



EFN European Election Manifesto

The economic crisis has significantly impacted health and social care sector with serious consequences on access to health and social care for the EU citizens and patients, despite the growing numbers of people living with co-morbidities and needing complex care interventions.

Evidence shows that “investing in an appropriate nursing workforce pays off, as it reduces mortality and increases quality of care” ([Linda Aiken et al, 2017](#)). Universal health coverage cannot possibly be achieved without strengthening nursing globally. Increasing the number of nurses, making sure their contribution is properly understood and enabling them to work to their full potential is a key ([APGG, 2016](#)).

Therefore, for the EFN, it is vital that MEPs deliver on nurses’ shortage and address it by advanced education programmes and retention strategies, and by ensuring that the nursing evidence is translated into a political reality within Member States and across the EU in the term 2019-2025.

Invest in Nursing to Save Lives!

...you might need nurses one day!

EFN members are calling on MEPs:

“To deliver person-centred care and promote health in the EU, by championing appropriately educated, supported and developed nursing workforce in optimal working conditions”

Appropriately educated: Nurse education must reflect modern day nursing and enhance the profession’s ability to shape and deliver effective and high-quality care to patients.

Supported and developed: safe, healthy and attractive working environments for all nurses with a focus on supporting education, professional practice, research, workplace policies and incentives.

Optimal working environment working conditions: to tackle the current recruiting and retention crisis we need work-life balance measures to keep nurses in the profession by improving nursing wages, their profile and social status.

Person centred-care and health promotion: Europe needs to invest in and embrace the shift from acute to community services sharing innovation and maximising nursing’s potential to deliver person centred-care.

Act now!

For more information visit: www.efnweb.eu - Turn over to read our detailed call to action.



EFN call to action for MEP candidates

In the light of growing numbers of people living with co-morbidities and needing complex care interventions, the need of strengthening primary care systems is becoming more visible. To face the current challenges of the health and social care systems (e.g. access to healthcare, shortage of the healthcare workforce, raising of chronic diseases, spread of epidemics such as TB, measles) a whole system and mindset change at the policy, practice and education levels is needed with a shift from intervention to prevention. There is an increasing evidence that interventions led by nurses in primary care can contribute to an improvement of patient outcomes ([Maier et al 2016](#)).

However, the nursing profession, whose working conditions have substantially worsened due to cuts in salaries and jobs, is facing an increasing shortfall estimated to raise to a shortage of 1.1 million nurses by 2030 in the OECD countries ([WHO 2016](#)).

Nurses can play a significant role in enhancing primary care and delivering safe and high-quality cost-effective patient care in the future, therefore MEPs should commit to support and empower frontline nurses to deliver safe and effective care.

Invest in nursing education at European and national level

The EFN calls on MEP candidates to ensure that the EU's modernised [Mutual Recognition on Professional Qualifications Directive 2013/55/EU](#) is adequately transposed to national education programmes to further develop nursing education curricula and ensuring nurses have the right competencies to shape and deliver effective nursing care. A modernised and harmonised EU curriculum is essential to ensuring effective free movement of nurses across the EU and patient safety.

EFN is seeking MEPs support to guarantee access to continuous professional development, to ensure the nursing workforce updates its skills and remains “fit for practice”, in the 21st century, allowing nurses to easily adapt to changing needs and societal challenges. Particular support is needed in the immediate years after qualification through “preceptorships”. In this context, nurses must become active participants in the expansion and application of knowledge, on effective practice.

Only by appropriate investment in education will Europe achieve improved patient outcomes and more efficient integrated care as both are dependent on the qualifications of nurses, the largest single professional group in healthcare ([Linda Aiken, 2014](#)).

Ensure optimal working conditions and health workforce planning

Frontline nursing is key in guaranteeing timely access to affordable, preventive and curative health and social care of good quality. But Europe's nursing workforce and population is ageing.

In order to meet the challenges of the health system, workforce planning needs to maximise the contribution of the entire nursing workforce with appropriate data and understanding of the roles of nurses on different level of qualifications, and how they can work together and with other health professionals to improve health systems. Next to this, developing robust tools to ensure appropriate staffing levels, and skill mix must become a political priority within the EU.

Any strategies need to consider how to retain experienced nurses and how to make nursing an attractive and rewarding choice for future generations seeking careers which improve people's lives and are valued by society.

Nursing Research Informing Policy Design

Nursing research shall be recognised as a fundamental pillar in evidence-based health policy making. The EFN calls for MEPs to ensure that future research programmes enhance research capacity for nursing to inform public policy and in the hope of bringing in informed political decisions based on research outcomes.

Invest in Nursing to Save Lives!

European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN)

Contact person - Paul De Raeve

Clos du Parnasse, 11A - 1050 Brussels

Tel: +32 (0)2 512 74 19 – Mobile: +32 477970728

Fax: +32 (0)2 512 35 50

Email: efn@efn.be - Web: www.efnweb.eu

Twitter: @EFNBrussels - Facebook: /EFNBrussels