



## **Nursing Now Europe Quarterly Report European Federation of Nurses Associations**

### **Quarter 1 - February 2019**

#### **1. Background**

The European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) is the European lead of the Nursing Now Campaign. Established in 1971, the EFN represents over three million nurses across 36 European countries represented by National Nursing Associations. The EFN is the independent voice of the nursing profession at European level (further information is available at: <http://www.efnweb.eu>).

For nearly 50 years, the EFN has been advocating to empower nurses to improve health globally, as they are uniquely placed representing half the health workforce of the world with skills and expertise to meet the health challenges across populations. Nursing Now Campaign and EFN have a complementary and shared agenda with a focus on advocating for policy changes to ensure nurses are central to achieving universal health coverage, developing primary health care, and tackling non-communicable diseases.

The EFN [priorities](#) are closely aligned with the Nursing Now Campaign calling for investment in the development of nurse-led clinics; primary and community care; prevention, promotion and health literacy; midwifery, child health and adolescent services; and development of more specialist/advanced nurses within and outside hospital settings. In addition, activities are linked to the global health workforce strategy and the five-year Action Plan of the Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth.

Within this context, at the Spring EFN General Assembly in Brussels, April 2018, the EFN Members agreed that the National Nurses Associations should become actively involved in 'Nursing Now'. All the [EFN members](#) in attendance, from 35 European countries, unanimously endorsed EFN President's proposal to become the European lead of the Campaign. The strategic goal, to optimise the potential of nursing to fully contribute and make a real difference to the health of the global population, to support nurse leaders within and across countries to translate the vision into reality, to improve perceptions of nurses, enhance their influence and maximise their contributions to ensuring that everyone everywhere has access to health and healthcare, is in line with EFN vision.

Appointed as the [Nursing Now European regional leader](#) in October 2018, the EFN is proactively driving the agenda to position nursing more central to health policy and ensure that nurses are supported to utilise their skills, education and expertise to the maximum of their scope of practice for the benefit of all populations.



## 2. Highlights

By the end of 2020, Nursing Now Board - in which the EFN President, Elizabeth Adams, serves – will develop a challenging and ambitious agenda. At European level, the EFN as the Nursing Now European regional leadership group, will focus on nurses' support to the current political policy driver across Europe – [European Pillar of Social Rights](#) – building on 20 key principles (with a focus on those principles that EFN Members have committed to), and structured around three categories: equal opportunities and access to the labour market; fair working conditions, social protection and inclusion.

The current Commissioner for health, Vytenis Andriukaitis, has the responsibility across the EU for the European Pillar of Social Rights articulating the vision of delivering new and more effective rights for European citizens. The proclamation of the European Pillar of Social Rights has created a momentum to address key political topics that are crucial to nurses. The EFN is carefully monitoring the initiatives that the EU is undertaking to ensure the implementation of the Pillar's 20 Principles.



The Social Pillar Chapter I - equal opportunities and access to the labour market, education, training and life-long learning - has been key for EFN since 1971, when the discussion on the nursing education and free movement commenced. The contribution of the nurses to the EU policy process, especially related to the free movement of nurses within the EU, resulted in the Directive 2005/36/EC, modernised by the Directive 2013/55/EU and importantly, in the co-design of the Proportionality Directive, strengthening nursing as an independent profession in the EU.

Chapter II - focusing on fair working conditions and work-life balance - is a key principle for nurses to stay in their profession. Nurses with caring responsibilities have the right to suitable leave, flexible working arrangements, and most important, safe environments with a specific attention to the increasing violence against nurses in different working settings. The EFN has lobbied that work-life balance is a core priority to retain nurses in the profession, and its contributions to the EU legislative initiatives are building on the current debate of the EU Parliament on work-life balance for parents and carers.

Improving the quality of working conditions for nurses and ensuring that the workforce remains skilled and motivated are key priorities for the EFN. EFN is focused on working to promote the right workforce composition, and to provide clarity in relation to the different nurses' roles, responsibility and scope of practice. Facilitating nurses and midwives to work to their full potential within their scope of practice is central to achieving many of the EU legislative priorities to improve the health and social circumstances of the citizens of Europe.

