

No. 10322

MULTILATERAL

European Agreement on the instruction and education of nurses (with annexes). Done at Strasbourg on 25 October 1967

Authentic texts: English and French.

Registered by the Council of Europe, acting on behalf of the Contracting Parties, on 25 February 1970.

MULTILATÉRAL

Accord européen sur l'instruction et la formation des infirmières (avec annexes). Fait à Strasbourg le 25 octobre 1967

Textes authentiques: anglais et français.

Enregistré par le Conseil de l'Europe, agissant au nom des Parties contractantes, le 25 février 1970.

EUROPEAN AGREEMENT¹ ON THE INSTRUCTION AND EDUCATION OF NURSES

The member States of the Council of Europe, signatory hereto,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its Members for the purpose, among others, of facilitating their social progress and promoting the social well-being of their populations by means of appropriate action;

Having regard to the Conventions furthering this purpose already concluded within the framework of the Council, in particular the European Social Charter, signed on 18th October 1961,² and the European Convention on Establishment, signed on 13th December 1955;³

Being convinced that the conclusion of a regional Agreement on the harmonisation of the instruction and education of nurses will promote social progress and guarantee the standard of the nurses required for their establishment in the territory of other Contracting Parties on an equal footing with those countries' nationals;

Considering it necessary to lay down minimal standards,

Have agreed as follows :

Article 1

1. Each Contracting Party shall apply or, if the education of nurses is not under its direct control, recommend the competent authority to apply the provisions governing the instruction and education of nurses set out in Annex I to this Agreement.
2. For the purpose of this Agreement, nurses shall be intended to include only "general trained nurses", male or female. Those nurses whose training is solely within the field of public health, infants' and sick children's nursing, obstetrics or mental health are excluded.

¹ Came into force on 7 August 1969, three months after the date on which the following three States members of the Council of Europe had either signed it without reservation as to ratification or acceptance (s), or, having signed subject to such reservation, deposited an instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe on the dates indicated, in accordance with article 5 (1):

Denmark	25 October 1967 s
(For the Kingdom of Denmark with the exception of Faroe Islands.)	
Malta*	6 May 1969
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**	21 December 1967 s

* For the text of the reservations made at the time of signature, see p. 374 of this volume.

** For the text of the reservation made at the time of signature, see p. 375 of this volume.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 529, p. 89.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 529, p. 141.

Article 2

Each Contracting Party shall communicate to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe a list of its authorities or other bodies authorised to certify the accomplishment of a nurse's instruction and education satisfying at least the standards laid down in Annex I to this Agreement.

Article 3

1. After the entry into force of this Agreement in accordance with Article 4, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe sitting with its membership limited to the Representatives of the Contracting Parties, shall be responsible for the further elaboration of the regulations contained in Annex I to this Agreement in accordance with the current developments in this field.

2. Any modification or extension of the regulations contained in Annex I unanimously approved by the Committee of Ministers referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be communicated by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to the Contracting Parties and shall enter into force three months after the date on which the Secretary General is notified by the Contracting Parties of their approval of the modification or extension.

Article 4

1. This Agreement shall be open to signature by the member States of the Council of Europe, who may become Parties to it either by :

- (a) signature without reservation in respect of ratification or acceptance, or
- (b) signature with reservation in respect of ratification or acceptance, followed by ratification or acceptance.

2. Instruments of ratification or acceptance shall be deposited with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

Article 5

1. This Agreement shall enter into force three months after the date on which three member States of the Council shall have become Parties to the Agreement, in accordance with the provisions of Article 4.

2. As regards any member States who shall subsequently sign the Agreement without reservation in respect of ratification or acceptance or who shall ratify or accept it, the Agreement shall enter into force three months after the date of such signature or after the date of deposit of the instrument of ratification or acceptance.

Article 6

1. After the entry into force of this Agreement, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe may invite any non-member State to accede thereto.
2. Such accession shall be effected by depositing with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe an instrument of accession which shall take effect three months after the date of its deposit.

Article 7

1. Any Contracting Party may, at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession, declare that it avails itself of one or more of the reservations provided for in Annex II to this Agreement.
2. Any Contracting Party may wholly or partly withdraw a reservation it has made in accordance with the foregoing paragraph by means of a declaration addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, which shall become effective as from the date of its receipt.

Article 8

The Annexes shall be an integral part of this Agreement.

