

# **APPLIED RESEARCH STUDIES – AN OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE A BRIDGE**

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# Greetings from Estonia

Since 1811  
1200 students  
120 staff  
7 +3 curricula



# Background

- Since 2005 Tartu Health Care College as University of Applied Science
- 70% Master degree, 8% PhD
- UAS are required by law to carry out applied research studies
- Estonia UAS in are not provided with funds for doing research
- The possibility of finding funding in the form of (international) grants has not been used



# Teaching, research, community service

- Teaching and learning is a primary mission of the applied higher education
- Applied research as main supportive process at the colleges
- Both they are important in accreditation process, also community service

How to combine these processes efficiently so that **all parties** would benefit and would be motivated ...

# Support and guidance in THCC

- College Research Board (RUN)
- The project of the research study
- A research study has a principal investigator, colleagues, partners as well as students are asked to join a research group.
- Involvement of students in applied research studies so that they can also defend their final papers while being a member of a research group.

# Support and guidance in THCC

- Three research domains have been identified: the process of studies, health, and the evidence-based development of the profession.
- All curricula have prepared an implementation plan of applied research. These contain planned research studies, period of time, the principal investigator
- In case of research studies which last longer than 15 month, an interim report must be submitted. A final report is submitted at the end of each applied research study.

# Support and guidance in THCC

- All curricula have the position of an Assistant Professor
- Time as a resource – workload planning (1640 h)
- Since 2007 the Collection of research studies has been issued annually by the College
- College contributes a part of its operational costs to conducting applied research studies.

# DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- How to achieve efficient international cooperation in terms of applied research studies – creating a joint database?
- Cooperation within a variety of projects (LdV, Erasmus) is successful, while research studies could be included in planning project activities
- Due to the fact that all research results can be implemented in practice, it constitutes opportunity for a lecturer to become involved in study process development



- Employers` interest (especially those whose specialties are taught in College) – development in the field, introduction of new directions and operating models.
- Community`s interest– validity and confirmation in order to act and change behaviour.
- The barriers to implementation can be overcome if knowledge is co-produced by academic staff and staff from working-life, taking account of the organisational context in which it is to be applied.

To support this process, the staff from practical work environment should be a full member of both the research team. (*Rowley et al 2012*)

# Evidence-based teaching at colleges and in community

- Research-based knowledge will become evidence-based through practice, and it will be applied so that the knowledge gained will improve the knowledge imparted in learning and teaching,

**and at the same time, the benefit would be two-sided**

- practice allows us to involve the community in the learning/teaching process which enables research-based health education in the community

# Benefits of applied-research

- For students – general competences and evidence-based learning
- For teachers – personal development and evidence-based teaching
- For practical working life – staff development and development in the field, introduction of new directions and operating models
- For community – evidence-based development in order to act and change behaviour

**Sharing seeds of ideas...  
Two heads are often better than one**



Thank you!  
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