



European Federation of Nurses  
Associations

# EFN UPDATE

July-August 2013

## President message



Dear EFN Members and Colleagues,

Summer break is just around the corner and, with it, a well-deserved rest after so busy and challenging months. I can proudly say that after such an intense lobby process within the EU institutions and with key EU stakeholders, we achieved successful policy outcomes on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications (Directive 2005/36/EC).

On 12 June the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union reached an agreement on the Directive framework, increasing the minimum requirements with highly formulated competences introduced in Article 31 which provide a solid legal basis for the development of nursing education all over the EU. This is a very positive outcome for the European Nurses, after so many years lobbying for the EU to take into account nurses views and concerns, knowing that nurses' compliance with the Directive is crucial to achieve 'fitness to practice' and to deliver safe and high quality services in nursing care.

In the coming months the EFN will focus on the delegated acts and important topics for nurses and nursing: Continuous Professional Development, Patient empowerment, and the European Health Records, through its participation in several calls for tender by DG Sanco. So, interesting policy and lobby work lies ahead with the EFN members meeting in Macedonia end September 2013.

I wish you all a very good summer break and look forward to more successful work/outcomes as from September on.

Unni Hembre  
EFN President

## News from EFN

### Joint Action on Workforce Planning (EUHWforce)

Being an associated partner in this [EU project](#), the EFN participated in the kick-off meeting of WP5 (Planning methodologies) held in Rome on 16-17 May 2013, and in the WP4 (Terminology & Data sources and Mobility issues) meeting, that took place in Budapest, on 13-14 June 2013. Focusing on planning methods that Member States are using or might use in the future to plan the Health Workforce market, WP5 team leader (Italy) will start to collect information to assess current planning methods in the EU Member States. This will be validated by the EFN and other EU stakeholders involved in the project, as PGEU, CPME. The WP5 will then redefine key components necessary to any workforce planning strategy, and develop a document to be used as a compendium of different planning methodologies and as a decision support tool for policy makers in charge of workforce planning and forecasting. This work will be piloted in 2 EU countries: Italy & Portugal. As regards WP4, closely linked to WP5, the team leader (Hungary) briefed the participants on the working methodology to be applied in the coming three years to get the best possible outcomes in this project. The analysis of the data will be structured according to the categories of WHO-OECD-Eurostat Joint Questionnaire, for which the EFN expressed its concerns as regards the categories used for the nursing profession (following the ISCO Code 2008). The EFN believes that this classification does not reflect the reality of the labour market as it is evidenced that those classifications are not gathering reliable data on nursing workforce. As such, the EFN proposed to take into consideration the 4 categories agreed on by the EFN members at the EFN General Assembly in Luxembourg, in October 2012 – namely: healthcare assistant, registered nurse, specialist nurse and advanced nurse practitioner. In order to make sure that nurses views are taken into account in this debate, the OECD invited EFN to participate in the next OECD-WHO-Eurostat joint meeting to be held in Paris in September 2013.

### Patient Safety & Quality of Care

Being a member of the [European Commission \(DG Sanco\) Patient Safety & Quality of Care Working Group](#), the EFN participated in the kick-off teleconferences of both the Reporting and Learning Systems Subgroup (RLS) – led by Denmark, on 4 June 2013, and of the Education and Training Subgroup – led by Poland, on 10 June 2013. Both groups will work on developing a set of recommendations to orient and guide the EU Member States in effectively implement the [Council recommendations on patient safety](#), particularly in the fields of education, and reporting & learning systems. The work to be done will acknowledge previous experiences and material already developed by [WHO](#), experiences from the Member States and the results from [EUNetPaS EU Project](#). A progress report on reporting and learning systems will be presented at the next meeting of the High Level Group, in autumn, and the final result is expected to be ready by February 2014, in order to accompany the second patient safety report by the Commission, due in June 2014. As regards the Education and Training Subgroup (ET), it was agreed that a toolbox would include issues like: faculty capacities; importance of focus on students as future health professionals; importance of including training for healthcare managers; education and training available, communication between professionals and between professionals and patients, values such accountability and compassion and a "no blame-no shame" culture. The next meeting of the ET subgroup is foreseen on 4 November 2013.