Article 9

1. Any Contracting Party may at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession, specify the territory or territories to which this Agreement shall apply.
2. Any Contracting Party may, when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession or at any later date by declaration addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, extend this agreement to any other territory or territories specified in the declaration and for whose international relations it is responsible or on whose behalf it is authorised to give undertakings.
3. Any declaration made in pursuance of the preceding paragraph may, in respect of any territory mentioned in such declaration, be withdrawn according to the procedure laid down in Article 10 of this Agreement.

Article 10

1. This Agreement shall remain in force indefinitely.
2. Any Contracting Party may, in so far as it is concerned, denounce this Agreement by means of a notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

3. Such denunciation shall take effect six months after the date of receipt by the Secretary General of such notification.

Article 11

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall notify the member States of the Council and any State which has acceded to this Agreement of :

- (a) any signature without reservation in respect of ratification or acceptance;
- (b) any signature with reservation in respect of ratification or acceptance;
- (c) the deposit of any instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession;
- (d) any date of entry into force of the modifications or extensions referred to in Article 3 (2);
- (e) any date of entry into force of this Agreement in accordance with Article 5;
- (f) any communication received in pursuance of the provisions of Article 2;
- (g) any notification received in pursuance of the provisions of Article 7;
- (h) any declaration received in pursuance of the provisions of Article 9;
- (i) any notification received in pursuance of the provisions of Article 10 and the date on which denunciation takes effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Strasbourg, this 25th day of October 1967, in English and French, both texts being equally authoritative, in a single copy which shall remain deposited in the archives of the Council of Europe. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall transmit certified copies to each of the signatory and acceding States.

For the Government
of the Republic of Austria :

Pour le Gouvernement
de la République d'Autriche :

For the Government
of the Kingdom of Belgium :

Pour le Gouvernement
du Royaume de Belgique :

For the Government
of the Republic of Cyprus :

Pour le Gouvernement
de la République de Chypre :

For the Government
of the Kingdom of Denmark :

Pour le Gouvernement
du Royaume de Danemark :

M. WARBERG

For the Government
of the French Republic :

Pour le Gouvernement
de la République française :

sous réserve d'approbation¹

Strasbourg, le 30 novembre 1967

Charles BONFILS

For the Government
of the Federal Republic of Germany :

Pour le Gouvernement
de la République Fédérale
d'Allemagne :

with reservation in respect
of ratification or acceptance

sous réserve de ratification
ou d'acceptation

Heinrich NORTHE

¹ Subject to approval.

For the Government
of the Kingdom of Greece :
with reservation in respect
of ratification or acceptance

Pour le Gouvernement
du Royaume de Grèce :
sous réserve de ratification
ou d'acceptation

B. VITSAXIS

For the Government
of the Icelandic Republic :

Pour le Gouvernement
de la République islandaise :

For the Government
of Ireland :

Pour le Gouvernement
d'Irlande :

For the Government
of the Italian Republic :¹
with reservation in respect
of ratification or acceptance

Pour le Gouvernement
de la République italienne¹ :
sous réserve de ratification
ou d'acceptation

Strasbourg, le 6 novembre 1968

A. ASSETTATI

For the Government of the
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg :

Pour le Gouvernement du
Grand Duché de Luxembourg :

¹ With the following reservation:

[TRANSLATION* — TRADUCTION**]

In pursuance of Article 7, Italy avails itself
of the reservations provided for in Annex II.

* Translation by the Secretariat-General
of the Council of Europe.

** Traduction du Secrétariat général du
Conseil de l'Europe.

¹ Avec la réserve suivante:

Conformément à l'article 7, l'Italie fera usage
des réserves prévues à l'Annexe II.

For the Government
of Malta :¹

with reservation in respect
of ratification or acceptance

Pour le Gouvernement
de Malte¹:

sous réserve de ratification
ou d'acceptation

Strasbourg, 7th May 1968

G. BORG OLIVIER

For the Government
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands :

Pour le Gouvernement
du Royaume des Pays-Bas :

For the Government
of the Kingdom of Norway :

Pour le Gouvernement
du Royaume de Norvège :

For the Government
of the Kingdom of Sweden :

Pour le Gouvernement
du Royaume de Suède :

¹ With the following reservations:

In accordance with the provisions of article 7 (1) of the Agreement, the Government of Malta avails itself of the reservation provided for in paragraph 3 of annex II to the Agreement and reserves the right to derogate from the provisions of Chapter III of annex I by providing a number of hours of theoretical and formal instruction other than that referred to in that chapter;

In accordance with the same provisions of article 7 (1) of the Agreement, the Government of Malta further avails itself of the reservation provided for in paragraph 4 (1) of the same annex II to the Agreement and reserves the right to derogate from the provisions of chapter III of annex I by retaining as optional subjects in the curriculum and in practical training, maternity care, mental health and psychiatry and care of the aged and geriatrics.

