



**European Federation of Nurses  
Associations**

# EFN UPDATE

January-February 2016

## President Message



Dear EFN Members and Colleagues,

Looking back on 2015, it looks good! We have worked hard and got tangible outcomes. And looking forward, EFN is a stronger united voice for nurses in the EU and Europe, mainly focussing on health and social policy designs in the Council, European Parliament and Commission. We have key EU initiatives coming up and we are well prepared to provide the evidence for developing further a highly qualified, motivated and powerful nursing workforce delivering highly quality and safe services to patients and citizens.

We are looking forward, now ENS4Care is behind us, on developing H2020 proposals with strong partnerships! Over the past years, alliance building was our top priority, delivering now consortia for Horizon which are highly respected and influential to make innovation happen and implemented.

The Knowledge4Innovation has been a good platform for EFN to become a key player in innovation. Innovation goes way beyond research evidence and brings us all out of our cocoon. Being surrounded with key thinkers, even from outside our sector, provides us the energy to focus on better patient and citizens outcomes.

I also have to say that the ENS4Care Final Review by the Commission has gone very well and we should be proud, together with the 24 partners on the key outcomes: 5 EU Guidelines on e-health services in nursing and social care. This review provided the evidence that the EFN and the European Nursing Research Foundation (ENRF) can coordinate H2020 initiatives.

We would like to take this opportunity, to thank all our alliances who enjoy working with EFN and ask you to invest even more in joining efforts to make the Union a better place to live, to work and to enjoy.

I wish you all the best in 2016!

Marianne Sipilä  
EFN President

"Personalised medicine is not only about bringing innovation to medicines and diagnosis systems; it should also be about providing the right healthcare, targeted interventions to prevent diseases, appropriate care at the right time, and building a community that allows individuals to make healthy choices about their own health".

EFN article "[Personalising Dementia Care](#)", published in [Pan European Networks magazine](#), December 2015 (Issue 17)

## Our best wishes for 2016!



As in previous years, in lieu of sending Christmas cards, the EFN made a donation to the Girl Child Education Fund of the International Council of Nurses, which supports the primary and secondary schooling of the orphaned children of nurses in developing countries. With the Ebola outbreak the number of orphaned children of nurses is, unfortunately, higher. Therefore, we know the Foundation counts on our support!

## News from EFN

### ENS4Care final conference

On 8 December 2015 the EFN organised, in the framework of the 7<sup>th</sup> European Innovation [Summit](#) of Knowledge4Innovation, its EU project [ENS4Care final conference](#) where the final deliverables and results of this two-year project were presented, namely five [EU guidelines](#) for the deployment of eHealth services in nursing and social care. Focusing on prevention, clinical practice (COPD), continuity of care, integrated care and nurse ePrescribing, the guidelines highlight the importance of bringing in the knowledge and skills to professionals and citizens to empower them in making informed decisions, in these areas where technology is developing swiftly. Bringing together key politicians and decision-makers from the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the EU stakeholders, this was also a good opportunity to discuss the way forward and future actions that will promote a wider implementation of eHealth services to support innovative practices in health and social care.

In the context of the 7<sup>th</sup> European Innovation [Summit](#), organised on 8-10 December, the EFN views on a Pact for Innovation, launched by knowledge4innovation, with the goal to support and enhance a direct collaboration between stakeholders and policy-makers needs to strengthen future developments. The signatories of the Pact share a common vision of a globally competitive, agile Europe, supported by success of its industry, academia and entrepreneurship. They have an ambition to create a healthy, innovation-driven economy, able to take risks and win, thus bringing a long-term prosperity to this continent. The EFN welcomes the Pact as frontline evidence can be scaled-up, leading to innovation, there where people work and live. The EFN also believes that Knowledge4Innovation is an ideal platform to keep health and social care high on the innovation and political agenda, making sure integrated care and continuity of care leads to better health outcomes for patients and citizens. Innovation in E-health services and processes need to lower down the workload of those who care for those who need care. Technology needs to keep a human face.



### Interest Group on “European Patients’ Rights and Cross-border Healthcare”

Invited at the launch of the new MEPs’ Interest Group on “European Patients’ Rights and Cross-Border Healthcare”, at the European Parliament on 2 December providing the nurses’ view on patients’ rights, the EFN Secretary General expressed that ‘innovation in nursing and social care is key to make traditional systems change’ and continued saying ‘gender sensitivity is the driver for change, next to reaching out to frontline’. The Maltese and Italian MEPs present embraced ACN views to draw and maintain the highest level of attention on patients’ rights and to be an “open space” to encourage the debate from the perspective of the patient centricity, this new group is the result of the request of more than [80 civic and patient organisations](#) sent to the EU Parliament to recognise officially the value of citizens’ initiatives, such as the European Charter of [Patients’ Rights](#), and the [European Patients’ Rights Day](#), organised every year on 18 April at local, national and EU levels. The EFN welcomes this initiative and believe that the nurses can bring a lot to this debate, being at the patients’ bedside 24/7days.

