



Activity Report

European Federation of Nurses Associations
Working Year 2008



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Forewords

All around Europe millions of nurses are calling for better working conditions, better salaries, sufficient and suitable human resources, leading to better quality of health care. The role of the EFN is to ensure that the nurses' voice is heard at European level on these important topics, including patient safety and healthcare associated infections, skill mix and skill needs, the EU workforce for health, quality standards and patient information.

In 2008, the Commission launched the 'Patients Rights in Cross-Border Healthcare' Directive which is in EFN view a positive step forward towards implementing the agreed Council principles for all health systems in the EU: "solidarity", "accessibility", "sustainability" and "equity". Furthermore, soft law Commission initiatives saw the light in 2008 and the EFN is pleased with the Council Recommendations on Patient Safety and Healthcare Associated Infections and the Green Paper on EU Workforce for Health.

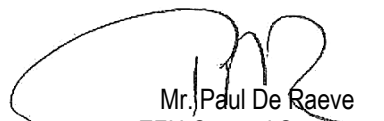
Therefore, 2008 was a very busy but successful year in terms of EU policy-making and providing input to the Commission in a pro-active way. Together with the EFN members and other EU key health stakeholders, the EFN gave input to the European policy processes, leading to the preparation of the EU policies on several issues, such as: health services, health strategy, patient safety and needlestick injuries, that will affect the daily work of 6 million nurses in Europe. The draft policy initiatives tabled in 2008 will therefore stay with us in the coming two to three years as these initiatives are very politically sensitive. Nevertheless, due to EFN strong alliances with key stakeholders in the European health arena, the EFN lobby work becomes concrete, effective and efficient.

For the third consecutive year, the European Federation of Nurses Associations makes available its annual report, highlighting the areas of EFN achievements, influence, involvement and visibility in the European arena during the year, to its members and interested stakeholders. We hope this report will be motivating and supportive to your daily work to strengthen nurses and the nursing profession at National and EU level. We are looking forward to your comments and feedback on this Activity Report.

Finally, 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, as well as the EU Healthcare Professions and all the other EU Stakeholders with whom the EFN has closely worked in 2008.



Ms Grete Christensen
EFN President



Mr. Paul De Raeve
EFN General Secretary



I. STRENGTHENING EFN

The mission of EFN is to strengthen the status and practice of the profession of nursing for the benefit of the health of the citizens and the interests of nurses in the EU and Europe by providing nurses views on key legislative initiatives put forward by the Council of Ministers, the European Commission and the European Parliament. 2008 provided the EFN with great opportunities for lobbying the EU institutions, the EU officials and the EU health Stakeholders through its input to many EU consultation processes, and the numerous formal and informal meetings with policy-makers and politicians, organised throughout the EU. These important meetings provided EFN and its members the opportunity to express their concerns, and to gather and exchange information and experiences of best practices in nursing on key EU issues.

A. EFN INPUT TO THE EU INSTITUTIONS

The EFN provided input to several important EU consultation processes on the areas that affect the nursing profession, as a way to influence the EU policy-making process.

1. **EU Consultation on Needlesticks Injuries** - After having contributed to the first EU consultation process regarding [Needlesticks Injuries](#) in 2007, the EFN has again provided [its input](#) to the European Commission [second stage consultation](#), in 2008. The EFN approves the initiative of the European Commission to improve the Directive 2000/54/EC on the protection of workers from risks related to exposure to biological agents, which clearly needs improvement to address the measures required to prevent needlesticks injuries, that can be avoided with better working practices and the use of widely available appropriate technology that incorporates needle protection.

Furthermore, taking into account the lack of action from the European Commission, the EFN drafted [a letter](#) to the EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Vladimir Špidla, to express EFN concerns about the delay of more than two years in the publication of an amendment to the [Directive 2000/54/EC](#), to protect health care workers from potentially fatal needlestick injuries. During the time that the Commission has delayed taking action following the [European Parliament's Resolution of July 2006 \(2006/2015\)](#), 6 million nurses have been exposed to more than 2 million unnecessary needlestick injuries. Therefore, the EFN has urged the European Commission to respond immediately to the Parliament Resolution 2006/2015.

Finally, EPSU and HOSPEEM sent a letter to the European Commission informing that they agreed to take joint action of a non-legislative nature and that they would reach agreement with all concerned partners, the European Commission had to stop its process. This issue is now left for social dialogue by the partners in the hospital sector. EPSU/HOSPEEM have now 9 months to draft a proposal.

2. **EU Consultation on Medical Devices** – The EFN has contributed to the [public consultation](#) on the revision of the Medical Devices Directive, with the aim to modernise and simplify the legislation on Medical Devices. The EFN, together with Health First Europe, organised several awareness campaigns in the European Parliament and strongly recommended the Commission that the basic principles of a new approach should be maintained and that all medical devices are subject to the Directive.
3. **EU Consultation on Patient Safety** – In order to have a full picture on patient safety issues from all stakeholders involved, patients, consumers, national competent authorities, and healthcare professionals, the European Commission launched a [public consultation on Patient Safety](#), which results led to a Commission initiative on Patient Safety and Healthcare Associated Infections and the European project, EUNetPaS, in which all Member States, EFN and its members are actively involved. Following the EFN General Assembly, April 2008, Copenhagen, where the EFN members were informed and asked to provide their contribution to this important consultation, the EFN provided the Commission with its [input to the consultation](#), and EFN members experts in Patient Safety and Infection Control, met the Commission in making sure the future legislative initiative fits the reality. The political discussions took place in the Patient Safety Working Group of the High Level Group on Health Services and Medical Care, in which EFN is a member, and the terms of reference of this workgroup 'Patient Safety' was expanded in 2008 to the 'High Level Group on Patient Safety and Quality Standards'.

4. **EU Consultation on Information to Patients** - In April 2008, the EFN provided its input, through the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), to the European Commission DG Enterprise and Industry [public consultation](#) for a legal proposal on information to patients, aiming at ensuring that all EU citizens have access to good-quality, objective, reliable and non-promotional information on prescription-only medicinal products. [EPHA response to the consultation](#) underlines the EFN opposition to advertising of prescription-only medicines and emphasises the role of nurse prescribers and how they provide information to patients on medicinal products.