¹ Avec les réserves suivantes:

[TRADUCTION* — TRANSLATION**]

En vertu des dispositions du paragraphe 1 de l'article 7, le Gouvernement de Malte fait usage de la réserve prévue au paragraphe 3 de l'annexe II à l'Accord, et se réserve le droit de déroger aux dispositions du chapitre III de l'annexe I en prévoyant un nombre d'heures de cours théoriques et techniques différent de celui prévu dans ce chapitre;

En vertu des mêmes dispositions du paragraphe 1 de l'article 7, le Gouvernement de Malte fait, en outre, usage de la réserve prévue au paragraphe 4 (i) de l'annexe II à l'Accord et se réserve le droit de déroger aux dispositions du chapitre III de l'annexe I en retenant comme sujets facultatifs du programme et de la formation pratique les services de maternité, la santé mentale et la psychiatrie, et les soins aux personnes âgées et la gériatrie.

* Traduction du Secrétariat général du Conseil de l'Europe.

** Translation by the Secretariat-General of the Council of Europe.

For the Government
of the Swiss Confederation :

with reservation in respect
of ratification or acceptance

Pour le Gouvernement
de la Confédération suisse :

sous réserve de ratification
ou d'acceptation

Strasbourg, le 25 septembre 1968

D. GAGNEBIN

For the Government
of the Turkish Republic :

with reservation in respect
of ratification or acceptance

Pour le Gouvernement
de la République turque :

sous réserve de ratification
ou d'acceptation

Strasbourg, le 11 septembre 1968

E. DERINGIL

For the Government
of the United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland :¹

Pour le Gouvernement
du Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne
et d'Irlande du Nord¹:

Strasbourg, 21st December 1967

E. B. BOOTHBY

¹ With the following reservation:

When signing the said Agreement, the Permanent Representative declared, on behalf of his Government, that, in accordance with the provisions of Article 7 (1) of the Agreement, the United Kingdom hereby avails itself of the reservation provided for in paragraph (4) (i) of Annex II to the Agreement and reserves the right to derogate from the provisions of Chapter III of Annex I by retaining as optional subjects in the curriculum and in practical training, maternity care, mental health and psychiatry and care of the aged and geriatrics.

¹ Avec la réserve suivante:

[TRADUCTION* — TRANSLATION**]

En signant ledit Accord, le Représentant Permanent a déclaré au nom de son Gouvernement que, en vertu des dispositions du paragraphe 1 de l'article 7, le Royaume-Uni fait usage de la réserve prévue au paragraphe 4 (i) de l'Annexe II à l'Accord, et qu'il se réserve le droit de déroger aux dispositions du chapitre III de l'Annexe I en retenant comme sujets facultatifs du programme et de la formation pratique les services de maternité, la santé mentale et la psychiatrie, et les soins aux personnes âgées et la gériatrie.

* Traduction du Secrétariat général du Conseil de l'Europe.

** Translation by the Secretariat-General of the Council of Europe.

ANNEX I

MINIMAL STANDARDS FOR THE INSTRUCTION AND EDUCATION
OF NURSES

CHAPTER I

DEFINITION OF THE FUNCTIONS OF GENERAL TRAINED NURSES

1. The general trained nurse exercises in conformity with the national legislation the following essential functions :
 - (a) giving skilled nursing care to persons as required in accordance with the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the patient, whether that care is given in health institutions, homes, schools, places of work;
 - (b) observing physical and emotional situations and conditions which have significant bearing on health and communicating those observations to other members of the health team;
 - (c) training and giving guidance to auxiliary personnel who are required to fulfil the nursing service needs of all health agencies.
2. This also involves an evaluation of the nursing needs of a particular patient and assigning personnel in accordance with the needs of that patient at a particular time.

