



European Federation of Nurses  
Associations

# EFN UPDATE

November-December 2014

## President Message



Dear EFN Members and Colleagues,

Following up on the outcomes of the 101<sup>st</sup> EFN General Assembly in Dublin last week, the implementation of the EFN Strategic and Operational Lobby Plan 2014-2020 is well on track with a specific focus on eSkills, Primary Care, the implementation of Directive 36/55, CPD and the sustainability of PaSQ Joint Action. I recall on the words from the Irish Minister of Health, Leo

Varadkar, who encouraged the nursing community to continue being the drivers of the health system reform, empowering the communities and patients, and contributing to the sustainability of health systems.

I would specially like to congratulate the new EFN Executive Committee Members: Bruno de Noronha Gomes (Portugal) as Vice-President; and Peter Carter (UK) & Herdis Gunnarsdóttir (Iceland) for their re-election as Members of the Executive Committee.

ENS4Care made enormous progress during its 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly, in Dublin. This is a powerful network working together on delivering evidence based guidelines that will enable further implementation of eHealth services in daily practice. The first set of guidelines will be ready for independent validation at the beginning of next year.

Deeply concerned, the EFN Spanish member informed the General Assembly about the Spanish Ebola case. The evidence collected showed that nurses are putting their own lives at risk every day, being 95% of all activities on patients carried out by nurses and not having adequate material to provide care safely to patients with Ebola! Therefore, the EFN is calling on the EU institutions to take concrete actions to support and protect nurses, who are at patients' bedside every day! We urgently need solid protocols, protective measures and training based on existing experience and good practices.

Last but not least, and as this is the last EFN Update of the year, I would like to thank all those who worked closely with the EFN throughout the year for their support and commitment, and for making nurses' contributions more and more visible in Europe. We look forward to continuing our cooperation in the next year.

Wishing you all a good end of the year.

Marianne Sipilä  
EFN President

*"Solidarity is key to tackle EBOLA. Stigmatisation of patients and nurses is unacceptable! Nurses are losing their job, their family, their friends, just because they took care of patients with Ebola. We need to protect our nurses!", Paul De Raeve, [World Summit on Nursing & Ebola Virus, Madrid, 27-28 October 2014.](#)*

## News from EFN

### EFN Autumn General Assembly

Hosted by the [Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation](#), the EFN members gathered together at the 101<sup>st</sup> General Assembly in Dublin on 23-24 October 2014. Mr Leo Varadkar, Irish Minister for Health, officially opened the EFN General Assembly and congratulated the EFN for the excellent work in representing nurses across Europe. He emphasised the work the investments in nurse education Ireland is making (with an established four-year honours degree in nursing) and stressed that determining the most appropriate level of staffing and skill mix is crucial. EFN members exchanged views with Dr Jean Bacou, from Haute Autorité de la Santé (France) and coordinator of the Joint Action on Patient Safety and Quality of Care (PaSQ). He presented the PaSQ sustainability proposal and EFN members defined EFN members' role in the development and implementation of the permanent European Patient Safety Network. EFN members brought in examples on current activities on standards on quality of care and discussed future options at EU level. Furthermore, the EFN Members decided next actions on the main EFN priorities: for example, on education and the implementation of Directive 2013/55/EU, the EFN will advance the negotiations for the development of the Delegated Act that will update Annexe V; as regards CPD, EFN members will take forward the recommendations of the EU Study on CPD making sure that their governments facilitate nurses' access to CPD activities; and in relation to primary care, EFN will engage other stakeholders to explore the advanced role that nurses play in primary care and what their contribution is to better outcomes. In addition to that, EFN members approved the EFN Statement on 'Unethical Recruitment of Nurses within the EU Member States', the EFN EU Accession Strategy and the eSkills and Health workforce report. On the second day, the EFN Members elected the new Members of the EFN [Executive Committee](#). The next EFN General Assembly will be held in Brussels on 16-17 April 2015.

### ENS4Care General Assembly

Next to the EFN General Assembly, the EFN organised the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the [ENS4Care project](#) in Dublin, on 22 October 2014. ENS4Care partners exchanged views on the latest project developments and progress made, and provided input to the first five draft guidelines on Prevention, Clinical Practice, Advanced Roles, Integrated Care and Nurse ePrescribing. ENS4Care partners and WP leaders will work on the guidelines until January 2015 for a first submission to the European Commission in February 2015. Furthermore, the ENS4Care partners started to look ahead at the future implementation of the guidelines and engaged in the roundtable session several Eastern Europe representatives to explore how these guidelines could be transferred and implemented in their countries with the support of European Social Cohesion Funds. The next ENS4Care General Assembly will take place on 15 April 2015, in Brussels.

