



Activity Report

European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN)
Working year 2007

Dear EFN Members and Colleagues,

2007 was a year in which the EFN, together with other EU key stakeholders, gave input to the European policy processes, leading to the preparation of EU policies on health services, the health strategy, patient safety and EU ethical recruitment guidelines. These pipeline policies will affect the daily work of 6 million nurses throughout the European Union and Europe.

This Activity Report highlights the areas of EFN achievements, influence, involvement and visibility in the European arena, in 2007. But there is still a lot to be done to get further developments on key issues for nurses and the nursing profession, as each next step brings new challenges and opportunities to make nurses' voice stronger. So, EFN and its members have a robust programme of issues to work on. This includes EFN main priorities for 2008: Patient Safety, Health Services, Workforce Planning, and Continuous Professional Development.

We hope that this report will be interesting and helpful for you in your daily work to strengthen nurses within the European Union and Europe, and we look forward to comments and feedback on this Activity Report.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the nurses across Europe who have been supporting our work and give us hope for the future developments.

Best regards,



Ms Grete Christensen
EFN President



Mr. Paul De Raeve
EFN Secretary General

Table of Contents

- I. Strengthening EFN.....p. 4
- II. EFN Projects.....p. 10
- III. EFN Alliances.....p. 11
- IV. EFN Governance.....p. 13
- V. EFN – All-changing.....p. 18
- VI. Conclusion.....p. 19



I. STRENGTHENING EFN

2007 provided EFN with policy window opportunities for lobbying the EU institutions/officials through numerous formal and informal meetings, in Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg. These meetings provided an opportunity to gather and exchange information and experiences of best practice on key issues for nurses and the nursing profession. Due to EFN Position Statements, EFN provided input to the EU policy-making process and by doing so, was pro-active in setting the EU health policy agenda.

A. EFN input to the EU Institutions

- 1. EU Consultation on Health Services** - Responding to the request for greater clarity over what Community law means for health services, the European Commission launched, in September 2006, a public consultation on [‘Community action on health services’](#). Based on the input from the EFN members, EFN provided its [contribution to this consultation process](#). When published, the Health Services Directive will be the major focus for EFN in 2008. EFN concerns about the lack of comparable data to plan the nursing workforce, patient safety and EU Quality of Care Standards will be addressed in (soft law) EU legislative initiatives.
- 2. EU Consultation on Health Strategy** - In January 2007, the EFN provided [its input](#) to the European Commission consultation process [“Health in Europe: A Strategic Approach - Discussion Document for a Health Strategy”](#). This initiative follows the consultation process [“Enabling Good Health for All – A Reflection Process for a new EU Health Strategy”](#), launched in 2004, to which EFN also gave input. EFN supports the Commission view on “Health is Wealth” and will work with DG Sanco to implement the endorsed Health Strategy.
- 3. EU Consultation on Needlesticks Injuries** - In January 2007, the EFN provided [its input to the European Commission Consultation process](#) on Needlesticks Injuries. More than 20 dangerous blood-borne pathogens, including hepatitis B, C and HIV/AIDS are transmitted by contaminated needles, and the nurses are the healthcare profession which most suffers from injuries caused by contaminated needles. EFN members got actively involved in the European Parliament which led to pressure the European Commission to make progress in this field.
- 4. Nursing Tuning Brochure** - The Nursing Tuning Brochure, to which [EFN provided key recommendations](#) in collaboration with Nursing Stakeholders (ICN, FEPI and ESNO), aims to establish nurses’ common occupational competences to achieve equivalent standards of nursing care at EU level. The outcome of the Tuning Validation Conference, held on 22 June 2007, took partially into account the main concerns of the EFN/ICN/FEPI/ESNO joint input: Credits for Theory and Practice, Resources, Patient Safety and Stakeholder Approach.
- 5. General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC)** - The EFN, in collaboration with the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and Action for Global Health, provided its [input to the Committee of Ministers meeting](#), in order to address the European health organisations concerns about the EU Programme of Action on the critical shortage of health workers in developing countries (2007-2013). There was an agreement within the Council of Ministers to develop Ethical Recruitment Guidelines and the EU strategy paper promotes action in both development cooperation and employment practices and conditions of the EU health sector.
- 6. Lobby action regarding the reintroduction of Health Services in the Services Directive** - Based on the vote in the IMCO Committee on 8 May 2007, the EFN in collaboration with other Health European Organisations [urged MEP’s to vote on the 24 May 2007 AGAINST the Vergnaud Report](#), including Amendment 172 of Toine Manders (ALDE) to reintroduce the Health Services in the Services Directive.

This lobby activity shows there is a continuous threat to the provision of services within the Internal Market.

7. **EU Consultation on "Gaps assessment for future SANCO action"** - The EFN [contributed to the Health Systems Working Party consultation](#) on DG SANCO Work Plan 2008 on Health Information and Knowledge domain, stating that Patient Safety and Mobility of Health Care professionals should be addressed in DG SANCO Work Plan 2008. EFN concerns were taken into account by the members of the Working Party.

