



European Federation of Nurses
Associations

EFN UPDATE

May-June 2016

President Message



Dear EFN Members and Colleagues,

It is with great sadness that on 22 March we were informed on what was happening in Brussels. There are no words to express about these terrible events in the heart of Europe. Luckily our staff in Brussels was safe! I would like to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of EFN and all its members, our condolences and deepest

sympathy with the families of the victims affected by this horrible event. Our thoughts also go to all the persons injured of whom some are still in the hospital, fighting for their lives. And, I would also like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude and great thanks to the emergency teams, and the nurses, who, directly confronted with this tragedy, made a tremendous work, being extremely professional and efficient!

But life has to go on! The lobby work continuous: EFN participated and expressed the nurses' views and concerns on key meetings, as: the mobility of healthcare professionals (DIR55 & professional card), on eHealth & eSkills, and on quality & safety, including primary care. An important meeting took place in Stockholm and I'm grateful to Ireland and Spain for Representing EFN. Within the context of the workforce, and especially the work composition, the RCN represented EFN in the Joint Action and NIVEL study on Health Care Assistance (HCA)! Difficult topic which needs our full attention in making sure policy-makers move in the right direction.

But EFN main focus, jointly with the European Nursing Research Foundation (ENRF) was on submitting an Erasmus+ project and two H2020 projects in which nurses, pharmacists, general practitioners, physiotherapists, social workers, carers and women researchers are key partners in the consortium. These submissions build on EFN members believe that positioning citizens and patients at the centre of developing innovative care solutions is fundamental; and nurses are ideally placed to support, enable, and ensure this happens. So let's cross fingers the European Commission approves these projects.

Finally, I would like to encourage all NNAs to support ENSA. It is important that the European Nursing Student Association builds further its capacity to work closely with EFN to boost jointly EU policy topics. It is important our future registered nurses have a strong voice within the EU. It is very important all national nursing student organisations (or at least a reference point) link up with ENSA which is one part of capacity building.

Looking forward to see you all again soon!

Marianne Sipilä
EFN President

News from EFN

Single Market Forum 2015/2016 - European Professional Card

Invited as keynote speaker at the European Commission [Conference](#) on European Professional Card (EPC), held in Brussels on 18 March, which provided an opportunity to discuss the advantages and challenges of the EPC, Paul De Raeve (EFN Secretary General) highlighted that it is important to keep in mind that the EPC is an innovative tool, aiming to facilitate the mobility of professionals (both achievements of the modernisation of the Professional Qualifications

Directive. Knowing that the EPC is available since 18 January 2016 for general care nurses, pharmacists, physiotherapists, real estate agents and mountain guides, it is key to build TRUST!, especially between the EU Competent Authorities. Nurses applying for mutual recognition will benefit from it.

As such, it is also crucial to have an urgent review of the Annexe V of the Directive 55, through a delegated act, to make sure that the 8 competencies of article 31 are interpreted in the same way in the 28 EU Member States and beyond. If not we will get patchwork, and as such loose trust in the system. Finally, when it comes to the data collected through the EPC, the EFN is a defender of achieving comparable data, and believes the EPC is delivering this. Therefore, it is important that DG GROWTH, and the Unit in charge of EPC, has more resources to make this happen. This will only have positive results, next to making also other institutions, as EUROSTAT, WHO, and OECD benefit from this important work.

"Nurses need to increase their engagement in multi-level governance and political decision-making processes at all levels of the policy system. The study findings provide evidence that the lack of engagement impacts negatively both on the policy process and the outcomes achieved. Political engagement and leadership become the key drivers for successful outcomes achieved through consensus between the key state and non-state actors. EFN Article "EU Accession: a policy window for nursing" in [Eurohealth Observer 22 – The Changing Role of Nursing](#).

Joint Action Health Workforce

The EFN, represented by its members Milka Vasileva (from Bulgaria) and Matthew Hamilton (from UK), participated in the third Joint Action [conference](#) "Planning and Educating Health Workforce without Borders", held in Varna (Bulgaria) focussing on shortage of health care personnel; mobility and education, from data, young generation and education perspectives; new skills needed to support health systems in the future, in the most cost efficient and quality effective way, taking into account patients' needs; and demographic change of health workforce, stressing the need for integrated care. The discussion was taken forward in the [WP7 "Sustainability" meeting](#) where the recommendations to the project sustainability proposal, business plan, and a Network of Experts were discussed.

The main question is: will there be a second Joint Action? As fieldwork gets more difficult, as staying in the profession, it would be timely to come up with concrete solutions, benefiting the fieldworkers, those going to the bedside, day in-day out. We continue being too academic without concrete solutions to apply tomorrow. What is in for the nurses themselves? A Joint Action, composed of only Member States, is therefore not the right mechanism to be used to change daily practice. This new way of policy-design will have impact on process delivery in the years to come, and more important, on the outcomes, especially when it comes to safety and quality! The value of health systems could therefore substantially change in the years to come. To be watched!

European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) Technical Advisory Committee

Represented by Chanel Watson (INMO) and Jose Luis Cobos (Spanish Council of Nurses) the EFN participated in the Expert meeting to provide input on the current [EAAD](#) toolkit for hospital prescribers, to ensure it is relevant to today's healthcare practice, and suggest ways by which ECDC could update it.



