



**EUROPEAN RESEARCH NURSING
FOUNDATION**

Activity Report 2019

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Foreword

Dear ENRF Reference Points,

Dear EFN Members,

Dear Colleagues,

2019 has been a special year for the Foundation, with a lot of questioning going on around its future and how to develop it in such a way it would be totally fit-for-purpose and in adequation with its mission and objectives, supporting the political voice of nurses in the EU. This has not been an easy exercise, knowing that the ENRF is still very young, a unique and a growing organisation, but some conclusions raised and we are now on the right track to develop a solid Network of nurse researchers that becomes recognised as the nursing research voice in the EU, making the bridge between nursing evidence and EU policy-making designs and act in the future as a contact point for EU policy-makers and politicians.

Using nursing research to influence EU policies implies strengthening the ENRF and its reference points capacity to be linked closer to the EU institutions and EU funding programmes, which is a unique position. Therefore, mapping the ENRF National Reference Points capacity and identifying what the topics of their interest are, linked to ENRF priorities set on the SORP and linked to the European Commission research and innovation agenda has been a key struggle for the ENRF to find it way, to evaluate and develop further the nursing research capacity in the EU. The outcomes of this mapping show the value of the ENRF as central point, like EFN is for the professional associations, for the nursing researcher in the Europe Union. It is the United Nursing Research Evidence Voice for health research politicians will hear in the near future.

The ENRF continued committed in informing the ENRF Network on the latest key EU developments on research and innovation, and influencing the European Commission and European Parliament, through participating in EU meetings and responding to EU consultations, and as such bringing nursing research excellence and impact to the EU policy co-creation process: a challenge we are all ready for.

It is therefore with great pleasure that we present you this ENRF Activity Report 2019, giving an overview of its progresses and achievements made during this year.

Hope you enjoy reading it.

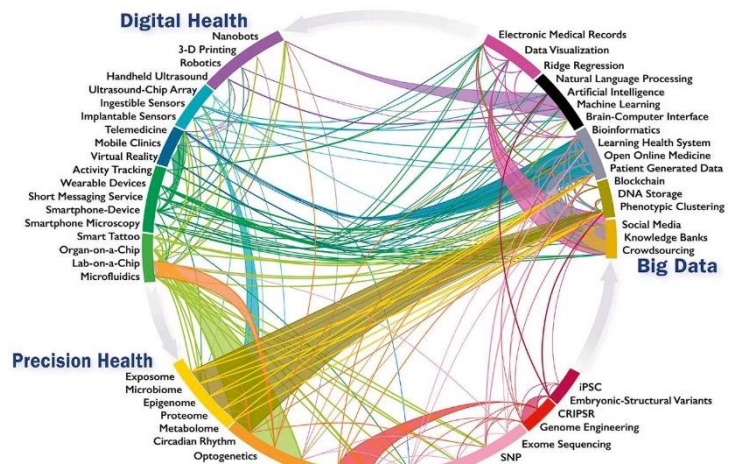
Best Regards,



Prof. Dr. Paul De Raeve
ENRF Secretary General

I. EU HEALTH AGENDA

We are living in times in which our healthcare systems are under growing pressures coming from several factors as ageing population, more people living with chronic diseases, co-morbidities, etc. Nurses, by default, are used to embracing innovation in healthcare as far as it is fit-for-purpose and leads to people-centred-care. There is no doubt that, when setting the EU health political agenda and developing the nursing profession, evidence-based nursing and EU policy-making have to go hand in hand, mainly when we see how health, and in particular nursing, fits into the overall research agenda.



In this process, bringing the nursing researchers' knowledge together to strengthen the delivery of evidence-based nursing in order to add rigour and credibility to the political decision-making and outcomes is key, knowing that nursing research is a growing field even though it remains a relatively new activity in many countries.

The nursing profession is known for being at the frontline of healthcare, at the bedside with patients, and for driving quality in the patient's experience. Nursing research is privileged positioned between the nursing profession and the academia, hence available to research on how to better educate nursing, measure what are sufficient and safe levels of staffing, and to ample community health resources and partnerships.

