



European Federation of Nurses
Associations

EFN UPDATE

November-December 2016

President Message



Dear EFN Members and Colleagues,

Coming out of a successful EFN General Assembly in Madrid, I can say that we had very constructive discussions, exchanging views on many EU topics, impacting on nurses daily operational environment, throughout the EU, leading to important and clear decisions from the European nursing leaders, facilitating the lobby work of the EFN Secretary General, Paul

De Raeve, and his team, in the Brussels political and policy environment.

Firstly, the Belgium delegate to EFN, Yves Mengal, brought tribute to the victims of the Brussels' attacks and thanked all the professionals present at the Brussel's airport and at the metro station Maelbeek, who made a great job on the 22nd March. They remained very professional and efficient, caring for others, while facing something they would never expect to face. The Dutch delegate to EFN, Monique Kempff, also highlighted the current situation of nurses and many other healthcare professionals present in the conflict areas and working in very difficult and dangerous circumstances, most of the time with no media coverage. She expressed the urgent need to be protected and getting more support to nurses in all those conflict areas, so they can help children and adults and be as safe as possible! The international organisations should recognise more the frontline work of nurses.

On the professional business, with the current challenges of ageing, chronic diseases, etc. we need, more than ever, a highly qualified workforce making sure that patient safety and quality of care are maintained, mainly knowing that the Directive 2005/36/EC on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications, modernised by Directive 2013/55/EU, is there to make sure that we have a nursing workforce with high competences, recognised all over the EU. With the [EFN Competency Framework](#) guiding the nursing schools at national level and the EFN Workforce Matrix 3+1 on the three Categories of Nursing Care and key principles for the development of Healthcare Assistants (HCAs), the EFN Members have created evidence based tools to make sure the Directive gets implemented correctly and making sure we work towards the right workforce composition, providing clarity to the different nurses' roles and responsibilities. Next to that, the EFN and its members will continue pushing the European Commission, together with the European Nursing Regulators, for the review of Annexe V of the Directive through a Delegated Act to make sure that it connects to Art.31 of the DIR55.

The General Assembly also discussed the next steps for the EFN in terms of lobbying at EU level linked to its Strategic and Lobby Plan 2014-2020 and it becomes clear some professional topics are very high in the EFN Members political agendas, and will therefore be followed very closely by the EFN in the coming months/years, as: workforce composition; recruitment & retention of nurses; Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR); Value of Health Systems; and the European Semester.

Finally, the EFN Members elected new members of the Executive Committee: Vice President - Elizabeth Adams (Ireland) and three members of the Executive Committee: Veronika Di Cara (Czech Republic), Sineva Ribeiro (Sweden) and Janet Davis (UK). The General Assembly thanked Grazyna Wojcik for her hard work in the Executive Committee and Workforce Committee and counts on her continuous engagement representing Polish nurses in the EU.

I wish you all the best.

Marianne Sipilä
EFN President

News from EFN

Nursing and Midwifery in the Process of change

The Slovak Chamber of Nurses and Midwives ([SKSaPA](#)), under the auspices of the Slovak [Presidency](#) of the Council of the European Union, the European Federation of Nurses Associations and the Slovakian Minister of Health, organised its National [Conference](#) providing a unique opportunity for acquiring new knowledge in Nursing and Midwifery, and for sharing experience with key players. Invited as keynote speaker to discuss the topic of competences and education in nursing, the EFN Secretary General, Paul De Raeve, took this opportunity to stress how important Slovak nurses are in the development of nursing in their country. Nurses are expected to be proficient, skilled and confident in leading and organising nursing care. This constitutes not only a basis for a successful health system change, which can be developed much further at the European level, but also attributes important key roles to the nurses within the healthcare system such as coaching, leading and evaluating care outcomes. Let's cross fingers the health and education Minister have understood the message!

Poland turning back time for nurses! Back to the former Communist Regime!

As we move on in the transposition of the [DIR55](#) into national legislation, we see the Health and Education Minister in Poland doing weird thing! Amazing! Major concerns relate to, again, downgrading the nurses' education and developing a cheaper workforce in nursing. Unacceptable. Unrealistic! But are you surprised? Looks like the doctors are not supporting the nurses! And who was supporting you when you became a doctor? Probably a nurse. Invited to participate in the successful 13th [congress](#) of the Polish Nurses, to speak about 'Nursing a global perspective', the EFN Secretary General stressed the importance of compliance with the DIR55 and putting barriers in place for free movement (keeping nurses in Poland) would be the wrong signal to the Polish society, which highly supports nurses. The Polish nursing education needs to stay in a strong position to deliver safe and high quality care, namely knowing the enormous progress done since 2004 in upscaling nurses and the nursing profession. Poland needs to build further on its positive achievements; a stronger position of nurses, women, in society, better salaries, better working conditions.

