Doctoral Education in Nursing: A Polish Perspective

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Poland
Poland is a developed country of East-Central Europe. Member of European Union since 2004.

Area: 312679 km² [1]
Population: 38478602 [1]
In % of GDP: 18.1 [2]

Nursing in Poland
- Currently there is 282,522 registered nurses (females 98%, males 2%) [4]
- The average nurse’s age is 48 [4]
- There is 5.4 nurses per 1000 inhabitants [4]
- It is expected that the number of nurses will be decreasing within next years [5, 6]

Fig. 2. Expected number of Polish nurses [5, 6]

Basic Nursing Education
- The main law which regulates nursing practice in Poland is an act on professions of nurse and midwife from July 15th 2011. According to this document Polish registered nurses are obligated to continuously develop their skills and competences [9]

Fig. 3. Nurses education in Poland

Doctoral Education in Nursing
The course of doctoral studies is regulated by Directive of Minister of Science and Higher Education from October 24th 2014 regarding the doctoral studies and doctoral scholarship [10].
- There are two kinds of programs: tuition based and tuition free
- There is no possibility to obtain doctoral degree specifically in nursing science

Each University determines their own curriculum based on the Directive. Doctoral education program based on an example of curriculum of Medical University of Warsaw:
- 360 hours of teaching skills
- 326 hours of self study
- Completing courses: biostatistics, history of medicine, bioethics, psychosomatic medicine and humanistic basics of medicine

Until September 2015 Main Chamber of Nursing registered 321 nurses who obtained doctoral degree.

Fig. 4. Doctoral degrees among Polish nurses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Doctoral degree</th>
<th>Number of Nurses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Nursing Science</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Natural Science</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Health Science</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Medical Science</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Humanities (Pedagogy)</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doctor of Humanities</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Economics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Physical Culture</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral habilitation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not specified</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summary</strong></td>
<td><strong>321</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References:
10. Directive of Minister of Science and Higher Education from 24th October 2014 regarding the doctoral studies and doctoral scholarship.