



MEDILINGUA - Advancing vocational competences in foreign languages for paramedics
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1. Introduction

The research will be conducted within the “**MEDILINGUA** - Advancing vocational competences in foreign languages for paramedics” project in four partners country Bulgaria, Germany, Poland, Portugal. The test will be performed on representative groups of paramedics in each of partners country. The research will be held by using the diagnostic survey, which takes into account the different levels of knowledge of the general and vocational English, including its complete lack, as well as issues related to the assessment of their own skills if they need to help “English speaking” patient and most commonly emergency situations in age groups proposed by medical experts. It will evaluate of the knowledge of English. In addition to language skills assessment stage respondents are asked to rate their willingness and way to learn professional English. Respondents are also asked to evaluate the use of mobile devices in their private life and at work. The test should also reveal mobile devices which are use or want to be use by respondents.

Achieving all of the study objectives will help to develop and implement specialised language courses for paramedics available for mobile devices integrated with social media, instructional videos, glossaries, platform user guide, reports, plans and strategies. All of those raise the indicator of employability and vocational mobility of paramedics through VET competences improvement in the field of development of VOLL skills by transfer of structure and methodology of Podcasting project as flexible didactic system, to raise paramedics competences on own labor market and foreign markets.

2. The glossary

Below there is the short list with explanations of terms and definitions.

N	Terms/definitions/acronyms	Explanation
1	ACLS	Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support
2	ALS	Advanced Life Support
3	BLS	Basic Life Support
4	BLS AED	Basic Life Support Automated External Defibrillation
5	BTLS	Basic Trauma Life Support
6	EMS	Emergency Medical System
7	ETC	European Trauma Course
8	ITLS	International Trauma Life Support
9	Mobile devices	A portable computing device such as a smartphone or tablet computer.
10	Paramedic	A person who is trained to do medical work, especially emergency first aid, but is not a fully qualified doctor.

3. Research goals

The aim of study is to identify the most common health or life threatening situations for adults, children, infants, pregnant women and the elderly, that the paramedics deal with, in partnership countries (Bulgaria, Portugal, Poland, Germany) - this part of study is based on the European Resuscitation Council guidelines (2010). Study also helps to evaluate knowledge of medical and general English in paramedics population. Research will establish what equipment is used most often by the paramedics and also reveals preferences for the usage of mobile equipment to learning English.

The main objectives of the research conducted within the Medilingua project are:

- Identify the most commonly met health - or life threatening situations in the partner countries in the following thematic areas: adults, children, infants, pregnant women, the elderly
- Reveal the most commonly used mobile devices in the target group
- Assessment of General and medical English and its use during duties

Implementation of the main objectives will take place by assessing the specific objectives, which include the analysis of individual issues:

- Which health - or life threatening situations are most common in the work of the respondents in each group of patients exchanged by medical experts
- Whether the respondents are familiar with General English
- Whether the respondents are familiar with medical English
- How respondents assess their skills in the field of General English
- How respondents assess their skills in the field of medical English
- How respondents assess their skills where they would have to provide aid to the person using English
- Whether respondents ever learning and would like to learn medical English
- How respondents would like to learn medical English
- If respondents use mobile devices both in private life and professional duties

4. Methodology of research

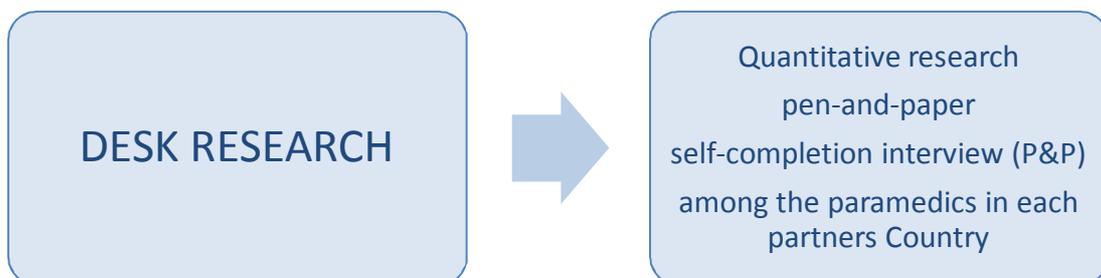
4.1. Research range

The research within the **MEDILINGUA** project will be conducted in four partnership countries: Bulgaria, Germany, Poland and Portugal. Research will be performed in two parts – desk research and quantitative research. To ensure a high quality of research it will be conducted in the regions where the partners have the most experience in implementing project activity and dedicated to reaching the target group.

Within this research reaching the respondents will be achieved through the comorting questionnaire to EMS stations by the consortium partners.

