



President's Message

Dear EFN Members and Colleagues,



I hope you have all enjoyed a peaceful summer. The autumn will bring us many exciting challenges regarding health. As you can see in the update the Swedish Presidency has an extensive programme regarding health. But also during the summer we have had some serious challenges.

The EFN has supported our members in Italy, Slovakia and Romania, where discussions to downgrade the nursing education are taking place – and more countries are not fulfilling the directive 36 on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications. I find it very worrying if the national health authorities suggest to cope with the crisis in the health care workforce by downgrading education and training.

The solution is the other way round, namely to work for better education and qualifications at all levels in the health care system – That will secure task shifting can take place in a up going spiral, which again will affect the general nursing education, the health care quality and the patients' safety in a positive way. We will, in EFN, monitor the development on this issue, and support any member organisation that will be presented to suggestions about downgrading the nursing education, as it can endanger the health and safety of the European citizens.

Grete Christensen  
EFN President

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News from EFN

ENSA Annual General Meeting 2009

The EFN participated in the [European Nursing Students Association \(ENSA\) Annual General Meeting 2009](#) that took place in Berlin, Germany, in July 2009. As a keynote speaker, the EFN Policy Adviser made a [presentation](#) on the current financial crisis and how it has or will affect the welfare and the public health in Europe. Based on the discussions, ENSA [drafted a statement](#) on the financial crisis and its impact on the quality of nurse education. Having an observer status within EFN General Assemblies, the EFN supports ENSA work and encourages the EFN members to support their nursing students to participate in the activities of the ENSA network.

EHMA EU project – HEALTH PROMeTHEUS

The EFN participated in the first advisory board meeting of [EHMA Project - HEALTH PROfessional Mobility in the European Union Study \(HEALTH PROMeTHEUS\)](#), funded under the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme of the European Commission (FP7) and running until December 2011. This study focuses on the mobility of health professionals moving to, from and within Europe for work and other reasons, and its main objective is to address gaps in information on health professionals' mobility to be able to generate recommendations for more effective human resources' policies. The first preliminary findings suggest that: several large countries receive from non-EU countries, and that the effects of this mobility are more visible in the source countries. The next meeting will take place on May 2010.

"Equivalence of Training/Skills in the European Healthcare Workforce"

The EFN participated in the [EHMA/Royal College of Physicians roundtable](#), held on 13 July, in Brussels, to discuss the equivalence of training/skills in the European healthcare workforce, with a particular focus on doctors and nurses, in order to better understand the practical issues arising in relation to equivalence of health professionals' qualifications, and to address ways to overcome barriers and challenges in this field. Ms Pamela Brumter, from DG Internal Market, made a presentation on [Directive 36](#) on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications, and several participants argued that the Directive should be modified and improved in line with the current status and technological progress of the health professions. The concept and model on which the Directive was based originally (i.e. training hours) are out of date. The recognition of professional qualifications should not only be based on training time but also on competencies. Moreover, four years after its adoption, and two years after the deadline for its transposition into national law, a number of EU Member States have not yet implemented the Directive leading to [infringement proceedings](#). It was the case for Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Portugal, Poland, Spain, Sweden and UK. In addition, some countries seem to have some difficulties, at national level, related to decisions being taken for the future of nursing discipline that will affect the general nursing education, the health care quality and the patients' safety. The EFN has been supporting some of its members, such as Italy, Slovakia, or Romania, where discussions to downgrade the nursing education are taking place.

News from the EU

Swedish EU Presidency Health Priorities

Assuming since the 1<sup>st</sup> of July the six-month rotating presidency of the European Union, the Swedish EU Presidency is facing some major challenges: financial and economic crisis; the institutional change, with a newly elected European Parliament, a new European Commission to be put in place in autumn; and uncertainty surrounding the Treaty of Lisbon. However, the Swedish Presidency put forward a detailed programme for its priorities, in particular in the field of health: Healthy and Dignified Ageing (to enhance dignity and quality of life for elderly persons in Europe and to put this topic on the EU agenda in a longer-term perspective); Cross-Border Healthcare (pursue the negotiations on the proposal for a Directive on the application of Patients' Rights in Cross-border Healthcare); and Pharmaceutical Package (including the proposals concerning pharmacovigilance, the fight against counterfeit medicines and the provision of information on prescription medicines to patients). Finally, issues such as the promotion of eHealth as a tool to modernise health systems and improve patient safety, will also be addressed during the Swedish Presidency. The coming months will be crucial for a number of dossiers regarding health policy in the

