



President's Message

Dear EFN Members and Colleagues,



The election to the EU Parliament is getting closer. The EFN has published a manifesto with three priorities to raise awareness of the national EU candidates on the issues that are essential for nurses and the nursing profession in the EU Member States. The election gives all the nurses in Europe the possibility to influence and promote nursing issues in the coming EU Parliament by using their right to vote and to influence their national candidates.

Thousands of nurses from around the World will meet in Durban, South Africa, in late June for the Quadrennial Congress of the International Council of Nurses (ICN). At this Congress we will, among a lot of other issues, discuss the future of ICN, but as always in an international event as this, also be inspired of many exiting projects about nursing and health issues. The EFN General Secretary will present the EFN project on synergy between the Bologna Process, the Directive 36 and the European Qualifications' Framework.

I am looking forward to meet the global nursing community and a lot of our members at this exciting event.

Grete Christensen
EFN President

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News from EFN

European Elections – June 2009



With up to 6 million nurses within Europe, the EFN and its members are a significant voting force. Therefore, through a Manifesto published on the International Nurses Day, the EFN is calling on the MEPs to support three priorities: Implement the European Directive which regulates the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications (DIR 36); Plan the EU Workforce for Health to meet citizens' needs; and Deliver Quality and Safeguard Patient Safety. The EFN members are taking this European elections opportunity to raise awareness of their national candidates on the issues that are essential for nurses and the nursing profession in their own country, and to ensure that the elected MEPs will be able to play a key role in ensuring that the nurses' concerns, at national level, are also adequately addressed in the work of the European Parliament. For further information: www.efnweb.eu

EUNetPaS Coordination Meeting

The EFN participated in the third EUNetPaS project coordination meeting held in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 18 May 2009, which included presentations from the different Work Packages and enabled the participants to evaluate the progresses made and discuss on the next steps. Of special interest for the EFN Members is the work being done within: WP 1 on Patient Safety Culture - which is developing a toolkit for assessing Patient Safety Culture (including a set of indicators) - three safety culture measurement tools have been chosen and will be piloted in Lithuania in September 2009; WP2 on Education and Training - the EFN members are actively involved in the development of the "Patient Safety Education and Training Guidelines", which should be made final by October 2009, by providing good practice examples on Patient Safety training and education; and WP4 on Medication Safety Pilot - which process is currently underway in 11 EU Member States. The next coordination meeting will take place in Athens, Greece, on 28-29 January 2010.



European Health Policy Forum

The EFN participated in the European Health Policy Forum (EUHPF), held in Brussels, on 14 May 2009, where the participants discussed the future work and activities of the Forum: strategic priorities and work plan 2009/2010; Open Letter on the economic crisis and health; and the implementation of the EU health strategy. The EFN General Secretary made a presentation on the impact of the current economic crisis on health, and feedback to the group on the WHO High Level meeting that took place in April 2009. The EFN General Secretary stressed the severity of the situation while reminding that the effects of the crisis on health are already evident in many EU countries.

International Congress "Long Term Care and Quality of Life"



The EFN participated in the 2nd International Congress organised by "Fundación Edad & Vida", on 11-13 May 2009, in Pamplona, Spain. Invited as a keynote speaker, the EFN General Secretary provided the nurses' views on the EU challenges for long-term care and stated that "The shift from hospital based service to a community based approach is way too slow due to the lack of appropriate policies to enable change. If progress is to be made, it is crucial that health professionals facilitate a paradigm shift with a focus on 'accessibility', 'quality' and 'sustainability of the workforce'. The EU Member States should therefore reward and support innovative efforts to ensure high quality long term care. Building a strong voice within the Health Community, building solid synergies between key health stakeholders, focusing on joined strengths instead of our individual weaknesses, is therefore urgently needed at EU level."

The European Commission recently published a Communication and a Report highlighting the economic and budgetary impact of an ageing population over the long-term until 2060 in the EU Member States. According to forecasts public spending associated with the elderly is due to increase by around 4.7% of the GDP on average

## AGENDA

[13<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the European Forum of National Nursing and Midwifery Associations \(EFNMA\)](#)

4-5 June 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark

[European Parliament elections](#)

4-7 June 2009

[Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council \(EPSCO\)](#)

8-9 June 2009, Luxembourg

[Seminar "What do we need to do to accelerate e-Health in Europe?"](#)

9 June 2009, Brussels, Belgium

[EMEA Joint meeting - Patients' and Consumers' Organisations Working Party \(PCWP\)/Healthcare Professionals' Organisations](#)

9 June 2009, London, UK

[2<sup>nd</sup> RCN International Education conference "Beyond the borders: innovations for international excellence in nurse education"](#)

11-13 June 2009, Glasgow, Scotland

[High Level Committee on Public Health](#)