On the other hand, data plays an important role in healthcare ecosystem reforms, especially in cross-border healthcare situations, and the European Union plays an important role in supporting health research. Not only does it provide significant research funding, but also contributes to strengthening collaboration between researchers, universities and research centres across Europe, as well as between academy and industry, it fosters excellence in research, and actively promotes innovation.

Furthermore, political decisions need to be evidence-based, and as such real-time evidence is needed! Nurses can have the data needed. In this context, the role of ENRF is key to promote nursing research able to provide evidence-based health policies considering the full healthcare panorama.

Research in healthcare is an ongoing discussion and nurses have always been vocal in this important field. The broad topic, and its many elements, is the subject of continuous engagement by the ENRF. Europe needs to be more proactive when looking at how best to bring innovation into healthcare systems, not least when it comes to interoperability and real-time data collection. Nursing research has the power to shape EU policy making into something with a stronger focus on evidence-based decision making. And this is where the ENRF can bring its expertise! It is key that we all take on this endeavour together to improve the lives of patients and people across Europe.

II. GOVERNANCE

In terms of governance, all EFN Members are entitled to nominate and elect the Board of Directors (BoD), of which one is the Founding Director, representing the EFN voice. The ENRF [governing body](#) is composed by four Directors and the ENRF Secretary General, Paul De Raeve, with for the 2017-2019 mandate: 1 Founding EFN Director - Karen Bjøro (Norway); and 3 EFN Directors – Dorota Kilanska (Poland), Kate Seers (UK), and Birgit Vosseler (Switzerland, *who resigned in June 2018*) – replaced by Olga Riklikiene (Lithuania) in June 2019. The ENRF Board of Directors is responsible for defining the ENRF priorities and outcomes in accordance with the ENRF mission, vision and constitutional aims, included in [the ENRF strategic plan \(2017-2020\)](#) that contains a set of values, content and theme for the Foundation to work on.

A. Board Members (2017-2019)

As regards the Board representatives, the ENRF has had three different Boards since its establishment. In December 2017, the EFN Members nominated and elected a new Board, constituted by 4 members, for a 2-year mandate (2017-2019). Taking into account that the ENRF Board of Directors (BoD) was not complete since the resignation of Birgit Vosseler (Switzerland) in June 2018, which was bringing some quorum issues when the BoD was meeting and not all could attend, the EFN General Assembly held in Brussels on 11-12 April 2019, decided to have anticipated elections to fulfil this position and possibly have a 5th Board member, to have a number of directors to allow the BoD to function. Only a nomination for the open position in the BoD was received and accepted. The online election that took place on 17-18 June 2019, through the EFN Website, confirmed Olga Riklikiene, from the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Faculty of Nursing, as member of the ENRF BoD, with 28 votes in favour.

- Founding EFN Director and ENRF President:



Karen Bjøro
Norwegian Nurses Organisation – Norway
ENRF President

- EFN Directors:



Olga Riklikiene
Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Faculty of Nursing – Lithuania
ENRF Director



Dorota Kilanska
Medical University of Lodz - Poland
ENRF Treasurer



Kate Seers, Professor of Health Research
Warwick Research in Nursing – University of Warwick – UK
ENRF Vice-President

» **Elections 2020**

The current ENRF Board of Directors (BoD) mandate came to an end. Therefore, elections will take place on 15 and 16 January 2020 for 1 Founding EFN Director and 3 EFN Directors. Once the new BoD

is in place, the EFN Executive Committee will discuss with the newly elected President of ENRF on the agenda and ENRF next steps for the consideration of the EFN Members at the April 2020 EFN General Assembly.

B. Board of Directors meetings 2019

Taking into account that 2019 was a reflexion year for the future of the Foundation, and the lack of one Director, up to December 2019, the BoD met only on 28 February 2019 (through videoconference), with the following foreseen meeting of 29 March 2019 cancelled due to non-quorum.

