

EFN Policy Statement on End-user Co-designing EU Digital Health Systems

Nurses, as end-users, play a central role in co-designing the Digital Health Systems in the EU. Positioning nurses and nursing central to digital health policy design and ensuring that nurses can use and develop their eSkills, to their full capacity, can lead to improved citizens and patients' health and well-being, enabling the achievement of Universal Health Coverage. Health technologies and digital solutions, combined with organisational change in healthcare systems and new skills, will only be effectively and efficiently deployed with the end-user as co-designer.

Therefore, within the context of the digitalisation of the EU health systems, nurses:

- Require fast and full access to Electronic Health Records (EHR) in order to be able to diagnosis, plan and care for patient in an effective and efficient way;
- Pro-actively engage in the co-design process formulating end-user requirements that guide digital development and innovation, ensuring fit-for-purpose solutions;
- Advocate for digitalisation practices and processes to mainly focus on patient safety and empowerment, improving the quality of cross-border care and interoperability through a common terminology;
- Boost continuity of care throughout the patient's journey by using fit-for-purpose digital tools; and,
- Deploy digital tools and systems that reduce the workload of nurses and safeguard the quality of care.

It is socially and economically unsustainable to maintain the traditional vision of healthcare delivery, focused on diseases and curative approaches. Moving towards preventive care will make digital health deliver at its fullest potential, with nurses co-designing tools and programmes, facilitate access and successful deployment in the many environments in which nurses are located, including home care and nursing homes, hospitals and primary care settings. Therefore, nurses as end-users must be able to influence the development of technology reflecting both usability and user-friendliness, to deliver "fit for practice" innovative solutions to empower patients, make health systems sustainable and more accessible.

References

- Council of the European Union (2010) [Council conclusions on investing in Europe's health workforce of tomorrow: Scope for innovation and collaboration](#).
- [European Federation of Nurses Associations \(2012\). EFN Position Statement on Skill Needs, Skill Mix and Task Shifting in Nursing](#)

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