



## **EFN POSITION PAPER ON STRUCTURAL and SOCIAL COHESION FUNDS**

The EU is to spend €308 billion Structural and Cohesion Funds between 2007 and 2013 in order to decrease disparities and support regional development through actions including developing infrastructure, developing human resources and supporting research and development.

The EFN believes Continuing Professional Development for practising Healthcare professionals is to be vitally important to achieve high quality standards and patient outcomes in all health care settings. Therefore, the EFN urges Member States to use the Structural and Cohesion Funds to support innovation within Continuous Professional Development.

The EFN believes that:

- The Commission and regional governments should simplify procedures with a view to ensuring that funds are allocated in a transparent and efficient manner and delivered swiftly to final beneficiaries;
- The Commission should provide technical assistance to Member States and regions by setting up an appropriate training programme;
- Member States should ensure effective political, technical and administrative coordination and effective compliance with the partnership principle aimed at the sound management of funds;
- Aid should be tailored to the specific features and conditions of the Healthcare professionals, so projects that produce lasting results are implemented;
- The European Social Fund should invest in human capital by ensuring better education provision and steadily increasing qualification levels, particularly among nurses;
- Member States should provide support for women on the labour market and to even out pay disparities between women and men; and,
- The Nurses organisations should be encouraged to apply for Cohesion Funds and should be included in the good practice exchange networks.

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