### SmartCare EU project Users Advisory Board

Being a member of the Users Advisory Board (UAB) of [SmartCare EU project](#), the EFN participated in the first UAB meeting held in Brussels, on 5 June 2013. The objective of this meeting was to understand the role and impact of the UAB within the agreed SmartCare objectives and aims, and to agree on the first working activities of the Board by planning of the next steps, as well as approving a Roadmap and Terms of Reference. Representing various categories of users of the integrated services trailed in the context of SmartCare, as elderly, patients, informal carers; nurses, other healthcare and social professionals involved in care and ICT, the UAB aims at ensuring that the interest and needs of all the users are properly taken into consideration in the implementation of the project. The next UAB meeting will take place in October 2013, together with SmartCare General Assembly.

*"People are leaving the profession because they can't stand the difficult work anymore. The young generation thinks you must be a fool to go into nursing." Extract from the article "[Where have Europe's nurses gone?](#)", published in [12Newsnow.com](#), May 2013.*

*"Finally, I welcome the fact that, already before the final agreement between the institutions, two very mobile professions – nurses and engineers – have already shown a clear interest in being the first professions to use the European professional card." Extract from European Commission Press Release "[Commissioner Michel Barnier welcomes the trilogue agreement on the modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive](#)", published in June 2013.*

### Toward more sustainable healthcare in Europe

On 17 June 2013, the EFN participated in the Friends of Europe Café Crossfire Evening Debate on the "[Economic governance: Towards a more sustainable healthcare in Europe](#)", that took place in Brussels. The debate mainly focussed on the reforms that are necessary to deliver cost-effective and sustainable healthcare in Europe, taking into account that the Europe's economic crisis has revealed many structural problems in the healthcare sector as well as the need to demonstrate value for money. Given cutbacks in public budgets and a subsequent decline in per capita healthcare spending, delivering sustainable and cost-effective healthcare is now a top priority for the EU member states. In this context, the EU has for the first time included healthcare systems assessment in its [Annual Growth Survey 2012](#), recognising that building efficient healthcare is an integral part of the economic recovery. Finally, the debate showed that it is necessary to reconsider the way to spend money in an efficient way, focusing more on prevention, primary care and integrated care.

### European Citizens' Year

In the context of the [European Citizens year](#), aiming at raising [citizens' awareness](#) of their rights and at stimulating their active participation in the European policy-making, the EFN participated in the [first European Citizens' Summit](#) organised on 24-25 June 2013, in Brussels, by the [European Public Health Alliance \(EPHA\)](#) and the [Civil Society Contact Group](#). Bringing together EU academic, youth, opinion leaders, activists, creators, operators and experts from different sectors to openly discuss and exchange ideas on possible solutions to the problems facing the EU based on the values and principles promoted in the [Lisbon Treaty](#) and the [Charter of Fundamental Rights](#), the summit successfully managed to channel Europeans' voices and concerns into concrete and urgent demands to the EU leaders: minimum income; political and economic transparency; adequate public care; reduced inequalities and enhanced integration; gender equality; higher levels of environmental protection; and fair and human-faced global trade. The EFN led the discussions on health systems reform, promoting the exchange of ideas and defining the priorities for addressing the societal needs effectively. Integrated care, reorganisation towards community care and adequate support through the use of innovative tools to enhance patient empowerment, alongside with appropriate investments in a competent workforce, were highlighted as key drivers of success.

The EFN also participated in the [7<sup>th</sup> European Patients' Rights Day](#) on "European citizens' rights: patients' involvement and Cross Border Care" organised by [Active Citizenship Network](#), on 16 May 2013. Taking into account the 25 October 2013 deadline for the national transposition of the [directive 2011/24/EU](#) on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare, the meeting provided an overview on the state of the art of the Directive transposition in the Member States (laws, experiences, obstacles, good practices), showing huge differences among them, with a specific attention to the involvement of patients' organisations in the implementation process (agenda setting, decision making, implementation, assessment, etc.) and in the definition of the future national contact points. It also gave an overview on the implementation of the right to informed choice in cross border healthcare and on how different stakeholders should collaborate to guarantee citizens' friendly information on treatment options, availability, quality, safety and prices of healthcare. Finally, Nathalie Chaze (Head of Healthcare Systems Unit, DG SANCO) pointed out the importance of the active participation of patients' organisations in the Directive implementation process, and that the European Commission welcomes any suggestion, complain or remark, especially on the functioning and effectiveness of the national contact points.