Linked to Chapter III – Social protection and inclusion - promoting the right to affordable long-term care services of good quality, in particular home-care and community-based services, has become a key priority for policy-makers and politicians, with the nursing profession co-designing policies guarantying timely access to affordable, preventive and curative health and social care of high quality. The need of patients and citizens to be able to access their health data is high on the political agenda, leading to the design of people-centred health and social care policies. It is time for the National and EU political leaders to enact concrete policies supporting 3 million EU nurses in Europe, and 6 million globally.

## The European Pillar of Social Rights in 20 principles

### Chapter I: Equal opportunities and access to the labour market

1. Education, training and life-long learning
2. Gender equality
3. Equal opportunities
4. Active support to employment

### Chapter II: Fair working conditions

5. Secure and adaptable employment
6. Wages
7. Information about employment conditions and protection in case of dismissals
8. Social dialogue and involvement of workers
9. Work-life balance
10. Healthy, safe and well-adapted work environment and data protection

### Chapter III: Social protection and inclusion

11. Childcare and support to children good quality
12. Social protection
13. Unemployment benefits
14. Minimum income
15. Old age income and pensions
16. Health care
17. Inclusion of people with disabilities
18. Long-term care
19. Housing and assistance for the homeless
20. Access to essential services.

Further information is available at:

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/priorities/deeper-and-fairer-economic-and-monetary-union/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-20-principles\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/priorities/deeper-and-fairer-economic-and-monetary-union/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-20-principles_en)



The EFN network's main target audiences include EU, national and regional policy-makers and stakeholders, and EFN strength relates to connecting with the EU presidencies and engaging EFN members in the process. As such, the EFN has been focussing on raising awareness on the Campaign emphasising what the objectives and expected outcomes are and taking the opportunity of going to key EU meetings, to inform the EU policy makers (Commissioners, MEPs, stakeholders) on the campaign and to challenge them to take further actions to raise nurses and the nursing profession. Promoting the right to universal access to healthcare requires a political commitment to meet the need of patients and citizens to access their health data, leading to the design of people-centred health and social care policies, placing digitalisation as an added-value to EU citizens.

Furthermore, the EFN has been communicating on the developments of Nursing Now Campaign through EFN [website](#), EFN [newsletter](#), next to social media ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#)). We also rely on a database of more than 3.000 key contacts to disseminate all relevant information on the campaign and on the Nursing Now Europe activities, and to raise role of nurses and the nursing profession. Our members and partners across Europe (*Appendix 1 provides a list of the key partners EFN is currently working with*) play an active role in this also and are, updated on regular basis during the EFN General Assemblies, the EFN Executive Committee meetings, etc.



Invited to present the Campaign at the EFN General Assembly, October 2018, in Slovakia, Lord Crisp stressed that the Campaign can help open policy doors but only nurses can walk through them. There is a great opportunity to make advances in nursing, but nurses need to be ambitious and go beyond small changes: “start small, think big, go fast!”



As such, the EFN Members are committed to the Campaign by creating local groups; advocating for local priorities plans; engaging with the development of the ‘State of the World’s Nursing’; using international nurses’ day to promote the Campaign; promoting development of young nurses locally; and making 2020 the year of nursing, and the year of change and celebration. Each



country is encouraged to have one national lead to drive country specific initiatives. Regional groups are also encouraged to work together under the Nursing Now Campaign umbrella.



In relation to next steps, the EFN is planning to organise a Nursing Now Europe event at the European Parliament in the coming months, providing the opportunity to reflect and co-design with MEPs, the EU Commission, nursing community and civil society and Industry representatives, policies within the European Pillar of Social Rights, focusing on

Principles 1 - Education, 6 - Wages, 16 - Healthcare, and 18 - Long-term care. The aim of the event will be to exchange views and elaborate on the steps to be undertaken to co-implement the principles enshrined in the European Pillar of Social Rights.



