



Advancing Nursing Research

ENRF Newsletter

May 2020



Dear ENRF colleagues and Friends,

Researchers across Europe and beyond are living in a critical moment. Their skills are needed more than ever on all fronts; from vaccine production to the epidemiological, economic, social and organisational dimensions of living with and responding to COVID-19.

The COVID-19 outbreak has impacted us all, but most specifically those who tragically have lost their lives. We must do all that we can to remember the lives of colleagues and mark their contributions. The pandemic continues to have a significant impact on citizens and patients. There are rising concerns regarding the short and long-term consequences of government approved restrictive measures on mental health, such as the lockdowns in which many of us are currently living in. Some nursing and care staff are already expressing high levels of mental health symptoms.

Inevitably, public attention has shifted to the new coronavirus outbreak, and the majority of government and EU institutions' focus will be placed on COVID-19 research and innovation. Much current research will have been paused and this may mean that researchers will experience more difficulties to fund their projects and research.

However, within every crisis lies the possibility of opportunity and those able to advance new research in the field of COVID-19 can benefit from new funds being made available at the [EU Level](#). The ENRF congratulates researchers for their flexibility and ongoing efforts to adapt and find new avenues to put their skills to good use and advance an impactful research agenda.

Part of the European Commission's response has been to extend some Horizon 2020 calls deadlines, including those on health, until 18 June 2020. The ENRF encourage nursing researchers to take advantage of this extension to build strong consortia and apply for Horizon2020 funds to finance their upcoming [research projects](#).

Nurses are at the forefront of the world's response to Covid-19 and will play a crucial part in devising strategic policy and operational solutions to prevent a crisis such as this from recurring. Within this context, the ENRF is more committed than ever to promoting the impact of research and urges all EU institutions, Governments and health stakeholders to value and fund nursing research at this critical moment.

Anne Marie Rafferty
ENRF President

ENRF News

New Governing Board Elected

In January 2020, in accordance with the Foundation [Constitution and Internal Regulation](#), the EFN Members elected a new ENRF Board, constituted of 3 members, for a 2-year mandate (2020-2022). The new Board of Directors are Anne Marie Rafferty (ENRF President and Founding Director, Royal College of Nursing, UK), Izabella Uchmanowicz (ENRF Vice-President - Wroclaw Medical University, Poland) and Andreas Xyrichis (ENRF Treasurer - King's College, London, UK).

High-Level Meeting at the European Parliament

The ENRF, together with EFN and Nursing Now Europe, has organised a high-level meeting at the European Parliament, followed by a dinner-debate in the Member's Salon, where the hard work of nursing researchers globally was celebrated. Participants discussed the latest advancements of the digitalisation of the healthcare sector – including the nursing researcher perspective. It is key that nursing researchers take these opportunities to make their job more visible and valuable for all health-interested stakeholders. More information is available [here](#).

New Briefing Notes published

Since the beginning of 2020, the ENRF has already published three Briefing Notes to inform nursing researchers on the latest developments at the EU level, on the following topics: the EU Health Programme and how it links to nursing research (available [here](#)), Horizon 2020 – a European Country Analysis (available [here](#)) and the Health Programme 2014 –2020, the Budget's Allocation for 2020 (available [here](#)). All the ENRF Briefing Notes are available [here](#).

EU News

European programmes during COVID-19

After the coronavirus was announced as a pandemic, researchers started to notice that a lot of things changed regarding European programmes. The European Commission is always working focusing on the protection of European citizens in every way possible, and in all the European programmes changes have been made. More information is available [here](#).

Horizon 2020 deadlines extended

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the submission deadline for Horizon 2020 proposals for calls falling within Societal Challenge 1 (health, demographic change and wellbeing) have been postponed from 22 April 2020 to 18 June 2020. The European Commission may consider further extending this deadline, which would be communicated in due time. More information is available [here](#).

New research projects on Coronavirus

On 30 January 2020, the European Commission launched a request for expressions of interest entitled "SC1-PHE-CORONAVIRUS-2020: Advancing knowledge for the clinical and public health response to the [COVID-19] epidemic" with a budget of €10 million subsequently increased up to €48.5 million. Such rapid reaction is made possible by the standing budget line for emergency research funds that the Commission maintains as part of the Horizon 2020 annual work programmes for Health research. More information is available [here](#).

Health System Response Monitor: new tool to analyse COVID-19 response measures across European countries launched

The COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor (HSRM) online platform providing countries and stakeholders in the WHO European Region with evidence of how national health systems are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. More information is available [here](#).



Research Executive Agency business continuity measures

The European Commission's Research Executive Agency (REA) is taking several measures to minimise the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In this challenging moment, ensuring the safety and well-being of their staff and of the people they work with. More information is available [here](#).

