



Advancing Nursing Research

# ENRF Newsletter

## July 2021



Dear ENRF colleagues and Friends,

Before we all take a well-deserved summer break, we still would like to share with you the latest EU news that is of key interest for nursing research.

For more than a year now we are all living in a different and challenging reality, and especially our nursing colleagues and frontline professionals. Research has been playing a key role - not only in creating a COVID-19 vaccine, but also in supporting and evaluating nursing innovations. Nurses have led the charge in the delivery of the vaccination programme in Europe & worldwide. Now as we reset services, we face new challenges in responding to Covid surges and contributing to a recovery process. The health and science sectors have been severely tested and forced to work under difficult conditions and under increased pressure. And all over Europe, and the world, the key players, including nurses, continue to work hard to overcome this health crisis. Lots of lessons have been learned from this crisis, central to moving forward is the need to capture these and scale up the spread of best practice. Amongst these the need to digitalize features prominently to make the health sector more accessible and tackle growing health inequalities. In this context, increased EU funds have been allocated at EU level to support research and innovation priorities to create a more sustainable future, and to guarantee the possibility of achieving learning in innovative and digital health technologies.

Another lesson learned is the vital role citizens play in design and prioritisation of research as well as contributing to innovation and supporting better alignment between outcomes with the values, needs and expectations of society. It is essential to remember how important the involvement of the citizens, including nurses and nursing researchers are to the scientific endeavour and generation of R&I impact. Citizens are an important ally for future nursing research to improve the research results quality and impact.

Hope you will enjoy reading our newsletter.

Professor Dame Anne Marie Rafferty  
ENRF President

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### ENRF News

#### New Briefing Notes published

The ENRF continues committed in informing its Nursing Research Reference Points on the latest key EU developments related to research and innovation, and advising the European Commission and European Parliament, bringing nursing research excellence and impact to the EU policy co-creation process. Since our last Newsletter in April 2021, the ENRF published several new Briefing Notes on Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, gender equality, and on citizens involvement in research. See: [EU4Health Programme](#); [Gender Equality in Research & Innovation](#); [Gender Equality in Horizon Europe](#); [Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values \(CERV\) work programme 2021-2022](#); [Horizon Europe – Get Prepared for Submission](#); [Erasmus+](#); [Citizens Science - Involvement of citizens in co-creating Science Agenda](#). All the ENRF Briefing Notes are available [here](#).

#### ENRF Policy Briefs

In the context of its work development, and on the basis of the current health research priorities in the European Union, the ENRF has now developed 3 Policy Briefs on: [Care Left Undone](#), [Digitalisation](#), [Mentorship](#),

in line with the [ENRF SORP 2017-2020](#). These aim at informing the EU policy design, based on existing nursing research, and by engaging nursing researchers, to help to promote the sustainability of European healthcare systems by contributing new knowledge for EU health policies, such as the prevention of disease and the promotion of health. The Policy Briefs are available [here](#).

#### ENRF Board Directors meeting



As in the previous years, the ENRF Board of Directors (BoD) continues meeting on regular basis to discuss the ENRF current priorities and developments, as approved by the EFN General Assembly in October 2019, Greece. Meeting in February, and

in May, the Directors focused on the development of the 3 ENRF Policy Briefs, the review of the ENRF Constitution, and ENRF next steps and topics of key interest for the nurses and nursing research, as digitalisation, to be taken further by the ENRF. It is key that nursing research paves the way for the nursing workforce, running the daily practice on the frontline, to upscale innovation and new solutions. The next BoD meeting will take place on 31<sup>st</sup> August.

### EU News

#### Getting prepare for the Erasmus+ Program!

The [Erasmus+ Program](#) published the first annual work program, the first [call for proposals](#) and the new [Program Guide](#). € 26,2 billions, almost doubled compared to the previous period 2014-2020 (€ 14,7 billions), will be allocated with the purpose to fund learning mobility and cross-border cooperation projects for 10 million European citizens of all ages and from all social background. The Erasmus+ Program plans to pursue the following objectives: 1/ Be more inclusive to facilitate reaching the most disadvantaged people and realities; 2/ Be more digital to encourage digital exchanges. For this, some online platforms as [eTwinning](#), [School Education Gateway](#) and [the European portal for young people](#) are available; 3/ Be greener - the program will favour participants who use sustainable means of transport and will invest in awareness-raising projects on environmental issues; 4/ Address more to young people - [DiscoverEU programs](#) becomes an integral part of the Erasmus+. The Erasmus+ program will allow teachers and young people to improve their skills and knowledge discovering new programs and forms of learning. Learning new skills and new methods can have a positive impact on nursing research activity and on nursing education. This program gives a great opportunity to implement nursing research outcomes by learning important lessons from different countries. The Erasmus+ Program is the opportunity to improve results and improve oneself. Do not miss the opportunity!



#### Getting prepared for Horizon Europe 2020



The European Commission presented the [first Strategic Plan for Horizon Europe](#) allocating € 95,5 billion in research and innovation to create a more sustainable future. The plan establishes that the EU research and innovation actions concur to implement [EU priorities](#), which include a greener Europe, better economy

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ENRF Newsletter  
July 2021

and a Europe able to welcome and manage the digital transformation. The [Strategic Plan 2021-2024](#) defines how the investments will be allocated in each sector providing 4 different strategic orientations: 1/ Promote strategic autonomy to implement the development of a digital and technological society; 2/ Restore Europe's ecosystem and biodiversity; 3/ Make Europe the first economy climate-neutral, sustainable and digital; 4/ Create a more resilient, inclusive and democratic society. In this process, international cooperation is essential. Indeed, the strategic plan identifies the [European co-funded and co-programmed partnerships](#) and the [EU missions](#) supported through Horizon Europe. The partnerships will include areas as energy, transport, biodiversity, health, food and circularity, and will complete the ten [Institutionalised European Partnerships](#) proposed by the European Commission in February. The first [calls for proposals](#) were presented at the [European Research and Innovation Days](#) on 23-24 June. Following these 2-days policy-related discussions, the European Commission is organising [info-days sessions](#) on the programme topics to provide the future applicants and other stakeholders of EU research and innovation the opportunity to get information and ask questions about main funding instruments. The topics included in the Cluster 1 'Health' work programme of 2021 will be discussed on the [session on 2 July](#). This Horizon Europe Info Day will be open for participation without prior registration!