The meeting on 28 February 2019 was a good opportunity to reflect on the findings of the Mapping Report on the ENRF Reference Points (*For more information, see page 13*) and to discuss the ongoing ENRF developments and discussion on the future of the Foundation, and to reflect on the recommendations from the EFN Working Group on the Future of ENRF provided to the EFN Executive Committee, in February 2019 and to the April 2019 EFN General Assembly. It was also decided that an answer to the WG recommendations was needed from the ENRF BoD, which were circulated to both the EFN Executive Committee and the EFN General Assembly.

C. EFN Executive Committees & General Assemblies

As done since its establishment, the EFN Executive Committee and General Assembly are continuously informed on the ENRF ongoing work, and the ENRF Directors' reflections reported to, and discussed at the EFN Executive Committee meetings and General Assemblies.

In 2019, the EFN Executive Committee and the General Assembly analysed and discussed in all their meetings the future of the Foundation, based on the recommendations from the EFN Working Group on the future of the ENRF, and taking some key decisions to bring it to the next level. The main one, as approved at the EFN General Assembly in October 2019, in Greece, being to continue with the Foundation with constitutional and operational reforms. This will now be taken forward by the new ENRF BoD, elected in January 2020.



These meetings were also the occasion to remind that the Foundation was established as a development to promote the use of nursing research and underpin in the EFN policy work with an evidence-based Foundation. As such, the ENRF was setup as an independent body with a separate constitution and internal regulation; there is however a close reporting relationship between the two organisations. A lot of resources have been invested in this development, especially by Spain and the

UK with the full endorsement of the majority of EFN Members. The ENRF is meant to provide research and academic input as the evidence base that informs EFN policy work. Seed funding has been provided to date on a voluntary basis by the Members to build up the required financial baseline required to show a credible organisation eligible to compete for research funding.

D. EFN Working Group on the Future of ENRF

Recognising the challenges the ENRF has been facing, and knowing that the EFN members do not have enough time to discuss in deep the governance of ENRF in the EFN General Assemblies, the EFN October 2018 General Assembly, in Slovakia, agreed to constitute a working group to look at where

the ENRF is, what to achieve so far, and what would be the next steps for the Foundation. The working group (WG) consisting of representatives from: Royal College of Nursing; Irish Nursing and Midwives Organisation; Polish Nurses Association; and the Spanish General Council of Nurses (who withdrew their participation after the first meeting), and chaired by the EFN Vice-President Nina Hahtela (Finish Nurses Association) met few times over the year to discuss and formulate recommendations to be presented to the EFN Executive Committee & the EFN General Assembly. To take the General Assembly decisions further and come up with a concrete proposal voted on at the EFN General Assembly, in October 2019, the working group (WG) met 3 times in 2019: 18 January, 19 June, and 2 September.

After the first meeting in January and having established a set of recommendations - changes to the ENRF mission, the budget and on the outcomes (approved by the EFN EXCOM in February 2019), and presented to the EFN General Assembly in Brussels, April 2019, the WG was given the mandate to continue its work within an enlarged group that would include the ENRF Board of Directors, to discuss and develop the options for the future of the Foundation, to be approved in October 2019. The EFN Members requested that the ENRF President and Secretary General would negotiate the conditions of the contract with the ENRF secretariat to reduce the cost involved (done in May 2019), as well as to reduce the ENRF activities to the level of legal requirement, and to the minimum level expected by the European Commission, to not limit or harm potential future activities, until a full decision would be taken on the future of the Foundation. Finally, and knowing that it had been difficult for the ENRF Board of Directors to take decisions during their meetings due to the quorum non-compliance, it was decided that the EFN would organise online elections for a 4th member of the ENRF Board of Directors to replace the one who had left. These were done in June 2019, with Ms Olga Riklikiene (Lithuania) being elected to the Board.

