



EFN Policy Statement on Dementia Care

Dementia is one of the major healthcare challenges for Europe and a key priority for the 2015-2016 Luxemburg and Dutch EU Presidencies. Considering the increasing and substantial impact of dementia on EU citizens and society, there is an urgent requirement for a coordinated and comprehensive approach at EU level whereby all relevant actors – including civil society, policy-makers, industry, academia – work together to manage the burden of dementia and promote relevant interventions and care pathways that increase the safety and quality of life of those living with dementia, their families and carers. Coordination at European level is paramount if the EU is to respond to this challenge collectively.

Nurses are in the unique and privileged position of having direct access to the daily care needs of people with dementia, and have a key role to play both in managing and preventing this condition.

Therefore, the EFN calls on the Commission, European Parliament, Council, Health Stakeholders, and the Member States to:

- Coordinate and collaborate between all relevant health and social, professional and policy actors towards developing and implementing a meaningful and concrete strategic list of priorities for tackling dementia at EU level;
- Develop strategies that deal with dementia holistically, focussing on prevention, risk assessment and risk reduction, as well as on the provision of quality care for people with dementia and their families;
- Recognise and involve nurses in the development and deployment of dementia strategies and policies at EU and local level;
- Recognise and increase nurses' role and activities in early identification, prevention and health promotion; and its importance within inter-professional collaboration;
- Invest in the education and training of nurses, especially in advance nurse practitioners, in preparation for adopting a greater role in the management and care of people living with dementia and of their families;
- Prioritise continuity and integrated care to coordinate care for people with dementia across health and social care settings using eHealth solutions; and,
- Use Horizon 2020 to pace up the scale and scope of research on dementia in Europe and to advance the development of big data in dementia research and guidelines in dementia care.

Please contact Dr Paul De Raeve, Secretary General of the European Federation of Nurses Associations for more details on this issue. Email: efn@efn.be or Tel: +32 (0)2 512 74 19