B. EFN Participation in EU and National Events

1. **EU Events**

a. **Council of Europe**

i. **Health Grouping meetings**

The EFN participated in the Health Grouping meetings held on 31 January 2007, in which a [Memorandum of Understanding on the "Stakeholder Approach"](#) was endorsed, and on 18 April 2007, in which the [Resolution on Ageing](#) was endorsed. The implementation of the Health Grouping strategic plan is ongoing and the 70 NGOs interested in Health appreciate the leadership of EFN and IPPF.



ii. **European Health Committee (CDSP) meeting**

The EFN participated in the meeting of the European Health Committee (CDSP) that took place on 5 June 2007, in Strasbourg, where he gave a [report on the Health Grouping activities](#) to the CDSP members. The Members of the CDSP emphasised the importance of nurses in the health system and urged the Head of Unit to look at projects in relation to mobility of health professionals (Bratislava Ministerial Conference) and Continuous Professional Development. The INGO Conference has now an observer status next to the European Commission, WHO, CoE Development Bank, EU Presidency and the Red Cross.

iii. **Conference of European Health Ministers of the Council of Europe**



The EFN participated in the 8th Conference of European Health Ministers of the Council of Europe "[People on the Move: Human Rights and Challenges for Health Care Systems](#)", held on 22-23 November 2007, in Bratislava, Slovak Republic. Invited to make a presentation, the EFN focussed its intervention "[Working for Ethically Sound Solutions](#)" on: Promoting synergies between the European Commission, the World Health Organisation and the Council of Europe; Involving Civil Society in policy-making processes so that recommendations and guidelines do not end up on book shelves; Implementing Ethical Recruitment Guidelines within Europe; and, Planning the human resources for health, their qualifications and competences needed to guarantee quality of care and patient safety throughout Europe. The Ministerial Declaration signed by the 47 Health Ministers reflected these concerns.

b. **European Commission**

i. **DG Sanco Health Systems Working Party**

As official stakeholder in [DG Sanco Working Party on Health Systems](#), the EFN has been taking part in the HSWP meetings, held in Luxembourg:

a. 8th Meeting of the Working Party on Health Systems (11-12/06/2007)

This meeting provided the opportunity to exchange information and to be informed on important aspects of health systems in the EU Member States. The EFN lobbied to get EFN priorities on the agenda: patient safety, continuous professional development and migration.

b. 9th Meeting of the Working Party on Health Systems (19-20/11/2007)

Update on DG Sanco activities: eHealth, Health Strategy, Health Programme 2008-2013, the relevance of medical records, the mobility of health professionals, standards of care, and update on several EU project. The EFN expressed its concern about the lack of political commitment to address the “brain-drain” of nurses and the impact this will have on Health Systems.

ii. DG SANCO meetings

a. Stakeholder Involvement Conference – Brussels (23/05/2007)

This event marked an important stage in DG SANCO’s “Health Democracy” debate and presented its approaches to improving stakeholders’ involvement and participation in health issues. The EFN used this event to lobby DG Sanco on the implementation of the Stakeholders Approach as developed in the Council of Europe Health Grouping and EFN partnership with DG Sanco. It is time DG Sanco sees nurses as an essential partner in policy-making.

b. Impact Assessment - Discussion with Stakeholders - Brussels (28/06/2007)

This event created a good opportunity to the EU stakeholders to discuss with the Members of the Impact Assessment Board, and to learn about the results of the external evaluation of the European Commission Impact Assessment System carried out by The Evaluation Partnership (TEP). Launched in 2003, the Impact Assessment (IA) is one of the defining elements in the Commission’s Better Regulation Policy to deliver on Lisbon strategy, European Governance, and Sustainable Development. EFN advocated including nurses in the impact assessment processes.

c. The European Health Policy Forum – Brussels (28/06/2007) & Luxembourg (16/07/2007 & 12/10/2007)

The European Health Policy Forum is the Forum in which the different sectors related to health exchange information and develop stakeholder positions on relevant EU developments. The Forum has lost its impact gradually and a committee was set up to address this challenge. The EFN provided input and believes that the Forum needs to go beyond information exchange. Furthermore EFN advocated for building synergies between the High Level Group, the Working Parties and the Forum.

d. Patient Safety Working Group of the High Level Group on Health Services and Medical Care (PSWG)

The EFN is the official stakeholder in the Patient Safety Working Group of the High Level Group of the European Commission, where the EU project on patient safety (EUNetPaS) in which EFN is being involved as key partner has been developed. The Working Party endorsed the EU Patient Safety Recommendations which will be the basis for the development of the soft law initiative within the development of the Health Services Directive.

e. Health Professions Mobility Working Group of the High Level Group on Health Services and Medical Care (HPWG)

The EFN is the official stakeholder in the Mobility Working Group of the High Level Group of the European Commission, where Continuous Professional Development and EU Ethical Recruitment Guidelines are discussed. The working group is making slowly progress but [EFN Report on Continuous Professional Development](#) has been used to make progress. The [EFN](#)

[Ethical Recruitment Guidelines](#) have been used to develop the soft law initiative within the development of the Health Services Directive.

c. European Parliament

i. Intergroup on Health Services

The EFN participated in the Intergroup on Health Services meeting held in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, on 14 February 2007, and informed the MEPs present about EFN input to the consultations on Health Services and Health Strategy and set out what EU needs to do. The MEPs took into account EFN views on Patient ombudsmen and Patient Sensitive Data, which was reflected in the own initiative Vergnaud Report.