### Ebola

Taking further the last events in Spain as regards the [Ebola virus](#), the [Spanish General Council of Nursing](#) and the [International Council of Nurses](#) organised a world [Summit](#) on 'nursing & Ebola' in Madrid, on 27-28 October 2014, to analyse the global situation, share experiences and best practices, and evaluate which changes are needed to minimize the risks associated with the care of infected persons. The summit brought together nurses from countries who have Ebola cases, as well as key national, European and international players for the nursing community, including social partners. Participating in this important event, the EFN was extremely concerned about the working conditions in which the Spanish nurses have to work when entering the room of the patient with Ebola. Key weaknesses in the system relate the lack of appropriate training, unclear instructions, lack of comprehensive protocols, and ineffective preventive and protective measures, next to stigmatisation. It is sad to hear that nurses are risking their own lives every day, as 95% of all activities are carried out by the nurses. Taking into account this dramatic situation, the EFN [calls on](#) the European Union and national governments to: implement zero tolerance based on a system of transparency; mobilise sufficient resources for infection control material and appropriate staffing; putting in place enough preventive and protective measures; invest in the education and training of nurses to deliver high quality care, safe care and to avoid contamination; and ensure appropriate implementation of existing EU legislation on



Biological Safety and Safety at Work. The EFN also calls on DG Sanco (including the European Centre for Disease Control - ECDC), DG Education, DG Employment, DG Development and DG Research to immediately allocate EU funds to support the fieldworkers taking care of patients with Ebola. As next step, the EFN will participate in the European Commission Workshop on prevention of transmission of Ebola virus in health care settings to take place in Luxembourg, on 4 November 2014, to present nurses' views and explore together with the Commission what priorities need to be fixed in the EU to minimise the risk of contamination (Zero Tolerance).

#### Chief Nursing Officers' (CNO's) meeting – Rome

Invited to the CMO-CNO meeting in Rome on 6-7 October, Dr Paul De Raeve, EFN General Secretary, and the leaders of EFN ENS4Care project Work Package on Advanced roles, Ms Marianne Sipilä (Finnish Nurses' Association), and on clinical practices, Ms Grete Christensen (Danish Nurses Organisation), [presented nurses' contribution to](#): the implementation of DIR36-55; Primary Care; and the management of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). They clearly expressed that a change in both mind-set and health systems is crucial to allow nurses and social workers to further strengthen their role and deliver safe and high quality cost-effective patient care in the future. These contributions highlighted that the EFN and its members are keen to work further with the CNOs on the design and implementation of these key priorities for the nursing profession. The EFN also took this opportunity to present to the CNOs a proposal for a competency framework to update Annexe V through a Delegated Act under the Directive 2013/55/EU). The Consultation with different stakeholders is ongoing, especially with the regulators and the educators (FINE) to reach an outcome which the Commission can take further in the legislative process.

#### eHealth Summit – Rome

Participating in the eHealth Summit, held in Rome on 8 October 2014, the EFN General Secretary shared nurses' views on the needed eSkills of Health Professionals, a report produced within the E-health stakeholder group of DG Connect. He made clear that to get the full potential of eHealth, it is essential to upscale the eSkills of the healthcare professionals. To that end, healthcare professionals eSkills need to be effectively integrated in health professionals' education and training at all levels (undergraduate, postgraduate and through continuous professional development). The report on eSkills and Health Workforce, led by the EFN on behalf of the eHealth Stakeholder Group (eHSG), will soon be published, with the objective to provide key recommendations to advance the implementation of eHealth services in the EU Member States at regional, national and European level. Also present at the meeting, the Spanish General Council of Nursing (EFN Member & ENS4Care partner) presented a good practice on nurse ePrescribing: the "eCare" platform that provides access and management of nursing knowledge and nurse prescribing, facilitating clinical practice by ensuring safety and quality for both, professionals and patients.

#### Patient Safety and Quality of Care

Being a member of the [Joint Action on Patient Safety & Quality of Care](#) (PaSQ) the EFN participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Coordination meeting, held in Rome on 18-19 September 2014, where the participants were briefed on the progress made in all the Work Packages. Involved in WP4, 5, 6 & 7, the EFN followed the last developments carefully. WP4 and WP6 continue gathering good practices on clinical settings, and will at a later stage analyse the costs of unsafe care that contains evidence to support the work done by PaSQ, not only from a safety point of view but also economic. As regards WP5, the EFN, together with EPF, has played a key role in the analysis of the four implemented practices (hand hygiene, medication reconciliation, surgical check list and paediatric early warning scores). A second analysis will be made by EFN & EPF by the end of the year to fully describe the progress on implementation. The WP7 discussed the project sustainability and the upcoming Council conclusions on patient safety. EFN has been lobbying to make sure that the Council Conclusions make reference to the EUNETPAS & PaSQ work and outcomes. The final conference of the project will take place in Brussels in March 2015.