B. EFN LOBBY PRIORITIES

The aim of the EFN is to bring to the attention of the EU the current and potential collaboration of nurses to meeting the health needs of the population throughout the European Union. As such, the EFN has set, under 3 overarching objectives, key priorities on which the EFN worked in collaboration with the EFN Members, the EU Institutions, and the EU key health Stakeholders.

1. **Overarching Objective 1** - *“To ensure that nurses and nursing is central to the development of Social and Health Policy and its implementation in the EU and Europe.”*

✚ **Patient Safety and Healthcare Associated Infections (HCAIs)** - which are a serious concern in the European Union, is one of the high priorities in the EFN political agenda. In order to make sure that the nurses views are taking into account and that the EU legislation is in line with EFN policy, the EFN has been actively involved in:

- ↪ The European Commission Patient Safety Working Group of the High Level Group on Health Services and Medical Care (PSWG), engaging the 27 EU Member States and EU Health Stakeholders such as CPME, PGEU, EPF, HOPE and EFN. Although all working groups within the High Level Group were dismantled, the working group on patient safety was kept alive and renamed in September 2008 the *“Working Group on Patient Safety & Quality Standards”*. The EFN advocated to keep this high level group as the development of recommendations do not on its own change the practice and therefore the high level group needs to continue to meet as continuous political commitment is needed for positive change. The EFN welcomes this step forward for European cooperation between Member States and EU Stakeholders to improve the quality of healthcare.
- ↪ The 30 months EU project launched in February 2008 [“European Union Network for Patient Safety \(EUNetPaS\)”](#) involves the 27 EU Member States and the key EU Health Stakeholders CPME, PGEU, EPF, HOPE and EFN. As Associate Member, the EFN and its members are actively involved in the project, through the participation in the coordination and the different work packages dealing with ‘patient safety culture’, ‘education’ and ‘field testing’ by providing good practice examples from EFN members (www.efnweb.eu).
- ↪ Bringing together in the EFN Brussels Office EFN members’ experts in the field of Patient Safety and Infection Control (Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Spain, Sweden) and two representatives of the European Commission DG Sanco, in order to discuss on the nursing issues related to the European Commission Communication and Council Recommendations on Patient Safety and Quality of Health Services, including the prevention and control of Healthcare Associated Infections. The EFN members’ experts provided their view on the two draft Commission documents and shared their expertise, as a reality check, with the two European Commission representatives. As a result, the Council Recommendations are in line with the EFN Policy and Position Statement.
- ↪ The Royal College of Nursing (RCN), a member of EFN, represented the EFN in the DG Sanco expert meeting, held in Luxembourg on 26-27 September 2008, on Patient Safety & HCAIs Council Recommendations, with the objective to finalise the proposal for EC Council Recommendations on improving Patient Safety by the prevention and control of Healthcare Associated Infection (HCAI). The only Infection Control Nurse from the RCN present at the meeting was able to influence the discussion on both nursing and non-nursing issues relating to HCAI’s, and requested for continued EFN/RCN involvement in evaluation of implementation of EC recommendations on HCAI in two years time.
- ↪ The EFN explained by video conference the EUNetPaS project to Finish nurses participating in the Conference of the University of Applied Sciences in which a discussion took place on the importance of nurses’ involvement in the project. The EFN Secretary General took also the opportunity to thanks the Minister of Health, a nurse, and her advisors for the constructive salary negotiation outcomes and the leadership she provides in WHO and European Commission Summits.

- ↪ The EFN Policy & Position Statements on Patient Safety are available on EFN Website: http://www.efnweb.eu/version1/en/pos_stat_Patient.html.

Next Steps:

- EFN Policy and Position Statements on the Council Recommendations on Patient Safety and Healthcare Associated Infections to be endorsed by the EFN members in the April 2009 General Assembly;
- EFN, in collaboration with Health First Europe, to keep up the political momentum in the European Parliament debates;
- EFN to work actively in the High Level Group on Patient Safety and Quality Standards;
- EFN to lobby the 2009 EU Presidencies, Czech Republic and Sweden, to endorse and implement the Council Recommendations on Patient Safety and Healthcare Associated Infections.

✚ **Patients' Rights in Cross-border Healthcare** – The “Health Services Directive” is a high priority in the EFN policy agenda. Following a public consultation in 2006 and several delays in 2007, the European Commission finally launched, in July 2008, a revised [proposal for a directive to facilitate the application of European patients' rights in relation to cross-border healthcare](#), aiming to clarify and promote the right of patients to gain access to healthcare in another EU country by ensuring high quality and safe cross-border healthcare, as part of its [Renewed Social Agenda](#). As such:

- ↪ The EFN General Assembly, held in October 2008, in Cyprus adopted [the EFN Position Statement on Patients' Rights in Cross-Border Healthcare Directive](#), which highlights that the EFN welcomes the EU Directive, but that some improvements are needed to implement the Council Conclusions on Common Values and Principles: “solidarity”, “accessibility” and “sustainability”. The EFN main concerns relate to “upfront payment”, “top-up payments”, “independent point of contact to provide information to patients” and “patient sensitive qualitative data”.
- ↪ The EFN participated in the Ministerial Conference “[Europe of Health: Serving Patients](#)”, held in Paris, France, on 13-14 October 2008, under the auspices of the French EU Presidency, brought together experts, health professionals, patients' associations, European Commission, Member States representatives and MEPs, to exchange experiences on a number of subjects related to patients' rights. The aim of this conference was to present the added value of EU-led action in the field of health, regarding safety, quality of care and the promotion of patients' rights. Taking part in a panel discussion the EFN stressed the importance of a competent and motivated workforce in order to safeguard safety and quality.
- ↪ Next to Patients' Rights topic, the EFN considers the development of **EU Quality Standards**, in reference to article 5 of the **Patients' Rights in Cross-border Healthcare** Directive a high political and professional priority. The first meetings with the Commission took place and the European Commission is considering putting in place a project on Quality Standards, similar to the EUNetPaS project. Although there is the treat of watering down article 5 in the Directive, EFN members agreed to continue the work on this political sensitive issue.
- ↪ The EFN Policy & Position Statements on Services Directive are available on EFN Website: http://www.efnweb.eu/version1/en/pos_stat_Services.html

Next Steps:

- EFN amendments to the legislative proposal on Patients' Rights in Cross-border Healthcare;
- Alliances building with key stakeholders such as EPHA, EHMA, HOPE, CPME, AEMH, AEHP, UEMO and UEMS;
- Provide input to the political discussions in the European Parliament based on EFN Policy and Position Statements of which the Quality Standards needs to be endorsed during the April 2009 EFN General Assembly.

