



Activity Report

European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN)
Working year 2006

Dear EFN member,

2006 was a dynamic and fruitful year for EFN and the European Nurses branch. It was a year in which the EFN created new opportunities to strengthen our advocacy role and defended the interests of nurses and nursing in Europe.

This Activity Report highlights the key areas of EFN involvement through engagement with the EU institutions, participation in key events and fora and a strong legislative advocacy and education programme. This report is meant to give interested parties a glimpse of the important and valuable work performed by the EFN.

The good work of 2006 will lead to solid base for launching our 2007 initiatives. On the horizon we have a robust programme of issues including our main priorities for 2007 – Patient Safety, Health Services and Education.

We look forward to engaging with all stakeholders in the debate on issues critical to the nursing profession. The nursing industry is the backbone of patient security and well-being, delivering thousands of services performed by millions of nurses across Europe. This places nursing at the centre of health policy-making in the EU.

We look forward to comments and feedback on our Activity Report and thank all the nurses across Europe who support our work and give us hope for the future.

Best regards



Mr. Paul De Raeve
EFN Secretary General



Ms Annette Kennedy
EFN President

Presented to the General Assembly April 2007

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EFN Engagement

I. EFN Events

On February 28th 2006, the EFN celebrated the launch of its new offices, name and image at the European Parliament, where a debate took place on the large-scale recruitment of nurses to the United States by 2012 and how this will impact patient safety and quality of care to the European citizens.

Ms. Barbara Nichols, Chief Executive from the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools, Mr. Manuel Dayrit, Director Human Resources for Health, Ms. Marleen Desmet from DG EUROSTAT, and Dr Neil Squires from DG Development gave their views on future trends and underlined the importance of investing in highly qualified nurses and developing comparable database and an EU Strategy to combat shortage of nurses and doctors.

Around 120 people attended the event, including elected representatives from the European Parliament, officials from the European Commission, delegates of the National Nurses Associations from 30 Member States, as well as representatives of the European Specialist Nursing Organisations (ESNO), the WHO Nursing and Midwifery Forum and the International Council of Nurses (ICN).

II. Event Participation

- a. **European Commission** – High-Level Group on Health Services and Medical Care – Health Professionals Working Group: The EFN outcomes of the European Parliament conference were presented in the working group and after a long debate, the Member States decided to develop principles on international recruitment, taking into account the international dimension of health worker migration (DG Development). Furthermore, the group agreed that a set of indicators should be developed by DG Internal Market in light of the various origins of data sources developed by Eurostat, DG Employment and the results of projects under the Public Health programme;
- b. **RCN - Congress fringe** « Nursing the World, How Europe is changing nursing education »;
- c. **Fine - Congress** « Vers une dynamique Européenne en soins infirmiers - formation/compétences/qualifications » ;
- d. **RCN – 8th Joint Education Forums' Conference** « Education - Partners in Practice »;
- e. **Croatian Nurses Association** - « International Congress and Leadership Conference », May 2006, Zagreb and Opatija;
- f. **The Students of the Nursing School in Viseu** « To Think in Nursing: Dynamics of To Take Care Of - Nurses Influencing EU Policy Making », Viseu, Portugal;
- g. **Fine - 6th European Conference of nurse educators** « Challenging together the European harmonisation of nursing education - European nurse educators, which common political strategy?», October 2006, Paris;
- h. **FNIB** «La Dimension Européenne de l'Art Infirmier», Brussels ;
- i. **European Health Forum Gastein** - The EFN contributed to the 2006 programme planning process and overall organisation of the event by participating in the Advisory Committee of Experts. The European Health Forum Gastein is considered to be one of the most important health policy events in the European Union and the EFN has been very active in this forum since 2003. The EFN

President, Annette Kennedy, was actively involved in the session on “A European Future for Healthcare”, while the EFN Executive Committee member, Grete Christensen, made a significant contribution to the session on “Health Professional Migration: Finding a Way Forward”;

- j. **European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)** - Organisation by the Croatian Nurses Association of the EU Capacity Building Workshop on Environment and Health, which took place in Zagreb in March 2006. Participating in the General Assembly of EPHA and contributing to the policy agenda of EPHA: Patient Information, Health Services and Health Strategy;
- k. **European Parliament** - Participation in the European Parliament Intergroup on Ageing and Health and Consumer on long term care, led by the MEP Pilar Ayuso Gonzalez ;
- l. **Centre for Health, Ethics and Society (CHES)** - The EFN has actively participated in the two roundtables on the health services consultation and information to patients, organised by the Centre for Health, Ethics and Society (CHES) and the Madariaga European Foundation.