The enlarged WG met in June and in September to develop further the recommendations to be presented to the October 2019 EFN General Assembly, for voting, and came up with two proposals, unanimously endorsed by the EFN Executive Committee in September 2019: 1/ terminate the Foundation (in this case do we integrate research in EFN) or 2/ continue with the ENRF (what to do to make the current situation evolve - bring in some reforms). They all recognise that research is key to support evidence-based policy, but it is important to see how and what is the best way to do it to make it more effective. Being discussed and analysed at the October General Assembly, in Greece, the EFN Members voted to continue the ENRF (27 votes in favour) with constitutional and operational reforms (38 votes in favour). This will now be taken forward by the EFN EXCOM in 2020.

E. ENRF President & Secretary General Social Dialogue

As discussed and agreed at the EFN General Assembly in April 2019, in Brussels, and taking into account the recommendations of the EFN Working Group on the future of ENRF, the ENRF President, Karen Bjørro, met the ENRF Secretary General, Paul De Raeve, on 15 May 2019, at the ENRF Brussels' Office, to discuss a reduction of the administrative costs for the Foundation, including the employee's cost, and ENRF activities.

They both reached an agreement that: 1/ the ENRF activities would be reduced to the minimum, taking into account the legal requirements (comply with the Belgium law (Mensura, etc.) and with the EU Transparency Register); 2/ the [ENRF Website](#) would be kept alive (with the homepage updated on regular basis, and other sections when needed); 3/ only 2 ENRF Newsletters would be sent out per year ([May 2019](#); [November 2019](#)) to ENRF network & 5 [Briefing Notes](#) maximum; 4/ Keep the ENRF Reference Points list as we have it. No more work to be done on it to have it completed until we know more about the ENRF future as decided in the October 2019 GA in Athens; 5/ 2 Evidence-based Policy Briefs to be developed over the next 2 years (as recommended by the EFN Working Group) - possible topics identified: Missed Nursing Care; ICNP; nurse prescribing; ANP; PREMS & PROMS.

As regards the budget, the ENRF President & the ENRF Secretary General also reached an agreement to bring down the ENRF Secretary General employment contract from 8h/week to 4h/week + an employment contract for 1h/week (4 hours/month) was given to Fatima Pereira as Secretary of the ENRF to support on the administrative work (minutes, web, etc.) → a reduction of 50% of employee costs; and no recharges would be provided from ENRF to EFN (as recommended by the EFN Working Group). All these points were approved by the ENRF BoD, and immediately put in place by the ENRF Brussels' Office.

III. ACTIVITIES

In 2019, taking into account EFN Members reflection on the future of the Foundation, the ENRF activities have been brought down to the minimum level of legal requirements, and to the minimum level expected by the European Commission, to not limit or harm potential future activities, until a full decision would be taken by the EFN General Assembly. Which meant for the ENRF Office: circulation of only two Newsletters over the year, less Briefing Notes, attending less meetings, less Social Media, etc. But keeping always the EFN members, the ENRF Board of Directors and the ENRF Reference Points informed on the key topics for nursing research ongoing discussions at central moments. Following the decision taken at the October 2019 EFN General Assembly, in Greece, the ENRF will take further its activities in 2020. Below you can find some of the activities undertaken in 2019.

A. Input to the European Commission Consultations

Answering European Commission consultations is a great opportunity to increase the ENRF visibility and making sure the nursing researchers' voice is heard at political level. As such, the ENRF provided [input](#) to the European Commission consultation on 'Horizon Europe Co-design 2021-2024', in July 2019, aiming to identify impacts and new ideas to prepare a 'Strategic Plan' for Horizon Europe, which will then guide the work programmes and calls for proposals for Horizon Europe's first four years (2021-2024).

B. Building Alliances

Building alliances and creating partnerships, next to strengthening the ones already established with key EU stakeholders and EU policy decision-makers is key for an organisation to grow and to achieve concrete outcomes. Having this in mind, the ENRF Secretary General, has been making Brussels contacts with possible key partners to work on research and innovation. Contributing to an efficient information flow, the ENRF will continue to participate in key EU events and look to build reliable alliances with key EU health and social Stakeholders, and policy and decision-makers, to ensure that nursing research get higher on the EU Research and Innovation Agenda.

