



European Federation of Nurses  
Associations

# EFN UPDATE

November-December 2015

## President Message



Dear EFN Members and Colleagues,

We just came back from London where we had a top EFN General Assembly, deciding on key political issues related to the three main political institutions: European Commission, Council and European Parliament, including a discussion on the sustainability of the European Nursing Research Foundation (ENRF), developed when EFN started coordinating the EU thematic network 'ENS4Care'.

The Professional Committee took further the Delegated Act to be developed in 2016, based on [EFN Competency Framework](#), while a working group was set up to build a closer collaboration with the specialist nurses. The Workforce Committee evaluated the EU strategy on EU Workforce for Health and agreed on two Position Statements: Recruitment & Retention, next to Dementia and the workforce needed in the community to cope with the challenges of chronic diseases. Furthermore, the entire General Assembly, representing 34 Member States, adopted the EFN Position Paper on Principles Underpinning the Development of Health Care Assistants, providing clear guidance for EU in its political discussions surrounding "mutual recognition" and "workforce for health". It is time researchers and Sante policy-makers start acknowledging the EFN concerns and solutions.

We all returned back home politically inspired knowing most of us will meet in the European Parliament on 8 December for the e-health and workforce event, marking the end of the ENS4Care project.

To conclude, I would like to thank all nurses in the EU and Europe for all their efforts towards welcoming all refugees and making sure they have access to the health system. The winter is in front of us and we all will need to make sure people have a place to sleep, food to eat, and feel secure. It is within this context that the EFN members adopted a [statement](#) on the refugee crisis, calling on its members' organisation to support nurses, working in this context. The current large number of refugees arriving at our borders is a challenge for the European Union. It is time to show shared responsibility!

Marianne Sipilä  
EFN President

*"Investing in designing systems that can provide integrated care, moving care outside of hospitals and into primary/community care, encouraging interprofessional working and innovating with eHealth solutions are necessary ways forward for sustainable and cost-effective healthcare provision in the EU and Europe."*

*EFN Article "[When Personalised Medicine, Gender and Dementia Meet](#)", published in the [Diplomatic World Magazine](#), autumn edition (October 2015).*

## News from EFN

### 103<sup>rd</sup> EFN General Assembly

Meeting in London on 22-23 October 2015, the EFN members had the opportunity to discuss on the EFN key lobby priorities and the next steps to take forward by the EFN Brussels Office. The EFN members paid a lot of attention to the EFN [Policy Statement & Position Paper](#) on Dementia, building on the Health Policy Forum work, and calling for a proper nursing workforce for community care. Being one of the major healthcare challenges for Europe and a key priority for the 2015-2016 [Luxemburg](#) and Dutch EU Presidencies, the EFN believes it is crucial to develop strategies that deal with dementia holistically, focussing on prevention, risk assessment and risk reduction, as well as on the provision of quality care for people with dementia and their families; and to recognise and involve nurses in the development and deployment of dementia strategies and policies at EU and local level.

Another important outcome of this General Assembly is a reflection on how to bring in more members to EFN. Some years ago, the EFN adopted the principle of inclusiveness to make the voice of all EU nurses united. It is within this context that the EFN October 2015 General Assembly adopted the request of the [Albanian nurses](#) to become a Member of EFN. Welcome to them to the nurses' club!

Next to inclusiveness, the EFN members also discussed the state of art of the European Nursing Research Foundation, created two years ago, and aiming to enhance nursing research as an element of professional excellence to benefit the health of the population in the EU & Europe, and to use nursing research to influence EU policies and promote evidence-based decision-making. The EFN members strengthened the Foundation by agreeing on its budget for 2016 and legal governance structure, electing four EFN Directors to the board. This process will take place electronically in December 2015. In meantime, the EFN is looking for partners to submit an EU [Horizon 2020](#) project on "Integrated and Continuity of Care". We want to be ready by April 2016 so we can put flesh on the bones of health system reform in the EU. It is time, health and social professionals, patients and family carers operate together to make things happen for the benefit of access to care!

Finally, the EFN members had the opportunity to share key political issues ongoing in their country. It is important nurses understand not only their own challenges, at home, but also the ones of their neighbours. As such, collecting the data in the Tour de Table, analysing gaps and summarising findings is quite important. As more data will be collected, after the oral presentations of Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Netherlands, Slovenia, and Sweden, a report will be developed in the coming weeks for EU policy design.

### Stability in EFN Political leadership

Next to sharing information and taking decisions on key concerns, elections also took place for the EFN [Executive Committee](#) at the EFN General Assembly in London. The EFN President, Marianne Sipilä, from the Finnish Nurses Association was re-elected, as was the EFN Treasurer, Milka Vasileva from the Bulgarian Association of Health Professionals in Nursing, and two other EFN Executive Committee Members: Elizabeth Adams from the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation, and Roswitha Koch from the Swiss Nurses Association. Grazyna Wojcik from the Polish Nurses Association

will be replacing Peter Carter for one year. The EFN governance team is complete with Bruno de Noronha Gomes from Ordem dos Enfermeiros (Portugal) as Vice-President, and Herdis Gunnarsdóttir from the Icelandic Nurses Association, as Member of the Executive Committee, who were both not up to re-election this time.