In relation to Patient Information, it was concluded that there is a need for a holistic view of healthcare that incorporates the information needs of patients and the process, delivery, content and quality of information. A change in attitude is required; the focus should primarily be on the needs of patients rather than the ideas and desires of health professionals and the pharmaceutical industry. There is a need to create better awareness of prevention, health care and treatment options that ‘information’ alone may not provide.

In relation to Health Services, the joint minimum agreement between the European Health Professionals was presented as outlined in the report on the European Health Policy Forum.

EFN’s **main future strategies** are as follows:

- Strengthen the European health workforce planning;
- Include the gender perspective in all actions;
- Develop and implement an EU Code of Conduct for ethical recruitment of health workers;
- Build synergies between National Actions.

EFN and Policy Development

The EFN is viewed by the EU and the Council of Europe as a credible organisation that represents effectively the views of nurses on healthcare issues and is actively involved in deliberations on EU policies according to its objectives:

1. Ensuring that **nurses and nursing are central** to the development of Social, Health and Environmental Policy and its implementation in the EU and Europe;
2. **Supporting and facilitating** a qualitative and equitable **health service in the EU and Europe** by making a strategic contribution to the development of a sufficient, effective, competent and motivated workforce of nurses;
3. **Strengthening** the **EFN representation** in the EU and Europe and further developing EFN's key role in bridging the NNA and decision makers in the EU institutions.

1. Education – Professional Qualifications

EFN-ICN Joint Position Statement on “The Bologna Agreement and the Tuning Project: Next steps for nursing” (March 2006)

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) - As many European Institutions and non-Governmental Organisations, EFN has Continuous Professional Development (CPD) on its professional and political agenda. Taking into account the global discussions on Health System Reform, Human Resources for Health and the implementation of the Bologna Process, three pan European Organisations - The European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN), The Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU), and The European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (ER-WCPT) - took the initiative to develop a “Civil Society Resolution on CPD” to be presented in a public hearing in the European Parliament. We believe that if Europe wants to achieve the Lisbon Objective of becoming the most competitive economy by 2010, and to make sure that the debate on the European Social model contains the basic principles such as solidarity and health for all, it is necessary that the health sector promotes Continuous Professional Development for the benefit of all.

This paper is available on our website at the following link http://www.efn.be/version1/en/pos_stat_Education.html

Continuous Professional Development - The High-Level Group (DG Sanco) developed recommendations for the Council of Ministers based on EFN's input to the High-Level Group (CPD Country Report – see EFN website: http://www.efnweb.org/version1/en/networks_eu_input.html).

Mobility of Healthcare Professionals

The EFN has had a significant impact on the political agenda of the Health Professionals' Working Group of the High-Level Group on Health Services and Medical Care. The results of the European Parliament debate have been presented in this working group and the conclusions have influenced the outcomes.

Council of Ministers

At the highest political level, the Council of Ministers agreed on an EU Strategy for Action on the Crisis in Human Resources for Health in Developing Countries - GAERC of 10 April 2006 - to minimise the impact of the recruitment of health workers to Europe from countries that are facing a severe health worker shortage.

2. Patient Safety

The EFN has been very active in supporting the work of the Patient Safety Working Group of the High-Level Group on Health Services and Medical Care. The priority areas are to establish a network of reporting and learning systems in Europe; education and training; and medication safety and safe use of medical devices. In each of these areas concrete proposals have been made either in the form of initiatives or projects. The main outcome in relation to the Council of Ministers is to put patient safety on the highest political agenda. The EFN has provided the Member States with practical information and guidance.

Pharmacovigilance - In June 2006, the EFN provided input to the European Commission DG Enterprise and Industry Public Consultation on "[An Assessment of the Community System of Pharmacovigilance](#)".

3. Nurses Working Conditions

The Social Dialogue Process was formally launched at a conference in Brussels on the 16th and 17th March 2006. The European Public Service Trade Unions' (EPSU) position is to give CPME (European Doctors) and EFN the same status within the **Social Dialogue Process** based on a Memorandum of Understanding. Both the European Hospital and Healthcare Employers' Association (HOSPEEM) and EPSU, with the support of DG Employment, have agreed to concentrate the Social Dialogue Process on the following three areas with a view to jointly agreeing priorities from discussions and national experiences: Recruitment and Retention; Ageing Workforce; and new skill needs.

