

Equality in societal and professional recognition of nurses A European comparison

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BACKGROUND & AIM

A poor public image of nurses and the professional recognition of nurses themselves may underlie increasing difficulties in attracting and retaining qualified nurses.

Aim: to identify differences in societal and professional recognition by advanced roles in pharmaceutical care (especially prescription management) of European nurses.



METHODS

Cross-sectional survey
9 European countries
Nurses + general public
November '22 - May '23
(9-year follow-up is planned)

A/ SOCIETAL RECOGNITION (N=1616)

Population

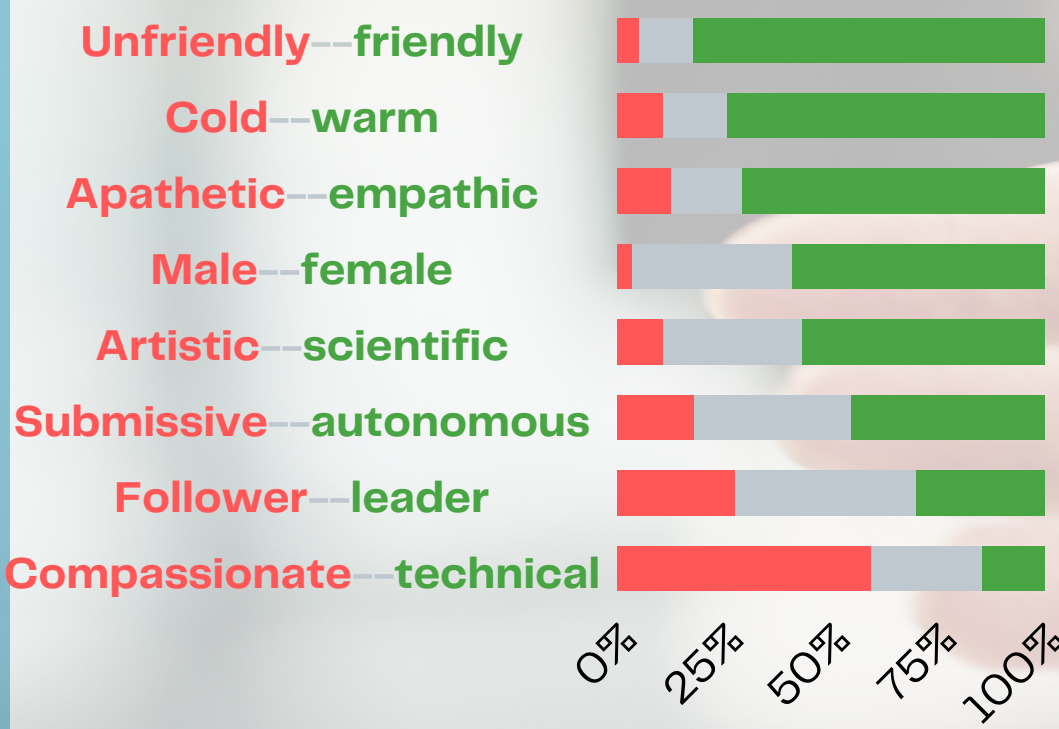
32% nurse + 43% other health worker + 25% no health worker
58% ever received nurse care
76% has f(r)amily who received nurse care (median: 2 (0-50))

Socio-economic prestige of different professions (0-10)

Profession	Mean (SD)
Physician	7.8 (3.5)
Pilot	7.4 (3.9)
Lawyer	7.0 (2.9)
Engineer	6.8 (2.7)
Nurse	6.6 (2.6)
Teacher	6.5 (2.6)
Police officer	6.4 (3.0)
Electrician	5.7 (2.4)
Musician	5.5 (2.5)
Book keeper	5.4 (2.4)
Hair dresser	5.2 (2.4)
Bus driver	5.1 (2.6)



