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The EFN becomes an official partner of the WHO European Region

The [69th WHO Regional Committee meeting](#), taking place in Copenhagen, officially accredited EFN as the regional non-state actors to the WHO Regional Committee for Europe. This is a good opportunity for both, the EFN and WHO Europe, to work together on topics of key relevance for nurses and the nursing profession.

The WHO Regional Committee recognises the work of EFN on digitalisation, the development of tools, guidelines (ES4Care) as being crucial for establishing efficient, well-functioning health systems. As such EFN contributes to achieving the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. WHO Europe respects EFN expertise on digitalisation, especially after the concrete results with the EFN EU project ENS4Care, and the two ongoing projects on Electronic Health Records [InteropEHRate](#) and [Smart4Health](#). Both projects emphasise the importance of end-user engagement, EFN representing 3 million EU nurses, an enormous capacity to make digitalisation work in different sectors. We have seen in many barometers that nurses are the most trusted profession, and this trust is needed to make change possible!

Next to EFN becoming an official partner, the WHO appointed the EFN Secretary General, Paul De Raeve, as a member of the Roster of Experts of the WHO Digital Health Technical Advisory Group, which aims to harness the power of digital health to help achieve WHO's triple billion goals as set out in the [Sustainable Development Goal 3](#): *'Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages'*.

Finally, the EFN would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Hans Kluge, the new WHO Regional Director for Europe, for his nomination. The EFN wishes Hans all success in this new position and is convinced we can continue working together on empowering nurses and nursing within the European arena, mainly towards 2020, the ["Year of the Nurse and Midwife"](#).

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