After an intensive EFN lobby process in relation to the **Biological Agent Directive**, the European Parliament voted in favour of the own-initiative report of Stephen Hughes (UK) on Sharp Injuries. The EFN web and media campaign was crucial to this policy, which campaigned vigorously for DG Enterprise to introduce legislative measures to protect healthcare workers from potentially fatal blood borne infections, such as HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C, caused by occupational injuries with contaminated needles.

Furthermore, the EFN has supported the **European Liver Patients Association** (ELPA) in the development of the European Parliament Written Declaration on Hepatitis C (29/11/2006), which called for enhanced measures against Hepatitis C. This declaration was supported by Dr. Jolanta Dickute MEP (ALDE-Lithuania), John Bowis MEP (EPP-UK), Stephen Hughes MEP (PES-UK), Frédérique Ries MEP (ALDE-Belgium) and Dr. Thomas Ulmer MEP (EPP-Germany), and called on the European Commission and the Council to:

- a. Recognise Hepatitis C as an urgent public health issue;
- b. Adopt a Council Recommendation on Hepatitis C screening to ensure early diagnosis and wider access to treatment and care;
- c. Respond to the Recommendations of the June 2006 European Parliament Report on protecting European healthcare workers from blood borne infections due to needlestick injuries;
- d. Facilitate further research on treatment for Hepatitis C patients co-infected with HIV and/or Hepatitis B under the 7th Research Framework Programme.

4. Care for the older person

In 2006, the EFN participated in the EU project on Promotion of Health of the Elderly - "Evidence Based Guidelines on Health Promotion for Elderly: social determinants, inequality and sustainability (healthPROelderly)" - as a member of the advisory committee. The overall aim of this project was to promote health for elderly people through the creation of evidence-based guidelines with recommendations for potential actors in this field. The main role of EFN is to bridge the research developments with the European political debate.

EFN is taking the lead of the Health Grouping of the Council of Europe INGOs and developed with sixty health NGOs a [Resolution on Ageing](#).



EFN Alliances

1. International Council of Nurses (ICN)

The EFN members decided to apply for affiliated status within the International Council of Nurses (ICN). It is with great pleasure that the EFN members were informed that the ICN board of Directors approved the EFN to hold an affiliated status within ICN. This status will reinforce the close EFN-ICN relationship in advancing nursing, nurses and healthcare at European Level.

2. WHO Regional Committee - Contribution of Nurses to the Health System Reform within the Member States of the WHO European region (September 2006)

A Joint Declaration from the European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN), the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and the International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico Social assistants (CICIAMS) highlighted nurses' readiness to contribute to the health systems reforms of the WHO European Region Member States and specific issues were stressed:

1. Recruitment and retention of nurses;
2. Implementation of the Munich Declaration;
3. Reformation of health system to make the European region strong within the Lisbon Strategy;
4. Development of partnerships, by which the work within the Council of Europe can be shared as a good practice;
5. Development of national leadership needed to realise change.

3. European Health Policy Forum

The EFN has been actively involved in successful EPSU Health Care Services Workshop and EFN presented on behalf of all European Health Professionals the minimum agreed principles in relation to national care, cross-border care and after-care. This agreement was based on the European Health Policy Forum Recommendations on Mobility of Health Professionals and the European Health Policy Forum Recommendations on Health Services and Internal Market. It was concluded that:

1. An EU framework giving legal certainties is a minimum;
2. Equal access to high quality care in the home Member State and the freedom to move is the goal;
3. Information is vital;
4. Similar standards of care are needed in the EU Member States;
5. Continuous Professional Development is essential for patient safety and quality of care;
6. Collaboration between Health Care Professionals and with all EU health stakeholders is the key for successful EU policy outcomes.

4. European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)

The EFN has strengthened its involvement in EPHA by participating in the Policy Coordination meetings and sharing information on EFN business with other stakeholders.

5. Health First Europe (HFE)

In 2006 EFN became a full member of Health First Europe and has been elected to its Advisory Committee. Health First Europe is a non-profit, non-commercial alliance of patients, healthcare workers, academics and healthcare experts and the medical technology industry. The aim of HFE is to ensure that equitable access to modern, innovative and reliable medical technology and healthcare is regarded as a vital investment in the future of Europe. HFE is interested in the stories from patients, healthcare workers, and healthcare experts as well as facts and figures on a number of health conditions in Europe and on innovative treatments.

The EFN President and Secretary General wrote an article in the HFE book “2050: A Health Odyssey – Thought-provoking Ideas for Policy-making”, which explored future European healthcare scenarios. Launched in the European Parliament on 2 February by David Byrne, the book was distributed to key decision-makers in the European Commission, the European Parliament, the 25 Permanent Representations of the EU and to all participants of the European Health Policy Gastein conference.

