

We are from Nursing department Laurea University of Applied Sciences in Espoo city, Finland. In our unit we have students studying business, physiotherapy, nursing, public health nursing and social services, we have both Finnish and English programmes./// This autumn a new curriculum is being applied. In nursing the focus is in health promotion. The study offer next spring (2015) contains health in different ages and family nursing. ///

We have students from all over the world and thus cultural competence is a key concept in the educational programmes. The concept multiculturalism has three dimensions and cultural competence development phases are cultural awareness, cultural knowledge, cultural sensitivity and cultural competence.///

Benin is a democracy in West Africa's sub Saharan region with a population of about 10 million. Cotonou is the administrative capital. In Mono Department in South West of Benin is the commune of Grand Popo. Its' area is almost 300 square kilometers/// and population about 40 000 in the 60 villages. The town Grand Popo lies right on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean. Benin has many local languages like Mina, but the official language is French.///

Close to town Grand Popo there is a Finnish-African cultural centre, the purpose of which is to improve the awareness and to promote the cooperation between Finnish and African artists and researchers as well as to support the cultural contacts between the two countries///. Laurea has a cooperation contract with Villa Karo and the National University of Benin in Cotonou.

Local administrative representatives from Villa Karo and Grand Popo community have visited Laurea a few times ///expressing the need and desire for cooperation. So far the visitors from Laurea to Benin have been the campus director, a communication teacher and a business student.

The second Grand Popo community development plan has been published in September 2013.///Impact consultants have analysed the situation in the department of Grand Popo using SWOT based on seven World Health Organisation's Millenium goals. Our planned focus will be women's health since it is reflected in the health and wellbeing of the whole family/// and community. The eighth millennium goal is to develop a global partnership for development.

The project vision is congruent with the Grand Popo Commune Development vision for years 2013-2018. In order to ensure sustainable action by developing infrastructure the community vision is:/// In the year 2025 Grand Popo Commune is a prosperous tourist and agro-alimentary area, where water and eco system are preserved for the future generations. Aim of the project is to establish an exchange program, which supports the local development of health promotion expertise and the use of existing ///community resources in health and wellbeing and which promotes innovative learning, enhances the professional expertise and cultural competence of all parties.

The planned research method of this research project is participatory action research (PAR). ///Assessment phase includes mapping the needs of the female inhabitants; what are the concrete, affordable, accessible and acceptable contents and methods of health promotion?

There are several resources for the facilitation of the implementation of assessment phase///. In the action phase, participants take action deciding what to do and carrying it out. Participants meaning the inhabitants and administration of Grand Popo as well as students and teachers of Laurea and the other possible cooperation partners. Helsinki University has already suggested cooperation and Oulu University of Applied Sciences has expressed their interest in joining the project, too.///

Laurea Finland, Kaija Heikkilä & Sari Haapa 21.10.2014

The planned research (PAR) process will last till 2018./// Qualitative and quantitative analysis of the whole PAR process will take place after the implementation. The planned and evaluated health promotion programme will continue by the local people of Grand Popo.///

Options for

- 1) available financing?
- 2) interested partners?