

## EFN PRESS RELEASE

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### USING THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL COHESION FUNDS - 1.2 MILLION EUROS ALLOCATED TO INTEGRATED CARE AND EARLY DISCHARGE IN MALTA



Following the [visit of the EFN Secretary General to Malta](#), in November 2010, the evaluation of the situation in the Mater Dei Hospital and the ambition of the Health Minister to recruit nurses from Pakistan and India, the Maltese government has positively reacted to EFN concerns.

Nursing education and continuity of care have proven to be essential elements to provide quality and safe healthcare. The EFN, as a member of the steering committee in the European Innovative Partnership on

Active and Healthy Ageing (launched by the European Commission in 2011) has highly advocated the need to invest on integrated care models successfully and cost-effectively implemented by 'the front-line first'.

It is '5 to 12' for using the [European Structural and Social Cohesion Funds \(ESF\)](#) to strengthen a positive health system reform even when austerity budgets are imposed. More than ever, European funds are needed to implement integrated care systems that promote continuity of care for a proactive and personalised community/home-based care that will ultimately support the long-term sustainability and efficiency of healthcare systems.



Paul Pace, MUMN's President, stressed that *"such a project is essential to Mater Dei Hospital since it will not only reduce financial expenses within the health sector but will also save patients from remaining on stretchers in various holding bays"*.

Very pleased with this project's adoption, the EFN has [pushed for several years](#) for the use of Structural Cohesion Funds (SCF) to advance nursing and healthcare systems. The EFN General Secretary stated that *"Malta puts now flesh on the bones! As such the European Innovative Partnership starts getting a meaning for the people working in the field. Nevertheless, this is just the start of a challenging multidisciplinary process."*

Please contact Mr Paul de Raeve, General Secretary of the European Federation of Nurses Associations, for more information.

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