4.2. Research stages

The research will be based on the data analysis that will be triggered and known research. The study will consist of the following steps:



4.3. Research techniques

The desk research analysis is one of the methods of social and market research which involves a detailed analysis based on existing and available data; a systematically processed analysis of all previously collected research data. Therefore it is not dependent on the acquisition of new information. All information will be collected based on the official statistics and the available data from published studies. The desk research analysis describes the situation regionally and nationally in partner countries. The desk research will describe the Emergency Medical System, paramedic's profile and population at a national and

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a regional level in each partners Country (regional - where the field research will be conducted within the project).

Quantitative research – pen-and-paper self-completion interview (P&P) with the possibility of filling the questionnaire in on-line – this is a type of research based on a questionnaire for self-completion. This kind of research will be conducted among paramedics using a questionnaire that will be given to respondents. This is a traditional and direct research method that is conducted by a paper (or on-line) questionnaire. This technique of research allows the researcher to eliminate the pressure of a group. When the surveys are carried out, the respondents are not forced to search for the acceptance of their opinion among other participants of the research or from the interviewer. The increased sense of anonymity allows the respondents to give more honest answers. This is especially important in the case of questions associated with the skills of respondents. By using this research technique it will be possible to collect full information about the knowledge and the level of English, educational needs and mobile devices. To increase the convenience of respondents, the research might be conducted via e-mail.

4.4. Sampling

Due to the fact that the partner countries operate various EMS systems, in order to define the profession of paramedic for the project definition was included in the Oxford Dictionary and the formal definitions in each country. The research will be performed on representative group of Paramedics in each country. The selection criteria are dictated by the homogeneity of the group whose members have to meet specific conditions. The method of reaching the respondents will be through direct contact with the institutions where the respondents works. The test will be performed on paramedics employed in each of EMS systems in region of Projects partner country (Bulgaria, Germany, Poland, Portugal).

The test will be performed on representative group of minimum of 72 paramedics of 114 from the Runi Center region in Bulgaria, minimum 168 of 1201 paramedics from Iberika's region in Germany, minimum 156 of 777 paramedics from URz's region in Poland and minimum 108 of 243 paramedics in **Gesaúde's region** in Portugal. To determine the sample size used the sample size calculator of Partner In Business Strategies Internet portal <http://pbs.pl/x.php/1,139/Dobor-proby.html>. All of calculations performed assuming 0.95 confidence level and the estimated size of the fraction at the level of 0.15. The maximum error is 0.05.

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4.5. Time schedule

	Name	Deadline	Partner
1	Desk research	17/01/2014	All partners
2	Desk research report	31/01/2014	All partners
3	Preparing Research plan and tools – draft version	20/01/2014	URz
4	Preparing Research plan with set of tools – final version	15/02/2014	URz
5	Consulting the Research plan by project partners	20/02/2014	All partners
6	Sampling	25/05/2014	All partners
7	Preparing national reports	31/05/2014	All partners
8	Sending national reports	02/06/2014	All partners
9	Preparing draft version of research report	20/06/2014	URz
10	Consulting report by project partners	25/06/2014	All partners
11	Preparing final version of research report	30/06/2014	URz

5. Research tools

The aim of this international study is to identify the most common health or life threatening situations for adults, children, infants, pregnant women and the elderly, that the paramedics deal with, in partnership countries (Bulgaria, Portugal, Poland, Germany). The study has been based on the European Resuscitation Council guidelines (2010). Moreover, we wanted to establish what equipment is used most often by the paramedics. We also would like to learn how you evaluate your knowledge of medical English. Identifying your preferences for the usage of mobile equipment to learning English is also important.

The survey is anonymous and its results would be used only for the sake of this international study.

Thank you for participating in the study
 The Department of Emergency Medicine
 University of Rzeszow

1. Using the table below write down **how many times during last year you have had contact with the following situations in particular patient groups**. Please fill all the empty spaces in the table. If you did not experience any of the situations – write „1”. If you do not know or do not remember whether you experienced it, put a dash.

5-very often, 4 – often, 3 – seldom, 2 – very seldom, 1- never

Situation	Adults	The elderly	Pregnant women	Children	Infants
cardiac arrest					
acute coronary syndromes					
cardiac arrhythmias					
asthma exacerbation					
hypoglycaemia					
hyperglycaemia					
stroke					
seizure					
transport accidents					
head injury					
chest injury					
abdomen injury					
upper limbs injury					
lower limbs injury					
spine injury					
severe bleeding					
burns					
poisoning					
out of hospital labor					

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2. Please mark the level that is adequate for your knowledge of English by underlining one of three possibilities: **Beginner** (no English or communication with many difficulties), **Intermediate** (good communication skills, but gaps in structures and vocabulary) or **Advanced** (proficient knowledge).