22-23 June 2009, Czech Republic

[Conference on "Working conditions and social dialogue"](#)

22-23 June 2009, Prague, Czech Republic

[17<sup>th</sup> European Social Services Conference "Quality and Performance in social services in Europe - better outcomes for people"](#)

22-24 June 2009, Prague, Czech Republic

[Meeting of Working Group "New Skills for New Jobs"](#)

24 June 2009, Prague, Czech Republic

[Welcomeurope training session - "How to get funding from the European Commission?"](#)

24-25 June 2009, Brussels, Belgium

[Welcomeurope training session - "To successfully manage a project financed by the European Commission"](#)

26 June 2009, Brussels, Belgium

[7<sup>th</sup> European Conference of ACENDIO "Documenting the future of nursing - the case of nursing minimum data sets \(NMDS\)"](#)

26-27 June 2009, Helsinki, Finland

[ICN 24<sup>th</sup> quadrennial Congress "Leading Change: Building Healthier Nations"](#)

27 June - 4 July 2009, Durban, South Africa

[10<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Nursing Informatics](#)

28 June - 1st July 2009, Helsinki, Finland

[EFN Executive Committee Meeting](#)

1st July 2009, Durban, South Africa

[ENSA Annual General Meeting](#)

08-11 July 2009, Berlin, Germany

by 2060 in the European Union. The 65+ population is due to represent 30% of the total population by then in comparison with 17% in 2008. Considering this, the European Commission welcomes the progress made over the last decade to reform retirement and healthcare systems in Europe but recommends the EU Member States to continue working on it.

## News from the EU

### EU Funding – Calls for Tenders

The European Commission's DG Health and Consumers and the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC) launched several calls for tenders in the area of: environment and health (indoor air quality, electromagnetic fields, training of health professionals); developing public health capacity; and implications of ageing on citizens' health-care needs. Deadline for submissions: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009.

For further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/health/tenders.html>

Meeting in the Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) on 5 May 2009, the EU Member States' Ministers approved a series of measures on the Cohesion Policy, already approved by the European Parliament, aiming to rise to the challenge of the economic crisis. This package, taking effect at the end of May 2009, includes a massive injection of liquidities in the form of additional sums from the Structural Funds, and shorter procedures enabling the acceleration in the completion of EU Member States projects without the need for prior approval by the European Commission. Member States have already received an additional amount of 6.25 billion Euros in the form of an advance. For further information:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=503&furtherNews=yes>

### EU Working Time Directive

After five years of negotiations on a revised Directive - which limits workers working time to 48 hours (including overtime) - the European Parliament and the Council could not find an agreement on three crucial points: the opt-out (Certain Member States, including the United Kingdom, were adamant that the opt-out was of vital importance to business); the on-call time (According to rulings by the European Court of Justice, on-call time should be regarded as working time - also defended by the European Parliament in its vote on 17 December 2008); and the multiple contracts (For workers covered by more than one employment contract, MEPs consider that working time should be calculated per worker and not per contract). Since there is no agreement, the current Directive remains into force. It will now be for the European Commission to decide whether to introduce a new proposal, starting from scratch.

For further information:

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress\\_page/048-54485-117-04-18-908-20090427IPR54484-27-04-2009-2009-false/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/048-54485-117-04-18-908-20090427IPR54484-27-04-2009-2009-false/default_en.htm)

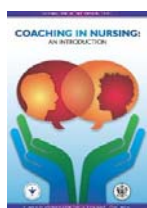
### Education & training

Education and training have a crucial role to play in meeting the many socio-economic, demographic, environmental and technological challenges facing Europe and its citizens. Therefore, efficient investment in human capital through education and training systems is an essential component of Europe's strategy to deliver the high levels of sustainable, knowledge-based growth and jobs that lie at the heart of the Lisbon strategy. Taking this into account, the Council adopted a new strategic framework for co-operation between EU Member States to reform their education and training systems. This is an important signal in the current economic crisis, as common challenges, such as skills deficits, and ageing society need joint responses. The conclusions identify both immediate priorities for 2009-2011 and long-term challenges. For further information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/748&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

## Publications

### ICN-STTI "Coaching in Nursing" Workbook



The International Council of Nurses (ICN) and the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) published a joint free workbook entitled "[Coaching in Nursing](#)". This tool, filled with exercises, checklists and conversation starters, and available to nurses around the world, is a hands-on guide that aims to facilitate collaboration and communication, and to encourage professional development, and can be used to teach nurses coaching principles and skills in order to develop individual professional competencies and improve nurse staffing retention. Six International Continuing Nursing Education Credits (ICNECs) and/or STTI's American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) accreditation are available on line and free of charge. The workbook authors, Gail J. Donner and Mary M. Wheeler will lead a special workshop on coaching at the ICN 24th Quadrennial Congress, in Durban, South Africa, on 2 July at 10h.