

TOTEMM newsletter

This newsletter provides an overview of TOTEMM-related activity for the period

1.03.22-1.12.2022



Welcome to our fifth newsletter.

For those new to the TOTEMM project, this partnership is between midwifery educators, researchers and learning technologists based in Estonia, Italy, the Netherland and the United Kingdom.

This Newsletter presents our last activities and some final reflections after over three years of work.

What have been the highlights over the past few months?

From March to December, there has been a Great Joy to meet our Students and Partners!



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Mobility Week



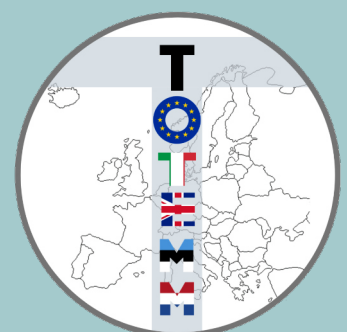
Midwifery students who completed the introductory e-learning package and one of the four virtual mobility learning packages were eligible to take part in a physical mobility week. The aims of the mobility week were to:

- a) build on previous knowledge gained through virtual mobility learning;
- b) extend students' knowledge of European midwifery practice;
- c) support employability;
- d) allow participants to explore professional similarities, differences, values and beliefs arising from a real-world cultural learning space;
- e) enhance critical ideas and thinking by illuminating different perspectives and views on midwifery care.

Four physical mobility programmes took place in the participating countries from the **9th to 13th of May 2023**. These events have been a great opportunity for students to finally meet in person after their virtual group works.

Sixty-five midwifery students took part in the mobility week activities across the four countries. Fifty students travelled to attend the physical mobility in one of the partner institutions in Europe. Fifteen students acted as hosts and welcomed the exchange students together with local midwifery educators in their own institution, facilitating intercultural learning also in case participants were unable to travel due to individual barriers.

The physical mobility programme included both formal content and student-led academic and social activities.



Mobility Week

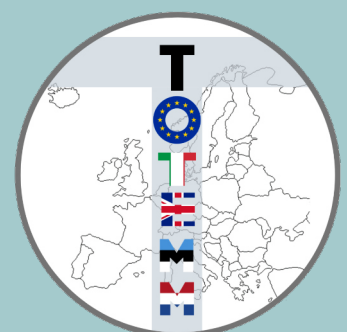
Feedback from students and teachers:

- Very positive week, students collaborated well and networked.
- Students would have liked more opportunities to visit clinical practice or to meet clinical practitioners but unfortunately the pandemic restrictions prevented this in some settings.
- Challenging to organise, but weeks planned and executed well.
- Students presented posters/plans for an App developed from their online public health packages and met other members of staff in the organisations they visited.
- Students appreciated discussing similarities and differences in how midwifery and maternity care operate in different countries.
- Social time allocated to the programme was considered important.
- Hosting students enjoyed the experience as much as those who travelled.



“ It was great to network with international colleagues, find out about midwifery in different countries and bring our ideas together to create a brilliant resource. It has the potential to improve so many students’ experiences and bring an exciting opportunity to students who are unable to travel. ”

Bea Bennett, Midwifery student, University of Nottingham



Multiplier Event

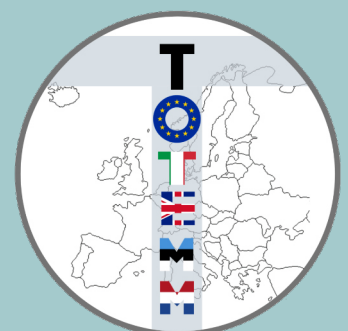
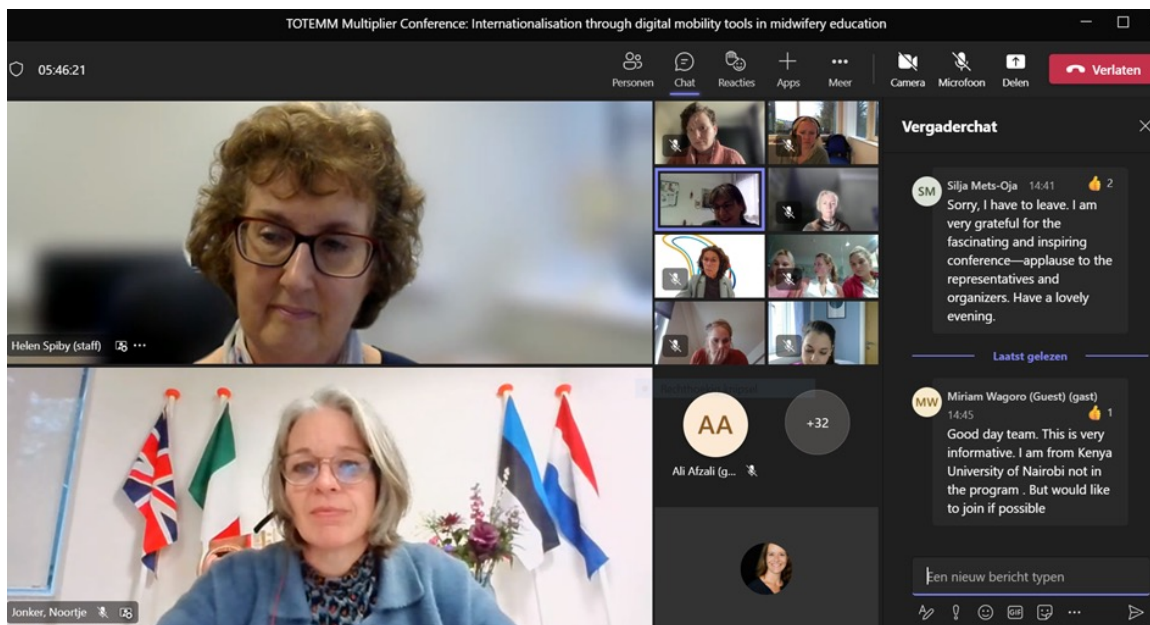
The TOTEMM Conferences took place on the **13th of October and 17th of November 2022** and were attended by a total of 140 participants. They brought together educators, midwives, health care professionals, learning technologists, researchers, and students to discuss different themes including:

- **Intercultural sensitivity skills and digital learning in higher education**
- **Innovative digital learning tools**
- **Inclusive international mobility models for students**
- **Sharing research findings from the TOTEMM projects**

Due to a combination of an active chair of the day and some triggering questions we were able to create vivid discussions with the attendees during the day. We have received positive reactions from different universities who were interested in participating in a project such as TOTEMM. Even from universities from as far away as Kenia and Afghanistan.

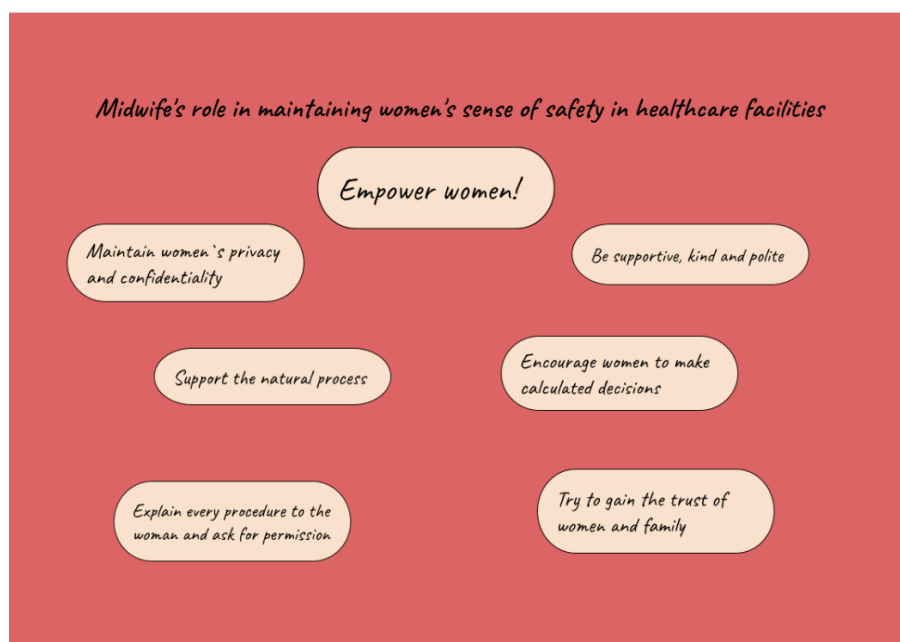
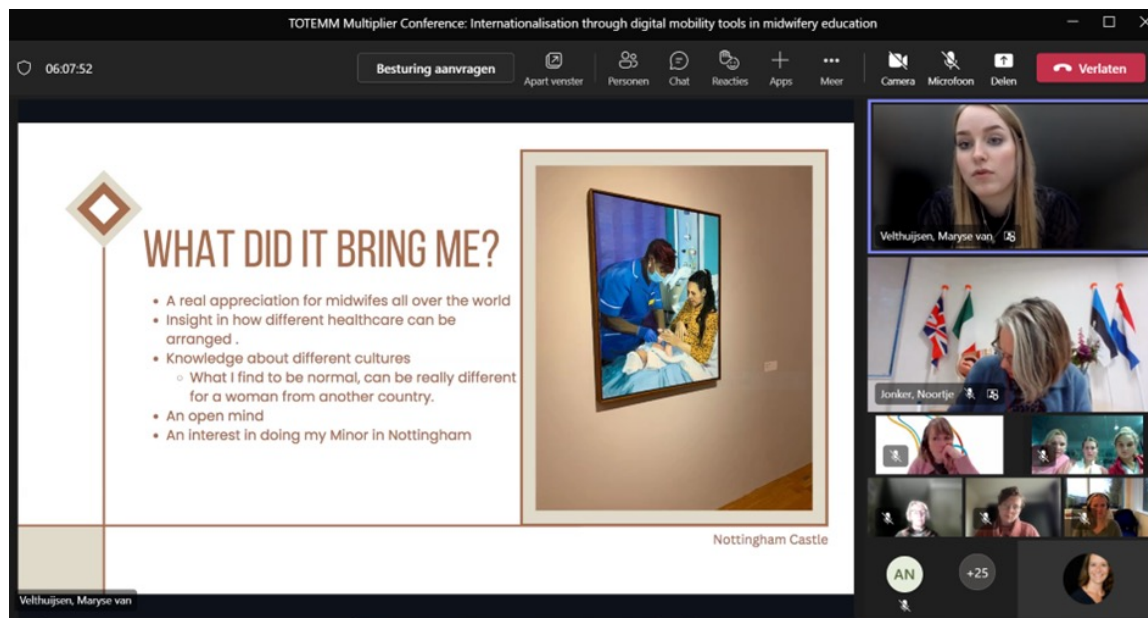
Delegates heard presentations from international midwifery and digital learning experts, members of the TOTEMM team and, most importantly, students who took part in the TOTEMM project.