In 2005, the EFN worked very closely with Health First Europe in organising on World Aids Day an event in the European Parliament on Sharp Injuries, which led to the own-initiative report by Stephen Hughes, voted on in the European Parliament in 2006. The outcome was partially due to the continuous lobbying and campaigning on sharp injuries by EFN.

6. Meeting with Representatives of Health professional European NGOs

Under the auspices of the Presidencies of Health NGOs, several informal meetings took place with health professionals to investigate common synergies on health issues that could form the basis for collective lobbying under agreed position statements. Issues such as patient safety, continuous professional development, health services, hospital sector dialog, eHealth and professional mobility and recognition were discussed. EFN will organise the next meeting in the Brussels office.



Strengthening the organisation The EFN Brussels office, what's changing?

1. Executive Committee

During the Autumn General Assembly held in Madeira, on 26-27 October 2006, the EFN members elected a new Vice-President (Mr. António Manuel Alves da Silva from Portugal) and two Executive Committee members (Ms Branka Rimac from Croatia and Ms. Unni Hembre from Norway).

The new Executive Committee is constituted by:

President:	Ms Annette Kennedy	Irish Nurses Organisation, <i>Ireland</i>
Vice-President:	Mr. António Manuel Alves da Silva	Ordem dos Enfermeiros, <i>Portugal</i>
Treasurer:	Mr. Pierre Théraulaz	Association Suisse des Infirmières et Infirmiers, <i>Switzerland</i>
Four Executive Committee Members:		
	▪ Ms Beverly Malone	Royal College of Nursing, <i>United Kingdom</i>
	▪ Ms Branka Rimac	Croatian Nurses Association, <i>Croatia</i>
	▪ Ms Grete Christensen	Danish Nurses Organisation, <i>Denmark</i>
	▪ Ms Unni Hembre	Norwegian Nurses Organisation, <i>Norway</i>

2. General Assembly

In 2006, the EFN members met on 6-7 April (in Malta) for the Spring General Assembly organised by the Malta Union of Midwives and Nurses.

Again they met on 26-27 October 2006 (in Madeira) for the Autumn General Assembly, organised by the Portuguese Nurses Organisation (Ordem dos Enfermeiros).

Three **committees** have been **established** within the EFN:

1. **Workforce Committee** (lead by Grete Christensen, Denmark)
2. **Professional Committee** (lead by Branka Rimac, Croatia)
3. **Public Policy Committee** (lead by Beverly Malone, UK)

The Terms of Reference and the Guidelines for the operation and responsibilities of the EFN Committees were approved by the General Assembly in Madeira. Please find further information at: <http://www.efnweb.org/version1/en/about.html>

The EFN will work with these additional Committees during a period of two years (2006-2008). An evaluation of these three committees is planned in spring 2008.

3. New measures of support to EFN Members

The most important pillar of a membership organisation is the support to the associated members, with particular focus on:

1. A more fluent and transparent flow of documentation to the General Assembly
2. Regular monthly EFN Updates
3. The EFN website as a dynamic communication tool

A. Fluent and transparent flow of documentation to the General Assembly

In response to the growing need for clear and transparent information vis-à-vis the members, the EFN Brussels Office has implemented a series of measures to further strengthen the transparency, accountability and management of the organisation.

It is vital that the information, knowledge and experience necessary for the EFN members to take informed decisions on the key issues for the nursing profession are shared amongst relevant stakeholders. To address this, the EFN Brussels Office regularly provides the EFN members with up-to-date information on the most recent items discussed at EU level, through: updates, briefing notes, press releases, position statements, speeches, and articles. Most of these documents have been made available to the public via the EFN Website: www.efnweb.org and are available in English and French.

B. Regular monthly EFN Updates

The EFN regularly publishes [Updates](#) that make reference to main information for nurses and the nursing profession and to the key issues that the EFN tries to influence in the European Institutions. These updates keep the EFN Members and other key stakeholders informed about the EFN policy and actions and up-to-date on current issues within the European Arena.

C. The EFN website – Raising Profile

The EFN website is used as a key communication tool to disseminate information to members and other target audiences. As highlighted by the table below, the site is attracting more viewers, which enhances the profile of the EFN.

