



Professional Committee
Work Plan September 2007- March 2008

Mission Statement: To enable nurses to meet the challenges of a knowledge-based society by promoting the development of their knowledge and competencies at all stages of their professional career development.

Objectives: To develop high educational standards in nursing and to facilitate the transfer and recognition of qualifications and competencies throughout Europe.

Priorities:

- (1) Continuous Professional Development (CPD);
- (2) Patient Information (e-health);
- (3) European Union (EU) Educational Standards: Bologna Process, European Qualification Framework and Tuning.

Issue Type:

- (1) Lobbying;
- (2) Watching Brief and Alliance Building
- (3) Watching Brief and Alliance Building.

Goals:

- (1) Continuous Professional Development
 - Use the outcomes from the EFN members questionnaires to lobby for evidence based policy-making at National and EU level;
 - EU Structural funds for 'social cohesion' on CPD.
- (2) Patient Information
 - EFN should be a key stakeholder with EU institutions who are working on Patient Information: Pharmaceutical Forum, EMEA, DG Sanco Working Party on Health Systems, and European Parliament Joint ageing and Health and Consumer Intergroup.
- (3) Bologna Process, European Qualification Framework and Tuning
 - To achieve equivalent standards of nursing care at EU level by developing evidence based policy-making based on EFN members research on education (questionnaires from Italy, Greece/Cyprus, Luxembourg and FINE), as well as ICN's developments on Competencies.

Measurement:

- (1) Continuous Professional Development
 - EFN's Country Report and Research outcomes on CPD to be used for evidence based policy-making;
 - Increased political awareness on Structural Funds for CPD (e.g. through Sharp Injuries Campaign).
- (2) Patient Information
 - DG Enterprise/Pharmaceutical Forum to recognise the nurse's role in patient information (To signal a move away from the typical medical model);
 - DG Sanco Health System Working Party to take EFN's input into account;

- EMEA scope of activities to become more important in the EU.
- (3) Bologna Process, European Qualification Framework and Tuning
 - Stakeholder approach implemented (subcontract with Tuning for future activities);
 - European Qualifications Framework

Timeline:

- (1) Continuous Professional Development – short term
 - The European Parliament Committee on Health and Committee of the Regions to discuss structural funds for CPD – organise session with EHMA and Health Care Professions end 2007/beginning 2008;
 - Meet DG Sanco, Dr Rys and Robert Madelin on Structural Funds – Second half of 2007.
- (2) Patient Information – short term
 - EPHA is leading on patient information - EFN input to EPHA – 4x/year;
 - EFN will be a member of the DG Sanco High Level Group on Professional mobility and Patient Safety (information to patient) – 4x/year;
 - EFN will be a member of the DG Sanco Working Party on Health Systems (e-health) – 4x/year;
 - EFN will be a member of the EMEA working group on Health Professionals – 3x/year.
- (3) Bologna Process, European Qualification Framework and Tuning - long Term
 - Follow-Up on the Bologna Ministerial Conference (London May 2007) with the RCN and to start preparing for the Summit in Belgium (2009) with FNIB;
 - FINE to take the lead on the European Qualification Framework and inform EFN members on developments (Briefing Notes and General Assembly/Committee discussion).

Tactics:

- (1) Continuous Professional Development
 - Use EFN's Campaign on sharp injuries to focus political discussion on CPD;
 - Use the Polish situation as an example to use structural funds for bridging courses/CPD;
 - Alliance building to gain Health Care Professions, EPHA and EHMA's support to put CPD high on the political agenda;
 - Invite European Commission experts on structural funds to European Parliament seminar so EFN members are able to lobby their regional governments on how to use EU structural funds for CPD.
- (2) Patient Information
 - Alliance building with EPHA and EPF in EMEA working group on Health Professionals – broaden the scope of EMEA;
 - Alliance building with Health Care Professions on e-Health;
 - EFN to lobby DG Sanco Health System Working Party agenda.
- (3) Bologna Process, European Qualification Framework and Tuning
 - Alliance Building FEPI, FINE and ENSA to follow up on the Bologna Process, European Qualification Framework and Tuning;

- Alliance Building with FEPI on Directive on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications (develop joined lobby strategy) – EFN members to decide if DIR 36 needs to be amended.

Actions:

- (1) Continuous Professional Development
 - Contact MEPs on the Committee for Health and Committee of the Regions to organise a Public Hearing on CPD & Structural Funds, together with EHMA and Health Care Professions;
 - EFN members to develop a resolution based on the finding of the Questionnaires of Italy, Greece/Cyprus, Luxembourg and FINE.
- (2) Patient Information
 - EPHA to organise a meeting with MEP of the European Parliament Health and Consumer Intergroup on patients' mobility;
 - To monitor the progress made in the Pharmaceutical Forum, DG Sanco Working Party on Health Systems and EMEA actions;
- (3) Bologna Process, European Qualification Framework and Tuning
 - Follow up implementation on EFN's concerns regarding the Validation Conference Tuning;
 - EFN members to be involved in the next phase of Tuning (condition - subcontracting);
 - Watching Brief on the Member States implementation of the Directive Mutual Recognition Professional Qualification;
 - EFN new Position Statement Directive on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications – to be endorsed in the General Assembly in Brussels.

Outcome:

- (1) Continuous Professional Development
 - The EFN's Country Report on Continuous Professional Development (CPD) and EFN's Recommendations will be taken into account for EU policy development;
 - EFN members to be supported through structural funds for CPD.
- (2) Patient Information
 - EFN's position on the Informed Patient is to set the scene for a broader political debate on the role of nurses in relation to information to patients;
 - DG Sanco to produce a white paper on Information and Knowledge.
- (3) Bologna Process, European Qualification Framework and Tuning
 - EFN's position on the Directive on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualification (DIR 36) is to set the scene for a broader political debate on the mobility of nurses within the EU.