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ABSTRACT

In view of Romania's entry to the European Union in 2008, it has become ever more important to bring national health care parameters of reference in line with European standards. A process of decentralization of health care services to the Regions is taking place in many European countries. The Regions of these decentralized Member States can play a vital role in anticipating solutions for the collaboration of National Healthcare Systems within an enlarged Europe. Here, we focus on the experience of Timis County in Romania, a role-model for other decentralized Member States currently restructuring their health care systems, and on its activities of health sector co-operation currently underway with the Veneto Region in Italy, among which the training of nurses in Timisoara organized by the University of Padova. A special University course has been developed for Romania for a group of 25 graduate nurses who were admitted to the one-year University Degree Course, in accordance with Italian degree standards. Methods and programmes adopted will be presented, as well as the impact at the local level from two different perspectives: that of the Veneto Region and of the Timis Region. Adapting Regional Health Care Systems to EU standards is a need of Applicant Countries and for their health workers who have poor or little opportunity to access the use of the latest health technologies. Losing manpower in Candidate Countries to the EU is one of the main reasons for the delay of capacity building of countries like Romania to comply with the new EU standards in all sector, primarily the health sector. The Regions are in the frontline in the health sector for anticipating methods of collaboration between European States in an enlarged Europe.