

NEWS FROM THE COUNTRIES

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Nenad Stankovic Receives Award For Efforts In Promoting Integration

Senior physician Nenad Stankovic's work to integrate medical doctors with foreign degrees in the Swedish labour market is now awarded with International Physicians in Sweden's (ILIS) honorary award. A flagship in his multifaceted work is the course *To Understand the Swedish Code*, which provides insight for medical doctors with non-Swedish degrees into Swedish health care culture.

On February 24, Nenad Stankovic of Frölunda Specialistsjukhus (Specialist Hospital) in Gothenburg and project leader at the Nordic School of Public Health (NHV) will receive an honorary award at ILIS's annual meeting in Stockholm, Sweden.

To Understand the Swedish Code participants. Course offered March 8-12.
Senior physician Nenad Stankovic, project leader at NHV, giving a lecture.
Researcher Nataliya Berbuyk Lindström gave a lecture in 2009.

He is given the award for his years of efforts in facilitating the process of medical doctors with foreign degrees entering the Swedish labour market.

– We have known of Nenad Stankovic for many years and are aware of that he works very hard to create conditions for successful integration of medical doctors with foreign degrees, says ILIS vice president Suzana Turkalj Pavlakovic, herself trained abroad.

Last year, the course *To Understand the Swedish Code*, had 30 very satisfied participants. The next course will be held on March 8-12, 2010, at NHV in Gothenburg.

Nenad Stankovic's acknowledgement by ILIS also includes other accomplishments. An example is his work as Director of Studies of Registered Professions (www.legitimation.nu), a joint project involving universities/university colleges and the County Labour Board in Västra Götaland, the Validation Centre in the Gothenburg Region and Region Västra Götaland.

– We would thus like to call attention to Nenad for all the work he has done for medical doctors with foreign degrees, Suzana Turkalj Pavlakovic continues. He is really a person who works actively with these issues.

The course offered at NHV is held in consideration of ever increasing international mobility, also within the medical doctor profession. Many medical doctors relocate to Sweden to continue their careers. Most have received their training outside the EU/EEA region, but increasing numbers move from different EU countries to Sweden.

– A common denominator for all these three groups is a low level of knowledge of how Swedish health care works. To obtain this knowledge on your own is difficult, time-consuming, and the risk of making mistakes is great, says Stankovic and provides his reasons for starting the course.

Cultural differences and language difficulties can contribute to communication problems with patients, colleagues and other health care personnel, which in turn causes greater risks.

By Monica Bengtson, Information Officer, Nordic School of Public Health

[More information at ILIS' website \(in Swedish\)](#)

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Information and sign-up www.nhv.se/svenskakoden2010