✚ **Patient Information** – As a member of DG Sanco High Level Group on Professional mobility and Patient Safety, and EMEA working group on Health Professionals, the EFN participated in the meetings organised in Brussels (High level group; Pharmaceutical Forum; BEUC; EPHA; etc.), and in London (EMEA). Based on EFN strong alliances with other EU stakeholders, EPHA took the lead in taking a strong and joined [position](#) forward during the Commission negotiations. The negotiations surrounding the “Pharmaceutical Package” were time consuming for many stakeholders and the EFN would like to express its gratitude to

the continuous advocacy work of colleagues directly involved in this policy process. Commissioner Verheugen reforms angered consumer and health professionals by seeking to ease the ban on advertising prescription drugs by allowing manufacturers to give details about their products on the Internet or the printed media. EPHA, BEUC, EFN and 17 other organisations representing patients, consumers and health professionals believe it is impossible to draw a line between promotional and non-promotional information to patients and consider deregulation of the current rules on information about prescription medicines is likely to lead to higher expenditures while any additional benefits to health or healthcare quality are yet to be established. A strong alliance wrote to the European Commission President José Manuel Barroso asking him for the reforms to be reconsidered.

The EFN Policy & Position Statements on Patient Information are available on EFN Website: http://www.efnweb.eu/version1/en/pos_stat_Services.html.

Next Steps:

- EFN to support EPHA amendments to Directive on Patient Information;
- EFN to continue being a stakeholder in the EU platforms on Patient Information: EMEA and European Parliament Joint ageing and health and Consumer Intergroup;
- Alliance building with EPHA and BEUC;
- EFN to monitor the progress made in the Pharmaceutical Forum and EMEA actions.

2. Overarching Objective 2 - *“To support and facilitate a qualitative and equitable health service in the EU and Europe by a strategic contribution to the development of a sufficient, effective, competent and motivated workforce of nurses.”*

✚ **EU Workforce for Health** – The Green Paper on EU Workforce for Health was officially launched on 10 December 2008 and EFN provided a key note speech during this [event](#). Workforce planning, recruitment and retention and working conditions will stay a high priority for EFN as 6 million nurses in Europe will be affected by the Commission initiative. Therefore, the EFN and its members were actively involved in drafting the Green Paper by providing the evidence. It was therefore extremely important for the EFN to have a Position Statement on Skill Mix and Skill Needs presenting a clear position of its Members (http://www.efnweb.eu/version1/en/pos_stat_Work.html). The expected outcome is that the EFN policy document on Skill Mix is used by the European Commission and WHO to advance the political debates on health systems reform and workforce mobility within the EU and globally. A public consultation period will take place (first half of 2009), and the EFN, being in close contact with DG Sanco, will provide its input to this consultation process, so that the nurses’ views are reflected into the adopted Green Paper on EU Workforce for Health.

To achieve this policy outcome, the EFN was actively involved in the Health Professionals Mobility Working Group of the High Level Group on Health Services and Medical Care (HPWG) renamed High Level Group Working Group on EU Workforce for Health, which is aiming to encompass the workforce capacity issues and human resource strategies required to care for an ageing population. This political environment acknowledged the difference nurses can make and a tremendous paradigm shift took place over the last three years: “nurses are leading change”.

Finally, the EFN made a presentation on the challenges posed by health workforce shortages, particularly in the nursing sector, and the international migration of health workers in the meeting held by the Coalition for Health, Ethics and Society (CHES), in March 2008, where EFN stressed the need for urgent action and the important role the EU can play in this field. The EU Member States needs, particularly in relation to demographic ageing, and how the outflow of nurses is managed in the countries where they originate, needs to be addressed in DG Sanco legislative initiatives in order to prevent recommendations ending up on book shelves.

The EFN Policy & Position Statements on Recruitment & the EFN Good Practice Guidance for International Nurse Recruitment are available on EFN Website: http://www.efnweb.eu/version1/en/pos_stat_Work.html.

Next Steps:

- EFN Policy and Position Statements on the Green Paper on EU Workforce for Health to be endorsed during the April 2009 EFN General Assembly;
- EFN amendments to the Green Paper on EU Workforce for Health;

- EFN input to the High Level Group on Mobility leading to optimal Council of Ministers decisions on Mobility;
- EFN building alliances with stakeholders in the European Health Policy Forum and taking the lead on workforce planning.
- EFN as advisor to the 7th Framework Program approved mobility and forecasting projects.

✚ **Medical Devices / Needlesticks Injuries** – Over the last four years, the EFN has been active on these issues by lobbying the EU Institutions (namely DG Enterprise lead on this item) 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, and through its alliances with other key EU Stakeholders (e.g.: Health First Europe, EUCOMED). In 2008, the EFN provided its input to the public consultation on the revision of the Medical Devices Directive, to the second stage consultation on Needlestick injuries, and drafted a letter to the EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, to express EFN concerns about the delay of more than two years in the publication of an amendment to the Directive 2000/54/EC, on the protection of workers from risks related to exposure to biological agents at work. The EFN managed to get a glance on the Commission legislative proposal to amend 2000/54/EC, but the EFN partner EPSU found it more opportune not to follow this legislative road. Although the legislative initiative covered eliminating the re-capping of needles, the provision of safety devices, disposal of devices, involving health care staff in selecting safety devices, rapid post-event activities and the recording of sharps injuries, topics asked for by the EFN, this legislative attempt was blocked by EPSU and HOSPEEM with the argument that they would first try through the social dialog. MEPs champions for Health were very disappointed, as was the EFN.

The EFN input to the Consultation Processes is available on EFN Website: http://www.efnweb.eu/version1/en/networks_eu_input.html.

The EFN Policy and Position Statements on Medical Devices & Sharps Injuries are available on EFN Website: http://www.efnweb.eu/version1/en/pos_stat_Devices.html.