Pact for Innovation

Following the launch of 'A Pact for Innovation' (INPACT) during the [7th European Innovation Summit](#) in December 2015, in which the EFN participated actively with the launch of five [guidelines](#) for Nursing and Social Care on eHealth Services, the EFN participated in October 2016 in the launch of the INPACT implementation phase, with five INPACT priorities selected out of 14: 1/ Adapt political structures and processes to breakthrough technologies and new business models, including digitization; 2/ Science Communication (The Value of Evidence in the Digital Age); 3/ Focus on people: young generation, entrepreneurs/start-ups, citizens; 4/ Mid-term review, post 2020 planning, MFF/H2020-30: impact on innovation; 5/ Regulatory framework/Innovation principle. Initiated by Knowledge4Innovation (K4I) and supported by the European Commissioner for Research and Innovation, Carlos Moedas, the objective of [INPACT](#) is to create a space for close collaboration between key stakeholders and the European Institutions. Seen as a good opportunity to advocate for implementation of research, action research and deployments, the EFN [signed](#) the "INPACT" and closely works with the executive on its implementation. But, in this process of research and innovation, it is crucial to consider the EU 3 million nurses, women, and citizens, knowing that the European Commissioner for Science, Research and Innovation has placed "citizen science" as one of his three top priorities. Let's keep the health and social ecosystem discussion high on the political agenda! Let's build on the nurses innovation, making sure 3 million nurses throughout the EU stay in our highly respected profession. We call on Commissioner Moedas to put "flesh on the bones" of the words "citizen science".

News from the EU

Free movement of professionals: Commission urges Member States to transpose EU rules on recognition of professional qualifications

The deadline for the transposition of [Directive 2013/55/EU](#) (DIR55) was 18 January 2016. However, many Member States did not transpose the Directive into national legislation yet. As such, the European Commission has now published a [Fact Sheet](#) presenting the infringement procedures that it has decided to pursue in the coming months. Those Member States who have not yet communicated to the Commission the complete transposition of the Directive into their national law have two months to notify it to the Commission, who will then verify the correctness of the implementation. It is worth noting that Member States that have informed the Commission about their transposition have not necessarily implemented the Directive correctly. Being a key concern for the nurses, the EFN is following this process very closely and will be pro-active in getting civil servants, politicians and nursing schools moving.

Health Technology Assessment

The European Commission believes that the National healthcare systems should embrace the digital era and use Health Technology Assessment (HTA) to become truly sustainable and cost-effective. Taking that into account, it launched a [public consultation](#), aiming to gather detailed views and opinions relating to the future of the EU cooperation on HTA, as proposed in the Inception Impact Assessment [published](#) by the European Commission. The results of this public consultation will feed into the impact assessment process on strengthening EU cooperation on HTA which the Commission services are currently preparing.

Related to this eHealth topic, the EFN has been invited as keynote speaker to the 6th edition of the [Health Tech Event](#) to take place in Eindhoven, in December 2016, where the EFN Secretary General will talk about “[Nurses love robots](#)”. But as you know, what does love mean? Many people believe that nurses are afraid of technological advancements, as it is assumed health professionals will be made redundant. Really? Innovation in eHealth services will help to increase the direct patient care, something we will need to focus on, to increase high quality and safe care. Nurses use technology daily in their practice, are critical, but build public procurements to fit innovation with their frontline reality. It is important frontline practice benefit from innovation, which is totally ignored in current H2020 projects and policy developments. It was also in this context that the EFN developed over two years, together with 24 partners, five EU [guidelines](#) on eHealth services in nursing and social care ([ENS4Care](#)), aiming at building integrated care through continuity of care. As nurses, we can design together with the technological industries fit for practice solutions, and consider return on investments as an essential outcome, even in the health and social care ecosystem, which have been viewed for many years as a cost sector.