ii. Open Discussion Forum on Hepatitis C



Following the adoption of the [European Parliament Written Declaration on Hepatitis C](#), supported by EFN, an Open Discussion Forum was organised on 15 May 2007, in the European Parliament, in order to explore how the EU could promote action against Hepatitis C as part of existing policy initiatives in the fields of public health (EU Health Strategy, Public Health Programme 2007-2013), research (FP7), and employment (needlesticks injuries).

iii. Green Learning Seminar on Health services and Health care across the EU

The EFN participated in the seminar held by the Greens/EFA group on 19 April 2007, in the European Parliament, which highlighted how the health care functions in the different social security systems across the EU and how the interaction with EU policy was being developed at that moment. The EFN presented its input to the European Commission consultation on Health Services in Europe.



d. EU Presidency meetings

i. 1st Forum on Social Services of General Interest (Portuguese EU Presidency)

The EFN participated in the [Forum](#) that took place under the auspices of the European Parliament on 17 September 2007, in Lisbon, Portugal. Following the developments that have occurred over recent years, the Forum, which brought together different players (public authorities, European institutions, civil society), and have fostered the discussion and progress on social policy, is aiming to continue the debate on social services across Europe.

ii. International Conference on Patient Safety Research (Portuguese EU Presidency)

The EFN participated in the Portuguese Presidency [International Conference on Patient Safety Research](#), held in Porto, Portugal, on 24-26 September 2007, which brought together researchers, policy makers, and research commissioners from across Europe, in order to develop a common research agenda for the Patient Safety. The EFN lead the “Mix-It” session and round table discussion on generic questions about undertaking patient safety research, which was a good opportunity to review some of the research abstracts in more detail and consider some ‘big picture’ questions in patient safety research.

iii. Conference on “Health and Migration in the EU - Better Health for All in an Inclusive Society” (Portuguese EU Presidency)

The EFN participated in the Conference [“Health and Migration in the EU”](#) that took place on 27-28 September 2007, in Lisbon, Portugal, set out to provide the scientific basis and political vision needed to introduce the important and long-overdue theme of health and migration into the EU health agenda. The Conference organized with the support of the European Commission, the collaboration of all Member States and the special contribution of WHO, the Council of Europe and

other relevant stakeholders, including governmental and non-governmental organizations, involved scientists, experts and politicians.

iv. Health Professionals Crossing Borders Meeting (Portuguese EU Presidency)

The EFN Member '[Ordem dos Enfermeiros](#)' hosted the Healthcare Professionals Crossing Borders (HPCB) meeting, held on 8 October 2007, in Lisbon, Portugal, where the collaboration of the EU health professionals regulators to contribute to patient safety in Europe and develop effective approaches to healthcare regulation in the context of the European single market was discussed, and an agreement for cooperation, transparency of information about the registration status of health professionals, and the development of best practice for measurement of performance and competence of healthcare professionals was reached.

v. EU Chief Nursing Officers meeting (Portuguese EU Presidency)

The EFN participated, as observer, in the [EU Chief Nursing Officers meeting](#), held on 15-16 November 2007, in Lisbon, Portugal, hosted by the EFN Portuguese member – Ordem dos Enfermeiros, which focussed on the accessibility and safety in health care, the Health problems, and nursing health care in the future. This meeting was a good opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences and to promote ongoing analysis and debate on health matters of common interest and on the role of nurses throughout the EU. It fostered the exchange of experiences and the discussion of best practices. A working group of five countries was created to assess the actual state and implementation of the Family Nurse on the EU.

vi. “EU Council Debriefing & Slovenian Presidency Briefing” (Slovenian EU Presidency)

The EFN participated in the “EU Council Debriefing & Slovenian Presidency Briefing” event held on 15 December 2007, in Brussels, where the priorities and the agenda of the future Slovenian Presidency were presented. Taking up the EU Presidency from Portugal on 1st January 2008, the Slovenian EU Presidency will focus on the implementation of the new Lisbon cycle for growth and jobs, energy, climate change, relations with the Western Balkans, and hopes to ratify the text of the new Treaty. Regarding health, Slovenia’s EU presidency intends to implement the priorities that it has set together with its predecessors at the helm of the EU, Germany and Portugal: health promotion, disease prevention and access to health.

