



EFN Policy Statement Nurses Contribution to European Semester

The European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) represents over three million nurses and is the independent voice of the profession. The mission of the EFN is to promote the interests, status and practice of the profession of nursing in the EU.

Although the European Semester is mostly an economic process with emphasis on GDPs of Member States and budgetary recommendations, healthcare has gained importance over the last years in the Country Specific Recommendations.

As the EFN members have been working on different aspects of the sustainability of health and social care ecosystems, having the evidence based nursing practices for cost-effective reforms, the deployment of integrated care models supported with an optimal workforce composition, strengthening the community care workforce, could serve as input to the European Semester.

Many Member States have recommendations from the European Commission in the area of health system reforms. It is within this EU policy context that the nursing views and evidence base should become part of the Country Reports to steer discussing on the value of disruptive health and social care ecosystems leading to change and sustainability.

To achieve this goal, the EFN:

- Advises national and European policy-makers drafting these Country Reports and Country Specific Recommendations to acknowledge the importance of investing in health, with a more efficient health and social care funding allocation, better working conditions for the nursing workforce, especially frontline, building on existing integrated care ecosystems throughout the EU;
- Will promote the importance of a highly educated nursing workforce, including the creation of advanced roles frontline. These evidence based practices need to be part of the input of the national governments towards the Commission, and as such be reflected in the Commission Country reports;
- Encourages the National Nurses Associations to provide input to the European Semester by starting a dialog with the European Semester Officers of the Commission Representations in their Member State on the contribution of nurses and nursing to change.

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