



President's Message

Dear EFN Members and Colleagues,



Nurses and nursing are under change in many ways. The financial crisis has now moved into a severe economical crisis which has impact in all our member countries in various ways. In all our member countries it challenges nurses working conditions and pay in a negative way, and is endangering patient safety.

As mouthpiece for 6 million nurses in Europe, it is important that we defend nurses and nursing and put focus on the professions' strength and possibilities. We are, and will still be keeping focus on our priorities and work targeted with focus on the profession, health and safety, and quality in care. We are open to new challenges as task shifting if it improves patient care.

As it appears in this update we are in a constructive way working for the benefit of patients and nurses, in fact for the benefit of the citizens of Europe who deserves care with high patient safety and of high quality when needed. It requires nurses with decent working conditions, decent pay and of course the possibility for Continuous Professional Development.

Grete Christensen
EFN President

News from EFN

4th EUNetPaS Coordination Meeting

The EFN participated in the 4th EUNetPaS coordination meeting and workshops held in Athens - Greece, on 29 January 2010, where the participants were updated on the overall progress of the project and different work packages. A discussion took place regarding the follow-up of EUNetPaS in the format of a Joint Action mechanism which was received favourably by EUNetPaS Member States and partners. The EFN took this opportunity to stress the importance of pan-European stakeholders' engagement and inclusion in decision making in order to step out of isolated developments, moving into an EU community joint level with mutual learning and best practice exchange on patient safety. The EFN had the opportunity to present the work done by the EFN members on using the Social Cohesion Funds (SCF) to invest in the training of Europe's nurses, such as Poland receiving over 40 million Euros from the SCF to invest in advancing the training of 36.000 nurses. The social cohesion funds could be used way much more to implement the patient safety Council recommendations. For further information: www.efnweb.eu

Working Groups on Patient Safety and Quality of Care & on EU Workforce for Health

Being a member of the European Commission Patient Safety & Quality of Care Working Group of the High Level Group on Health Care, the EFN participated in the meeting organised on 2 February 2010, in Brussels, where the revised version of the reflection paper on healthcare quality was discussed, as well as how the work of the WHO and of the OECD on patient safety and quality could be linked to the implementation of the Council Recommendation on patient safety. The European Commission highlighted the importance of the EU in supporting quality in healthcare based on principles of patient centeredness and empowerment. The EFN took this opportunity to stress the importance of including the health professionals in the discussions and the important role they jointly have to play in making a difference in daily practice. Finally, the OECD presented the work being done on its various healthcare indicators and informed of the Ministerial Conference 7-8 October 2010, in which the matter of Quality in healthcare will be discussed. WHO followed with a presentation on WHO Patient Safety projects, initiatives, and partnerships and welcomed collaboration with the High Level Group, and EUNetPaS. A proposal for possible collaboration between the High Level Group, WHO, and the OECD will be drafted and presented for discussion at the next High Level Group meeting.

The EFN also participated in the EU Workforce for Health Working Group meeting held on 3 February 2010, in Brussels, where the participants were informed/discussed on several topics: Green EU paper on EU Workforce for Health; Belgian EU Presidency; EU Projects (PROMETHEUS, MOHPROF and RN4CAST); and WHO Code of Practice. The European Commission informed the members that there is great support for EU action as regard to key topics addressed in the Green Paper while preserving the principle of subsidiary. The Belgium EU Presidency outlined its plans for organising a Summit on the EU workforce for Health (9-10 September 2010) leading to Council Conclusions on the topic. EFN and CPME are the key partners in organising the conference. The EFN is working closely with the Belgium EU Presidency in preparing a policy dialogue in May, preparing the Summit key political focus areas. MoHProf and RN4CAST provided an update on the progress of the projects and WHO provided input to the ongoing political discussion on the development of the WHO code for ethical recruitment of health personnel. DG Internal Market informed the members on the work starting as regards the evaluation report of DIR36. The EFN invited DG Internal Market to discuss this issue in the High Level Group as governments, surprisingly, react to shortage by cutting down nurses' education, even with facing an infringement procedure. Furthermore, the EFN follows up DG Internal Market in the evaluation of DIR36, in collaboration with other health stakeholders (with a meeting on 17 March 2010).

OECD Meeting on the Advanced Roles of Nurses

The EFN participated in the meeting on "Advanced Roles of Nurses" hosted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on 11-12 February 2010, in Paris - France, to discuss the preliminary findings of a study undertaken by the OECD Health Division, and co-funded by DG Sanco, to review and evaluate recent developments in the implementation of advanced practice roles for nurses in 13 OECD developed countries (Australia, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Poland, United Kingdom, and United States). The main recommendation of the study relates to the development of national legislation, education, payment systems, evaluation and research. A discussion on Health Workforce Planning came upfront as a pre-condition if we want to develop new skills for new jobs. This study report is very important for the EFN members providing input on the national developments on 'prescribing drugs' and nurse led

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AGENDA

[European Life Science Circle Event "Patient Empowerment - a New Paradigm in Disease Management?"](#)