### EU Workforce for Health

The brilliant presentation from Health Education England (Ian Cumming) highlighted immediately that transforming the current workforce planning and forecasting is not a pure science! As an example, in 2012 the NHS intended to employ more nurses because we wanted to move care out of hospital, towards the community! BUT transfer of care did not happen. Just asking for more community care is not enough! So, the 2012-2015 demand for additional 25.000 qualified nurses will be balanced by 2019-2020! But Ian said clearly, “we need nurses NOW!! Not in 4 years!” As such, Health and Social care workforce is central to any health system! Although we share the same internal market, we do not share the same health system. Therefore, it is interesting to connect the WHO Europe strategic direction document on Nursing and Midwifery with the global workforce strategy (EFNNMA)! Interestingly, the US situation some years ago highlighted 1 million nurses’ shortage while currently they have a surplus of 340.000 nurses (OECD)!

### News from the EU

#### EU call for proposals under the Connecting Europe Facility

A new [call for proposals](#) under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) making nearly EUR 17 million of EU funding available for the deployment of European digital service infrastructures (DSIs) is now open. The applicants from all EU countries, including Iceland and Norway, can submit their proposals through the call open in the areas of eProcurement, eHealth, eIdentification and Online Dispute Resolution. Deadline: 15 March 2016.

#### European Core Health Indicators (ECHI) data tool

The Commission has launched a new version of the key health information tool - Heidi -, aiming to benefit health experts, stakeholders and anyone interested in health information. The new European Core Health Indicators ([ECHI](#)) data tool, replacing Heidi one, presents relevant and comparable information on health at European level on five groups of indicators: demographic and socio-economic factors; health status; health determinants; health interventions/health services; and health promotion, with the possibility to select more than one indicator at the same time to make further comparisons and/or data analysis. For all indicators, whenever possible, the data covers all EU Member States, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and candidate countries.

#### European online sharps survey

The European Biosafety Network has published an online survey, in collaboration with EU OSHA, to be completed by EU OSHA focal points, national Governments and their advisers, employers, trades unions

and social partners in all the European member states to assess compliance with national legislation, agreements and codes of practice implemented as a result of the European Sharps Injuries Directive 2010/32/EU. The survey is available on several languages: [English](#), [French](#), [German](#), [Spanish](#), [Italian](#), [Dutch](#), [Danish](#), [Finnish](#), [Swedish](#), [Polish](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Czech](#). Deadline: 15 January 2016.

#### New ICN Chief Executive Officer

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) appointed Dr. Frances Hughes as new Chief Executive Officer. Being a Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer of Queensland, Australia since 2012, Dr. Hughes has a strong background as a health clinician, manager and educator, and has received several awards and honours. Dr. Hughes will take up the post as of February 2016. The EFN wishes her all the best in this new position.

#### Publications

##### Global Gender Gap Report 2015

The World Economic Forum published its “[Global Gender Gap Report 2015](#)” which assesses women’s status in terms of health, education, economic and political indicators. The report shows that the gap between men and women has narrowed by only 4% in the past 10 years. Ranking 145 countries, it aims to understand whether countries are distributing their resources and opportunities equitably between women and men, irrespective of their overall income levels, and allows the countries to compare their current performance relative to their past performance.

##### Mapping report on the Effective use of European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

Developed in the framework of a tender action, on the provision of support for the effective use of European Structural and Investment Funds for health investments, steered by the Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), this [mapping in health](#) helps to better understand the planned investments possibilities within the EU under the ESIF. Focusing on the identification of health priorities and allocations in both programming periods, the report provides an overview on the use of structural funds in 2014-2020 (highlighting that the 28 EU Member States plan to spend EUR 3.8 billion on health infrastructure alone and a further EUR 954 million on the use of ICT in health) and 2007-2013 programming periods, and provides individual country fact sheets with more detailed information about the planned and past health investments.

##### How the EU Institutions Work and... How to Work with the EU Institutions, 2nd Edition

This new revised and updated [edition](#) of the “*How the EU Institutions Work and... How to Work with the EU Institutions*” guide highlights the interplay of the EU institutions, the different procedures and challenges of the Parliament, Commission and Council, and the steps that need to be taken by stakeholders to engage effectively and at the right time.

##### “Influencing the Preparation of EU Legislation: A Practical Guide to Working with Impact Assessments”

A new revised version of Erik Akse [book](#) is now available. Looking at what has changed in 2015 with the European commission’s Better Regulation package, it gives an overview on why, when and how the Commission makes Impact Assessments; how stakeholders can be involved and get their issues across & the importance of engaging early with the Commission; and the type of evidence that is valued by the Commission.

#### Agenda

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

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