2. National Events

a. 34th Pan-Hellenic Congress, 7-10 May 2007, Chania, Crete

The EFN was present in the very successful annual congress, organised by the [Greek Nurses Association](#), a member of EFN, which brought together more than 3.000 nurses from Greece and Cyprus, and which focussed on the creation of a Regulatory Body in Greece, the shortage of nurses, working conditions, etc. The EFN gave a speech on [“Nurses Influencing EU Policy Making”](#).



b. XXVIII National Nursing Students meeting, 21-27 May 2007, Ovar, Portugal



The EFN was invited to participate in the successful meeting of the Portuguese Nursing Students, organised by the Students Association of the Superior School of Nursing of Viseu, together with the Students Association of the Superior School of Nursing - Jean Piaget - Viseu, which brought together 5.000 nursing students to discuss the future nursing developments. The EFN gave a speech on [“Mobility and Versatility of the Nurses”](#).

c. RCN International Education conference, 5-7 July 2007, Brighton, UK

The EFN participated in the Royal College of Nursing International Education conference '[Beyond the Borders: international nursing education in the 21st Century](#)' which brought together nursing educators from across the globe, who discussed about new teaching and learning strategies that will be effective in preparing future generations of nurses to practice in rapidly changing environments, where short stays in acute care facilities are common and where complex care is being provided in a variety of settings. The EFN gave a speech on "[Education from a European Perspective](#)".



d. EFN Members visiting the EFN Brussels Office

In 2007, several EFN members' delegations (RCN, Sweden & Norwegian representatives), as well as other nurses' groups/Organisations (International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) & a Group of French students) visited the EFN Brussels Office in order to know more on the EFN lobby work to the EU Institutions, such as the European Commission, European Parliament & Council of Europe, as well as to/with the EU health stakeholders.

e. 14th Cyprus Nursing Conference, 30 November-1st December 2007, Nicosia, Cyprus



The EFN participated in the [14th Cyprus Nursing Conference "Equality, Quality and Safety in Health Care"](#) organised by the Cyprus Nurses Organisation, an EFN member. The EFN gave a speech on "[Equality, Quality and Safety in Health Care](#)", in the presence of the President of the Parliament Mr Demetres Christofias. The EFN was impressed by the leadership of the Cyprus Nurses to set the health and nursing agenda in Cyprus. The EFN briefed Commissioner Kyprianou on the outcomes of the conference and invited the Commissioner to the 2008 Autumn

EFN General Assembly in Cyprus.



II. EFN PROJECTS

1. EU Projects Proposals under the 7th Framework Programme

a. Mobility and Human Resources projects

During the EFN Autumn General Assembly, held in Brussels, the EFN members decided that EFN should be involved in the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) proposals regarding mobility and human resources, and gave the EFN President a mandate to sign EFN involvement in the projects proposals. The EFN Secretary General met different project leaders and encouraged them to involve the nursing profession in their project proposal. Furthermore, the EFN encouraged the project leaders to link up with the policy-makers and political leaders to prevent EU projects outcomes ending up on book shelves. All projects will start in 2008.

b. EUNetPaS project

The EFN Members decided to sign up for the European Project on Patient Safety - *European Union Network for Patient Safety (EuNetPas)* - and stressed the importance for EFN and its members to participate in the different Working Packages. This project is a result of EFN involvement in the High Level Group on Patient Safety and the project leader, Mr. Jean Bacou, addressed the Brussels General Assembly.

This 30 months project will mobilise 27 EU countries and the main EU civil society stakeholders. Its objective is to: produce European added value of Member States collaboration by mutual support, transfer of knowledge and good practice and exchange of ideas and materials for accelerating progress in Patient Safety; and set up a pan European Network for patient safety involving stakeholders and organised around national nodes or coordinators which will be the ultimate beneficiaries of the outputs of EUNetPaS.

As associated partner, EFN will be involved in the Working Packages on "Patient Safety Culture", "Education and training", "Field Testing on Medication Safety" and "Evaluation of the project". The EuNetPas project will start beginning 2008.

2. HealthPROelderly

Initiated in April 2006, and coordinated by the Austrian Red Cross, the "[healthPROelderly](#)" project is aiming to promote health promotion for older people through producing evidence based guidelines with recommendations - at EU, national and local levels - for potential actors in this field. The project will run until 31st December 2008.

Taking into account the advisory role of EFN in this EU Project, the EFN:

- Introduced the project into the INGOs' Health Grouping of the Council of Europe political debate – As a result the INGOs Health Grouping approved, in April 2007, a resolution on ageing;
- Informed key MEPs, the European Commission and Stakeholders/NGOs active in Elderly Care on EFN implication in the project and its developments, within the context of EFN meetings regarding Elderly Care and Long Term Care;
- As member of the European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) Advisory Board, lobbied to get Elderly Care on the agenda of the 10th European Health Forum Gastein;
- Represented the "HealthPROelderly" project in two meetings held in Brussels: "[Healthy Ageing Project Concluding Conference](#)", and "[Ageing, Health Status and Determinants of Health Expenditure Project \(AHEAD\) Final Conference](#)". A report was drafted and sent to the project coordinator;
- Published an article on the '[EU HealthProElderly](#)' project in the "Parliament Magazine - Issue 253 – 1st October 2007".



III. EFN ALLIANCES

Building alliances and creating partnerships with key organisations to work on particular issues are very important for EFN as this is a mean to strengthen civil society in policy-making. Therefore, EFN has been in close contact with the following organisations:

1. International Council of Nurses (ICN)

In 2007, the EFN and [ICN](#) worked mainly together on the topic of the Nursing Tuning Brochure and advocated for a better stakeholder approach, recognition of practice and compatibility between the ICN and Tuning competencies. A meeting between EFN, ICN and FEPI took place in Madrid to explore future developments.



The EFN also represented ICN in some meetings, such as: in the Council of Europe, and in the high level meeting in the European Parliament on Pandemics Preparedness.