### Chief Nursing Officers (CNO) meeting

Invited as keynote speaker, EFN President, Marianne Sipilä, participated in the CNO meeting, organised under the auspices of the Luxembourg EU Presidency. She took this opportunity to present the EFN EU project ENS4care five Evidence Based [Guidelines](#) for Nurses and Social Care Workers for the deployment of eHealth services, and made clear that nurses and social workers, with the right knowledge and skills will add considerable value and form an important link between technological innovation, health promotion and disease prevention.

### Smartcare AUB Visits Scotland & Greece

In the last weeks, the EFN together with the other members of the Users Advisory Board had the opportunity to visit two pilots: in Glasgow (Scotland) & Attica-Athens (Greece). Both visits showed how [SmartCare](#) Integrated Care Pathways are being implemented at local level, the challenges and opportunities, and the benefits or difficulties that the users have in their daily practice while implementing these. Although with an extension in mind, the EFN is still committed in making sure Smartcare gets rolled out in daily practice. If Smartcare does not make a difference for the workers in the field, it can be physio's, social workers, GPs and nurses, it is difficult to argue what the EU is doing for its citizens. 3 million nurses should benefit from integrated care and continuity of care, as should the family carers and users. The discharge clinical pathway, even done digital, needs to be a support, not a burden. Therefore, Industry, Health professionals, Hospital & community structures and end-users, should engage to push for fit for practice solutions, deployable and implementable. The users' board is therefore keen to put the finger on the wound, prescribe a better treatment and to make follow-up care available. People want to change but need support to make it happen.

### ICN Workforce Forum 2015 calls for safe staffing levels and a better future for patients and nurses

Hosted by the Finnish Nurses Association, the International Workforce Forum ([IWF](#)) brought together nursing experts from Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Sweden and the United States of America. Topics of discussion included: bullying, safe staffing, retention of nurses, lobbying strategies and skills, and a training session on negotiating agreements. Two priority areas for ICN, Universal Health Coverage and the WHO Global Strategy for Human Resource for Health 2030, were also on the agenda.

*"It is important that countries work towards health workforce sustainability and invest sufficiently in health personnel. The effects of the deteriorating economy are already evident globally in the reduction of eligibility criteria for nurses, wage cuts and bargaining with the quality of care and patient safety," said Merja Merasto, the President of the Finnish Nurses Association. Merja continued saying that "Cuts will not improve the effectiveness of health care or the appeal of the sector. On the contrary!"*

### News from the EU

COCIR-HOPE-EFN interested to jointly submit proposal to advance Integrated Care, including continuity of care. We have an opportunity to reflect on a roadmap during the 24-25 November [Summit](#), followed by an EFN [event](#) in the European Parliament on 8 December. Interested to join the Consortium? Let us know with clear argument why you can make a difference!

The European Commission will make €1 million available to help provide education and psychosocial support for children affected and left orphaned by Ebola. And more needs to be done, also in the EU! Read [EFN Press Release](#) on the Ebola Summit, where the EFN presented the work it has done at EU level to bring the attention of the EU policy decision makers on what is the daily reality for the nurses dealing with Ebola patients, next to presenting the results of the [EFN Ebola Report](#) that identifies gaps and needs of all nurses in relation to Ebola and Infection Diseases of High Consequence (IDHC). The outcomes of the conference will inform conclusions of the Health Council planned for 8 December 2015. Key for the nursing profession is the engagement of nurses in policy designs (ECDC) and making sure training is supported by the European Commission. Supported by the EU Presidency of Luxembourg, the conference held in Luxembourg on 12-14 October brought together politicians, NGOs, and health workforces to discuss how to improve preparedness and response in the EU for future outbreaks.

*"We are not prepared, unless we are all prepared! We have now a precious opportunity to prepare ourselves and get our health workforce and health systems ready. Listen to those that are going to the field and make sure their needs are covered." (Paul De Raeve, EFN Secretary General)*

Also, Nursing Experts from EFN participated in a TAIEX capacity workshop in Serbia on the compliance of national nurses' legislation with the EU Acquis Communautaire, in particular chapter 3, the Directive 55 (Mutual recognition). A similar capacity training will take place in Ankara (Turkey)! The EFN Competency Framework is shared as a guidance tool in this process to help colleagues building a single system to deliver high qualified nurses responsible for general care.

### Publications

#### Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI)

The [Sustainable Governance Indicators 2015](#), published by Bertelsmann Stiftung, is now available. Building on a cross-national survey of governance that identifies reform needs and challenges in 41 EU and OECD countries, based on 140 quantitative and qualitative indicators, the SGI approach measures sustainable governance across three pillars: Policy Performance, Democracy, Governance, and brings together a broad network of experts and practitioners to understand and share best practices on what works best in sustainable governance.

### Agenda

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

BOOK IN YOUR AGENDAS [EFN EVENT IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ON 8 DECEMBER 2015 FROM 15.00 TO 17.00](#).

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