



European Federation of Nurses
Associations

EFN UPDATE

September-October 2012

President's message



Dear EFN Members and Colleagues,

I hope you all have had a restful summer break and that you are now ready to join forces for our common goals!

For the EFN, the lobby work continues on several key issues, namely on the Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications (DIR36) - through direct contacts with MEPs from the Committees responsible for this file (IMCO, ENVI & EMPL), meetings with the European Commission Officials (such as Jürgen Tiedje – Head of Office – Internal Market), and alliances with the other EU stakeholders and sectoral professions dealing with the same concerns. The recent publication of the reports from rapporteur Bernadette Vergnaud, ENVI & EMPL Committees on the revision of DIR36, which include EFN amendments and are in line with the EFN policy, represents a successful outcome in terms of lobby work for the EFN and the nursing profession.

The other crucial issue for the EFN in the coming months will be the EU workforce for health – through the several projects and meetings the EFN is involved in. Based on the perceived skills mismatch between the education and labour market and the EU's discourse on unemployment, different Commission DGs (Sanco, Employment, & Education) are undertaking several different initiatives on skill mix and skill needs. As such, the EFN is taking part in a Feasibility Study for a European Sector Council on Employment and Skills for the Nursing and Care Workforce, and has been nominated as expert in a reference group on "Healthcare and Social Work" in the European classification of Skills/Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO). The EFN is also taking part in the Joint Action on European Health Workforce Planning and Forecasting officially approved by the European Commission in July, which should start at the beginning of 2013. Nevertheless, for the EFN which will be actively engaged in WP4, WP5 and WP6, the work has already started.

And last, but not least, the EFN is organising its 97th EFN General Assembly in Luxembourg, on 4-5 October. Once again, we will have an exciting agenda. The members will be asked to discuss important issues, such as: EFN Constitution and Internal Regulation; Sharp Injuries Directive; Directive 36 (Minimum requirements; partial access); EU Workforce & the EU Skills Council.

I look forward to seeing you all in Luxembourg.

Unni Hembre
EFN President

"Modernised nursing education becomes one of the cornerstones to make this paradigm shift in healthcare possible. The traditional curative approaches are finished and a new pathway based on integrated care is what enlightens the solutions for the sustainability of EU healthcare systems."

Extract from European Federation of Nurses Association article "Caring and Comparing", published by Public Services Review (Issue 24), in September 2012.

News from EFN

Directive 36 – Next steps in the European Parliament and European Council

During the summer, the modernised proposal for Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications has been kept on the spot. The European Parliament presented the draft reports of [IMCO](#), [ENVI](#) and [EMPL](#) advancing the debate on certain directions but evidencing the divergent views on the crucial minimum requirements for nurses. The Parliament will continue this debate on [17, 18 and 19 September](#). The Council will also tackle this issue on 10-11 October [in the Competitiveness Council](#) where it is foreseen that several member states have diverging views on keeping the Commission proposed 12 years nursing education entry requirement. Other political alternatives are to be considered in the coming months and the EFN is vigilant to interfere when the Council and Parliament move to lowering standards that will hamper the high quality and safe healthcare EU citizens are in need of.

Help Nursing for Sake of Patients

In the context of nursing education, some EU countries governments are taking political decisions that have a serious impact on the delivery of care. In Italy, a recent decree will put at stake the future of nursing education and nursing as a whole. Thus, the [Italian Nurses Association](#) (*Consociazione Nazionale delle Associazioni Infermiere-Infermieri (CNAI)*), a member of EFN, is taking action and has published a [petition](#) which they hope will collect as most support as possible in their request for a full recognition of Nursing Science and creation of sufficient positions of Nurse Professors in University. The EFN has been in close contact with the Association and is fully [supporting](#) this action. Hope all the EU nurses can support them in this step forward to a positive outcome for the Italian nurses.

Workforce for Health Picking Up Speed

This autumn, the EFN will continue to collaborate with the European Commission and EU stakeholders on important workforce initiatives. On 18-19 September, the EFN will be attending a meeting on [ESCO](#) (European Skills, Competences and Occupations taxonomy) to begin the task of setting the correct taxonomy for the term 'nurse'. Linked to this, several teleconferences will be held to discuss the outcomes of the [Feasibility Study for a European Sector Council on Employment and Skills for the Nursing and Care Workforce](#). Such a council is likely to be established, similar to the Council for Textile, Clothing and Leather (TCL) and the Council for the Automotive Industry. Equally important for the EFN members are the comparability of workforce data and the Joint Action on Health Workforce Planning and Forecasting, led by the Belgian government, which will kick off in December 2012. The EFN will be attending a stakeholder's meeting on 28 September aiming at finalising the discussions on the roles and responsibilities in each work package. Work package 6 on "Horizon Scanning", led by the UK, is in particular crucial as it focuses on estimating future needs in terms of skills and competences.

EIP – Integrated Care Group – Putting flesh on the bones!

Following the EFN involvement in the [European Innovation Partnership](#) during 2011, the EFN will remain committed under the [Action Group on Integrated Care](#), with the headline objective to upscale innovative integrated care models while making an effective use of the EU funding available. With the objective of

preparing an Action Plan on Integrated Care, the group will draft the targets, deliverables and concrete scope of activities during preparatory meetings in October 2012. The Action Plan to be presented in the [EIP Conference of Partners](#), in November 2012, will be structured in 3 parts: best practices, implementation, and scaling up. In light of bringing forward some concrete actions, [1.2 million euro has been allocated to Malta](#) to implement integrated care for a proactive and personalised community/home-based care that will ultimately support the long-term sustainability and efficiency of healthcare systems. Nurses have a central role within this multidisciplinary approach. The European Innovative Partnership starts getting a meaning for the people working in the field. Nevertheless, this is just the start of a challenging multidisciplinary process.