The [standard proposal template](#) and the [General Model Grant Agreement](#) are available for consultation. Horizon Europe becomes the greatest tool to implement a resilient health industry, more competitive and sustainable. In this context, nursing research can benefit from this large budget and contribute to obtain the best possible results for the development of a strong and high-quality healthcare system able of facing present and future challenges.

### The European Commission launches the pact for Research and Innovation in Europe

The [European Research Area](#) (ERA), launched in 2000, aimed to better coordinate the Europe Research and Innovation Activities among Europe, Member States, their Regions and Stakeholders. After 20 years, the European Council asked the European Commission to relaunch it revising the policy priorities, governance and monitoring at national and EU level. In order to define common values and principles, the European Commission established a [Roadmap for the Pact for Research & Innovation](#) opened for feedback until 13 May 2021, and aiming to support the next policy initiatives and policy targets to reform and create a modern European Research Area. The pact for Research & Innovation (R&I) aims to guide new policy directions and to monitor the progress made by the EU Member States. It also establishes priority areas for joint action in green and digital transition. The values and principles will cover areas as: freedom of scientific research, the pursuit of excellence and socio-economic valorisation, gender equality, and open access or career conditions for researchers. ERA can give a greater opportunity for the improvement and implementation of nursing research and innovation activities.

### The European Research Council (ERC) adopts new Gender Equality Plan 2021-2027

The [ERC](#) Scientific Council adopted the [Gender Equality Plan](#) for the duration of the Horizon Europe programme (2021-2027). The main [achievement](#) of the ERC since the [first Gender Equality Plan](#) is the equality in success rates for female and male applicants to ERC calls. While still lower than men the percentage of women applicants increased from 25% on average in FP7 to 28% in H2020, and the percentage of female grantees has grown from 20% to 27%. The ERC has also increased female representation in its Executive Agency, Scientific Council, and in its review panels. The ERC hopes to advance in the next few years is understand what makes highly qualified women not apply for ERC grants, and develop targeted encouragement actions for them.

### Citizens in science

Involving citizens in science is essential to reach important results that are in line with their needs. But how to do that? The [meeting](#) "*Citizens Science: involvement of citizens in co-creating the Science Agenda*", tried to give a first answer with Linden Ferrer (Policy Officer at the European Commission), Rasa Viederyte (EU-CONEXUS Research for Society Project Manager) and Leva Cesnulaityte (Policy Analyst at [OECD](#)) sharing their ideas and useful methods they use. The first method proposed was the [Open Access](#) based on open co-operation work, sharing of knowledge and tools, which can be useful to involve relevant knowledge actors as citizens, civil society and end-users. The [EU-CONEXUS Research for Society](#) aiming to implement an institutional transformation in all partner universities to create a multidisciplinary, challenge-driven, internationally and competitive research and innovation structure is seen as another key tool in this process of involving the citizens in science. Besides, an online platform called [EU Citizens Science](#) was created to share ideas, information, education and resources for citizens' science by the community for the community. Finally, two other "scouting" methods are seen as vital to involve citizens in science: 1/ Deliberative Democracy process based on a small, but representative groups of people, and 2/ Participatory Democracy process related to a large group of people based on self-selected participation. These are some important tools to involve citizens in science and to bring their contribution to research. Citizens can be strong allies for achieving excellent results in nursing research.

### Strengthening the voice of civil society in AI Debate

Building on the need to strengthen the voice of civil society in the Artificial Intelligence debate, the [European AI Fund](#) will grant €1.55 million to [16 public interest organisations](#) to be more visible, effective, and influence more the public and policy debates. Over the next five years the European Commission has the ambition to forge a plan for the Europe's [digital transformation](#), including AI. The European AI Fund is hosted by the [Network for European Foundations](#) (NEF), an association of leading European foundations, dedicated to strengthening philanthropic cooperation. NEF initiatives are open to foundations interested in joining forces in different strands of work (democracy, social inclusion, international development).

### Interesting Reading

#### Reducing the precarity of academic research careers

According to a [report](#) from the OECD "*Reducing the precarity of academic research careers*", which analyses academic research careers, with a focus on the "research precariat", defined as postdoctoral researchers holding fixed-term positions without permanent or continuous employment prospects, Academics are overworked and underpaid. The report presents nine overall policy recommendations and raises that countries are addressing research precarity by taking policy action in a variety of areas, such as recruitment, employment status, working conditions, professional development and mobility.



#### New EU copyright rules

The 7<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 marked the deadline for the EU Member States to transpose the new [EU Copyright Directive](#) into national law. This Directive aims at protecting creativity in the digital age, bringing concrete benefits to citizens, the creative sectors, the press, researchers, educators and cultural heritage institutions across the EU. It also includes new guarantees to fully protect the EU citizens' freedom of expression online and create further opportunities for using copyright-protected material online and across borders for education, research and preservation of cultural heritage purposes. Read more [here](#).