



EFN Policy Statement on European Pillar of Social Rights

The [European Pillar of Social Rights](#) acts as driver for social change in Europe and serves as a guide towards efficient employment and social outcomes in the European Union (EU). The Social Pillar includes 20 principles under three chapters: equal opportunities and access to the labour market, fair working conditions, and social protection and inclusion.

As nurses are the largest occupational profession in the health ecosystem, and society highly depends on highly competent, motivated and knowledgeable nurses to achieve universal health coverage, the European Federation of Nurse Associations (EFN) is committed to co-design the European Pillar of Social Rights.

Citizens of Europe have the right to access a highly educated and competent nursing workforce in order to achieve best possible health outcomes. Therefore, more investment in formal education at post-graduate level is needed to advance health and social care ecosystems implementing a person-centred approach, strengthening [primary and community-based services, focussing on long-term care, gender equality](#) and work-life balance measures for nurses to keep them in their profession.

Nurses play a central role in ensuring an adequate and efficient health and social care system throughout Europe and therefore EFN recommends that the EU:

- Meaningfully involves civil society organisations, patient and professional nursing association in all stages of the design, implementation and monitoring of the Social Pillar. Nurses should be empowered to be change-agents and co-design policies fit-for-purpose;
- Proposes legislative and non-legislative initiatives with a clear implementation plan for each principle of the Social Pillar that promotes a person-centred approach facilitating the transition to primary and community-based care, building on a “Health in All Policies” approach to promote prevention;
- Encourages national governments to foster social convergence, by addressing at EU level strategic areas such as quality education, equal opportunities, fair working conditions and remuneration;
- Supports the development and implementation of nursing-sensitive indicators and patient reported outcomes to measure outcomes in ongoing dialogue with EFN and in partnership with patient organisations;
- Invests in the deployment of the Social Pillar through the promotion of nursing research, a priority to be reflected in the EU health and research programmes.

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