Next Steps:

- To make sure that the European Commission proposed Directive is taken forward and provide the evidence to social partners of the urgency of this matter;
- To make sure that EU policies on safe working conditions for nurses are implemented.

3. Overarching Objective 3 - “Strengthening EFN representation in the EU and Europe and develop EFN key role as bridge between NNA and decision-makers in the EU institutions.”

✚ **Education** – Now that the Directive 2005/36/EC on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications, for which the EFN strongly lobbied for many years, has been in force for one year, the EFN General Assembly held in Cyprus in October 2008, discussed and approved the EFN [Policy](#) and [Position](#) Statements on Synergy between Directive 36, Bologna, and European Qualifications Framework (EQF). The European Commission DG Internal Market will review from 2009 to 2012, in comitology procedure, the Directive 36, and the EFN needs to be pro-active by focussing on the implementation of its position in EU policy processes. Therefore, the EFN set up EFN members’ expert platforms to discuss the TAIEX Peer Review missions in the ongoing enlargement of the EU and the nursing education curricula accreditation within the 27 Member States of the European Union.

Furthermore, taking into account the complexity of any reform, the EFN has developed a [Policy & Position Statements on Structural and Social Cohesion Funds](#). The EU Structural and Social Cohesion funds are a real opportunity for EFN members to apply at national/regional level for EU funds for Continuous Professional Development. In order to strengthen EFN members’ synergies, the EFN recommends that EFN members submit at national/regional level “a minimum denominator” project related to the nursing education, patient safety and the prevention of “brain drain” of nurses by increasing the salary of nurses. In close collaboration with the European Patients Forum (EPF), a joined strategy was developed to support members in applying for Structural Funds. EFN and EPF met the high level officials of DG Sanco and DG REGIO to achieve political commitment.

The EFN Policy and Position Statements on Education are available on EFN Website: http://www.efnweb.eu/version1/en/pos_stat_Education.html.

Next Steps:

- EFN alliance with the European Patient Organisations (EPF) to achieve political commitment;
- EU Structural Funds 'social cohesion' are used by EFN members to upgrade the nursing education and for CPD;
- EFN members to share their experience in applying for structural funds and exchange achieved outcomes.

C. SUPPORT TO EFN MEMBERS

1. EFN Participation in EFN Members National Events

BELGIUM – Fédération Nationale des Infirmier(e)s de Belgique (FNIB)

The EFN participated in the [FNIB Congress "Les Infirmières se manifestent"](#), held in Charleroi, Belgium, on 19 March 2008, to discuss about one title for nurses and the creation of an Order for nurses in Belgium. The EFN also participated in the FNIB Congress on "[Pratique avancée en Soins Infirmiers: clinique infirmière et infirmière clinicienne](#)" organised in November 2008, in Brussels. The EFN made it clear that Belgium should implement the Directive 36 and 'produce' nurses which comply with the Directive 36 criteria.

CROATIA – Croatian Nurses Association (CNA)

The EFN participated in the second workshop on "National Nursing and Midwifery Strategy in the Process of Accessing to the EU", organised by the [Croatian Nurses Association](#) and the [Technical Assistance Information Exchange Unit of the European Commission \(TAIEX\)](#), in Zagreb, Croatia, in February 2008. The workshop brought together nurse leaders from all over Croatia, to discuss the compliance with the Directive 36. The outcome achieved was the National Nursing Strategy as part of the Croatian Health Strategy. The EFN also participated in the Croatian Nurses Association "[International Nursing Conference on Leadership](#)" held in October 2008, in Zagreb, Croatia. The EFN General Secretary stressed the importance to think about creating nursing leaders in Politics and took this opportunity meeting the Secretary of State to discuss the accession of Croatia to the EU.

GREECE – Hellenic Nurses Association (HNA)

The EFN participated in the 35th Panhellenic Congress "[Nursing: Quality and Safety in the Working Environment](#)", organised by the [Hellenic Nurses Association](#), member of EFN, in May 2008, in Athens, Greece. The Congress brought together more than 3.000 Greek nurses. [Addressing to the audience](#), the EFN General Secretary, stated that "*despite the many challenges the nursing profession is facing in the near future, we all need to be very optimistic. Nurses are the promoters and vehicle for change. Nurses want to see results so recommendations and guidelines are not only ending up on book shelves.*"

PORTUGAL – Ordem dos Enfermeiros (OE)

The EFN participated in the 10th Anniversary of the Portuguese Regulatory Body, organised in Lisbon, Portugal, in April 2008 and had the opportunity to exchange views on key EU initiatives with FEPI and its members. After this event, EFN and FEPI met in the EFN Brussels office to exchange views on Patient Safety, Nursing competencies, Code of Conduct and the Health Services Directive. This positive exchange is expected to continue in 2009.

2. EFN Members visiting the EFN Brussels Office

In 2008, the EFN members' delegations from Sweden & Norway visited the EFN Brussels Office in order to know more about the EFN, its lobby work in the EU Institutions and building of alliances with the EU health stakeholders. This is a very positive experience for EFN and its members as delegates become more aware of the importance of investing in EFN. As a result, EFN members national delegates go back home inspired. The EFN encourages its members to visit the EFN Brussels Office and the EU Institutions as this is a good opportunity for them to learn from the European experience to lobby their national authorities for the benefit of the nurses and the nursing profession. In connection to the April 2009 General Assembly, EFN took the initiative to organise, in collaboration with the European Training Institute, a lobby course for EFN members.



II. EU PROJECTS

1. EUNETPAS

a. Background



In 2007, the EFN Members decided to sign up for the European Project on Patient Safety - [European Union Network for Patient Safety \(EUNetPaS\)](#) - stressing the importance for EFN and its members to participate in its different work packages.

As associated partner, the EFN is involved in the work package on “Patient Safety Culture” (WP1), “Education and training” (WP2), “Field Testing on Medication Safety” (WP4) and “Evaluation of the project” (WP10). This 30 months project, which started in February 2008, mobilises 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.

b. Project Meetings

The EFN participated in the several meetings to advance the different project work packages, as well as in several other external meetings related to the project and/or patient safety to inform EU stakeholders, MEPs, and policy-makers. The EFN participated in the **kick off meeting of the project**, held in Utrecht on 28-29 February 2008, where the 27 Member States and EU Stakeholders discussed on the implementation of the EUNetPaS project. Following this meeting, the EFN Committees provided input to the different work packages by collecting existing educational modules on patient safety and best practices on preventing medication errors in hospitals.