Characteristics attributed to nurses



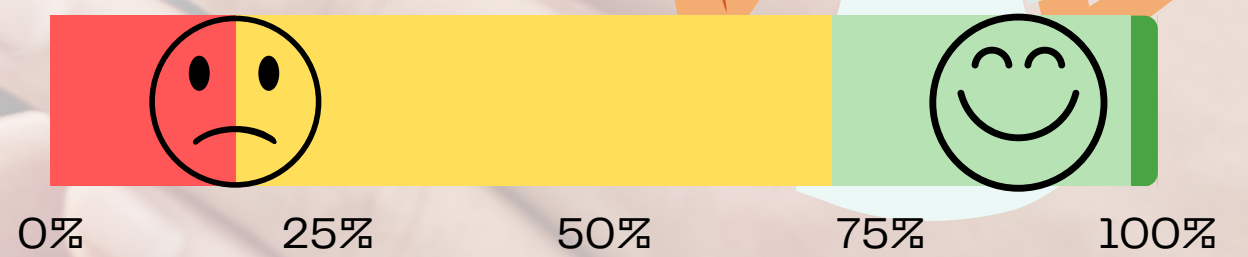
B/ PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION (N= 2361)

Population

100% nurse - 87% female
Mean work experience in healthcare: 19 years (SD 6.1)
EQF level of nurse education
9% level 4
19% level 5
64% level 6 (Bachelor)
8% level 7 (Master)



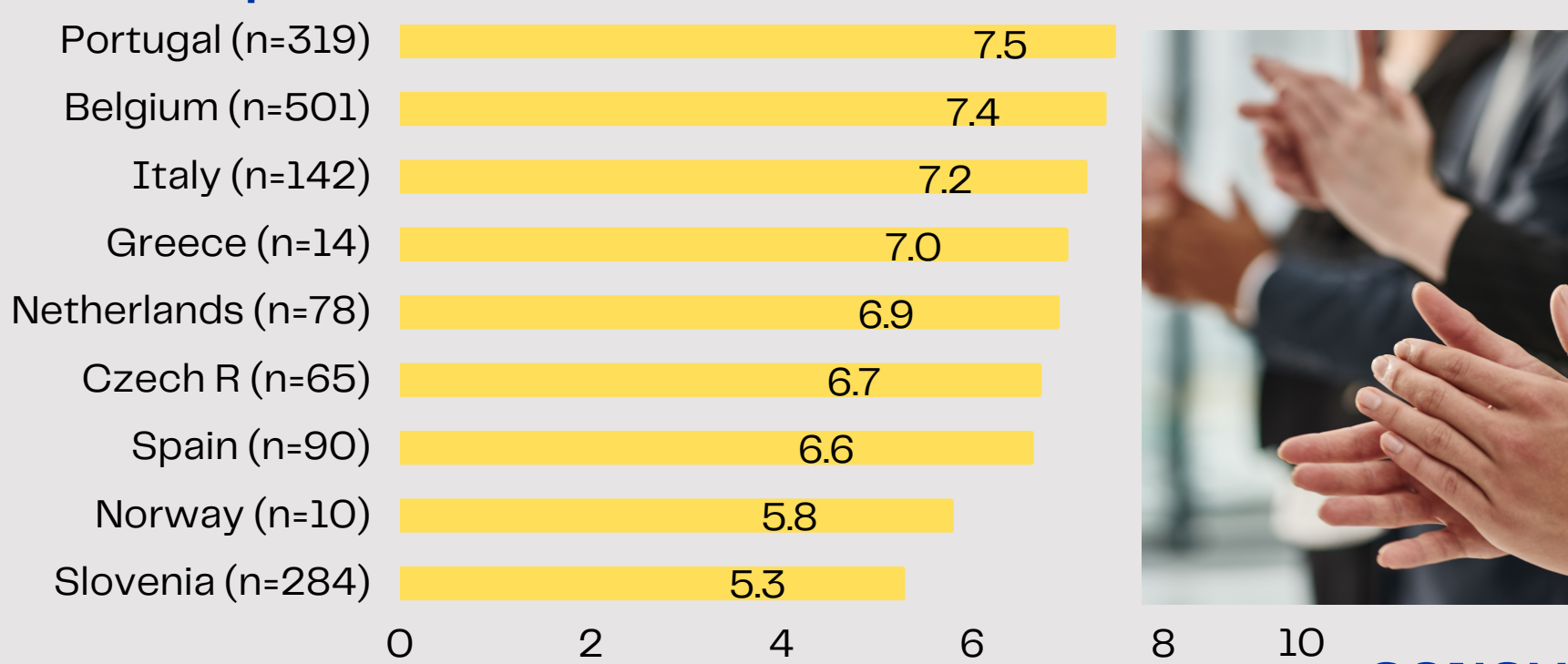
Nurses' perception of professional recognition