## Appendix 1 – Examples of EFN Building Alliances in 2018

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Building alliances and creating partnerships with key organisations to work on particular issues has been the top priority for the EFN, as this is a means of strengthening civil society in the policy-making process and to get successful outcomes not only at EU level but also at national and local levels. In 2018, the EFN continued this process of building alliances and strengthening the ones already established with the key EU non-state stakeholders built up throughout the years, which is now providing consortia for the Horizon 2020 highly respected and influential to make innovation happen and implemented.

### » Sectorial Professions' Organisations

For the last 15 years, the EFN has been collaborating very closely with the sectorial professions' organisations based in Brussels, working on common topics, as Education (DIR55), Workforce, and Patient Safety and Quality of Care - the 3 EFN main lobby topics, and participating in the same EU projects, as: PaSQ, Joint Action on Workforce, Smartcare, etc. In 2018, the EFN continued this good collaboration and exchange of views on key concerns, as: Patient safety, skills, value-based health systems, Proportionality test directive, DIR36/55, Blockchain, AI, ehealth, through regular meetings with: The Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union ([PGEU](#)), representing community pharmacists at EU level; The Standing Committee of European Doctors ([CPME](#)), representing the national medical associations across Europe; The Council of European Dentists ([CED](#)), representing the dentists and promoting oral health in Europe; The European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy / Physiotherapy ([ER-WCPT](#)) representing the physiotherapy profession at European Level; and last but not least the European Midwives Association ([EMA](#)), representing midwifery organisations and associations at EU level. The EFN is looking forward to continuing, in 2019, this important collaboration in the EU lobby arena, to build strong alliances to jointly push for quality of care, patient safety, and health system reform.

Next to these NGO's, the EFN also was in close collaboration and/or started building alliances with the following organisations:

### » Active Citizenship Network



[Active Citizenship Network](#) (ACN) is an Italian non-profit organisation founded in 1978 that aims to promote civic participation and protect citizens' rights in Italy and in Europe. Particularly active on health, with the Tribunal for Patients' Rights, education and training and European citizenship, the ACN and the EFN have been collaborating for many years, mainly in the context of EU projects (as ENS4Care), and on the [Patients' Rights Day](#), celebrated in May every year, in which the EFN always participate actively, and on some topics of common interest, as: Health Reform, pain management, continuity of care, and EU enlargement. In 2018, the EFN participated in some of the ACN events, namely on Pain and Vaccination, and discussed potential collaboration in EU projects. The EFN is looking forward continuing this close collaboration with ACN in 2019.

### » DigitalEurope



[DigitalEurope](#) is the leading trade association representing digitally transforming industries in Europe. In 2018, the EFN participated in some of their meetings and had close contacts with their representatives, in the context of Digitalisation discussions. DigitalEurope believe that the most important thing about digital

tools is to support HCPs in their work. As the improvement hasn't come yet, they see the involvement of nurses in the decision of the material for hospital as key as this can guarantee the quality measurement. The EFN will continue looking closely at these developments in 2019.

» **EFPIA**



The European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations ([EFPIA](#)) represents the pharmaceutical industry operating in Europe. Through its direct membership of 36 national associations and 40 leading pharmaceutical companies, EFPIA's mission is to create a collaborative environment that enables their members to innovate, discover, develop and deliver new therapies and vaccines for people across Europe, as well as contribute to the European economy. Their vision is for a healthier future for Europe; a future based on prevention, innovation, access to new treatments and better outcomes for patients. In 2018, the EFN had close contacts with EFPIA, namely in the context of common topics of interest as Medical reconciliation, personalised medicines, dementia and vaccination; and try to cooperate more to influence the EU Institutions in a concrete way. Nurses can definitely impact the debate on personalised medicine, dementia. Nurses have an important role for their observation skills, and are key players in the gender debate, and in the review of the primary care system. It is therefore important to see what can be done at EU level as regards healthcare, what is the EU added value in health, how can we influence the agenda to bring this added-value to patients. The EFN will continue this close collaboration in 2019.