Furthermore, EFN participated actively in the different work package meetings:

↳ WP 1 - “Patient Safety Culture”

The objective of this meeting held on 3-4 November 2008, in Aarhus, Denmark, was to revise the work plan of WP1 and implement the Paris coordination meeting decisions held in September 2008. A sensitive discussion on the future work and involvement of partners, the allocation of tasks and the communication of WP1 in relation to the other work packages took place. This again showed the complexity of being involved in European projects and the human resources needed to achieve successful outcomes.

↳ WP 2 - “Education & Training”

The objective of this meeting held on 15-16 May 2008, in Athens, Greece, was to update the participants on the progresses made along the action points set in Utrecht; to bring into focus specific issues that need to be carefully addressed in designing the Recommendation/guideline document; and to agree on an initial set of items that should be addressed in the recommendation.

↳ WP 4 - “Field Testing on Medication Safety”

The objective of this meeting held on 11 June 2008, in Helsinki, Finland, was to update the participants on the progresses made along the action points set in Utrecht and to discuss the good practices collected, the criteria for selection of good practices and the transferability of best practices within the EU. Out of the 90 best practices collected, 6 were selected of which 3 were submitted by the EFN members.

Finally, the EFN participated in the **second coordination meeting** of the EUNetPaS project that took place in Paris, on 22-23 September 2008, in conjunction with the French Presidency of the European Union. This 2 days’ meeting allowed the project members to evaluate the progresses made in the several work packages, and to discuss Patient Safety with other international organisations, such as: the Council of Europe, WHO and the OECD.

c. Next Steps

- *EFN/EFN members' active participation in the project Work Packages by fulfilling their obligations, such as collecting requested data and good practices examples;*
- *The EFN Members to collect further best practices in using Patient Safety Culture measurement tools;*
- *The EFN Members to collect further best practices examples on education curricula and CPD courses on which the recommendations will be drafted.*
- *The EFN Members to contact their [National Government representative](#) in EUNetPaS;*
- *EFN to employ a Brussels based Policy Advisor to participate in the 2009 coordination and work package meetings.*

2. HEALTHPROELDERLY

a. Background



Initiated in April 2006, and coordinated by the Austrian Red Cross, the “[healthPROelderly](#)” project was 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 ended on December 2008.

b. Meetings

Taking into account the advisory role of EFN in this EU Project, the EFN informed key MEPs, the European Commission and Stakeholders/NGOs active in Elderly Care on the project and its deliverables:

- ↳ **“Protecting the dignity of older persons - the prevention of elder abuse and neglect”** - organised by the European Commission (DG Employment), on 17 March 2008, in Brussels, this [conference](#) brought together policy makers and experts to discuss the quality of care for elderly people and pool ideas on preventing elder abuse and neglect. The discussions confirmed that maltreatment of older people has become a big problem, affecting thousands of citizens in many European countries. Speakers looked at the legal/criminal dimension of abuse and neglect, as well as the difficult situation of informal carers, health professional, and the responsibilities of care institutions.
- ↳ **HealthPROelderly project Final Conference “Towards evidence-based guidelines in health promotion for older people”** - The Polish Nurses Association represented EFN in this meeting, organised in Warsaw, Poland, on 15-16 May 2008, where the results of the project were presented and the participants discussed on how health promotion activities for older people work, and on the draft guidelines and recommendations with experts.

c. Next Steps

- *Dissemination of the HealthPROelderly evidence-based guidelines.*



III. BUILDING ALLIANCES

Building alliances and creating partnerships with key organisations to work on particular issues are very important for the EFN as this is a mean to strengthen civil society in policy-making. The EFN organised/participated in meetings with other health professionals to explore common synergies on health issues that could form the basis for collective lobbying under agreed position statements. In 2008, the EFN was in close contact with the following organisations:

A. EFN OBSERVERS

1. World Health Organisation (WHO)

a. WHO Regional Committee



Having an observer status in WHO Regional Committee meetings, the EFN participated in the [58th session of WHO European Region](#), held in Tbilisi, Georgia, in September 2008. The 53 WHO Member States in the European Region adopted several resolutions, such as: [Stewardship/governance of health systems in the WHO European Region](#); and [Behaviour change strategies and health: the role of health systems](#). The EFN General Secretary took this opportunity to meet Mr. Manuel Darit (WHO Geneva) to discuss Workforce issues, the ICN Georgian NNA member, and the Minister of Health to discuss the World Bank future project on establish primary health care education in Georgia. Furthermore, the EFN Secretary General met with the Georgian First Lady, Ms. Sandra Roelofs (who became recently a nurse) to discuss the difficult situation nurses are working in, the low salary (100 euro/month), the medical domination, and the sexual abuse of nurses in practice. The next WHO Regional Committee meeting will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 14-17 September 2009.

b. WHO Ministerial Conference on Health Systems

The EFN participated in the [WHO European Ministerial Conference on Health Systems "Health Systems, Health and Wealth"](#), held in June 2008, in Tallinn, Estonia. Organised in response to [resolution EUR/RC55/R8](#) adopted by the WHO Regional Committee for Europe in 2005, the Conference brought together Ministers of Health from the 53 Member States in the WHO European Region, who signed the [Tallinn Charter on "Health Systems for Health and Wealth"](#), and health systems partners, experts, observers and representatives of international and civil society organisations, to discuss a different way to approach health systems, and how well-functioning health systems contribute not only to health but also to wealth and economic growth. The EFN contributed to the conference through a [Policy Statement on Health Systems](#), and took this opportunity to talk to the EU Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection, Ms. Androulla Vassiliou, and to lobby WHO high level policy-makers, the European Commission and the Council of Europe on the issue addressed in the Policy Statement.



c. European Forum of National Nursing and Midwifery Associations (EFNMA)

Having an observer status in EFNMA, the EFN participated in its [12th annual meeting](#), held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in July 2008. The meeting focussed on stewardship and its challenges, one of the four key functions of health systems and a key priority area of the WHO Regional Office for Europe. The EFN President was extremely please with the outcome and is looking forward to a closer collaboration with the Forum to advance jointly EU and European policies effecting nurses and midwives.

