



Spirituality and spiritual care in undergraduate nursing education in Portuguese schools

Authors: Caldeira, Sílvia*; Conceição, Paula; Mendes, João; Figueiredo, Amélia; Vieira, Margarida

Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Health
The Catholic University of Portugal
*scaldeira@ics.lisboa.ucp.pt

No systematic information exists on what Portuguese nursing schools are teaching on spirituality and spiritual care.

Background

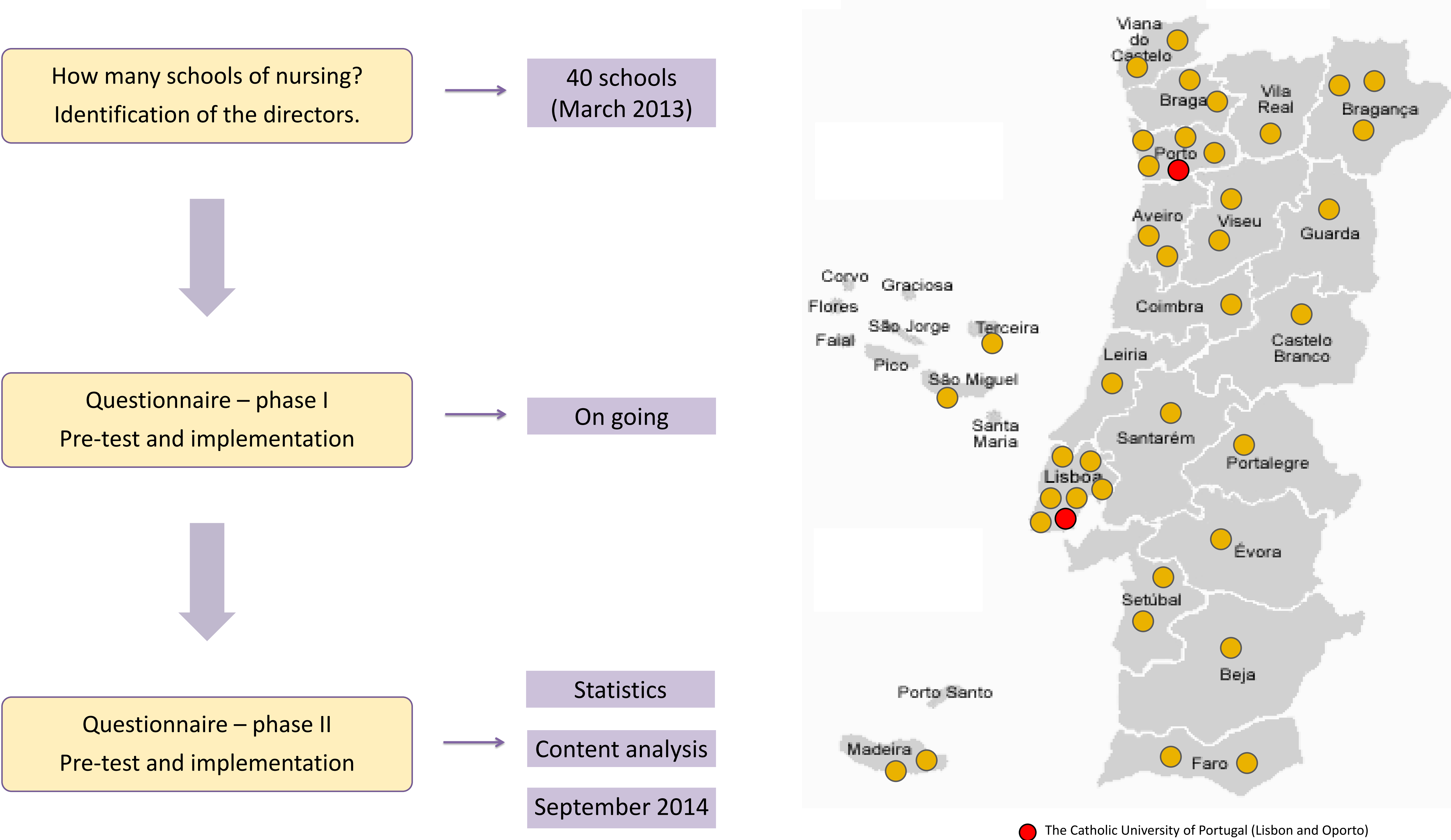
Nurses' preparation to provide spiritual care is poor. Hoffert 2007; Baldacchino 2008	Nursing educators who lack spiritual education feel uncomfortable to teach this topic Lovanio and Wallace, 2007	Nurses are expected to provide spiritual care as an integrative, competent and responsible manner. They must be educated to that as well as they are to other essential subjects to their practice. (Caldeira and Narayanasamy, 2011)
A greater focus on how practice and school can collaborate for the best learning outcome (...) is important to look into Giske, 2012	Training seems to be necessary to enhance the quality of spiritual care by health workers Leeuwen et al, 2008; Tiew and Creedy, 2010	

Method

Objective: To explore the extent to which the undergraduate nursing education in Portuguese schools provide a basis for spiritual care provision by nursing students.

- Cross sectional research; Exploratory-descriptive
- Electronic questionnaire and content analysis (syllabus)
- Two phases:
 - Phase I – Questionnaire to the nursing course director (identify contents and teachers)
 - Phase II – Questionnaire to the teachers that were identified at phase I
- Follow-up by e-mail

Results



Conclusions

Researchers did not identified contents related to spirituality when analyzing the available syllabus online (schools official sites). Nevertheless, the terms spirituality and spiritual often appear at the mission or goals of the courses. The second phase of the research is expected to allow a deeper knowledge , since the teachers involved in this subject will be the research participants.

References

Baldacchino D.(2008). Teaching on the spiritual dimension in care: the perceived impact on undergraduate nursing students. Nurse EducationToday, 28(5), 501-12.
Caldeira, S.; Narayanasamy, A: (2011). Nursing educational programs about spirituality; a systematic review, Cuidarte Enfermagem, 5(2), 123- 128.
Hoffert D, Henshaw C, Myududu N. (2007). Enhancing the ability of nursing students to perform a spiritual assessment. Nurse Education, 32(2),66-72.
Leeuwen R, Tiesinga L, Middel B, Post D, Jochemsen H. (2008).The effectiveness of an educational programme for nursing students on developing competence in the provision of spiritual care. Journal of Clinical Nursing, 17(20), 2768-81.
Lovanio K. Wallace M. (2007). Promoting spiritual knowledge and attitudes – a student nurse education project. Holist Nursing Practice, 21(1),42-7.
Giske, Tove (2012). How undergraduate nursing students learn to care for patients spiritually in clinical studies – a review of literature. Journal of Nursing Management, 20, 1049–57
Tiew L, Creedy D. (2010). Integration of spirituality in nursing practice: a literature review. Sing Nursing Journal., 37(1),15-21.