

## **INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF NURSING PRACTICE - A MULTILINGUAL APPROACH TO HEALTH TERMINOLOGY**

*J. Vejvarka*

**Thursday, 24 November 2011, 18.00–19.00, Hall B**

**D1.6 INFORMATION SCIENCE IN HEALTH CARE**

The stress on interoperability and standardization is perhaps the most significant result of the penetration of information and communication technologies into routine operations in both medical education and medicine. Concepts like continuity of care, quality assurance or academic degree compatibility are based on shared understanding of processes, of laws they follow, of possible interactions with these processes, of roles and outcomes. Also on shared not-understanding: the nature of biomedical knowledge gives enough room for legitimate contradictions. International classifications and language systems are examples of tools to support such shared understanding on international level. Of these, the International Classification of Nursing Practice (ICNP) is an ambitious project started by the International Council of Nurses (ICN), the top-level body representing the nursing community world-wide. Significant effort has been put into the development of ICNP and into its translation into various languages used by the nursing community. Besides contributing to the development of the ICNP itself, these translations (and the history of ICNP development) show a most interesting example of cultural determination of health, of health-related concepts and processes.