanimation	Médecine interne	Chirurgie générale	Anatomie pathologique	Psychiatrie	Radiodiagnostic
Magyarország	Aneszteziológia és intenzív terápia	Belgyógyászat	Sebészet	Patológia	Pszichiátria	Radiológia
Malta	Anesteżija u Kura Intensiva	Medicina Interna	Kirurgija Ġenerali	Istopatoloġija	Psikjatrija	Radjoloġija
Nederland	Anesthesiologie	Interne geneeskunde	Heelkunde	Pathologie	Psychiatrie	Radiologie
Österreich	Anästhesiologie und Intensivmedizin	Innere Medizin	Chirurgie	Pathologie	Psychiatrie	Medizinische Radiologie-Diagnostik
Polska	Anesteziologia i intensywna terapia	Choroby wewnętrzne	Chirurgia ogólna	Patomorfologia	Psychiatria	Radiologia i diagnostyka obrazowa
Portugal	Anestesiologia	Medicina interna	Cirurgia geral	Anatomia patologica	Psiquiatria	Radiodiagnóstico
România	Anestezie și terapie intensivă	Medicină internă	Chirurgie generală	Anatomie patologică	Psihiatrie	Radiologie-imagistică medicală
Slovenija	Anesteziologija, reanimatologija in perioperativna intenzivna medicina	Interna medicina	Splošna kirurgija	Anatomska patologija in citopatologija	Psihiatrija	Radiologija
Slovensko	Anestéziológia a intenzívna medicína	Vnútrotné lekárstvo	Chirurgia	Patologická anatomia	Psychiatria	Rádiológia

Suomi/Finland	Anestesiologia ja tehohoito/Anesthesiologi och intensivvård	Sisätaudit/Inre medicin	Yleiskirurgia/Allmän kirurgi	Patologia/Patologi	Psykiatria/Psykiatri	Radiologia/Radiologi
Sverige	Anestesi och intensivvård	Internmedicin	Kirurgi	Klinisk patologi	Psykiatri	Medicinsk radiologi
United Kingdom	Anaesthetics	General (internal) medicine	General surgery	Histopathology	General psychiatry	Clinical radiology