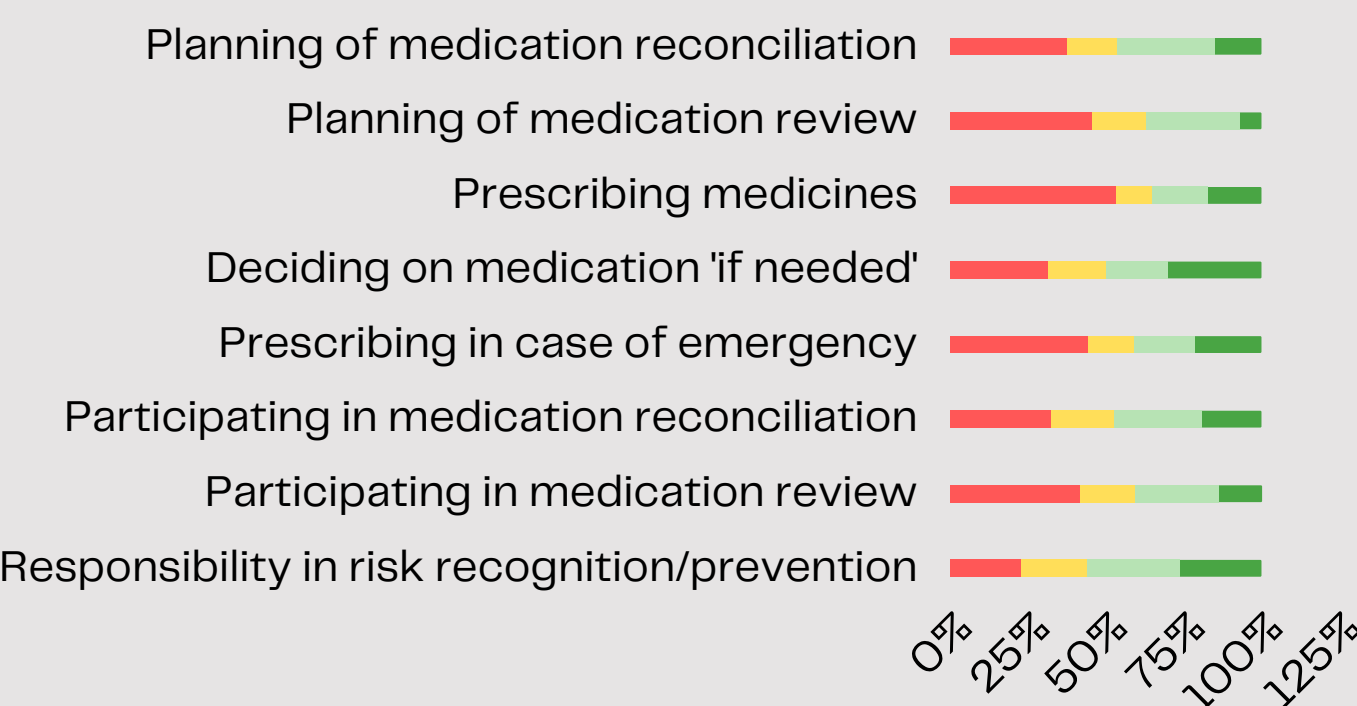
Percentages of nurses perceiving low professional recognition - Comparison between countries (p<0.001)

Portugal	Greece	Italy	Norway	Czech R
89%	80%	80%	73%	72%
Spain	Belgium	Netherlands	Slovenia	
64%	60%	58%	55%	

Mean prestige score for nurses - Comparison between countries (p<0.001)