C. Meetings

Invited to key meetings, the ENRF Board and ENRF Secretary General, have been taking the opportunity to make the Foundation known, including how and why it has been established, its aims and objectives, and how it can contribute to the EU debate. This has been the case in the following meetings:

- **STOA workshop on healthcare research, 10 January 2019, European Parliament** - The European Parliament's Science and Technology Options Assessment ([STOA](#)) high-level forum [discussed](#) innovative solutions for research in healthcare and how to develop a novel approach to deliver better precision medicine in Europe, [with key](#)



[speakers](#), who highlighted that political decisions need to be evidence-based and as such real-time evidence is needed. Frontline nurses have the data which are key for HTA. Research in healthcare is an ongoing discussion and nurses have always been vocal in this important field.

Europe needs to be more proactive when looking at how best to bring innovation into healthcare systems, not least when it comes to interoperability and real-time data collection. This broad topic, and its many elements, is the subject of continuous engagement by the ENRF.

- **Horizon Europe - Cluster 1 'Health', 29 January 2019, Brussels** - The ENRF [participated](#) in this



thematic day in order to [understand](#) the new Research & Innovation issues in the new EU Framework programme - [Horizon Europe](#) - namely cluster 1: Health. Building on the achievements and success of the previous programme ([Horizon 2020](#)) and keeping the EU at the forefront of global research and innovation, the European Commission proposed this new Framework Programme to be launched in January 2021. This new 7-year European Union scientific research initiative is the most ambitious research and innovation programme ever, with a proposed budget

allocation of €94.1 billion for 2021-2027. With Horizon Europe, the Commission intends to continue the focus of Horizon 2020: Excellence, Application Orientation, Open Science. The Three-Pillar-Structure of the programme will be maintained, although with some [new aspects](#). For the ENRF it is key to follow-up on this development knowing that this new programme is aiming at strengthening the EU's scientific and technological bases; to boost Europe's innovation capacity, competitiveness and jobs; and to deliver on citizens' priorities and sustain our socio-economic model and values.

- **Conference on Horizon Europe, 5 February 2019, Brussels** - As the lobby on the design of the next Horizon Europe continued, the ENRF [participated](#) in this conference where the emerging opportunity landscape were discussed, as well as how this can best be harnessed across sectors and regions through breakthrough science, technologies and policy frameworks. Around the world, cross-border research and development (R&D) deals are on the rise, both in public and private systems. Knowing that important questions are being raised about the future role of R&D in the UN SDGs and other international development ambitions, in an emerging landscape of cross-border collaboration in science, technology, innovation and policy, it is important for the ENRF to follow these discussions and see how we can provide input to the debate. Looking into the future, how can we build a more sustainable European research and innovation area? All the universities around the world should focus on basic research, and that open innovation is essential for involving countries and getting results.
- **RANCARE - COST Action on Missed Care, 26 February 2019, Brussels** - Nursing in Europe is undergoing a profound change, both academically and professionally, to adapt and meet the health and social needs of the European population, in which more people live with long term conditions, and where professional mobility is a key principle of the single market. An important phenomenon affecting the delivery of positive healthcare outcomes is missed nursing care, referring to [care partially completed, or not completed at all](#), and to the nurses' decision-making processes and the prioritisation of care when resources are not sufficient to provide all the needed care to patients. Within this context, [Rancare Action](#), expressing the need to [collaborate closer with ENRF](#), is aiming at enabling and facilitating internationally coordinated exchange of expertise and knowledge for both research and clinical practice at European and international levels, and enabling research and policy synergies by drawing out the implications of nursing rationing across countries and identify innovative delivery models and strategies with an overall aim to address patient needs.

