



EFN UPDATE JANUARY 2012 - FEBRUARY 2012

European Federation of Nurses Associations

Fédération Européenne des Associations Infirmières



President's Message

Dear EFN Members and Colleagues,



We are now at the end of another challenging year. I would like to thank all of you for your support and contributions to the work of the EFN this year and also a special thank you to the EFN Brussels office on behalf of us all for their hard

work!

The financial crisis places great demands on all of us, in terms of how and at what level we are able to provide health services. The EFN staff has developed a substantial report on the effects of the economic crisis, collating the input all the NNAs have provided in previous Tour-de-tables at General Assembly meetings. The aim is to distribute this report at EU level, creating an important backdrop to further discussions and development of health policies in times of crisis.

The Danish presidency starts in January, and of a number of important issues on the agenda, Directive 36 and the legislative proposal will perhaps be the most important issue for nurses. Healthy ageing has also been a topic in 2011, and as a member of the Innovative Partnership, it will continue to be an important issue for the EFN in 2012 – "The year of active ageing and solidarity between generations".

'The Economist' has approached me for the nurses' perspective on the issue of active ageing, prevention and health promotion, proving yet again the importance of this topic in the public debate, and the need for NNAs to follow up at national level. Recently, the Commission presented Horizon 2020, which will also present interesting opportunities/challenges for the EFN and its NNAs.

The executive committee is meeting on the 18th of January and we have a full agenda, following up important issues, such as the Internal Regulations as requested by the GA in Warsaw.

I wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to continue working with you all to the benefit of nurses and patients in Europe!

Unni Hembre
EFN President

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News from EFN

EFN Executive Committee Meeting January

The EFN Executive Committee will meet on 18 January 2011, in the EFN Brussels Office, for their first bi-annual meeting, to discuss the EFN's key EU lobby priorities and to reflect on the challenges and opportunities that 2012 will bring. The EFN Executive Committee will also discuss the outcome of the EFN General Assembly, held in Poland, in October 2011; particular attention will be paid to the adoption of the new EFN constitution and the resulting draft proposal of the EFN internal regulation, to be presented at the next General Assembly, in Slovenia, in April 2012. The EFN Executive Committee will also discuss amendments to the Commissions legislative proposal on DIR36, focus on key elements of the Directive on Patients' Rights in Cross border Healthcare and last but not least, decide on the next steps of the JA on EU Workforce for Health in combination with the designed Action Plan for Member States.

The EFN's 40th Anniversary Book Launch!

In celebration of the EFN's 40th Anniversary, Marian Harkin MEP and Elizabeth Lynne MEP hosted a dinner in the European Parliament on 23 November 2011 for the launch of the book "Nurses' Voice in the EU Policy Process". The book captures the EFN's transformation over 40 years – particularly the last 20 years with the development of a strong European voice for nursing. Over the years, nurses have contributed to the EU policy process using different lobby mechanisms to achieve successful outcomes. Bridging the gap between citizens and EU legislation is an important process in which the EFN members provide advocacy and information, bringing the field to Brussels and EU policies to national and regional contexts. The book also highlights the EFN's alliances as central in building the 'European Citizens' Voice', the 'Civil Society's Voice', the 'Patients' Voice' and the 'Women's Voice'. The book is available for purchase on the [publisher's website](#). The EFN would like to thank everyone who came to support this event.

News from the EU

New legislative proposal for the modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive

On 19 December 2011, the Commission adopted the [new legislative proposal for the modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive](#). As a result of the EFN's participation in two public consultations, the Steering Committee of the European Professional Mobility Card, the Single Market Forum, and the sectoral professions' joint efforts (2 joint statements published in 2011), European nurses have finally gotten what they asked for: a recognition of the need for a qualified nursing workforce that represents the safeguarding of the nursing profession in Europe. Specifically, the requirements for automatic recognition of nurses have been strengthened, and Member States are required to upgrade the admission requirements from 10 years of general education to 12 years. As part of the minimum requirements for automatic recognition, it has been clarified that the training of nurses responsible for general care shall comprise at least three years of study, consisting of at least 4 600 hours. Overall, the proposal seems to be very positive for nurses and nursing: the recognition process will be able to be made online; the professional card will be a voluntary electronic certificate; and the entire system of recognition will use the IMI (Internal Market Information System) as a back-up and communication system for the recognition of professionals' qualifications. The EFN will now analyse in detail the proposal with its membership and alliances in order to make sure the legislation contains 'the right interpretation of the text' to provide future guarantees for the benefit of patients and citizens throughout the EU. As in the past, an active dialogue with DG Internal Market and the European Parliament will remain a crucial factor for success.