2. European Nursing Students Association (ENSA)

The EFN participated in the European Nursing Students Association (ENSA) [Annual General Meeting 2008](#) held July 2008, in Edinburgh, UK, and provided a speech on ["Bologna Agreement and Student Futures"](#). ENSA decided to focus on "representation", an item in which EFN members play a crucial role. The EFN members were encouraged to send a student, part of the national student organisation, into the ENSA

network. The EFN General Secretary and ENSA Executive Committee are working closely in preparing lobby actions for the next Bologna Summit in 2009.

B. EU STAKEHOLDERS

1. Health First Europe (HFE)

As full member of [Health First Europe](#) - a non-profit 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 successful event on "[Tackling the healthcare challenges of today for a healthier tomorrow](#)", held in Brussels, on 12 November 2008, which aimed at examining the healthcare today's challenges with a view to guaranteeing a healthier tomorrow, and discussing patients' views on access and safety, innovation in the healthcare sector and the challenges facing the healthcare workforce. As key note speaker in this meeting, the [EFN addressed the audience](#) on key topics: ageing nursing workforce, recruitment and retention, and the importance of research to support policy-making. The EU Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection, Ms. Androulla Vassiliou, replied that professional nursing organisations should apply more for structural funds to upgrade the status of nurses, women and to increase the salary of nurses as economic motives mainly drive nurses to be mobile in the European Union and globally to achieve a better life.

2. European Patients' Forum (EPF)

The EFN has developed a strong relationship with the [European Patients' Forum](#) and both organisations are now working closely on structural funds for health literacy and education. The EPF and EFN closely work together on the challenging EUNetPaS project as there is still a tendency not to include civil society in developing guidelines on patient safety. Furthermore, EFN and EPF were taking part in different panels where key EU legislative initiatives were discussed.

3. European Health Management Association (EHMA)

As a member of this [Pan European Organisation](#), which actions have been supporting EFN policies, the EFN is in close contact with EHMA in order to develop joint strategies linked to the EU policy-making processes. Due to time constraints, EFN is not able to participate in EHMA general assembly and the different interest groups, but EFN members, member of EPHA play an important role in supporting the work of EHMA.

4. 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. In this policy environment, health care professions, including ESNO, meet patient and consumer organisations to advance policies. This platform within the EMA is a good example of stakeholder approach.

5. European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)

As member of [EPHA](#), the EFN has been strengthening its involvement in EPHA by participating and sharing information on EFN work with other EU health stakeholders, also members of EPHA, in the regular Policy Coordination Meetings (PCMs) taking place in Brussels. EPHA is considered by the EFN as one of the most active and influential platform for advocacy and influence on EU policymaking. The EFN would therefore take this opportunity to thank EPHA's Secretary General and staff for their hard work and continuous support to EFN.

6. 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 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 the recent EU developments, such as the Health Services Directive, Workforce, skill Mix and Sharps Injuries.

7. European Health Policy Forum

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 EFN participate in the Forum meetings and provided input to the relevant questions addressed, however the EFN believes that the impact of the Forum outcomes should be increased by changing its governance structure. In the December Forum, EFN members participated actively to achieve this goal.

8. European Forum for Primary Care

As a keynote speaker in the [European Forum for Primary Care](#) conference on “*The Future of Primary Care in Europe*”, that took place in Southampton – UK, on 15-17 September 2008, the EFN President focused on the European developments in primary Care (an important topic for EFN) from a Nursing Perspective, and highlighted that nurses are ready to take up new responsibilities in Primary Health Care sector and that we are looking forward to our interdisciplinary colleagues and the politicians are ready to welcome the nurses. The EFN will follow closely the work done by The European Forum for Primary Care.



IV. EFN GOVERNANCE

1. EFN STRUCTURE

The EFN governance structure composed of two annual General Assemblies, in which 30 National Nurses Associations meet to discuss and endorse key Policy and Position Statements, and to work on several EU projects, is supported by two annual Executive Committee meetings (and two extra meetings on the evening prior to the General Assemblies), and the recommendations formulated by the Professional, Workforce and Public Policy Committees taking place during the General Assemblies. In 2008, the EFN members decided also to establish national nurses' associations' expert platforms to prepare from a technical point of view the EFN Policy and Position Statements.

2. EFN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Being the EFN governing body the General Assembly meets two times a year, to discuss the important issues related to the EFN lobby work that can influence the nurses and the nursing profession at EU and National levels.

The General Assembly is constituted by:

- ↳ **Full Members** - drawn from the National Nurses' Associations from the twenty-seven EU Member States (+ Croatia, Norway, Iceland and Switzerland) – It was with great pleasure that in 2008 the EFN welcomed Romania as Full Member in the EFN General Assembly.
- ↳ **Associate Members** - European Specialist Nurses Organisation (ESNO) – with one representative taking part in EFN General Assemblies; and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (The October 2008 General Assembly approved the NNA application to become Associate Member in the EFN General Assemblies).
- ↳ **Observers** - International Council of Nurses (ICN); World Health Organisation (WHO); and the European Nursing Students Association (ENSA).

To view the full list of the EFN Members, updated on regular basis, please visit the EFN Website: http://www.efnweb.eu/version1/en/about_members.html

In 2008, the EFN General Assembly met on 10-11 April 2008, in Copenhagen, for the Spring General Assembly organised by the Danish Nurses Organisation, and on 2-3 October 2008, in Cyprus, for the Autumn General Assembly, organised by the Cyprus Nurses and Midwives Association, to discuss and decide on the following key points:

- a. **EFN input to the European Commission Consultation Processes** - Throughout the year, the EFN members were consulted internally to give input and to support the EFN contribution to the several consultation processes launched by the European Commission.
- b. **EFN Policy & Position Statements** - In 2008, the EFN members approved the following statements: Structural Funds; Synergy between Directive 36, Bologna and European Qualifications Framework; Patients' Rights in Cross-Border Healthcare Directive; Skill Mix, Skill Needs and Tasks Shifting. The EFN Policy & Position Statements are available at: http://www.efnweb.eu/version1/en/core_pstatement.html.
- c. **EFN Strategic and operational lobby plan 2009-2013** - As the first EFN Strategic Plan 2003-2008 was coming to an end, the EFN Members approved in the October 2008 General Assembly the EFN strategic and operational lobby plan for the next 5 years which is pro-active and guides the Professional, Workforce and Public Policy Committees' work as set out in their yearly work plan. The EFN Strategic and Operational Plan 2009-2013 is available at: <http://www.efnweb.eu/version1/en/core.html>.
- d. **EFN Committees' Work plan** – During the EFN General Assembly, October 2008, Cyprus, the three EFN Committees approved their respective Work Plan 2009, which reflects the key points on which the EFN members need to work on in 2009. The Committee's work plans are available at: http://www.efnweb.eu/version1/en/core_businessplan.html.
- e. **EFN budget** – The EFN budget for 2009 was endorsed during the EFN General Assembly, October 2008, Cyprus.

3. EFN COMMITTEES

Constituted in 2006, in order to prepare and facilitate the EFN lobby process towards the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Regional Committee of the World Health Organisation, the three EFN Committees meet two times a year, during the EFN General Assembly, to discuss and produce recommendations to the General Assembly on the steps forward to achieve concrete outcomes related to:

1. **Professional Committee** (lead by *Branka Rimac, Croatia*): Implementation Directive 36 & EFN enlargement; Continuous Professional Development; EUNetPaS Project (WP2); and Patient Information Directive.
2. **Workforce Committee** (lead by *Aaldert Mellema, The Netherlands & Grete Christensen, Denmark*): Green Paper on Mobility; Directive on Medical Devices; DG Research Projects on Mobility and Nursing Forecasting; and EUNetPaS Project (WP1).
3. **Public Policy Committee** (lead by *Unni Hembre, Norway*): EU Health Services Directive – “Social Package”; EU Recommendations on Patient Safety and Healthcare Associated Infections; EUNetPaS Project (WP4); and E-Health.

4. EFN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Constituted by seven members: President, Vice-president, Treasurer and four delegates elected by and from the full EFN Members National Nurses Associations, on Odd or Even years, the EFN Executive Committee meets two times a year (in between each General Assembly) in order to discuss important issues for EFN and to prepare recommendations for the following General Assembly; and to take further the General Assembly decisions. An extraordinary meeting takes place the day before the General Assembly takes place. In 2008, the Executive Committee Members met four times: on 25 January and 20 June, in Brussels, for their regular meetings, and on 9 April and 1st October, in Copenhagen and Cyprus respectively, for extraordinary meetings.

The Autumn EFN General Assembly held on 2-3 October 2008, in Larnaca, Cyprus, elected a new Vice-President, and two members of the Executive Committee for a two years mandate (2008-2010), and one member of the Executive Committee, in replacement of Aaldert Mellema, The Netherlands, for a one year mandate (2008-2009).

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

President:	Ms Grete Christensen	Danish Nurses Organisation, <i>Denmark</i>
Vice-President:	Mr. Ioannis Leontiou	Cyprus Nurses and Midwives Associations, <i>Cyprus</i>
Treasurer:	Mr. Pierre Théraulaz	Association Suisse des Infirmières et Infirmiers, <i>Switzerland</i>
Four Executive Committee Members:		
	▪ Mr. Thierry Lothaire	Fédération Nationale des Infirmier(e)s de Belgique, <i>Belgium</i>
	▪ Ms Branka Rimac	Croatian Nurses Association, <i>Croatia</i>
	▪ Ms Unni Hembre	Norwegian Nurses Organisation, <i>Norway</i>
	▪ Dr. Peter Carter	Royal College of Nursing, <i>United Kingdom</i>

5. EFN BRUSSELS OFFICE

The EFN Brussels Office, constituted by the Secretary General and the Secretary, supported by EFN consultants (Accountant, Social Secretariat, IT managers, Translator, and Lawyer) was extremely busy in 2008 to set the political agenda and influence major policy initiatives having an impact on nurses and nursing. As described above, the EFN Brussels Office became the face for nurses and nursing in the EU and is respected by the key stakeholders for its commitment, energy, transparency and honesty.

The EFN Brussels Office focussed on supporting its members by providing up to date information and engaging EFN members in the Brussels lobby process. As a result, the gap between EU and National policy making becomes closer and EFN members become more visible at EU level.

Finally, the EFN Brussels Office was able to reach its 2008 objectives and developed clear strategies to move forward in the coming years.



V. COMMUNICATION

1. SUPPORT TO EFN MEMBERS

The EFN supports its member Organisations, with particular focus on:

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.

b. Monthly EFN Update

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.

c. EFN Briefing Notes

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 2008, the EFN has published several Briefing Notes on key items such as: Education (Directive 36 - Bologna - EQF); Patients' Rights in Cross-Border Healthcare Directive; WHO European Ministerial Conference on Health Systems; and Health and Safety at Work.

d. EFN Press Releases

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 2008, the EFN published Press Releases on: "Delivering Quality, Serving Communities: Nurses Leading Primary Health Care", "European nurses fighting for pay increase", "Green Paper on EU Workforce for Health" and "Patient Safety & Healthcare Associated infections".

e. EFN Website

The [EFN website](#) is used as a key communication tool to disseminate information to the EFN Members and the EU Health Stakeholders and to the public in general. Updated on regular basis, the EFN Website Homepage reflects the ongoing activities of EFN on the important issues related to the nurses and the nursing profession.

The statistics shows that the EFN website is highly consulted as the downloaded documents moved from megabytes in 2007 to gigabytes in 2008. The figures below describe the trend of EFN information downloaded by visitors, with a peak of 4.4 gigabyte in September 2008.

The Figure 1 shows up to 1.990 'unique' visitors per month which is compared to 2007 an increase with 65% on the year total. Logically, the amount of visits (3rd column) shows a higher amount but these are visits which contain periodic visits from the same user.

Furthermore, the Figure 2 shows the measurements of from where average visits come from by country origin: Belgium (as most EU stakeholders are based in Brussels), Germany, Austria, Portugal, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, Italy, Croatia, Norway, Poland, Greece, Cyprus, France, Denmark, Romania, Estonia and the Slovak Republic. Furthermore, as shown below, the EFN communication through the web becomes globally. Organisations based in the US, Turkey, Chile and Japan, to name a few, also consult the EFN website.

