



## EFN POLICY STATEMENT MOVING CARE TO THE COMMUNITY

Advancements in health technology have enabled the population to live longer, however more people are living with co-morbidities, non-communicable diseases and needing complex care interventions. Building a sustainable health and social care service for future generations therefore implies bringing care to the community. Moving care to the community becomes the driver for well-being, productivity and growth.

However, if EU Member States are to succeed in moving care out of hospitals and into the community we need a whole system and mind set change at the policy, practice and education levels.

Therefore, the EFN calls on the EU institutions to:

1. Ensure the frontline workforce is supported with EU funds to make change a success;
2. Empower the health and social sector as an investment for well-being, productivity and growth;
3. Engage the nursing profession in the deployment of the European Digital Agenda to make EU policies “fit for practice”;
4. Strengthen nursing research and knowledge by ensuring these have a standing place in Horizon 2020; and,
5. Include in upcoming Horizon 2020 programs a focus on accessibility to care and the coordination of health and social care services.

Furthermore, the EFN calls on the national/regional/local bodies to:

1. Foster a transformational change in the healthcare system by developing advanced roles in coordinating and integrating nursing and social care services;
2. Support the implementation of re-organisational pathways that have proven to be effective in increasing the accessibility to health and social care services;
3. Invest in the education of general care nurses ensuring they are competent to independently deliver high quality and safe care (art 31 of Directive 2013/55/EU);
4. Facilitate an optimal coordination and integration within and across the primary and secondary care interface, and health and social care by using ICT solutions that are ‘fit for practice’;
5. Develop research on the accessibility and coordination of health and social care services with the emphasis on better patient outcomes;
6. Explore the shift of clinically appropriate services out of hospitals towards the community including: cost-effectiveness, patient empowerment and sustainability of health and social care services;
7. Strengthen interprofessional working, which is of utmost importance for a successful, safe and quality healthcare system and which will ensure continuity of care;
8. Establish a reference system, which refers the patients at the right time to the right facility.

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