Financing the healthcare research and innovation

In a recent meeting organised by the European Voice on ["Financing the healthcare research and innovation: who should do what and with whom?"](#), which brought together experts in healthcare research and innovation sector, industry and policymakers to discuss the challenges faced by the healthcare sector and new funding opportunities, as well as the roles of the private and public sectors in healthcare innovation and the pros and cons of outsourcing research and development efforts, the EFN had the opportunity to highlight its concerns as regards the increasing difficulty in investing in healthcare research and development. With the economic crisis, governments are seeking to cut expenditure on healthcare and drive down the costs of medicines and treatments. At the same time, the increase in the average age of the population in most EU Member States and the rising expectations of patients to have the latest medicines and treatments mean that there is increased pressure on healthcare spending. Overall, the participants agreed that to get results in this field it is important to invest in research and development as key strategy, but also to understand the needs, interests and the challenges of the healthcare sector. The EFN believes that it is interesting to reflect on nursing research, based on the existing Private-Public models.

News from the EU

Citizens' Initiatives

Since the 1st April 2012, the EU citizens have the opportunity to influence the EU's agenda through the [European Citizens' Initiative](#). And they embrace this chance! So far, [ten initiatives have been registered](#), with the initiators hoping to get the one million signatures necessary (from at least seven of the 27 member states within 12 months of the registration date) for them to call on the European Commission to make a legislative proposal. Among the issues included are: youth exchange programmes, Common education goals, and development aid and public health.

Consultation on the 2013 EU Citizenship Report "EU citizens - Your rights, your future"

In 2010, the European Commission issued the [first EU Citizenship Report](#) to inform the EU citizens on their rights. It listed 25 actions to make citizens' life easier. Again, the European Commission has been undertaking a [public consultation](#) to have the views of all the EU citizens on any obstacles they might be facing in their daily life as a European Citizen living, studying, working, shopping or simply travelling within the EU. The European Commission would also like to hear ideas about how to remove these obstacles and further develop EU citizenship. The input to this consultation will help the Commission to prepare the next EU Citizenship Report that will be published in 2013 – The [European Year of Citizens](#). So far, over 5.500 EU citizens have participated in this consultation, the broadest web based consultations in the EU's history on [citizens' rights](#) and the future of Europe. You have until 9 September 2012 to share your views.

Publications

Health in the EU - What is in there for you?

The [European Commission DG Health and Consumers](#) has published a new brochure entitled ["Health in the EU - What is in there for you?"](#) which highlights its recent achievements in the field of health in the European Union - amongst others: Cross-border healthcare, Active and healthy ageing, Health for Growth and the EU Health Programme (2014-2020).

The EU Contribution to Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations

The European Commission released a brochure entitled ["The EU Contribution to Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations"](#), a comprehensive document which sets out what the European Union is doing to encourage active ageing. Released within the frame of the European Year 2012, the brochure presents the EU's efforts regarding the active ageing agenda, and shows that it is a strong partner in this regard. The objective is to inspire more determined efforts in all the EU Member States to promote active ageing, thereby ensuring that solidarity between generations can withstand the test of population ageing.

A recent [report](#) published by the European Commission DG Economic and Financial Affairs, which analyses the economic and budgetary impact of an ageing population over the long-term (for the 27 EU Member States (2010-2060)), stresses that the population of the EU would reach 517 million in 2060, and that nearly one third of the citizens will then be aged 65 or over. While longer lives are a major achievement of European societies, the ageing of the population also poses significant challenges for their economies and welfare systems. The total number of workers is projected to decline by 15.7 million over the forecast horizon to 195.6 million in 2060. One of the key solutions to tackle Europe's demographic problems could be to [include more actively the elderly people in the EU labour market](#).

Living and working in Europe – Eurofound Yearbook 2011

The [European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions \(Eurofound\)](#) published its [third annual Yearbook on Living and Working in Europe](#) which presents some of the main findings of Eurofound research and describes the key developments that shape the lives and the work of European citizens. According to the Yearbook more jobs were lost than created across Europe in recent years. The recession and its aftermath were particularly severe on young workers, who found that education no longer offers protection against unemployment.

Public Service Review: Health and Social Care

The ["Public Service Review: Health and Social Care"](#) presents an opportunity to read how UK and its European neighbours are combating the same health challenges. It also provides a vital forum for discussing and debating new ideas and practices. Comprehensive and up-to-date, it aims to be the one essential read for all those involved in the provision of health and social care. Each edition of this quarterly review features exclusive and timely articles from committed healthcare professionals and policy-makers. The Issue 33 will be published in mid-September. Join the debate and to read the latest issues click [here](#).

Agenda

[62nd session of WHO Regional Committee for Europe](#)
10-13 September 2012, Malta

[Norwegian Nurses Organisation 9th National Nursing Conference - "Future of Nursing"](#)
25-26 September 2012, Oslo, Norway

[IXth European Conference of Nurse Educators](#)
3-5 October 2012, Cardiff, Wales

For more meetings' dates, click [here](#).