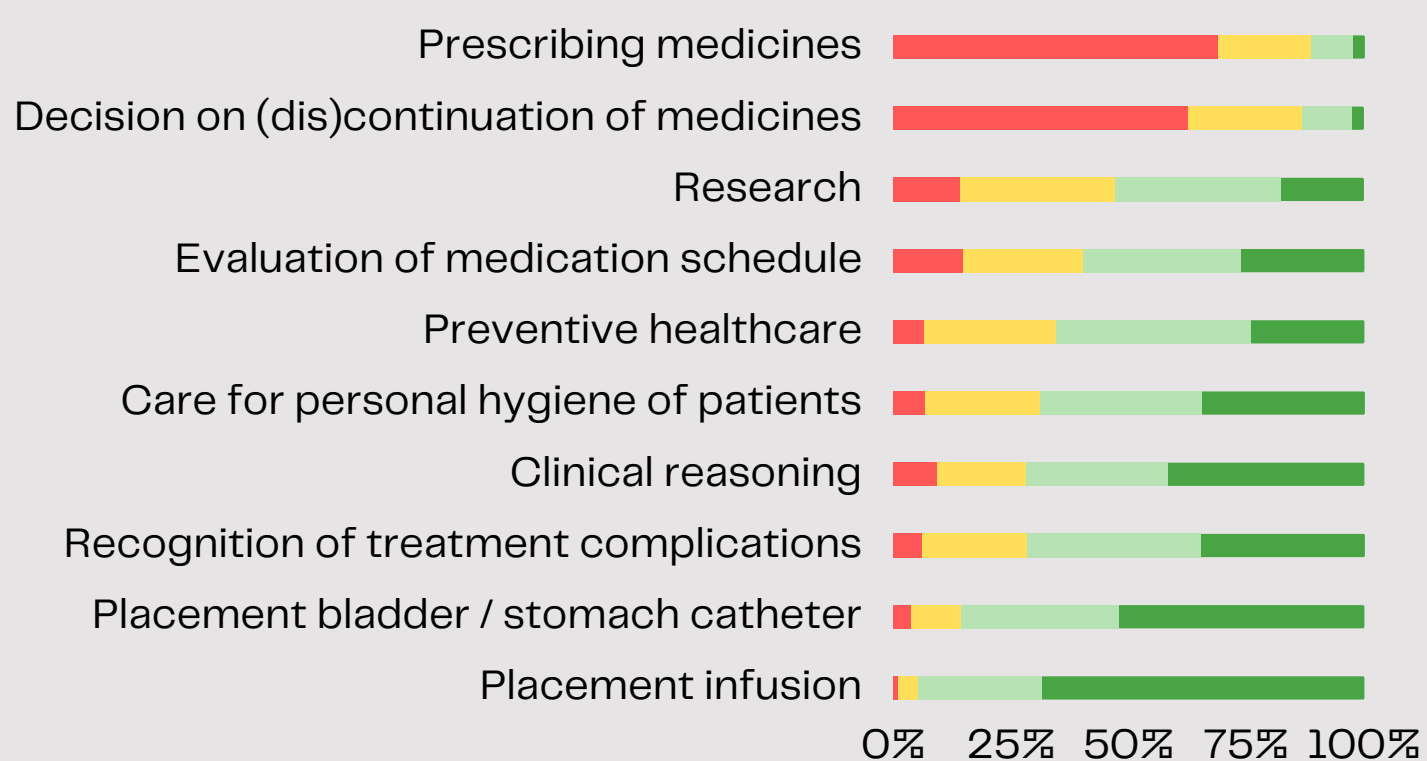


Nurses' responsibility level in prescription related tasks



The general public's opinion on nurse's job content

● no part of nurses' job ● limited part of nurses' job
● moderate part of nurses' job ● great part of nurses' job



CONCLUSIONS

Societal recognition of the nursing profession scored average compared to other professions but differences between countries were found. Professional recognition by nurses themselves was rated as low by the majority, with no difference between educational levels. A benchmark between countries can help nurses in countries with lower levels of recognition to strive for a better recognition, with potential benefits for quality of care. More equality can be supportive for labour mobility for the European nurse.

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