Supporting development of TransCultural Competence for healthcare professionals in the Western Balkans (TCCWB) NEWSLETTER 2

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

1. DISSEMINATION CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP IN MOSTAR

15–17 December 2025 | “Džemal Bijedić” University of Mostar



The activity was organized as a three-day final conference and workshop held from 15–17 December 2025 at “Džemal Bijedić” University of Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, bringing together all TCCWB project partners. The programme included project presentations by partner institutions from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FAMI, SMOC, Belgium and Finland, providing an overview of project results, experiences and key contributions. Discussions focused on reflection and recommendations for project finalization. The final day reviewed the pilot project, outlined next steps and included a Steering Committee meeting addressing project progress, challenges and future activities.

2. DISSEMINATION CONFERENCE IN ALBANIA

3–4 June 2026 | Shkodra “Luigj Gurakuqi”



On June 3–4, 2026, the Shkodra University Library “Luigj Gurakuqi” hosted the E5.2 Albanian Dissemination Conference and E7.5 Steering Committee meeting within the Erasmus+ TCCWB project. The event brought together partner universities and institutions from Albania, the Western Balkans and the European Union to exchange experiences and strengthen cooperation in transcultural healthcare. The conference was opened by the Vice-Rector of UNISHK, Prof. Dr. Blerta Dragusha, with welcoming remarks from Ena Bučan (FAMI) and Dino Mujkić (SMOC). Presentations involved local government, health authorities and local health institutions. A new Erasmus+ funded cabinet was inaugurated, while discussions focused on culturally diverse healthcare, project progress and future activities.

3. PILOT PROGRAMME IN MOSTAR

12–13 November 2025 | Mostar





As part of the project, a pilot training session on transcultural competencies for students and nursing staff was held on 12–13 November 2025. The instructor was Prof. Dr. Mirza Oruc and participants included 20 Health Care students at “Džemal Bijedić” University of Mostar and 20 graduated nurses from Cantonal Hospital “Dr. Safet Mujic” Mostar and the Centre for Primary Health Care “Old Town” Mostar. Participants acquired knowledge and skills enabling healthcare professionals to better understand, respect and address the needs of patients from diverse cultural backgrounds, including empathy, active listening, flexibility and adaptability.

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

4. PILOT PROGRAMME IN SHKODRA

Second semester 2025–2026 | Nursing Programme





During the second semester of the 2025–2026 academic year, TCCWB lectures were delivered to Nursing students to strengthen transcultural competences in nursing practice. The sessions addressed Cultural Diversity, Cultural Competencies, Health Inequalities, Responsible Cultural Care, the Development of Cultural Competence, and Nursing Assessment Summary. Through these activities, students enhanced their understanding of cultural diversity, effective communication, and safe, ethical, and patientcentred care tailored to individual needs. The lecture materials were integrated into the Nursing curriculum, contributing to its update with contemporary concepts of transcultural competence.

5. PILOT PROGRAMME FOR NURSES IN GJIROKASTER

9–12 February 2026 | “Eqrem Çabej” University of Gjirokastër





As part of the Erasmus+ TCCWB project, “Eqrem Çabej” University of Gjirokastër hosted a one-week Winter School from 9–12 February 2026, bringing together thirty-three healthcare professionals and academics to strengthen transcultural competence in healthcare services. The training combined theoretical lectures with hands-on, simulationbased learning. Through case studies, practical exercises and interactive discussions, participants explored intercultural communication, ethical decision-making and interdisciplinary teamwork. By bridging academic knowledge with everyday clinical practice, the initiative contributed to the broader goals of the TCCWB project.

6. PILOT PROGRAMME FOR NURSING STUDENTS IN GJIROKASTER

29 April – 9 May 2026 | “Eqrem Çabej” University of Gjirokastër





During the piloting phase of the Erasmus+ TCCWB project from April 29 to May 9, 2026, forty-one first-year Bachelor’s students in General Nursing at “Eqrem Çabej” University of Gjirokastër engaged in testing the newly developed “TransCultural Competencies for Healthcare Professionals in the Western Balkans” modules. Implemented by the Department of Nursing, the training focused on enhancing cultural awareness, intercultural communication, and culturally responsive care to prepare future nurses for increasingly multicultural healthcare environments. The initiative supports the integration of these materials into the core nursing curriculum.