

# From Cure to Care: SOFTISPED Project – Softskills for Children’s Health

Oana Marginean, Anisoara Pop

University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Tirgu Mures

## CONTEXT

The quality of paediatric services depends on the physicians’ job specific skills involving knowledge and practical abilities (hard skills) and also a series of soft transversal, personality-linked, intellectual skills and meta-skills.

## HYPOTHESIS

Softskills are likely to make the difference between good and excellent pediatric health services, creating an error free, safer, and supportive environment for the paediatric patients and parents.

## PROJECT PARTNERS

**6 partners from 5 different European countries are involved in the project:** University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Tirgu Mures, University of Medicine of Vienna, Azienda Sanitaria Locale TO3, Italy, Pixel, Italy, University Hospital Fundación Alcorcón, Spain, FILAB Hungary

## PROJECT AIMS

The project aims to improve pediatric students’ soft skills in order to increase the performance and adaptability of paediatric services according to the needs and expectations of children and families as well as the trainers’ ability to build these skills through innovative methods and strategies

The medical curriculum does not focus on the soft skills. Medical educators lack experience in developing soft skills in pre-service and resident students in paediatrics. As such, "soft skills may be the biggest challenge for the medical education" (Dwyer, Canadian Journal of Surgery, 2014).

**The project aims** to identify the most important soft skills in the field of paediatrics, match them with the best teaching methods and strategies, and elaborate guidelines and materials for training the pediatricians’ trainers.

## TARGET GROUPS

Medical students: pre-service and residents in pediatrics  
Medical practitioners  
Lecturers in pediatrics

Project portal: [softis-ped.pixel-online.org](http://softis-ped.pixel-online.org)

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Softis-Ped-1795673480649953/>



## Softskills for Children’s Health



**The Doctor** – by Samuel Luke Fildes (1981) – vigil at the side of an ailing child until early morning testifies to the pediatrician’s commitment to his patients.

Softisped project is dedicated to the same ideal, of raising awareness of the role and importance of the pediatrician’s humanistic qualities, communication, empathy, sympathy, compassion and concern, likely to bring added value to the children’s care in five European countries.



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## ACTIONS TO BE CARRIED OUT

Involvement of target groups:

50 lecturers of pediatricians

150 students and residents working with children

The project is **currently in the phase** of collecting information for the publication of soft skills needs, i.e. **Intellectual Output 1 (IO1)** in the five countries following a questionnaire-based survey of 25 pediatricians, 25 health care staff, 25 pediatric patients and 25 parents/relatives at national level.

The project intends to find new solutions to improve **communication** between children/families and paediatricians through novel, interactive, learner-centered learning materials that will be employed in the building of soft skills in pre-service students and residents in paediatrics **to implement ludic activities**, interaction with children through **games, story telling** designed to distract, soothe, and help kids surmount fear of the doctor and deal with pain, stress and anxiety associated with hospital stays .

**The soft-skills teaching/learning packages for trainers and learners will include emerging technology-based methods, tools and contents such as: podcasts, video tutorials on team-based learning, problem-solving, scenario-based learning, gamification (simulation games).**

## EXPECTED RESULTS

Training package for lecturers and trainers in pediatrics

Training package for pediatricians

Publication on pediatric softskills