Figure 1: Year overview 2008 – monthly visitor downloads

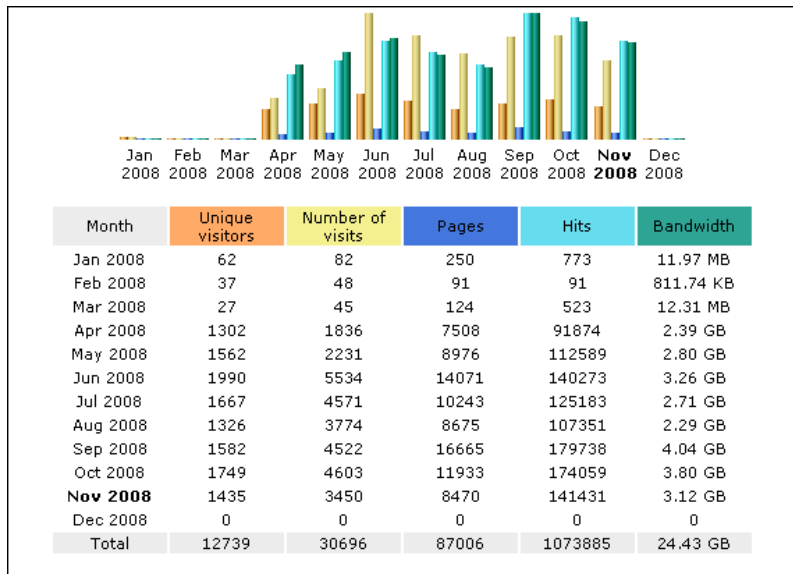


Figure 2: Year overview 2008 – visits from domains and countries

Domeinen/Landen	ip	Pages	Hits	Bytes
Onbekend	ip	2067	27285	644.64 MB
Commercial	com	1691	5569	208.64 MB
Belgium	be	1475	38054	596.33 MB
Network	net	857	13847	377.20 MB
United Kingdom	uk	252	3416	63.26 MB
Germany	de	188	5640	152.36 MB
Austria	at	169	3997	84.94 MB
Italy	it	164	5772	153.86 MB
Portugal	pt	162	5243	142.54 MB
Netherlands	nl	142	4341	66.93 MB
Croatia	hr	128	1329	30.61 MB
Norway	no	119	3947	96.91 MB
Poland	pl	105	2572	71.13 MB
Greece	gr	93	2452	63.03 MB
Cyprus	cy	89	1963	16.89 MB
France	fr	84	1819	57.55 MB
International	int	76	1870	59.67 MB
Sweden	se	60	431	13.04 MB
Romania	ro	53	1521	24.03 MB
Slovak Republic	sk	51	1140	19.38 MB
Slovak Republic	lu	40	155	2.51 MB
Luxembourg	ee	36	1076	25.69 MB
Estonia	dk	35	1522	27.55 MB
Denmark	fi	34	342	10.47 MB
Finland	ch	30	1023	28.13 MB
Switzerland	au	28	199	4.35 MB
Australia	is	27	95	1.66 MB
Iceland	yu	23	410	12.38 MB
Yugoslavia	ie	21	807	33.15 MB
Ireland	usa	18	710	22.40 MB
USA Educational	es	14	632	11.90 MB
Spain	br	13	13	628.20 KB
Brazil	in	13	50	1.42 MB
India	tr	12	178	4.26 MB
Turkey	mx	6	163	5.31 MB
Mexico	ca	6	172	6.24 MB
Canada	cn	5	156	5.43 MB
China	hu	4	156	6.61 MB
Hungary	gov	4	4	241.43 KB
USA Government	gh	4	4	578.05 KB
Ghana	info	3	3	954 Bytes
Info domains	ba	3	48	986.81 KB
Bosnia-Herzegovina	sa	3	3	672 Bytes
Saudi Arabia	th	3	3	658.77 KB
Thailand	nz	3	3	450.62 KB
New Zealand	ru	2	2	0
Russian Federation	co	2	28	243.85 KB
Colombia	mt	2	2	37.64 KB
Malta	za	2	2	296.77 KB
South Africa	pe	2	2	117.09 KB
Peru	ph	2	2	117.09 KB
Philippines	lv	2	153	5.05 MB
Latvia	id	2	3	309.62 KB
Indonesia	invalid	2	153	5.05 MB
Onbekend	md	2	2	133.59 KB
Moldova	jp	2	2	82
Japan	cl	2	139	4.09 MB
Chile	ar	2	50	1.13 MB
Argentina	mg	2	155	4.97 MB
Madagascar	my	1	1	155.62 KB
Malaysia	ci	1	1	2.01 KB
Ivory Coast (Cote D'Ivoire)	ua	1	1	85.31 KB
Ukraine	cz	1	51	510.31 KB
Czech Republic	mk	1	1	187.37 KB
Macedonia	lt	1	1	117.09 KB
Lithuania	tv	1	1	2.01 KB
Tuvalu	pk	1	1	240.80 KB
Pakistan				



VI. CONCLUSION

The EFN had a very busy Year 2008 with several important EU health policy developments advocated for in the last five years. The EFN has been successful in taking forward its mission and objectives by engaging the EFN members in the EU policy-making process and by building strong alliances with EU Stakeholders in Health.

This success led to an increased membership of National Nursing Associations joining the EFN. The EFN members feel safe in the “House of Nurses” and appreciate the work taken forward by the EFN. Investing in EFN means investing in nursing leading to EU policies reflecting the daily reality of millions nurses in the EU and Europe.

In difficult economical times, higher living costs and extremely difficult working conditions for nurses, the EFN keeps on leading changing in policy. Therefore, we all need to be optimistic about the future and being proud to be a nurse.

This positive trend could not have been achieved without the continuous commitment of EFN members, the governance capacity of the General Assembly, the leadership of the Executive Committee and the courage of all the nurses to believe in the values and principles shared among all of us.



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 on behalf of over two million nurses in the European Union and Europe. The EFN is the independent voice of the nursing profession and its mission 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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