We had a most exiting presentation from **Trude Thommesen** ICM Board member, who talked the importance of internationalisation and cultural differences. Also, **Andres Mellik** a digital expert directed the attention towards developing digital skills and the importance of utilising them within the healthcare system.

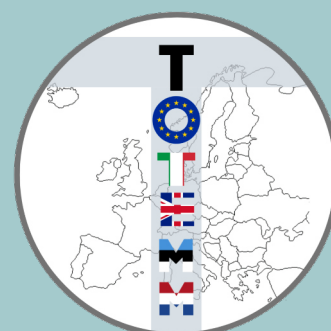


Students Posters for Multiplier Event

Dutch student **Maryse van Velthuisen** talked about her experiences with the packages and the mobility week. Also, two Dutch students made a short video talking about their experiences with TOTEMM.



Inger Kaljula, Leanne Mckay, Chiara Perversi, Laurine de Mol van Otterloo



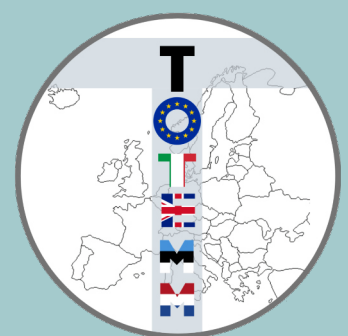
Transnational Project Meeting in Nottingham



During the TOTEMM project, six Transnational Project Meetings were held, attended by all partners and members of the Health and E-Learning Media team from the University of Nottingham. The original plan was that these would all be held in person and hosted by the different partners, in turn.

We held the first meeting in December 2019 in Nottingham, UK but a few months later, the pandemic forced a change of plan. Fortunately, at least we all met together once in person at the beginning. The next four meetings were hosted by different partners but were held online as travel was not possible. We were finally able to meet in person again in Nottingham in September 2022.

It was really good to be able to be together for the last Transnational Project Meeting when we considered the findings of the student evaluations, reflected on our experiences and what we had learned as a project team and to plan for the reporting and making online modules available to others.



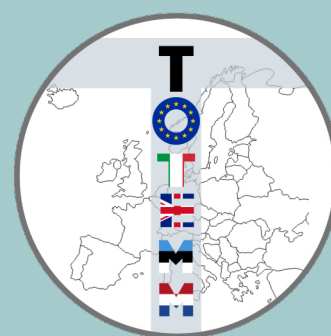
Post Mobility Survey

The TOTEMM project has included student contributions at every stage- from deciding the project logo, which public health topics should be included in online packages and providing feedback on the first draft of the packages. Our students also helped by piloting the questionnaire circulated to students during the first year of the project and in piloting the questionnaires evaluating the new TOTEMM initiative.

Really importantly, over 60 students contributed to the evaluation of their experience of TOTEMM by completing questionnaires and contributing to focus group discussions. We received considerable positive comments. From these contributions, we have really rich feedback that will be used to inform TOTEMM for the future and we are already using this in making changes, for example, to support navigation through the on-line modules.

Plans for the future.

The cooperation of the project team has been excellent and the partners have a common desire to continue teaching students together in the future.





THANK YOU!

Many people have contributed to and helped the TOTEMM project – from its planning to now.

The TOTEMM team would like to thank those who contributed to the content, development and piloting of the online packages; the Advisory Group; student midwives who helped the development and took part in the first survey and those who took part in TOTEMM and helped with the evaluation.



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