



EFN PRESS RELEASE

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HEALTH AND SOCIAL ECOSYSTEM – IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH

This successful [event](#) was hosted by Alojz Peterle (MEP), who opened the session by highlighting the role that eHealth services can play in improving citizens' life, as well as driving economic development in the European Union (EU). Peter O'Donnell (Politico) moderated the session, reminding that nursing is the original health profession, representing the oldest and most fundamental aspect of health service provision.

Paul De Raeve, EFN Secretary General introduced the [ENS4Care video](#) and [documentary](#), which captures the work of the two-year project; before giving the floor to the first Panel and Speakers, which consisted of: Elena Bonfiglioli from Microsoft; Daniel Widmer from UEMO; Dalė Kabašinskaitė from IFSW European Region; Frank Goodwin from Eurocarers; Peggy Maguire from EIWH; and Evgeniya Adarska from APOZ and Friends.

The key messages from the first debate were:

1. eHealth and inter-professional working are key components of health system reform;
2. A multi-stakeholder approach including carers and citizens' perspectives is necessary in the development of robust health and social policies;
3. Concerns over data privacy should not detract from the value that eHealth can bring to improving patients' and citizens' daily lives.

The Second Panel and Speakers included: Dorota Kilanska, representing the European Nursing Research Foundation; Tapani Piha, from DG SANTE; Pēteris Zilgalvis, from DG Connect, and Marianne Sipilä from EFN.

The messages from the second panel were clear:

1. Nursing research is fundamental to the development of evidence-based eHealth and public health policies;
2. Developing digital health literacy among professionals as well as patients is crucial to patient empowerment;
3. The EFN Workforce Matrix 3+1 and the EFN Competency Framework provide the tools to drive implementation of eHealth in daily practice.

The presentations were followed by a lively debate with MEPs and participants. Key feedback related to issues around data privacy and ownership; overlap and protectionism among health professionals; and health education and literacy.

To conclude: The [design of health and social guidelines and policies](#) to transform the current traditional medical healthcare system towards a model of integrated care that is innovative, gender sensitive and sustainable, achieving better and measurable health and social outcomes, necessitates implementation research engaging fieldworkers to build evidence based policies which needs to have a high 'fit for purpose'.

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Note for Editors:

The [European Federation of Nurses Associations \(EFN\)](#) was established in 1971 and is the independent voice of the profession. The EFN consists of National Nurses Associations from 35 EU Member States, working for the benefit of 6 million nurses throughout the European Union and Europe. The mission of EFN is to strengthen the status and practice of the profession of nursing for the benefit of the health of the citizens and the interests of nurses in the EU & Europe.