2. WHO Regional Committee



Having an observer status in WHO RC meetings, the EFN participated in the [57th session of WHO European Region](#), held in Belgrade, Serbia, from 17 to 20 September 2007, where the representatives of the 53 Member States of WHO European Region discussed about health workforce policies in the European Region, the progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the WHO European Region, highlighted the vital role of a skilled professional health workforce in strengthening health systems, and stressed the importance of health systems' reaching the poor and vulnerable.

The EFN took this opportunity to lobby the Norwegian Government leading on Health system Reform file and other national governments in preparation of the WHO European Ministerial Conference on Health Systems, to be held in Tallinn, Estonia, on 25-27 June 2008. The EFN took also this opportunity to exchange views with the European Commission and WHO on the work done on Stakeholder Approach.

3. European Forum of National Nursing and Midwifery Associations (EFNNMA)

The EFN participated in the [EFNNMA 11th annual meeting](#) held in Copenhagen, on 29-30 October 2007, which focussed in the Nursing and Midwifery input to and impact on outcomes for Health Systems with reference to the WHO European Ministerial Conference on Health Systems: "Health Systems, Health and Wealth", to be held in June 2008, into which the EFN will participate. Important topics such as: human resources for health, models for health systems and clinical development recommendations, were also discussed.



4. 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, social dialog in the hospital sector, eHealth, and professional mobility and recognition has been discussed. Although the main purpose is to exchange information, these meetings provide the opportunity for the EFN President and the EFN General Secretary to meet their colleagues.

5. Health First Europe (HFE)



As full member of [Health First Europe](#) - a non-profit, non-commercial alliance of patients, healthcare workers, academics and healthcare experts and the medical technology industry - and member of the Advisory Committee, the EFN worked very closely with HFE in organising the Healthcare Associated Infections (HCAIs) event held in the European Parliament on 17 October 2007. The objective of this event was to explore the existing best practice in the EU Member States and to determine the actions to be taken by all the EU stakeholders involved. EFN members present in this event took this opportunity to share their experiences in tackling HCAIs with the EU healthcare decision-makers, and the EU Stakeholders present in the meeting. The outcomes of this event were two amendments to the Health and Safety Directive.

6. European Patients' Forum (EPF)

EFN has developed a strong relationship with the [European Patients' Forum](#) and the General Secretaries of both organisations have met to develop a common framework for action. The EFN and EPF are willing to collaborate closely on issues such as patient information and patient safety.

7. European Health Management Association (EHMA)

As a member of the Pan European Organisation [EHMA](#), which actions have been supporting EFN policies, the EFN is in close contact with EHMA Director, Ms Jeni Bremner, in order to develop joint strategies in the EU policy-making processes.

8. European Medicines Agency (EMA)

As member of the [EMA](#) Working Group with Healthcare Professionals' Organisations, the EFN has been involved in the regular meetings held by the EMA on information to patients. EFN developed with PGEU, CPME, EPF and EPHA a coalition to make civil society input to medication information a priority to prevent medication errors.

9. European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)

As member of [EPHA](#), EFN has been strengthening its involvement within EPHA by participating and sharing information on EFN business with other EU health stakeholders in the monthly Policy Coordination Meetings (PCMs) taking place in Brussels, where the members are informed on the EU policy developments. EPHA has been in support to EFN policies and provided the political opportunities to share with key EU policy-makers EFN positions.

10. European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU)

With the launch of the Hospital Sector Social Dialogue Committee in September 2006, [EPSU](#) and EFN signed, in February 2007, a Declaration of cooperation between both organisations and agreed that there will be an exchange of information between EFN and EPSU about important developments in the Hospital Sector Social Dialogue. Regular meetings are being organised, in Brussels, to exchange information on EU developments.



IV. EFN GOVERNANCE

1. Executive Committee

The Autumn EFN General Assembly held on 13-14 September 2007, in Brussels, elected a new President, a Treasurer and two new members of the Executive Committee. Ms Grete Christensen (DNO) took over the EFN Presidency from Ms Annette Kennedy (INO) – EFN President from 2005-2007.

As a result, the new Executive Committee is constituted by:

President:	Ms Grete Christensen	Danish Nurses Organisation, <i>Denmark</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 Branka Rimac	Croatian Nurses Association, <i>Croatia</i>
	▪ Mr. Aaldert Mellema	Nieuwe Unie'91 (NU'91), <i>The Netherlands</i>
	▪ Ms Unni Hembre	Norwegian Nurses Organisation, <i>Norway</i>
	▪ Dr. Peter Carter	Royal College of Nursing, <i>United Kingdom</i>

In 2007, the Executive Committee Members met four times: on 15 January and 21 May, in Brussels, for their regular meetings, and on 11 April and 14 September for extraordinary meetings.

2. General Assembly

The EFN members met on 12-13 April 2007, in Croatia, for the Spring General Assembly organised by the Croatian Nurses Association, and on 13-14 September 2007, in Brussels, for the Autumn General Assembly, organised by the EFN Brussels Office.