» **EU-OSHA**



Working to make European workplaces safer, healthier and more productive - for the benefit of businesses, employees and governments, [EU-OSHA](#) promotes a culture of risk prevention to improve working conditions in Europe. Many Europeans are exposed to dangerous substances at work, which presents major safety and health concerns for workers, not to mention unnecessary costs for employers and society. In 2018, the EFN was followed closely the campaign "Healthy Workplaces Manage Dangerous Substances", aiming to raise awareness of the prevalence of dangerous substances in workplaces; and to ensure that the needs of specific groups of workers (as nurses) are met through, for instance, good practice examples. The EU-OSHA-EFN common topics: Pillar of social rights for healthy workplace in Europe, digitalisation, sharps injuries, chronic diseases, hazardous drugs.

» **European Association Working for Carers (EUROCARERS)**



[EUROCARERS](#) brings together organisations representing carers and those involved in research and development. It aims to support carers, contribute to policy developments and collaborate with other interest groups at EU level. The role of carers is more crucial than ever due to demographic changes and challenges to formal health and social care services throughout Europe and the introduction of ICT tools go to shape also their daily work. Over the last years, the EFN has been collaborating closely with EUROCARERS in the EU lobby arena, providing nurses' views and support when needed, and participating in their meetings organised in Brussels all over the year. The EFN is looking forward to continuing, in 2019, this important collaboration.

» **European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)**



In 2018, the EFN followed closely the work done by the [ECDC](#), aiming to strengthen Europe's defences against infectious diseases, on Antimicrobial Resistance, and strengthened EFN/ECDC close collaboration on the topic, namely by contributing to

the [European Antibiotic Awareness Day](#), as for previous years. Knowing that AMR stays high on the EFN policy agenda, the EFN will continue to follow closely the ECDC developments on this topic and develop this important collaboration.

» **European Institute of Women's Health (EIWH)**



Gender is important for the EFN, and this close collaboration with the [EIWH](#) is very important as this organisation aims to promote health throughout the lifespan, to ensure quality and equity in health policy and care and to campaign for gender-specific research. Including people and organisation with expertise and interest in women's health, is key for the EFN lobby work knowing that 92% of nurses are women. In 2018, the EFN continued to strengthen this close collaboration and is looking forward to continuing it in 2019.

» **EUROFOUND**



The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions ([Eurofound](#)) is a tripartite European Union Agency, whose role is to provide knowledge to assist in the development of better social, employment and work-related policies. Its role is to provide information, advice and expertise – on working conditions and sustainable work, industrial relations, labour market change and quality and life and public services – for key actors in the field of EU social policy on the basis of comparative information, research and analysis. In 2018, the EFN and EUROFOUND were in contact to discuss the database on working-life balance and possible potential for nursing profession. The EFN is looking forward to developing this collaboration in 2019.

» **Health First Europe**



[Health First Europe](#) is a non-profit, non-commercial alliance of patients, healthcare workers, academics and healthcare experts and the medical technology industry, aiming to ensure that equitable access to modern, innovative and reliable medical technology and healthcare is regarded as a vital investment in the future of Europe. For many years, the EFN and HFE have been collaborating on some common topics as patient safety. In 2018, HFE was in contact with the EFN for a possible participation in the European Network for Safer Healthcare, aiming to lobby the EU institutions on patient and HCP safety, on key topics: 1. Sepsis and surgical infections; 2. Patients' safety and adverse events; 3. HCP safety (hazardous drugs, carcinogens, needle stick injuries); and AMR. The objective is to keep these items high on the agenda of DG SANTE and DG Research, and to extend the collaboration in preparation of the upcoming EP elections.

» **HIMSS**



HIMSS is a non-for-profit global advisor and thought leader supporting the transformation of health through the application of information and technology. Its mission is to improve health through technology, by providing educational opportunities to their members (72K individuals member, and more than 600 association members (suppliers, academic, NGOs, governments)) - Facilitators providing education to health suppliers. The EFN and HIMSS were in contact in 2018 to discuss on common priorities, as education. The core for HIMSS would be that the EFN reaches the nursing sector, as nurses are the ones implementing the technology, and having also the nursing community in their membership. The membership would provide access to e-learning centres to share experience with other members and the regional communities. In particular, the online centre includes access with case-studies, access to training and direct contact in real time to solve doubts. The EFN will explore this possibility in 2019.