Funding research on gender equality

Gender is a cross-cutting issue in Horizon 2020. In the context of an ongoing [petition](#), researchers, professors, experts, partners and coordinators of European Commission funded structural change projects are expressing their concerns as regards the way in which gender-specific institutional changes are addressed in the present draft ‘[Science with and for Society](#) work programme 2018-2020’, and make clear that a gender specific funding instrument is necessary to support the implementation at the national and institutional levels of the legal requirements related to gender equality included in H2020. The European Commission has reassured that it will continue strengthening the implementation of its gender policy and carry on with specific funding for research and action, including institutional change in support of gender equality in research and innovation policy. For the EFN, representing 3 million nurses, and 96% of women, this is of high importance. The EFN believe that women can play an influential role for positive change, designing an innovative health and social care ecosystem. However, new technology and innovation are often not ‘gender neutral’: solutions are ill-adapted to the needs of women who occupy multiple roles such as workers, mothers and wives, family managers, and carers of the elderly. Given these constraints, it is important that the innovation and research agenda incorporates solutions that are user-friendly and tailored to women’s specific roles and responsibilities, also in the workplace.

Publications

Investing in the Health Workforce

The United Nations High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth ([HEEG](#)) established in March 2016, to make recommendations to stimulate and guide the creation of at least 40 million new jobs in the health and social sectors, and to reduce the projected shortfall of 18 million health workers, in low and lower-middle-income countries by 2030, has submitted its [report](#) after six months of intensive work and productive discussions, first among the Expert Group and then

among the Commissioners, facilitated by ILO, OECD and WHO. The report, which presents the case for more and better investment in the health [workforce](#), sets out 10 recommendations to advance an intersectoral agenda across the finance, labour, education, health and social sectors, next to identifying the potential of advanced nursing roles and extending the scope of practice of non-physicians. EFN is ready to turn these 10 recommendation into action, as we have been struggling in the EU to get concrete actions supporting the frontline workforce, the nurses at the bedside! Many EU project deliverable stay on the bookshelves because there is no EU funds left for concrete action! Are you surprised?

“Addressing the crisis of tomorrow: the sustainability of European health systems”

The European Policy Centre made available a new [publication](#) which highlights the need for the European leaders and the EU Institutions to focus on key concerns as the sustainability of European health systems, taking into account the emerging trends and challenges that are likely to have an increasing impact on health systems and EU citizens in the next decades. The paper calls for the EU to recognise the value of health, consider health across policies, and collaborate and use the available instruments when it brings added value to member states and citizens. The EU Health professionals should Unite the Voice on this issue!

Education at a Glance 2016

The OECD published its “[Education at a Glance 2016](#)” in which it analyses the work undertaken by 35 EU countries, and a number of partner countries, to promote and improve their education system, including data on the structure, finances and performance of the education systems.

The rights of live-in care workers

The European Economic and Social Committee adopted “The rights of live-in care workers” [opinion](#), calling on the EU to work closely with Member States to coordinate supply and mobility of live-in care workers as part of an approach to improve the overall capacity of the sector to deliver quality care. It also asks the European Commission to conduct research about these workers, including their numbers, nationality, migration status, cross-border mobility, effective inclusion in labour and social protection, working and social conditions and qualifications, as well as their actual and potential contribution to European economies.

Member State Data on cross-border healthcare

The European Commission published a [report](#) containing the data from 23 EU countries on their use of the [Cross-border Healthcare Directive](#) in 2015, which shows that most Member States only received around 100 information or prior authorisation requests, in 2015. Next to that the number of requests for reimbursement relating to healthcare not subject to prior authorisation was low, with a couple of exceptions (Belgium and Denmark both received over 30 000 requests for reimbursement), and six Member States out of the 23 who have implemented mechanisms that can be used to limit access to cross-border healthcare per Article 4(3) of Directive 2011/24/EU.

Next to that, the General Secretariat of the Benelux Union, published a [report](#) that shows that at least 168.177 patients cross the border each year for treatment in another Benelux country, as well as to/from neighbouring countries as Germany and France. This involves planned and unplanned care. The experts see this number increasing in the future with the implementation of the European Directive on Cross-border healthcare.

Who is for and against free trade in the European Parliament?

A recent [study](#) organised by [VoteWatch Europe](#), mapping the positions of every MEP towards free trade on the basis of 15 key trade decisions made in the current European Parliament term over the last two years, shows that the main predictor of the views of the MEPs is their affiliations to the political families. However, their nationalities, age and other personal features also play an important role and become more prominent in special cases.

Who are the most influential MEPs in neighbourhood and enlargement policy?

[VoteWatch Europe](#) also conducted a [study](#) on the most influential MEPs over the current parliamentary term in shaping EU’s neighbourhood and enlargement policy, at a time when the challenges in this area have reached unprecedented levels, and provides an overview of the trends by country.

Agenda

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

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