	GENERAL English	MEDICAL English
Level (spoken)	Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced	Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced
Level (written)	Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced	Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced

3. Please, grade your own **skills in communicating with an English speaking patient**. Use the scale 6 – very good, 5 - good, 4 -average, 3 - weak, 2 – very weak, 1 - none

6 5 4 3 2 1

4. Please, grade **the need to improve your English for professional usage**. Use the scale 6 – very strong, 5 - strong, 4 - average, 3 - weak, 2 –very weak, 1 – I do not need it.

6 5 4 3 2 1

5. How do you **evaluate the usefulness of knowing English in a situation of rescuing** an English speaking patient.

1. very useful
2. quite useful
3. hardly useful
4. not useful
5. I do not have any opinion.

6. **How would you like to learn English?** Please, pick one of the education forms listed below that suits you best.

1. A course in a foreign language school
2. Online language course
3. Mobile application
4. Other
5. I do not have any opinion.

7. If you chose no. 3 in the previous question please point **what kind of a mobile device you would use for learning English**. (You can choose more than one answer)

1. Smartphone
2. Laptop
3. Palmtop
4. Other, what kind?

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The following questions (8 to 17) consider your level of knowledge, in specific categories. Please answer them using the scale 6 - very good, 5 - good, 4 - average, 3 - weak, 2 – very weak, 1 – none

8. Please, grade **your knowledge of BLS, BLS AED for adults and the elderly.**

6 5 4 3 2 1

9. Please, grade **your knowledge of BLS, BLS AED for pregnant women.**

6 5 4 3 2 1

10. Please, grade **your knowledge of BLS, BLS AED for children.**

6 5 4 3 2 1

11. Please grade **your knowledge of advanced cardiopulmonary resuscitation (ALS, ACLS – if it is within the scope of your competence) for adults and the elderly.**

6 5 4 3 2 1

12 Please grade **your knowledge of advanced cardiopulmonary resuscitation (ALS, ACLS – if it is within the scope of your competence) for pregnant women.**

6 5 4 3 2 1

13. Please grade **your knowledge of advanced cardiopulmonary resuscitation (ALS, ACLS – if it is within the scope of your competence) for children.**

6 5 4 3 2 1

14. Please grade **your knowledge of treatment in case of injuries (BTLS ,ITLS, ETC – if it is within the scope of your competence) for adults and the elderly.**

6 5 4 3 2 1

15. Please grade **your knowledge of treatment in case of injuries (BTLS, ITLS, ETC – if it is within the scope of your competence) for pregnant women.**

6 5 4 3 2 1

16. Please grade **your knowledge of treatment in case of injuries (BTLS, ITLS, ETC – if it is within the scope of your competence) for children.**

6 5 4 3 2 1

17. Do you use **mobile devices** in your private life?

1. Yes
2. No

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18. If yes, **what kind?** (You can choose more than one)

1. Smartphone
2. Laptop
3. Palmtop
4. Other. What kind?

19. Have you ever used **mobile devices to learn foreign languages?**

1. Yes
2. No

20. If yes, **what kind?** (You can choose more than one)

1. Smartphone
2. Laptop
3. Palmtop
4. Other. What kind?

21. Do you think that **it is necessary to use mobile devices while performing emergency treatment?**

1. Yes
2. No

22. Do you **use mobile devices while performing emergency treatment?**

1. Yes
2. No, because I do not have access to such devices at work (please go to question 25)
3. No, because it is not necessary.

23. If yes, **what kind?** (You can choose more than one)

1. Smartphone
2. Laptop
3. Palmtop
4. Other. What kind?

24. If you chose "No, because I do not have access to such devices when at work" choose **what kind of device you would like to use in your work?** (You can choose more than one answer).

1. Smartphone
2. Laptop
3. Palmtop
4. Other. What kind?

25. **Sex**

1. Female
2. Male

26. **Age**

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27. Place of residence Country

1. City/town
2. Countryside/village

28. Education (please mark the last stage of education finished, no matter what the major was)

1. Higher – Master degree
2. Higher – Bachelor degree
3. Post -secondary
4. Secondary

29. The number of **years of professional work as a paramedic**

30. What is the position you currently work at(eg. rescue team leader, rescue team member, medical dispatcher)?

.....

6. Outcome of the research phase

All partners will collect the results and deliver them in an Excel database according to the template prepared by Uniwersytet Rzeszowski. Based on these results, a common report will be prepared, presenting the research results and giving precise indications and recommendations on the content to be delivered as a training for Paramedics. The common report will also highlight similarities and differences among countries taking part in the research.