- **Conference “Promoting Quality Social Services with the ESF+”, 9 April 2019, European Parliament** - Hosted by MEP Sofia Ribeiro, Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, the [conference](#) was aiming to [discuss](#) how the future [European Social Funds Plus](#) (ESF+) can better support the work of social services, and thus contribute to [the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework](#) ongoing discussions. Social services make use of EU funding to strengthen local practice, foster cooperation between local partners, and test innovative projects. Examples of some of these projects were presented, with discussions drawing on the experiences of local social services when accessing and managing EU funds to develop recommendations on how the new ESF+ can be designed to better address the priorities of social services, and improve its implementation.
- **Third Forum of the Scientific Panel for Health, 5 May 2019, Brussels** - The ENRF [participated](#) in the [Scientific Panel for Health](#) (SPH) [forum](#) “*Enabling health equality in Europe - the role of health research*”, aiming to explore the current situation, barriers in participation and engagement with health research, and ways forward, tackling the following question: can increased engagement with health research inform and support more effective prevention measures and improve access to appropriate healthcare, and thereby reduce inequalities, knowing that health inequalities within Europe and across regions are significant and remain present? The European Commission's Scientific Panel for Health is a science-led expert group based on the provisions of the Horizon 2020 Specific Programme that has been tasked with helping to achieve better health and wellbeing for all. Within a context of the increasing austerity measures and current reforms of the healthcare systems throughout the EU, it is more than ever crucial that [Nursing Research](#) becomes an imperative component in building a healthier and competitive Europe. Nursing research has a vital role to play in maintaining and promoting the health of European citizens while fostering the development of quality, efficient, and safe healthcare delivery services.
- **IMI Stakeholder Forum 2019 “Brain health and disease in the digital era - 2020 & beyond”, 12 June 2019, Brussels** – The ENRF participated in this [event](#) aiming to explore how the ongoing digital revolution is entering the mainstream field of brain health, knowing that brain research is one of the most complex research areas in health. Innovation is both pulled and defined by the healthcare systems, as such, at the EU-level, we need to ensure that all Member States move at the same speed in terms of digital transformation, otherwise we risk having a digital divide and further healthcare disparities. Therefore, collaboration across sectors and disciplines is essential. Public-private partnerships, such as the IMI (a public-private partnership aiming to speed up the development of better and safer medicines, partially financed by the [European Commission](#)), should occur more often and their role should be strengthened. [Nurses](#) have extensive hands-on experience taking care of patients with dementia and other brain diseases. Their knowledge can feed nursing research, which is at the frontline of innovation in brain health.
- **TO-REACH Summer Catch up on Health Services and Systems Research, 16 July 2019, Brussels**
 - The ENRF was invited to participate in this meeting aiming to discuss the key priorities identified in the consortium [Strategic Research Agenda](#) (SRA), share the next steps of the TO-REACH Consortium, outline how the consortium envisages European partnership in the field of Health Services and Systems Research and highlight how stakeholders’ network could contribute



in the upcoming months. The objective of the SRA is to provide a European strategy to advance our knowledge and understanding on the adoption, implementation and potential scale-up of service and policy innovations and their translation to other settings within and across countries. For that, we need to better understand the motivation behind healthcare innovation across EU countries. This could be done with comparative research.

- **Conference on “Horizon Europe: New Parliament, new Commission, new agenda”, 10**



September 2019, Brussels - The ENRF was invited to participate in this [conference](#) aiming to reflect on the legacy of and lessons learned from Horizon 2020, and gather high level recommendations for the new Parliament and incoming Commission on what Horizon Europe might realistically be expected to deliver through to 2030. Health remains in the EU with a dedicated folder,

which is key for the EU citizens, and innovation in healthcare should demonstrate the added value and its cost-effectiveness. Therefore, it is key for nursing researchers to keep an eye on this programme, so they can get their [research projects](#) funded and promoted. Nursing research can ensure that innovation in the nursing field is evidence-based and that it delivers to the highest standards of quality and patient care.