### News from the EU

#### The EU welcomes its 28<sup>th</sup> Member State

On 1<sup>st</sup> July, the EU is welcoming a new Member with Croatia becoming the 28<sup>th</sup> Member State joining the European Union. After 10 years of a long and difficult enlargement process, Croatia has succeeded in making all the reforms needed to bring it into line with EU laws and standards. In terms of Health, the National Health Care Strategy foresees further improvements to the healthcare system. As an EU Member, Croatia will receive EU Structural Funding to invest in the sustainability of their health system. It is with great pleasure that the EFN welcomes Croatia, and its member National Nurses Association, entry into the European Union.

#### The Future of European Public Health Research

Taking into account that the next EU research and innovation framework programme 'Horizon 2020' will address a number of important societal challenges including health, demographic changes and well-being, the Health Directorate of the European Commission's Research & Innovation Directorate General has set up an independent expert group to analyse the

impact, challenges and limitations of EU-funded public health research under the current and previous research framework programmes, and to identify priorities for future research. A [report](#) has now been published summarising the recommendations of subgroup 2 which set as main recommendations that the EU public health research funding should require EU added value from funded projects, and that it is important to have more research into 'what works' to solve the major societal challenges in the public health field rather than research that confirms the existence of well-established problems. Prevention, self-management and well-being, integrated care and active ageing are amongst the core priorities.

#### EU occupational safety and health policy framework

The European Commission has launched a new [public Consultation](#) on the new EU occupational safety and health policy framework, aiming to gather insights and contributions from the public further to the results of the evaluation of the European Strategy on Safety and Health at Work 2007-2012. This should help identify current and future challenges in the occupational safety and health area, and identify solutions to address these challenges. All citizens and organisations are welcome to contribute to this consultation. As this is a key concern for the nurses, the EFN will provide the European Commission with nurses' views and concerns on this topic. The deadline to provide feedback to this consultation is: 26 August 2013.

#### Reducing health inequalities - The Health Equity-2020 project

Launched in July 2012 with the objective to assist Member States/regions to develop evidence-based action plans on reducing health inequalities, an important topic for nurses, the [HealthEquity-2020 project](#) seeks to explore potential action areas, and make the case (including economic evidence) for investments to reduce inequalities through regional actions within & beyond the health sector. It also gives information on the use of Structural Funds in the next programming period. Would you be interested in this work you can find more detailed information at: [www.healthequity2020.eu](http://www.healthequity2020.eu)

#### European Award on Social Innovation for Ageing

Launched to promote and support social innovation in the field of active and healthy ageing in Europe by the King Baudouin Foundation, [this award](#) is aiming to recognise individuals, organizations, and partnerships developing and implementing social innovations in this area. The 20 finalists will participate in a case study analysis where researchers will take a closer look at the context, the process, and the impact of proposed social innovations. The EFN members are encouraged to participate in this initiative and get their good practices awarded by the prestigious King Baudouin Foundation. Deadline for applications: 15 July 2013.

### Publications

#### Health in All Policies - Seizing opportunities, implementing policies

The [European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies](#) launched a new [publication](#) which aims to improve our understanding of the dynamics of Health in All Policies policy-making and implementation processes. Drawing on case studies from all continents, covering eight policy areas including early childhood development, work and health, it demonstrates how Health in All Policies works in different contexts, and provides fresh insight into how to seize opportunities to promote Health in All Policies and how to implement policies for health across sectors.

#### Moving care to the community

The Royal College of Nurses (RCN), a member of EFN, [published a report entitled 'Moving care to the community: an international perspective'](#) which addresses the international thinking and reforms on moving care out of hospital and closer to patient's homes, where appropriate. The report focuses on the reforms undertaken in Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Australia and Canada, and sets out the current international policies and initiative to move care closer to home. It also outlines the impact of these reforms on the nursing workforce and provides recommendations for key stakeholders.

#### International Migration Outlook 2013

The OECD published its '[International Migration Outlook 2013](#)', which analyses the recent development in migration movements and policies, including migration of highly qualified and low qualified workers, temporary and permanent students, in OECD countries and some non-member countries. The publication stresses that migration within the Union has increased by 15% after having fallen by 40% during the crisis and that the trend of people leaving countries hardest hit by the crisis is accelerating, up by 45% from 2009 to 2011. The report also refers to the significant economic effects of immigration, especially in countries where immigrant populations are high and have been established for a long time, as well as the level of discrimination across countries.

### Agenda

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