In 2007, the EFN General Assembly decided on the following issues:

- a. **EU Project on Patient Safety** – The EFN members approved the EFN participation in the EUNetPaS project as Associated Partner;
- b. **The EFN input to the European Commission Consultations Processes** – The EFN members gave input and supported the EFN contribution to the several consultation processes launched by the European Commission;
- c. **EFN Committees' Work plan** – Each EFN Committee approved its Work plan, reflecting the key points on which the EFN members need to work on in 2008;
- d. **EFN budget** – The EFN final budget 2007 was endorsed as well as the budget proposal for 2008;
- e. **Policy Action Audit of EFN Brussels Office** - Performed on the request of the EFN members in order to evaluate the EFN Brussels Office work;

- f. **EFN Secondment Policy** – The EFN members approved this policy and agreed to financially support the smallest NNAs who would like to send a secondee to the EFN Brussels Office.

3. EFN Committees

In 2007, the EFN General Assembly endorsed the work plan, the mission statements and objectives of the three Committees within the EFN General Assemblies, as well as the steps forward to achieve concrete outcomes related to:

1. **Professional Committee** (lead by Branka Rimac, Croatia): Continuous Professional Development (CPD) and Structural Funds;
2. **Workforce Committee** (lead by Grete Christensen, Denmark until September 2007, from September 2007 lead by Aaldert Mellema, The Netherlands): Recruitment and Social Dialog in the Hospital Sector;
3. **Public Policy Committee** (lead by Unni Hembre, Norway): Patient Safety and Health Services in the European Union.

The three EFN Committees produced recommendations on key issues to the General Assembly which facilitated the EFN lobby process towards the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe and the Regional Committee of the World Health Organisation.

The **Terms of Reference** for the operation and responsibilities of the EFN Committees approved by the EFN General Assembly in Madeira, in October 2006, are available to all the EFN members on the EFN Website: http://www.efnweb.org/version1/EN/about_termsofreference.html

The **Work Plan of each Committee**, approved by the EFN General Assembly in Brussels, in September 2007, is available on the EFN Website: http://www.efnweb.eu/version1/en/core_businessplan.html

4. EFN Membership

EFN Membership is constituted by Full Members, Associate Members and Observers.

- a. **EFN Full Members** are drawn from the National Nurses' Associations from the twenty-seven EU Member States (+ Croatia, Norway, Iceland and Switzerland), which are in membership with the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and the Council of Europe.
- b. **EFN Associate Members** are three mandated representatives of the [European Nursing Specialist and Generic Organisations \(ESNO\)](#).
- c. **EFN Observers** are the [International Council of Nurses \(ICN\)](#), the [World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#) and the [European Nursing Students Association \(ENSA\)](#).

5. Support to EFN Members

EFN supports the member Organisations, with particular focus on:

- a. The documentation to the General Assembly;
 - b. The monthly EFN Update and regular Briefing Notes & Press Releases;
 - c. The EFN website as a dynamic communication tool.
- a. **The documentation to the General Assembly**

It is very important for the EFN members to receive accurate and updated information in order to take informed decisions on the key issues for nurses and the nursing profession, as it is important that EFN

members' knowledge and experience are shared amongst each other and with key national & EU stakeholders.

Therefore, in 2007, the EFN Brussels Office produced the **General Assembly documents** based on the recommendations of Policy Action audit report.

The EFN General Secretary wrote three **articles** in the EU press 'The Parliament Magazine': "[EU Patient and Workplace Safety](#)"; "[EU Health Pro Elderly](#)"; and "[The Future EU Health Services](#)".

b. Monthly EFN Update and regular Briefing Notes and Press Releases

Once a month, the EFN publishes an **Update** that makes reference to the main information for nurses and the nursing profession within the European Union and to the key issues to influence in the European Institutions. These Updates keep the EFN Members, and other key EU health alliances, informed about the EFN policies, actions and up-to-date European initiatives.

The **EFN Briefing Notes**, available only for the EFN members, provide the members with specific information on key lobby issues that may influence national policies. In 2007, the EFN has published several Briefing Notes on key items such as: Mobility of Nurses, Working Time Directive, Structural Funds, EFN work in the Council of Europe, the EU Presidency, the 7th Framework Programme, e-Health, Patient Information, Health Care Associated Infections, the Libyan Court Case and the EU Health Services and Strategy.

The **EFN Press Releases** provide the EFN members, and other key EU health stakeholders, with information on key issues EFN believe it is important to share. In 2007, the EFN has published several Press Releases on key items such as the announcement of new EFN President, and the EFN support to the Polish and to the Finish nurses protests for better salaries and working conditions.

c. EFN website - a dynamic communication tool

The **EFN website** is used as a key communication tool to disseminate information to the society and the EFN Homepage reflects ongoing EFN activities. The web statistics show some interesting figures:

Figure 1.1: Year overview 2007 – monthly visitor behaviour

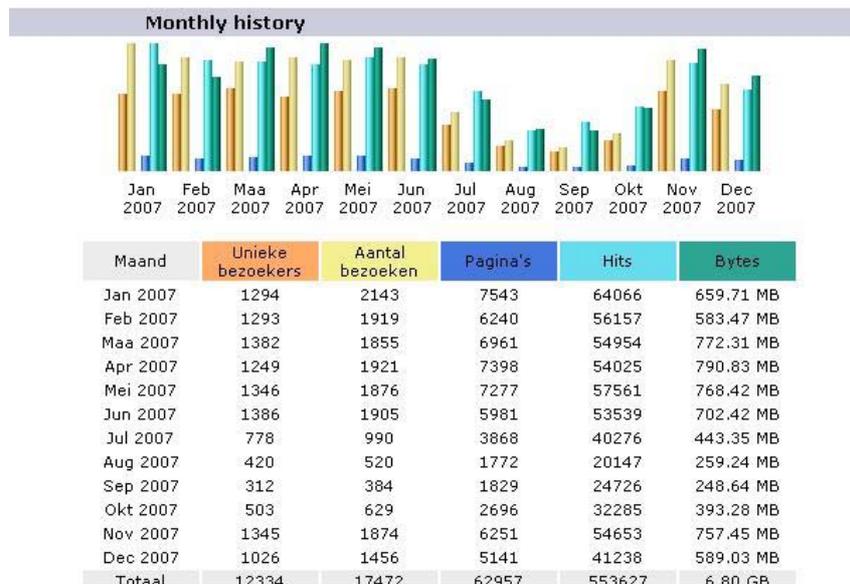
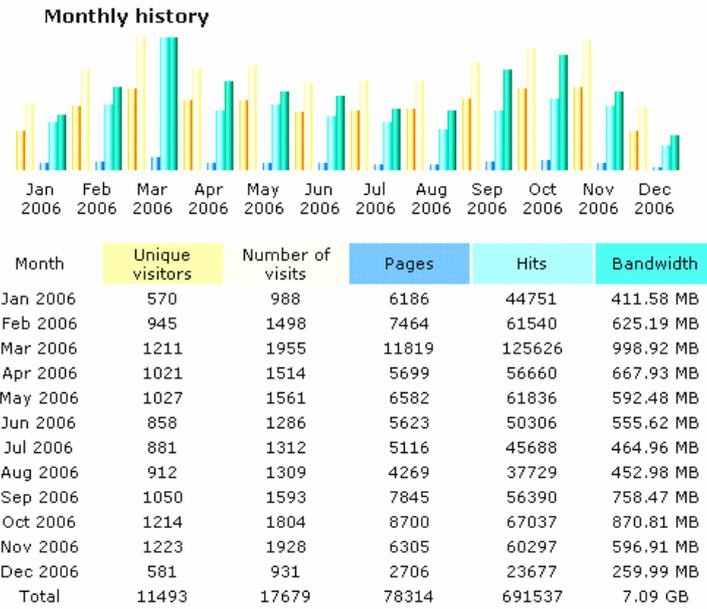


Figure 1.2: Year overview 2006 – monthly visitor behaviour



The Figure 1.1 shows 1.294 'unique' visitors per month with increased visits in January-June and November-December. Compared to the overview of 2006 (Figure 1.2) this is an increase with 7% on the year total. The amount of visits (3rd column) shows a higher amount but these are visits which contain periodic visits from the same user (so not 'unique').

Figure 2.1: Year overview 2007 – visits from domains and countries

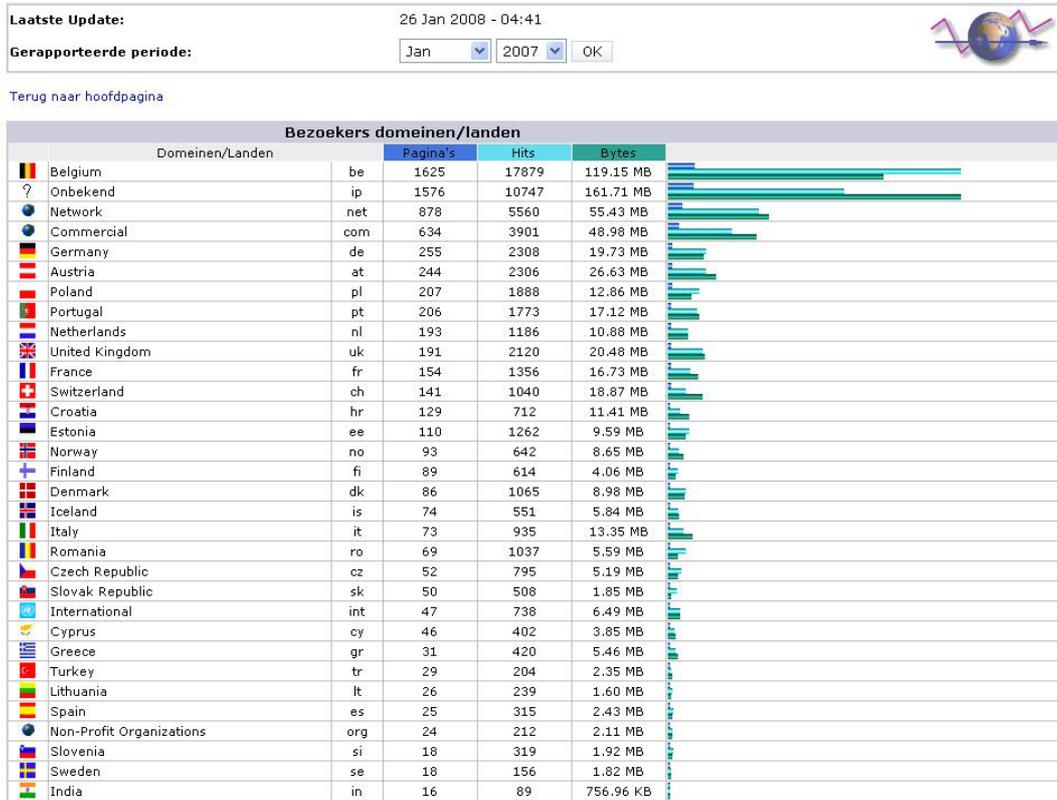
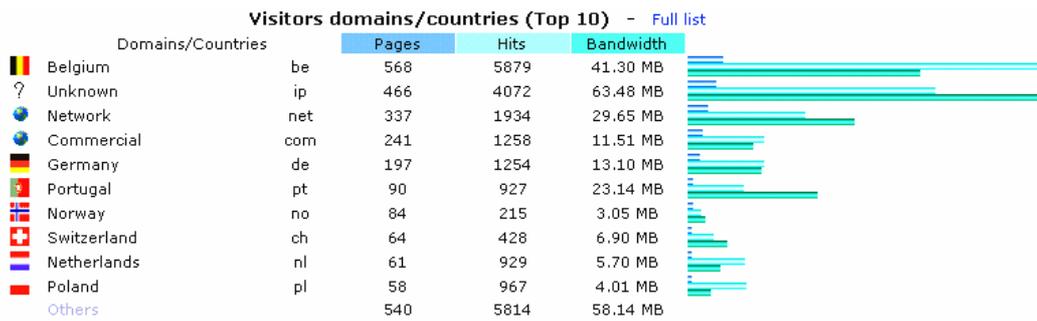