2 March 2010, Brussels, Belgium

[EPHA Policy Coordination Meeting](#)

4 March 2010, Brussels, Belgium

[8th European Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Nurses' Federation](#)

12-13 March 2010, Paphos, Cyprus

[eHealth week 2010](#)

15-18 March 2010, Barcelona, Spain

[Conference on the evaluation of the professional qualifications directive](#)

17 March 2010, Brussels, Belgium

[Conference on nursing career and education](#)

19 March 2010, Jesenice, Slovenia

[EuroHealthNet EU Health Equity and Health Promotion Week](#)

22-26 March 2010, Brussels, Belgium

[EPHA Policy Coordination Meeting](#)

7 April 2010, Brussels, Belgium

[18th International Conference on Health Promoting Hospitals & Health Services](#)

14-16 April 2010, Manchester, UK

[EFN General Assembly](#)

15-16 April 2010, Bucharest, Romania

[Geneva Health Forum 2010: "Globalization, Crisis, and Health Systems: Confronting Regional Perspectives"](#)

19-21 April 2010, Geneva, Switzerland

[EFNMA 14th Annual Forum](#)

29-30 April 2010, Bulgaria

discharge, two topics which could fit the Belgium EU Presidency.

News from the EU

Skills and jobs experts call for action now!

Following the [New Skills for New Jobs initiative](#) launched at EU level in December 2008 to build stronger bridges between the world of education and the world of work, and the appointment, in spring 2009, of a group of experts on training, skills and employment from around the EU to provide independent advice on the further development of the initiative in the context of the EU's future economic reform strategy (Europe 2020), the European Commission published a [report](#) that calls for immediate action to solve Europe's skills deficiencies and give Europeans a better chance of labour market success in the future, while stressing the need to provide the right incentives for people to upgrade their skills, to better link education, training and work, to develop the right mix of skills, and to better anticipate those skills needed in the future. The EFN [welcomes](#) DG Employment and DG Education initiatives on Skill Mix and Skill Needs and encourages DG Internal Market (DIR36) and DG Sanco (EU Health Workforce) stepping on board to strengthen future initiatives.

EU Consultation on the future EU 2020 strategy

The European Commission published [an overview](#) of the 1.500 submissions received from a wide range of interested parties as part of a public consultation process on the EU 2020 strategy: Member States, EU and national organisations, social partners from both the EU and national levels, regional and local authorities, business and professional federations, individual companies, NGOs, 'think tanks', representatives of the academic community, European citizens, and some non-EU countries and stakeholders. The report reveals that stakeholders specialised in social issues used the consultation process to repeat their criticism that the draft strategy is "too narrow" in scope; a number of Member States have called on the European Commission to develop links between economic, social and environmental elements of the plan, as well as better links between EU '2020' and existing social policy; and several governments stressed the need for new investment in fresh sources of growth. Therefore, governments, industry and stakeholders are urging a stronger social dimension and the completion of the internal market. For further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/>

New European Commission Public Health Website

A totally new [Public Health Website](#) of the European Commission is now online, with 150 new texts and 14.000 documents organised in a thematic approach: steering EU public health (where you can find an updated [list of your National Focal Points for the Health Programme \(2008-2013\)](#), ensuring health security, taking action against diseases, health in the society, fostering good health, improving healthcare, indicators and data, and risk assessment; and a "Quick Links" section with dynamic information, such as: press material, videos, events, projects, key documents, publications and consultations.

Nurses suggest improvements to the NHS

Nurses and midwives from across the UK have responded to an NHS-wide initiative asking them to identify the changes to practice they have made that have had the most impact on patient care, quality and efficiency. As a result of the submissions, eight key action themes have emerged. These actions will now form the backbone of further economic analysis, help create "how to" guides for each key theme, and be used to develop a programme for implementation to support the spread, adoption and sustainability of the actions across the NHS as part of the Quality and Productivity framework. For further information: http://www.rcn.org.uk/newsevents/news/article/uk/nurses_suggest_improvements_to_the_nhs

Publications

Women's health in the EU



The European Commission DG Sanco published a report on ["Women's Health in the EU"](#), presenting an overview of the state of women's health in the EU, focusing on women aged 15 years and older in the 27 EU-Member States and the EEA countries. It addresses both the differences between men and women, the differences among women living in different Member States; examines the main patterns of mortality and morbidity and the health risk factors at different stages of women's lives; reports on the current situation and recent trends in European women's health; and provides information about the influence of demographic trends and socio-economic factors on women's health.

Health at a Glance 2009 – OECD Indicators



The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) published its fifth edition of ["Health at a Glance"](#) that provides the comparable data on different aspects of the performance of health systems in OECD countries, such as: variations across countries in the costs, activities and results of health systems; health status, determinants of health, health care activities and on health expenditure and financing in OECD countries. This edition also contains new chapters on the health workforce and on access to care, and the chapter on quality of care has been extended to include a set of indicators on the quality of care for chronic conditions.

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