European Commission launches data sharing platform for researchers

The European Commission together with several partners launched a European COVID-19 Data Platform to enable the rapid collection and sharing of available research data. The platform, part of the ERAVCorona Action Plan, marks another milestone in the EU's efforts to support researchers in Europe and around the world in the fight against the coronavirus outbreak. Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, said: "Launching the European COVID-19 Data Platform is an important concrete measure for stronger cooperation in fighting the coronavirus. Building on our dedicated support for open science and open access over the years, now is the time to step up our efforts and stand united with our researchers. Through our joint efforts, we will better understand, diagnose and eventually overpower the pandemic." More information, as well as access to the platform is available [here](#). The President of the European Commission, Ms Ursula von der Leyen, has made a video declaration in this topic which is available [here](#).

GloPID-R, a new network major research funding organisations

The Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness has set a network to tackle the COVID-19 crisis, named GloPID-R. This network brings together funding bodies investing in research related to new or re-emerging infectious diseases. More information is available [here](#).

EIT Health funds COVID-19 Rapid Response

EIT Health is providing more than €6 million in funding for short-term projects to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic as part of its Rapid Response initiative. These projects focus on immediate and impactful solutions that arm health services with better tools in navigating the pandemic. More information is available [here](#).

R&D Commissioner aims to 'revitalise' European Research Area

Bulgarian Commissioner Mariya Gabriel says her priorities for the next 5 years include the establishment of a 'European Knowledge Strategy' that would try to integrate policies for the movement of ideas, researchers and students around the EU, and include a revamp of the European Research Area - an EU effort to get research communities across the EU collaborating more easily. She is also aiming at reducing the east-west performance gap. She wants to "revitalise" efforts to create a real single market for research, education and innovation, bridging the performance gap between eastern and western Europe. This is a key point for nursing research to follow closely. More information is available [here](#).

New Horizon Europe partnership on pandemics

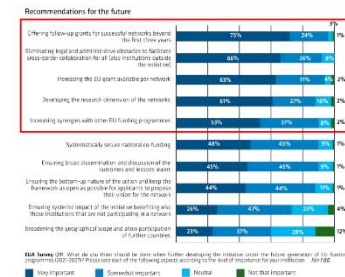
The European Parliament Research and Industry Committee (ITRE) discussed with EU research Commissioner, Mariya Gabriel, on a new research partnership on pandemics preparedness and societal resilience for the EU's next research and innovation programme. This is good news for nurses and nursing research. It is about post-coronavirus economic recovery and prevent future pandemics. Nurses have a say on this! "Research and innovation should and will be key to ensure sustainable and inclusive recovery", Gabriel said. More information is available [here](#).

Erasmus+ 2021 - 2027

One of Europe's biggest financial frameworks the Erasmus plus program has been renewed for yet another seven years. In particular, according to the European Commission, the new funding will be increasing significantly.

The program will have triple the amount of money it had the previous seven years. That action alone is enough to allow more people to take part in the programme and adapt grants to their needs. More information is available [here](#).

Call for increased funding and less red tape in European Universities Initiative



According to the [EUA survey](#) on International strategic institutional partnerships and the European Universities Initiative, covering 219 universities in 34 European countries, higher education institutions across Europe call on the European Commission to increase funding and cut red tape for European Universities Initiative.

More information is available [here](#).

Interesting Reading

Interview with Bergen University rector, Dag Rune Olsen

Bergen University rector, Dag Rune Olsen, foresees a renewed fight in Brussels over the European Research Council budget. "Short-termism is the most dangerous threat when we deal with crises", he says. Researchers need to gird themselves for a renewed battle in Brussels over basic research funding, after putting his signature to a petition calling for the €2 billion a year budget for the European Research Council (ERC), to be safeguarded. The full article is available [here](#).

The role of digital government in the European semester process 2019



The European Commission has published a study examining how modern and efficient public administrations are necessary to ensure fast and high-quality services for firms and citizens. This, in turn, may lead to more efficient public spending and increase the focus on measures reinforcing economic growth. In this context, the use of ICT and the deployment of digital public services are instrumental to achieve both efficiency gains and reduce costs. Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) and National Reform Programmes (NRPs) are essential instruments to set and implement the reform priorities of each Member State. The full publication is available [here](#).

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EU global response to coronavirus

The European Commission has published a report examining the response to the coronavirus outbreak globally, with the aim to support partner countries. They argue that a strong European response in support of EU partners is the only way to put an end to the spread of the virus and to avoid spill over effects on social stability and security in partner countries. This publication is accessible [here](#).



Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions: Pocket guide



The EU's Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions fund all kind of opportunities for researchers from Europe and beyond. The European Commission has compiled a starter booklet giving the needed information to make the right first choice. It is aimed at people who are considering a doctoral degree or looking for partnerships between academic and non-academic organisations or staff exchanges. The guide is accessible, for free, [here](#).