Figure 1: extract of monthly visits and frequency

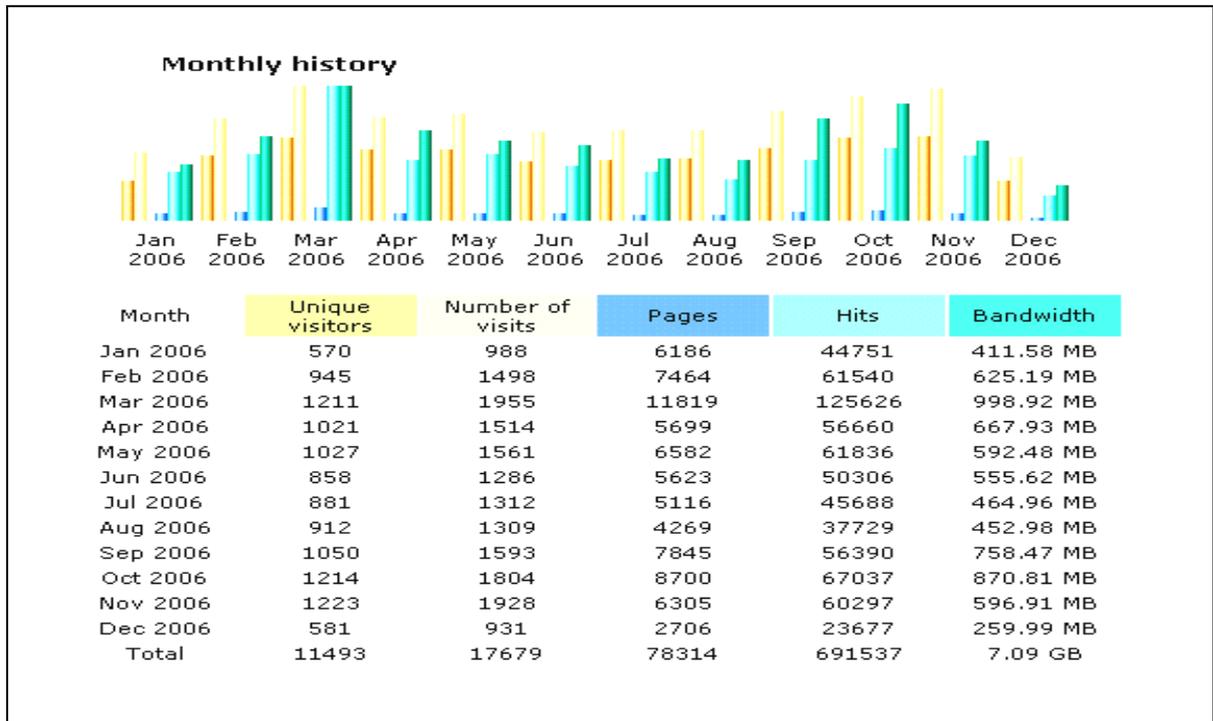
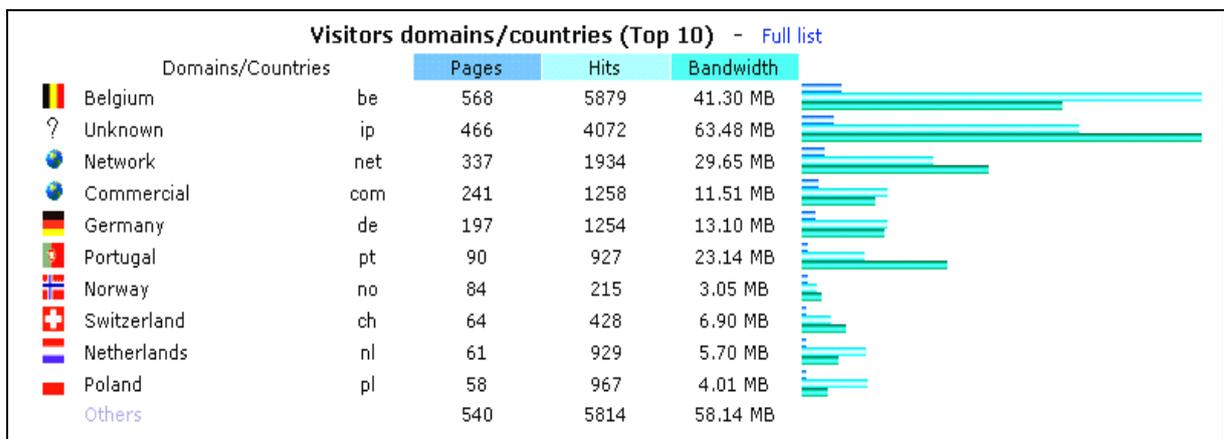


Figure 2: extract of visits based upon country of origin





The European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) was established in 1971. The EFN represents over one million nurses and is the independent voice of the profession. The mission of EFN is to safeguard the status and practice of the profession of nursing and the interests of nurses in the EU and Europe.

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