- **EU Health Programme High Level Conference, 30 September 2019, European Commission** - Organised by the Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency ([CHAFAEA](#)), with the support of the European Commission Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety ([DG SANTE](#)), more than 350 participants attended this [conference](#), including the ENRF. The [event](#) presented the results of the current and previous EU Health Programmes, highlighting achievements in fighting cancer; enhancing health security in support of the free movement of persons; innovation in delivering care; and access to better care through the [European Reference Networks](#) (ERNs). For the former European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Vytenis Andriukaitis, it is clear that the European Commission can do more for “Health in all Policies”, and by working together, we will be better equipped to face health challenges. Health is part of research programmes, of digitalisation. Anne Bucher, DG Sante Director-General, stressed that the [EU health programme](#) is meant to invest in people, with a clear focus on the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#) and continuing using the [ESF+](#) as a cohesion policy instrument to continue fostering investment in health. Therefore, nursing researchers should team-up and create cross-border consortiums that apply to EU research funds falling within the EU Health Programme.
- **MULTI-ACT project – Event on “Does your research impact society responsibly?”, 12 November 2019, Brussels** - Centred around introducing the project and sharing the preliminary results of a number of work packages, the [event](#) looked at how to design a sustainable multi-stakeholder initiative using the outcome of the MULTI-ACT project – which aims to increase the impact of health research on people with brain diseases -, and how to maximise the societal impact of health research. For citizens, having better research means having better health. The way we are currently measuring the impact of research does not really address the real engagement of all stakeholders. We all tend to work in silos, rather than in a mission-driven approach. In the field of health, a multi-stakeholder approach means liaising with all healthcare professionals, including the nurses and the patients. Therefore, to ensure that we are giving all patients the same opportunities, we need to make sure that all professionals giving care have the same level of competence.

IV. REFERENCE POINTS NETWORK

For the European Commission it is key to know ‘who’ is behind the Foundation and who it represents and collaborates with. On regular basis the ENRF Secretary General is requested by the European Commission to provide this information, to keep ENRF on the [transparency register](#) and as such have access to EU Civil Servants and Institutions.

Therefore, building an internal nursing research reference points network is key to show to the EU Commission that the ENRF is a strong network of individual nursing researchers, appointed by the National Nurses Associations, bringing in their independent research and innovation ideas and views into the ENRF and as such influence the European Commission Research and Innovation Agenda.

The ENRF Reference Points mapping was therefore key and took place in October 2018, with all the Reference Points being contacted to respond to a questionnaire as agreed by the ENRF Board of Directors (BoD). The analysis and reporting of this mapping took place in December 2018 and January 2019, with a first discussion of the main results at the ENRF BoD, on 22 February 2019, in which the Directors highlighted that this report shows the need to focus on nursing research across the EU.

The findings can be summarised:

- » There is a need to further develop the ENRF as nursing researchers at national and international levels, linking up with EU Developments. As such the ENRF could empower the nursing researchers at national level and international levels. The nursing researchers who are in this network are, within their Universities, quite isolated and the struggling that we feel that they have to do internally to get nursing research within the other departments became obvious out of the data collected.
- » The Reference points see the ENRF as a facilitator, to link the nursing researchers’ institutions to the EU Institutions and EU Programs such as H2020 and Erasmus+; As such the ENRF becomes a promotor, not a competitor. The nursing researchers who are in this network have no connection at all with EU Institutions/EU programmes.
- » The Reference points’ research agenda becomes linked to the EFN political agenda (e.g. Education, DIR55,...) and as such reference points see the ENRF as an enabler to facilitate their research having an impact on relevant EU policy;
- » The Reference points appreciate the Briefing Notes and Newsletters sent to them. It inspires them on EU developments and connects them. They see the ENRF more as a facilitator to give them info & insight of what is happening at EU level.
- » Also, the Eastern European countries responded quite enthusiastically to this questionnaire, as their engagement will be key in the coming years, especially with Horizon Europe. The Foundation is the only agency that gives them political insight about EU research.

ENRF Reference Point Report



ENRF Reference
Points Mapping Repo

ENRF Reference Points



ENRF National
Research Reference P

V. COMMUNICATION

Crucial to get the message across and to enhance effectiveness, communicating on the ENRF activities is crucial for making it visualised, and to get the message across. Most of the points defined in the communication strategy, approved in 2017, have been taken forward in 2019: Social Media, Briefing Notes, Website, Newsletter, all to engage reference points to the work of the ENRF and to make the Foundation more visible, especially at EU level. In 2019, and in order to share important information on nursing research at EU level, with the ENRF Board of Directors, the ENRF Reference Points, as well as the EFN members, received on regular basis the ENRF Newsletter and the ENRF Briefing Notes, and the ENRF Office updated on regular basis the ENRF Website Homepage.