In this context of Patient Safety, the EFN participated in the 'Pact for Patient Safety' event organised by the Irish Patients Association and hosted by MEP Seán Kelly, in the European Parliament on 15 October 2014. The aim of the event was to show how engaging with this Pact (an initiative driven by patients, for patients, to better protect them from undue harm in healthcare settings) can support the call for greater accountability, access, and patient safety in healthcare systems. The Pact establishes 10 key commitments for health authorities, as: involving patients in patient safety programmes, publicising data on parameters of patient safety, providing full access to patient records, incentivising safety with healthcare managers

and more importantly, ensuring appropriate workforce composition in order to deliver safe care. The EFN signed the Pact and will follow-up on the next steps and outcomes. To sign it, go to: [www.pactforsafety.com](http://www.pactforsafety.com)

#### SmartCare Users Advisory Board (UAB)

Partner of SmartCare and member of the SmartCare Users Advisory Board, the EFN hosted SmartCare UAB in its premises, on 1 October 2014, to prepare the site visits of the pilots that are implementing the [SmartCare](#) pathways and perform a qualitative evaluation of the work done. Visits will start in November 2014 and will continue along the following year. The first visit is taking place in Barbastro (Spain) on 27-28 November 2014. The EFN will be present.

#### News from the EU

##### ENSA legally established

Beginning of October ENSA President (Ina Siby) & Vice President (Margrete Schwarz Kanstad) established an important milestone in the history of the European Nursing Students' Association ([ENSA](#)) by signing and registering ENSA constitution under Belgium law and opening a bank account to develop their sustainability in the years to come. By having an ENSA constitution, a bank account and an address in Brussels, ENSA becomes an official stakeholder at EU level, and can therefore have a stronger impact on the design of EU policies and as such strengthens the united voice of nurses and nursing. Bringing nursing students' voice and priorities to the core of the EU decision making process will strengthen the development of the nursing profession.

##### New European Commission set

Last 22 October, the European Commission President-elect, Jean-Claude Juncker, [presented](#) the new College of Commissioners and their programme for the 2014-19 term. The new Commission will focus on 10 policy [areas](#), including: New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment; Connected Digital Single Market; New Policy on Migration; Deeper and Fairer Economic and Monetary Union. Although Juncker has one major priority, making the EU's contribution more visible to the EU citizens, civil society stays very critical on how this will be played out in relation to public health, healthcare and health systems. During the period of negotiations, the impact of Civil Society in keeping some competences within DG SANCO, instead of DG Enterprise, shows already the tension between economic and social approaches. More than ever before, civil society will need to strengthen its advocacy voice and leadership position to prevent the dilution of agreed EU values and principles. The [new team](#) will take office on 1 November 2014.

#### Publications

##### Horizon 2020

The European Commission published a [leaflet](#) on "Horizon 2020 – Open the world! How to participate?" that gives key tips to understand Horizon 2020. Furthermore, over the summer the European Commission adopted the Horizon 2020 work program for 2015, and a total budget of €130-140 million is published across the different Horizon 2020 [work programmes](#) of calls for proposals in areas such as ICT, healthcare, transport, energy, education, security, research infrastructures.

##### Health Apps - a Toolkit to Help You

A new, clear and concise manual entitled "Health Apps - a [Toolkit](#) to Help You" has been published by [PatientView](#) during the European Health Forum Gastein 2014, to help patients, and the public in general, to make the best choices in terms of health apps.

##### "The EU in the world 2014"

Eurostat released the latest version of its "The EU in the world - A statistical portrait" [publication](#). Taking into account areas as: economy; population; health; education and training; etc., it provides a selection of important statistics on the EU (considered as a single entity) in comparison with the 15 non-EU countries from the Group of Twenty (G20).

##### EU Social Justice Index

Bertelsmann Stiftung, a Germany's leading independent think tank, released its new 'EU Social Justice Index', a [publication](#) that compares the 28 EU Member States across six dimensions: Poverty prevention, equitable education, labour market access, social cohesion and non-discrimination, health, and intergenerational justice. The results show the need for an integrated European strategy that not only stimulates economic progress but also places greater emphasis on improving social justice within the Union.

#### Agenda

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

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