The EFN took this opportunity to raise the importance of recognising the role nurses and midwives play in combatting antibiotic resistance through traditional and advanced roles ([nurse prescribing](#)). It was agreed that a team approach (including nursing) to addressing antimicrobial resistance and promoting the prudent use of antibiotics is required, and that the material would need to be adapted to reflect other healthcare professionals, such as nurses and pharmacists. Therefore, the EFN is looking forward to participate in designing EU guidelines on prudent use of antimicrobials in human health and exploring possibilities of concrete actions in partnership with other professional organisations operating on a European level. Again, we need to move from recommendations to concrete actions to solve the problem! Within this context, two infection control nurses, Noel Abela (Malta) and Asija Delalic (Croatia) represented EFN in the Rand study reviewing the EU Action Plan. It is key frontline gets engaged in designing EU policies, enabling optimal implementation.

EU Health Policy Platform

Engaging as stakeholder in the [Health Policy Forum](#), transformed into a new EU Health IT [Policy Platform](#) aiming at facilitating the communication between the European Commission services and the stakeholders, the EFN Secretary General still had the opportunity to follow-up on the EU stakeholder's [joint statement on dementia](#). It is key EU stakeholders are part of the development and deployment of dementia strategies and policies, although the new Joint Action, composed of around 10 Member States, excludes frontline engagement. As before, we will get Council [Conclusions](#), recommendations, and there it stops! Nurses are confronted more and more with Dementia patients and therefore it is crucial to design policies which are fit for practice. The nursing workforce needs to have the adequate tools and resources to supporting people living with dementia and share information on policy frameworks and good practices already in place. Coming back to the Health Policy Platform, four priorities will be looked at: inequalities, patient safety, mental health and public health, with four thematic networks already proposed for stakeholder dialogue within Health Policy Platform.

News from the EU

Commission Work Programme 2016

The European Commission has [adopted](#) the Work Programme for 2016, which sets out the key priorities and actions to be undertaken, including the allocation of resources to implement the EU's Health Programme 2014-2020. The funding opportunities include projects and service contracts, as well as Joint Actions planned with national authorities, in areas such as: Tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and healthcare associated infections; Supporting the establishment of European Reference Networks, and cooperation on eHealth and Health Technology Assessment (HTA); and Action on chronic diseases. In addition, a number of direct grants will be given, for example to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies to promote international cooperation on country specific information on public health and health systems for the 28 EU countries. The overall total amount of EU funding available in 2016 is nearly **€58 million**, implemented through a [call for proposals](#), organised and managed by the Consumer, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (CHAFAEA).

New development Education & Awareness raising programme

The EU Commission DG for International Cooperation and Development ([DEVCO](#)) launched a new [Development Education and Awareness Raising](#) (DEAR) programme call for proposals, following wide consultations with civil society organisations across Europe, which will deal with key topics as migration, gender equality, and workers' rights, and is aiming to raise awareness as regards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). €90 million of funding to European Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities, including small and grassroots organisations, were made [available](#).

Europe-wide campaign on Healthy Workplaces for All Ages

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work ([EU-OSHA](#)) in cooperation with the European Commission and the Netherlands EU Presidency launched a Europe-wide campaign on "[Healthy Workplaces for All Ages 2016-17](#)". Focusing on sustainable work and workplace

safety and health in the context of the ageing workforce, the campaign aims to raise awareness on the importance of preventing work-related accidents and ill health throughout work life of employees. Promoting sustainable work and healthy ageing can result in a healthier and more motivated workforce as well as lower staff turnover and absenteeism.

Working with civil society for health and health systems

Dialogue and collaboration between governments and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on health matters varies significantly across the EU Member States (e.g. instruments, legal frameworks, funding, and even terminology). Too often the context is less than ideal for dialogue and collaboration between governments and CSOs. As such, WHO, together with the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, is developing a study on ways of working with civil society, aiming to inform Member States on effective ways of working with CSOs and how to develop context contributing to dialogue and collaboration. EFN is looking forward contribution to the book writings based on the experiences lobbying national, European and international organisations. The modernization of Directive 2013/55/EU is a success story for the nursing profession.

Publications

WHO report on eHealth in Europe

World Health Organisation published a [report](#) on eHealth in the European Region, entitled "From innovation to implementation - eHealth in the WHO European Region" which describes the development of and emerging trends in eHealth in the WHO European Region in 2016 and indicates tangible progress in the mainstreaming of technology solutions across the European Region to improve public health and health-service delivery.

Health Workforce Policies in OECD Countries - Right Jobs, Right Skills, Right Places

The OECD published a new [study](#) that analyses the key trends and policy priorities in relation to the health workforce in OECD countries following the economic crisis. It also highlights that addressing the future health needs of ageing population, with more chronic conditions, and an increasing need for more innovation in health delivery, there will be a need to use more effectively new technologies and the skills of different categories of health workers at all levels, and provide more effective access to services to people, wherever they live.

Mapping of the use of European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) in health

Developed in the framework of a tender action on the provision of support for the effective use of European Structural and Investment Funds for health investments, this [report](#), published by DG SANTE and CHAFAEA, provides an overview of the investments planned in health under the ESIF for 2014-2020, as well as the investments realised in the previous period 2007-2013. Covering the whole EU, and providing individual country sheets, it shows that in the 2014-2020 programming period, health infrastructure investments and other investments in health in individual Member States are supported mostly as an integral part of their health system reforms in order to ensure that the system is effective and efficient. For this purpose, Member States using ESIF as a source of funding for their health systems had to present a strategic framework for health investments. Every investment has to be in line with this framework. The EFN members are more than encouraged to make use of these funds.

Which is the world's most innovative country 2015?

Cornell University, INSEAD and the World Intellectual Property Organisation published the [Global Innovation Index 2015](#) ranking the [innovation performance](#) of 141 countries and economies around the world, based on 79 indicators. Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Sweden, the Netherlands and the United States of America are the world's five most innovative nations, according to the Global Innovation Index 2015.

Agenda

To view the upcoming meetings' dates, click [here](#).

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