## **AGENDA**

### [Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee meeting](#)

1 September 2009, Brussels, Belgium

### [Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee meeting](#)

1-2 September 2009, Brussels, Belgium

### [Employment and Social Affairs Committee meeting](#)

2-3 September 2009, Brussels, Belgium

### [Meeting of the High-level Group on Gender Mainstreaming](#)

3 September 2009, Stockholm, Sweden

### [59<sup>th</sup> session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe](#)

14–17 September 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark

### [Informal Meeting of Education Ministers](#)

23-24 September 2009, Göteborg, Sweden

### [Meeting of the High Level Group EU Workforce for Health Working Group](#)

24 September 2009, Brussels, Belgium

### [EIPA seminar «Tools for National Implementation – Implementation of EU Law at National Level»](#)

28-29 September 2009, Luxembourg

### [ICNP Conference 2009](#)

29 September 2009, Warsaw, Poland

### [1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Medication Errors](#)

30 September 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark

### [European Health Forum Gastein "Financial Crisis and Health Policy"](#)

30 September - 03 October 2009, Gastein, Austria

### [Meeting with Chief Medical Officers, Chief Nurse Officers and Chief Dental Officers](#)

30 September - 02 October 2009, Stockholm, Sweden

### [EFN General Assembly](#)

1-2 October 2009, Stockholm, Sweden

### [6<sup>th</sup> EHFCN Annual Conference "Cross-Border Healthcare in Europe: A Gateway to Fraud and Corruption?"](#)

6-7 October 2009, Edinburgh, Scotland

### [32<sup>nd</sup> WENR Workgroup meeting](#)

8 October 2009, Athens, Greece

### [2<sup>nd</sup> WENR Symposium "Patient Safety"](#)

9-10 October 2009, Athens, Greece

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

12 October 2009, Luxembourg

### [Conference "Public Procurement of Innovations - a driver for future health in Europe"](#)

13 October 2009, Stockholm, Sweden

### [Conference on "Healthy ageing in Europe - Lessons learnt and ways forward"](#)

22-23 October 2009, Stockholm, Sweden

European Union and EFN will work hard to represent the nurses voice during this Presidency. For further information:

[http://www.se2009.eu/en/the\\_presidency/work\\_programme](http://www.se2009.eu/en/the_presidency/work_programme)

### **New composition of the European Parliament for 2009-2014**

Meeting in Strasbourg on 14 July 2009, for the opening session of the new European Parliament term, the MEPs' elected a new President. Jerzy BUZEK, was elected by a wide majority (with 555 votes in favour), becoming the first person from an Eastern European country to take over this function. On 16 July and 20 July the 20 Parliamentary committees elected their chairs and deputy chairs. The EFN will strive to build a strong relationship with the new MEPs from across all the political groupings to enable us to optimise our effectiveness in the new European Parliament. Even if much work has been already achieved through EFN members' work with the [EFN Election Manifesto](#), the EFN will join all its efforts to galvanise links with the key MEPs (mainly from: Employment and Social Affairs; Environment, Public Health and Food Security; Internal Market and Consumer Protection; Legal Affairs; and Women's Rights and Gender Equality) leading on several legislative dossiers of interest to EFN members. For further information:

[http://www.elections-europeennes.org/en/front\\_page/results/results.php](http://www.elections-europeennes.org/en/front_page/results/results.php)

### **EU Call for expression of interest**

The European Commission DG Sanco launched a call for expression of interest in order to renew the membership in the [EU Health Forum](#) (formerly called EU Health Policy Forum) on the basis of the EU Health Strategy "[Together for Health – a Strategic Approach for the EU 2008-2013](#)". The Forum member organisations are expected to take part actively in the work of the Forum and should be represented by competent and high-level participants in the meetings. The organisations will be selected on the basis of the criteria laid down in the document "[The European Union Health Forum – the Health forum's role: a Renewed Mandate](#)" adopted by the Health Policy Forum in January 2009. The deadline for submission is 17 October 2009.

For further information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_overview/health\\_forum/health\\_forum\\_renewal\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/health_forum/health_forum_renewal_en.htm)

### **Investing in the Future of Jobs and Skills**

The European Commission published a report on the "[Comprehensive analysis of emerging competences and economic activities in the European Union in the Health and Social Services sector](#)". Commissioned under the [European Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity - PROGRESS](#) (2007-2013), this report analyses the recent developments and trends in the sector, and promote the strategic management of human resources, and stronger synergies between innovation, skills and jobs in the medium and longer run, taking into account the global context. It also emphasizes the need to adapt and modernise education and training systems, to focus on multi-skilling to prepare workers for rapidly changing work situations, to engage in lifelong learning, as well as on the need to improve cooperation between stakeholders in the health and social services sector to anticipate future changes. In March 2009, the EFN provided input to the debate and the [EFN Position Statement on Skill Mix and Skill Needs](#) guided the discussion related to Nursing and amended quite extensively the draft findings of this report.

For further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=568&langId=en>

### **2009 WHO Patient Safety Small Research Grants**

The World Health Organisation published its second call for application to their small research grants initiative, in order to stimulate research on patient safety priorities worldwide. The grants are intended to projects to be completed within 12-18 months, in all methodological and clinical disciplines that address patient safety, and that correspond to the [global research priorities](#) of WHO Patient Safety. The proposed studies may be conducted in any health-care setting, including hospitals, primary care, ambulatory care, community care and home care. The deadline to apply for WHO grants is 30 September 2009.

For further information: <http://www.who.int/patientsafety/research/grants/>

### **Publications**

#### **A Quantitative Tool for Workforce Planning in Healthcare: Example Simulations**



Published by the Skills and Labour Market Research Unit (SLMRU), of FÁS, Ireland, on behalf of the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs, [this report](#) describes the models developed by the SLMRU for 12 selected healthcare occupations, identifies specific issues relevant to the workforce planning of each occupation, and develops a number of recommendations designed to improve workforce planning in the future.

These findings will allow policy makers to make informed decisions in relation to the supply of suitably qualified human resources in the healthcare sector resulting from policy and demographic changes (e.g. ageing population).