» **IEEE**



[IEEE](#) is the world's largest technical professional organization dedicated to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity. In 2018, the EFN was invited to provide input to their discussion on ICT for the Prevention of Noncommunicable Diseases and Health Promotion in Europe and Digital health. The EFN presented the nurses' views on the potential of eHealth on the health sector and for the nursing profession. The main points concerned the need to involve frontline nurses as end-users in the development of digital health tools to guarantee fit-for-purpose solutions. The EFN is looking forward to continuing this good collaboration in 2019.

» **Inlecom**



[Inlecom](#) is a European SME with offices and consultants in Brussels, UK, Athens, Ireland Spain, and Italy, established in 1996 with the seminal charter of promoting innovative **I**nformation **L**earning and **C**ommunication Solutions, and coordinating and delivering large scale European Research & Innovation projects across multiple technology domains. In 2018, the EFN had close contacts with them to discuss on Blockchain, how it can support HCP and nurses, and what is the best way forward to promote it at EU level; as well as the process of discharging patients and the importance of data sharing in continuity of care. Robotics and AI can be a support for nurses and decrease their workload, and blockchain can be a possible solution for that. Nurses, bringing the end-user perspective in this debate is key, and going to meetings organised by industries shows that they haven't found the formula to find return on investment, because they don't engage end-users in their solutions. The EFN looks forward to continuing this good alliance building in 2019.

» **Johanniter International**



Johanniter International ([JOIN](#)) is a partnership of 16 national charity organisations founded by the Order of St John in Europe and the Middle East, and the 4 Orders of St John in Europe. In 2018, JOIN approached EFN for potential collaboration in EU projects. JOIN is active in H2020 and Erasmus+ but always with member organisations, with a small role as communication and contact with the EU (not operational role). They are now seeking partnership with EFN, as end-user partner for a next call. The EFN is looking forward for collaborating with JOIN in 2019.

» **Knowledge4Innovation (K4I)**



[Knowledge4Innovation](#) (K4I) is an open, independent, non-profit platform with a wide variety of stakeholders including regions, cities and universities, research organisations, regions and cities, trade organisations and think tanks as well as technology platforms small and large companies. Knowledge4Innovation is advocating for favourable framework conditions promoting innovation activities in Europe. The K4I Forum is supported by more than 30 Members of the European Parliament. The EFN is putting Health higher on the innovation agenda. As such, it believes that Knowledge4Innovation is a good platform for EFN to become a key player in innovation, and an ideal platform to keep health and social care high on the innovation and political agenda, making sure integrated care and continuity of care leads to better health outcomes for patients and citizens. In 2018, the EFN continued its very good collaboration, participating in some of their events providing nurses' views on innovation and exploring how nurses can successfully contribute to the debate. The EFN will continue this good collaboration with K4I in 2019, bringing the nurses' views into the innovation debate.

» **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**



Aiming to provide a forum for governments to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems, [OECD](#) mission is to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. Taking that into account, the EFN kept in contact with the OECD in 2018, namely as regards Workforce, health systems reform, patient safety, Blockchain, and participated in some of their meetings in Paris (as the Blockchain Policy Conference, in Paris, September 2018), to make sure that the nurses' views were taken into account in the debate. The EFN will continue to strengthen this close collaboration with OECD in 2019.

» **World Health Organisation (WHO)**



Over the last 15 years, the EFN has been engaged with WHO Europe in different ways, as: by having an observer status in WHO Regional Committee (RC) meetings, by participating in several WHO & WHO RC meetings, and by contributing to consultations/debates, to make sure that the nurses' views were taken into account in the debate. Also, WHO EFNNMA is having an Observer status within EFN GAs. In 2018, WHO launched a procedure for accreditation to regional non-State actors not in official relations with WHO to attend meetings of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe, and thus become accredited to the WHO regional office for Europe. Aiming to continue and strengthen this close collaboration with WHO & WHO Forum, namely on Health systems reform, Digitalisation, Primary care, and Nursing workforce, the EFN applied for this WHO accreditation. As this procedure is still in process, we will know only in 2019, if we are successful in this process.