



EFN Policy Statement on Nurses Digital Competencies

The EFN recognises the importance of improving the nursing workforce digital competencies to reduce the currently existing gap between digital technology trends and their effective use for direct patient care, especially for patients with multiple chronic conditions.

To develop the digital competencies of the entire EU nursing workforce stakeholders, need a better understanding of the digital competencies gap and opportunities when reforming healthcare systems. It is necessary to strengthen education curricula, especially when updating the 2013/55/EU Annexe V and making full use of Lifelong Learning (LLL) programmes. Moreover, this would be a way of guaranteeing that the nursing profession, in their daily activities, is compliant with the EU's General Data Protection Regulation by design and by default.

Within this EU context, the EFN calls stakeholders and EU institutions to:

- Ensure that nurses, as healthcare professionals, embrace digitalisation to improve direct patient care;
- Embrace and upgrade the entire nursing workforce digital competencies to manage and/or deliver preventive measures and care to patients and citizens while following technological developments on time;
- Up-scale and effectively integrate digital competencies into the nurses' education and training programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate level as well as through Lifelong Learning (LLL);
- Develop and maintain a coherent collaboration with all relevant stakeholders to map common digital competencies for the appropriate use of eHealth services;
- Share practices that can foster mutual learning from different approaches and using what has proven to be effective in terms of advancing digital competencies of the health workforce;
- Increase the digital health literacy of patients, citizens and healthcare professionals;
- Involve nurses in the innovation process, development and implementation of the evidence needed on the delivery of digital solutions before these are made available to patients and health professionals;
- Accommodate changes in the delivery of care with the use of digital solutions which must be counterbalanced with cost-effective approaches to care;
- Look into digital competencies development for the nursing workforce to address the increasing unmet needs; and,
- Consider the role of nurses in smart data design (i.e., the collecting and processing of health data).

Related Publications

- Directive [2013/55/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013 amending Directive [2005/36/EC](#) on the recognition of professional qualifications. Official Journal of the European Union.
- [EFN Position Paper on Continuing Professional Development](#).
- [EFN Roadmap to Advance Lifelong Learning](#).
- [EFN eHealth Stakeholder Group Report – eSkills and Health Workforce](#).

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