

## **HEPDAK-HEMED OPINION ON TRAINING HOURS AND ELECTIVES IN UNDERGRADUATE NURSING PROGRAMS**

**(HEPDAK Board of Directors Decision- 24.02.2025)**

The directors of some nursing programs stated that although arrangements were made to ensure the quota of 25% electives in the education programs set by the Higher Education Council (YÖK), they had problems with the application hours of nursing education and achieving the total education hours in the education programs. HEPDAK and HEMED have therefore issued the following statement on this issue.

As is well known, the duration of nursing training in our country is determined by the directives of the European Union and the regulation of the Higher Education Council. In the directives (77/452/EEC; 77/453/ECC; 89/595/EEC) issued by the European Union for a nurse with the qualification of "nurse responsible for general care", it was determined that the nurse training should last at least three years or 4600 hours. Subsequently, the Professional Qualifications Directive 2005/36/EC was published and changes were made to the requirements and duration of training in the revised Directive 2013/55/EU. In the previous directive, the minimum duration of training was defined as "three years and at least 4600 hours", which meant "three years or 4600 hours". In addition, the "Regulation on Determining the Minimum Requirements for Education in the Fields of Doctoral Studies, Nursing, Midwifery, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacy and Architecture" published by YÖK in 2008 states that half of the total 4600 hours of nursing education should be devoted to practice. The HEPDAK standards are also based on these regulations.

There are two different letters from YÖK to the universities regarding electives. While the first letter states that the proportion of electives should be 25%, the second letter states that degree programs with a core curriculum do not have to comply with the 25% proportion of electives. As is well known, HEPDAK conducts its evaluations in an output-oriented manner. Therefore, HEPDAK evaluations do not focus on the elective course ratio, but on whether students can achieve the program outcomes with the courses in the curriculum.

Yours sincerely.