CHAPTER II

EDUCATIONAL STANDARD REQUIRED OF CANDIDATES
FOR ADMISSION TO SCHOOLS OF NURSING

Candidates for admission to schools of nursing shall normally have reached a cultural and intellectual standard equivalent to at least that of the 10th year of general education. They shall therefore either possess a recognised school certificate signifying the completion of such general education, or must have passed an official entrance examination of an equivalent standard.

CHAPTER III

DURATION AND CONTENT OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

Nurses shall have a minimum of 4,600 hours basic nursing education. At least half the total time shall be devoted to clinical instruction (practical experience) (see B below). However, the number of hours of theoretical and formal instruction (see A below) shall not be less than one third of the total educational programme.

A. Theoretical and formal instruction

Instruction shall include all aspects of nursing, as well as the prevention of sickness, health education, rehabilitation, drug action and administration of drugs and problems of nutrition and dietetics, and also first aid, resuscitation and the theory of blood transfusion.

Theory and practice shall be co-ordinated and integrated throughout the programme.

The subjects to be included in the curriculum may be grouped under two headings :

1. Nursing

Professional orientation and ethics

General principles of health and nursing

Principles of nursing care in relation to :

- general medicine and medical specialities
- general surgery and surgical specialities
- care of children and pediatrics
- maternity care
- mental health and psychiatry
- care of the aged and geriatrics.

2. Fundamental Sciences

Anatomy and physiology

General pathology

Bacteriology, virology, parasitology

Biophysics and biochemistry

Hygiene :

- preventive medicine
- health education.

Social Sciences :

- sociology
- psychology
- principles of administration
- principles of teaching
- social and health legislation
- legal aspects of nursing.

B. *Clinical instruction (practical experience)*

Practical experience shall cover all aspects of the nurse's role, including the prevention of sickness, health education, first aid, resuscitation and blood transfusion.

It shall include :

General medicine and medical specialities

General surgery and surgical specialities

Care of children and pediatrics

Maternity care

Mental health and psychiatry (in a specialised service if possible)

Care of the aged and geriatrics.

The following factors shall be taken into account in choosing such fields :

1. The experience gained shall be of educational value. It is therefore necessary to have :

—sufficient trained staff to ensure that the nursing care is satisfactory;

—adequate and satisfactory physical facilities, equipment and supplies for the nursing care of patients.

2. In all departments or units to which student nurses are assigned during the practical experience there shall be at all times at least one qualified nurse to provide supervision, and sufficient additional staff to ensure that the student does not undertake tasks which have no nursing educational value.

3. Qualified nurses in departments or units approved as fields of practical experience shall assist in the supervision and instruction of the students for whom the tutorial staff is responsible.

CHAPTER IV

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ORGANISATION OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING

In order that the proposed schemes of nursing education may be adequately carried out the organisation and operation of the school has to meet the following requirements :

A. Administration of the school of nursing

The administration of the school shall be placed under the direction of a medical practitioner or a nurse who is competent in teaching and administration.

B. Teaching staff

The instruction shall be given by qualified teachers : doctors, nurses and specialists in various disciplines. Each school should have on its staff at least one qualified nurse who has received training of at least one year's duration which qualified her in the teaching of nursing.

C. School finances

The sum of money available to meet expenditure directly attributable to nurse training, e. g. salaries of tutors and cost of teaching equipment, should be clearly identifiable.

CHAPTER V

EVIDENCE OF COMPLETION OF THE EDUCATION PROGRAMME

A. A school record shall be kept for each student, the authenticity of which would be guaranteed by the competent authority stating :

- details of courses attended
- test and examination results
- an appreciation of the personal and professional aptitudes revealed by the student in the course of the studies.

B. The final examination shall comprise written, practical and oral tests, and its successful result should be certificated.

ANNEX II

Any Contracting Party may declare that it reserves the right :

- (1) to derogate from the provisions of Chapter II of Annex I by providing that candidates may have reached a cultural and intellectual standard equivalent to eight years of general education;
 - (2) to derogate from the provisions of Chapter II of Annex I by providing that candidates need not possess a recognised school certificate;
 - (3) to derogate from the provisions of Chapter III of Annex I by providing a number of hours of theoretical and formal instruction other than that referred to in that Chapter;
 - (4) to derogate from the provisions of Chapter III of Annex I :
 - (i) by retaining as optional subjects in the curriculum and in practical training, maternity care, mental health and psychiatry and care of the aged and geriatrics, or
 - (ii) by providing that clinical instruction shall not cover mental health and psychiatry.
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