

EFN Policy Statement

Investing in Health

Investing in health and social care is a key strategy to embrace EU citizens' values and principles, such as solidarity, equity and participation. Investing in people's health promotes a healthier population being able to live independently and to actively participate in the labour market.

The EFN emphasises the need to foster the added value of health as a driver of well-being, productivity and growth. Influencing people's health can be achieved by promoting a healthier lifestyle for individuals and communities through the increase of their health literacy and the positive influence on their determinants of health, such as physical environment, social network or equitable access to health and social services. As the health workforce is one of the main factors, investments in health need to be accompanied by investments in integrated care systems and its workforce.

The EFN members call on the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union to:

- Invest in the education of the nursing workforce to ensure they are competent to independently deliver high quality and safe care;
- Promote safe working conditions which allow nurses and other health professionals to provide care according to best practice standards and stay healthy and motivated;
- Invest in increasing accessibility of healthcare by deploying community care and deliver personalised, preventive, integrated and high quality and safe services;
- Foster a transformational change in the health system by developing advanced roles for nurses in managing long-term conditions and continuity of care;
- Ensure the development of a long term frontline workforce strategy for tailored implementation which is gender sensitive and which can meet the future health challenges of an ageing population;
- Empower citizens and patients for improving health outcomes by fostering health literacy and coaching;
- Implement ICT tools and innovative re-organisational pathways that have proven to be effective in increasing the accessibility to health and social services;
- Strengthen and develop research knowledge excellence networks to provide the evidence for change.

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