Figure 2.2: Year overview 2006 – visits from domains and countries



The Figure 2.1 shows the measurements of from where average visits come from by country origin: Belgium (mostly from the EFN Brussels Office), a large amount of unknown IP-addresses (used to measure visits), Germany, Austria, Poland, Portugal, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, France, Switzerland, Croatia, etc. Compared to the overview of 2006 (Figure 2.2), there is a stable country visits with some new comers. Column 5 shows that the amount of hits has increased for each country. This indicates higher connection moments to the EFN Website.



V. EFN – ALL-CHANGING

EFN reviewed its governance structure and lobby strategy to proactively set the EU policy agenda, to influence more effectively the EU policies affecting the nursing profession and to improve the EFN visibility in the EU political arena.

1. Audit – EFN Brussels Office

In 2006, the Autumn EFN General Assembly in Madeira decided that the EFN Brussels Office business should be evaluated, including the strategic plan, activities, workload, outcomes and interactions with the General Assembly and the Executive Committee. In January 2007, the EFN Executive Committee Members took this decision further, and in April 2007, Policy Action presented the results of its Audit to the Spring EFN General Assembly, in Croatia. The conclusion was that EFN should streamline its operations, set goals and determine measurements, prioritise its issues, restructure its decision-making process, and review constantly all its Position Statements. Most audit recommendations were implemented in 2007.

2. EFN Position Statements & Policy Statements

As highlighted by the Audit Report, the EFN General Assembly in Croatia, April 2007, decided that it was important to review all the EFN Position Statements in order to make them as concrete as possible and accurate. Each EFN Committee worked on the revision/development of the Position Statements related to their topics and Policy Statements were developed for each Position Statement. All the EFN Position Statements & Policy Statements were endorsed during the EFN Autumn General Assembly, held in Brussels in September 2007, and are now available on the EFN Website: http://www.efnweb.org/version1/en/core_pstatement.html.

3. EFN Secondment Policy

The EFN members decided that it was important for the EFN Brussels Office and for the National Nursing Associations (NNAs) to have a secondee in the EFN Brussels Office. As a first step, the EFN Members approved the [EFN Secondment Policy Paper](#), and it was decided that the NNAs could join forces to allow extra resources for a secondment in the Brussels Office and, therefore, allow that the secondee comes from an NNA that could not finance it. This important solidarity principle underpins the work of EFN.



VI. CONCLUSION

EFN has had a very busy Year 2007 monitoring the many issues and challenges facing nursing in the European arena. Our work continues to gather momentum particularly in the areas of health and education and EFN has made many inroads in the European political debate.

Due to EFN members' commitment to EFN, the pan European Organisation for Nurses Associations has proved very successful in our efforts to influence health care policy within the EU. EFN can be rightly proud of its achievements, its visibility and its recognition with policy making bodies of the EU. EFN is now one of the leading NGOs representing health professionals and provides all EFN members with a great opportunity to be at the heart of the EU, at the doorstep of the European Parliament and European Commission.

EFN will keep on lobbying to make working and living conditions better for the European nurses and therefore EFN shall remain a proactive and visible organisation that sets the agenda on the European scene.



The European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) was established in 1971. The EFN represents over 30 National Nurses Associations and in collaboration with the European Specialist Nurses Organisation lobbies in behalf of over two million nurses in the European Union and Europe. The EFN is the independent voice of the profession and 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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