

EFN PRESS RELEASE

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FASTER SPENDING OF EU REGIONAL FUNDS

The EFN welcomes the **Spanish EU Presidency call** for EU regional and cohesion funding mechanisms to be urgently simplified as a means of tackling Europe's economic crisis, as requested in the EFN Position Statement on EU Structural and Cohesion Funds. Implementation of regional policy remains unsatisfactory according to the European Commission, since EU Funds are underutilised owing to the overly-complex administrative layers involved in the process of application as well as implementation.

EU cohesion policy should remain a top-priority in the political agenda as it can be a powerful means of ensuring the success of the EU's new 2020 strategy.

Therefore, the EFN urges for:

- Social Cohesion Funds to be used in advancing the skills, knowledge and behaviour of the health workforce;
- Application and implementation procedures to be simplified in order to ensure access to social cohesion funds;
- National Nurses Associations to continue their concerted efforts towards applying and utilising EU Funds in the interest of nurses across Europe.

The EFN believes strongly in supporting the EU agenda for growth, competitiveness, and employment and has taken active steps in supporting its Members towards applying for social cohesion funding in the areas of **Nurse Education and Workforce Recruitment and Retention** via devising 4 generic proposals for funding. Subsequently, the EFN is inspired by the success of its members in this field, such as *Poland receiving over 40 million from the Social Cohesion Funds to invest in advancing the training of 36.000 nurses*, and so invites Member States and European Commission to join EFN Members towards making a **positive impact on the daily working lives of 6 million nurses in Europe.**

Please contact **Mr. Paul de Raeve**, General Secretary of the European Federation of Nurses Associations for a position paper on this issue.

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Further information:

- EFN [Policy](#) and [Position](#) Statements on EU Structural and Cohesion Funds;
- EFN [Generic Proposals on Social Cohesion Funds](#);
- EFN [Press Release on "Bridging Courses for Polish Nurses"](#) – 30 October 2009.