A. Communication

ENRF Website:

Updated on regular basis with key information/news, the ENRF Website (www.enrf.eu), is aiming at making the Foundation more visible. Next to a Homepage with news and events' overview, the ENRF Website also provides information on its history, governing body, External Directors, Constitution and Internal Regulation, mission and objectives, and Dissemination. The Website is managed by the Brussels' Office and will evolve as the Foundation will.

ENRF Newsletter

In 2019, the ENRF Office published only 2 Newsletters: [May](#) and [November](#). As Founding organisation, the EFN also takes the opportunity to mention the ENRF in its Newsletter ('[EFN Update](#)') when it is seen relevant. As 2019 was a year of reflection for the future of the Foundation, no activities linked to ENRF were mentioned in the EFN Updates. All ENRF Newsletters are available at: <http://www.enrf.eu/dissemination/newsletter/>

ENRF Briefing Notes

Seen as a way to provide information on key meetings and latest developments at EU level to the ENRF Board of Directors, Reference points, and EFN Members, the ENRF Office published in 2019 several key Briefing Notes: [STOA – Healthcare Research \(January 2019\)](#); [Health within Horizon Europe \(January 2019\)](#); [International R&D – Horizon Europe and the world \(February 2019\)](#); [Horizon Europe – Ministers discussions \(February 2019\)](#); [AI and robots in the healthcare \(February 2019\)](#); [Gender Balance in Research \(March 2019\)](#); [Scientific Panel for Health Forum \(May 2019\)](#); [Commissioner for Research \(September 2019\)](#); [Lump Sum Pilot \(September 2019\)](#); [EU Health Programme 2021-2027 \(October 2019\)](#). All ENRF Briefing Notes are all available on [ENRF Website](#).

Social Media

Seen as an important communication and dissemination tool, and as requested by the ENRF Board, the Foundation is also present on Social Media, namely on: Twitter (@Enrf_Foundation); Facebook (@enrf.foundation); and YouTube (ENRF Foundation). Even if at this stage the ENRF does not have yet a lot of followers, the few posts/tweets reach quite a lot of people. And we are sure that these numbers will increase as the work of the Foundation will develop.

VI. CONCLUSION

The ENRF has the ambition to become a reference point for the dialogue between nursing researchers and EU policy-makers, with the purpose of translating knowledge into health and social policies with the ultimate objective to improve our knowledge base when reforming national health and social care ecosystems, and to become the scientific reference point for nursing research to enhance the EU health and social policy agenda.

Politicians and decision-makers at EU and national levels are seeking new approaches to health and healthcare. Nurses have good solutions, but far too often they are not valued, and/or have little influence in the decision-making process. The ENRF is therefore a tool for nurses' organisations to take on these challenges and to have a greater impact on their practice environments and the health and quality of life of European citizens through nursing research.

Moreover, the European Parliament, together with the European Commission, is fine-tuning the next research programme of the EU: Horizon Europe. A research and innovation framework programme for which around €100 billion will be provided to fund research in the EU, for the period 2021-2027. Nursing Researchers need to be part of it!

Therefore, the ENRF Directors, together with the ENRF Secretary General, will continue to develop the Foundation, taking into account the recommendations of the EFN Working Group on the Future of the ENRF, the EFN Executive Committee position and the decision taken by the EFN Members at the EFN General Assembly, in October 2019, and the latest developments at EU level.

Founded by the EFN in May 2013, within the context of the increasing emphasis placed on nursing research at EU level to secure reliable evidence from which to base future workforce decisions, the European Nursing Research Foundation (ENRF) aims to form a bridge between evidence and policy-making process and act as a contact point for EU policy-makers and politicians. The Foundation has the ambition to become a reference point and add value to nursing research, translating knowledge into health policy, thus enhancing the EU health policy agenda.

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