The Danish Presidency 2012 – Health Priorities

In the first half of 2012, Denmark will hold the EU Presidency. While the programme of the Danish EU Presidency will be announced in January 2012, a [website](#) has already been launched in which the [main priorities](#) are outlined: a responsible Europe, a dynamic Europe, a green Europe and a safe Europe. Many of the issues that will be dealt with during the Presidency are already included in the EU's legislative agenda: the economic situation, economic growth, the EU's long-term budget, climate, the environment, energy, and justice and home affairs. For the EFN, the following topics will be of particular importance: Negotiations on the [multiannual financial framework \(MFF\)](#) for the EU in the period 2014-2020; [Horizon 2020](#); the [EU's Health for Growth Programme](#) and [Cohesion Policy](#); the 20th anniversary of the [Single Market](#) and the [modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive](#); implementation and follow-up of activities on ageing and innovation, in the context of the [European Innovation Partnership](#) and the [European Year for Active Ageing 2012](#); the Joint Action on Health Workforce Planning and the related EU Action Plan; and the upcoming Joint Action on Quality and Safety in which Denmark is a work package leader focusing on identification of good practices. In addition to this, the Danish Presidency will host a [High Level eHealth Conference](#) in Copenhagen on 7-9 May which will focus on continuity of care and how new technologies can help in providing

AGENDA

[EFN Executive Committee meeting](#)

18 January 2012, Brussels – Belgium

[The Fourth International Conference on eHealth, Telemedicine, and Social Medicine - eTELEMED 2012](#)

30 January-4 February 2012, Valencia – Spain

[International Conference on Health Informatics](#)

1-4 February 2012, Algarve - Portugal

[DIABESITY - A World-Wide Challenge: Towards a global initiative on gene-environment interactions in diabetes/obesity in specific populations](#)

9-10 February 2012, Brussels – Belgium

[HIMMS12 Annual Conference & Exhibition](#)

20-24 February 2012, Las Vegas – US

[Commonwealth Nurses Conference 2012](#)

10-11 March 2012, London – UK

[Healthcare in Europe 2012 "Integration, Transformation, Sustainability: Time to deliver"](#)

22 March 2012, Geneva - Switzerland

[20th International HPH Conference - "Health promoting healthcare in a changing world: Innovation in service provision, healthcare management and health system design"](#)

11-13 April 2012, Taipei – Taiwan

[Geneva Health Forum 2012](#)

18-20 April 2012, Geneva - Switzerland

[EFN Spring General Assembly](#)

19-20 April 2012, Ljubljana – Slovenia

[13th World Congress on Public Health](#)

23-27 April 2012, Addis Ababa – Ethiopia

[eHealth High Level Conference 2012](#)

7-9 May 2012, Copenhagen – Denmark

[The 8th Annual World Health Care Congress – Europe 2012](#)

23-24 May 2012, Amsterdam – The Netherlands

integrated care to EU citizens.

Horizon 2020

On 30 November 2011, the European Commission presented its €80 billion research funding programme, Horizon 2020, which brings together all EU research and innovation funding under a single scheme running from 2014 to 2020, is divided into three elements designed to boost specific causes. One of the allocations, worth €31.7 billion, goes to so-called "**societal challenges**": **Health, demographic change and well-being**; Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research and the bio-economy; Secure, clean and efficient energy; Smart, green and integrated transport; Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials; and Inclusive, innovative and secure societies. The EFN first welcomed the **common strategic framework for EU research and innovation funding** in its [input](#) to the [EU's Green Paper](#) in May 2011. Since then, the EFN has been involved in the [Active and Healthy Ageing Innovation Partnership](#) which has a strong research component to prepare the Horizon 2020, and in its General Assembly in October 2011, particular attention was given to the development of Horizon 2020, as the EFN members discussed the options for establishing a European network of nurse researchers with the ultimate aim of providing the nursing research evidence for the EU policy context.

