

TRAINING WORKSHOPS AND LANGUAGE COURSES

IN ROMANIA

The Romanian workshop was organized on March 28-29 by the “Grigore T. Popa” University of Medicine and Pharmacy Iasi, together with EuroEd Foundation (also hosting), Iasi Medical Students Society and Romania-Ukraine Friendship Association. There were 45 professionals (language teachers, academic managers, medical faculty and students, clinicians, migrant community representatives) from 6 universities and 3 NGOs in 5 countries (Romania, Moldova, Ukraine, Spain, Georgia). We reviewed theories, shared experiences of multilingual and multicultural medical communication, showcased the Take Care methodology and resources, explored educational and clinical applications. Feedback was excellent, with authentic enthusiasm, practical suggestions, and willingness to contribute. Participants from the medical university in Chisinau introduced the Take Care approach upon their return, producing a video documentary. They suggested a follow up video-conference, which took place on May 12 with clinicians, teachers and (international) students from medical universities across Romania (Iasi, Cluj-Napoca, Timisoara and Targu Mures) and from Chisinau. We have since involved the pedagogical university in Chisinau and the medical university in Cernauti, Ukraine, in a valorisation seminar at UMF Iasi on July 3rd with further cascading potential.

3 language teachers associated with the medical university in Iasi, participants in the Take Care workshop, found the Guide immediately applicable to teaching medical Romanian to international students. They worked with 100+ junior medical and dentistry students from Albania, Cuba, France, Germany, Greece, Iran, Israel, Italy, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Syria, Sweden, Tunisia etc. from late March until early June (20 hrs of seminars, 2 hrs per week). This included student-produced video interviews on real life experiences as migrant patients in Romania and role-play scenarios using the Take Care resources. Of the 99 feedback forms collected, 96 reported learning of new relevant words and phrases, 92 healthcare system information, 97 communication skills, 90 cultural information. The courses were rated very good to excellent in clarity (91 answers), topics (93), usefulness for language learning (93) and integration (90). The most popular materials were the Glossary, the Basic Language Emergency Kit and the Phrasebooks. In all, through presentations and taste-of sessions, 300+ international and 500+ Romanian medical students have been reached in the spring of 2014. Next academic year, the Take Care approach will become part of the mainstream language curriculum at UMF Iasi. To facilitate this, the guide was uploaded on the university e-learning platform and additional sets are being printed for both classroom and hospital uses.