Strategic Implementation Plan of the Pilot European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing

At its [meeting of 7 November 2011](#), the high level Steering Group adopted the [Strategic Implementation Plan \(SIP\)](#). The SIP outlines a common vision and a set of operational priority actions to address the challenge of ageing through innovation. Five key actions and a number of horizontal measures are described as ready to be launched in 2012, all of which hold significant commitment from stakeholders. The main actions are prescription and adherence, fall prevention and functional and cognitive decline from the action area of early diagnosis; transferring integrated care models for chronic diseases under the area of care & cure; and developments of interoperable independent living solutions. The EFN acknowledges the high level political commitment from Commissioners Neelie Kroes and John Dalli that has been a crucial component in engaging the Steering Committee members effectively, making them ambassadors and active partners in promoting the objectives and lines of actions that the EFN is focusing on: new strategies on continuity and integrated care systems, with a strong component of sustainability. A call for commitments will be launched in January 2012 by the Commission and will be opened for all stakeholders interested in taking the lines of actions forward.

European Commission Proposal on Future Health for Growth Programme 2014-2020

On November 9 2011, Commissioner John Dalli presented the [health priorities for 2014-2020](#). Aligned to the [Europe 2020](#) objectives, the new programme is designed in the hope of developing healthy and active European citizens who will ultimately contribute to economic growth. With a budget of €446 million, the [Health for Growth Programme](#) will focus on fewer EU added value actions, highlighting the development of innovative health systems that make the healthcare systems more sustainable. In the area of [cross-border healthcare](#), the programme will be directed towards the establishment of [European Reference Networks](#) which aim to improve the identification and accessibility to healthcare. During the past year, the EFN has been supporting DG SANCO with the [Active and Healthy Ageing Partnership](#) which also seeks to implement innovative, integrated care models and continuity of care in the pursuit of sustainability of healthcare systems. The EFN will continue to support these efforts and acknowledges the specific reference made to secure a solid health workforce, as only a competent, well-motivated and sustainable health workforce will be able to realize the full potential of future innovative solutions. After the adoption in the [EU Council](#) and the [European Parliament](#), the programme will support member states' actions in those areas where the EU has provided a clear added value. The EFN remains committed to being actively involved in helping the [European Commission](#) make this future programme a success.

European Commission opens call for proposals as part its 2012 Health Work Plan

The European Commission has opened its [call for proposals](#) for 2012 after the work plan for 2012 for the second programme of Community action in the field of health was adopted on 1 December 2011 and published in the Official Journal on 8 December 2011. The work plan sets out the activities to be co-financed from the work plan. The EFN encourages its members to explore the funding options as it is a great opportunity to apply for grant for networks such as a Nursing Research Institute.

Publications

STEPS Report Public Health Research – Europe's Future

On 21 October 2011, the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) released the "[STEPS Report Public Health Research – Europe's Future](#)". The Report calls for ministries of health to lead support for public health research, and collaborate to develop a European Public Health Research Area. STEPS (Strengthening Engagement in Public Health Research) was funded by the EU's Science in Society programme. It held workshops of stakeholders, including civil society organisations, researchers and ministries of health, in the 12 EU new member states, and has described health research systems across all 27 EU member states.

Horatio publishes Turku Declaration

In December 2011, [Horatio](#) published the [Turku Declaration](#) which identifies the unique contribution of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurses (PMHNs) to the care of people mental health/illness challenges. Its launch marks a major stepping-stone for the European organisation's goal of achieving parity for all psychiatric and mental health nurses working with those challenged by mental health problems in Europe.

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