



**EUROPEAN NURSING RESEARCH
FOUNDATION**

Activity Report 2020

Table of Contents

Foreword	p. 3
I. EU Health & Research Agenda	p. 4
II. Governance	p. 6
III. Activities	p. 8
IV. Reference Points Network.....	p. 14
V. Communication	p. 15
VI. Conclusion	p. 17

Foreword

Dear ENRF Reference Points,

Dear EFN Members,

Dear Colleagues,

2020 was a very special year for all of us, with COVID-19 outbreak that took all in Europe by surprise. The quick spread of the disease across European countries took the toll at all levels of society, including the economy. The biggest impact was on the healthcare systems and the nursing workforce - with nurses, and the other healthcare professionals, working harder than ever before, in longer shifts, and with fewer resources.

In these difficult times, the ENRF continued to inform EU policy design, based on existing nursing research, and by engaging nursing researchers. In this way, ENRF helped 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, including through the encouragement of healthier lifestyles; equal opportunities for all European citizens as regards good health and quality healthcare; and evaluation of dynamic healthcare systems and new technologies. To achieve these goals, the ENRF focussed on its 2020 activities, based on the ENRF Strategic and Operational Research Plan ([SORP 2017-2020](#)). Key deliverables included the development of Policy Briefs on Care left Undone; Digitalisation of the healthcare sector with specific focus on the end-user co-designing Electronic Health Records (EHR); and on Continuous Professional Development with specific focus on Nursing Mentorship.

Throughout the pandemic, the ENRF continued its commitment to informing its Network of nurse researchers on the latest key EU developments on research and innovation; and to influencing the European Commission and European Parliament, through participating in EU meetings and responding to EU consultations to bring nursing research excellence and impact to the EU policy co-creation process.

It is therefore with great pleasure that we present you this ENRF Activity Report 2020, giving an overview of progress and achievements made during the year.

Hope you enjoy reading it.

Best Regards,

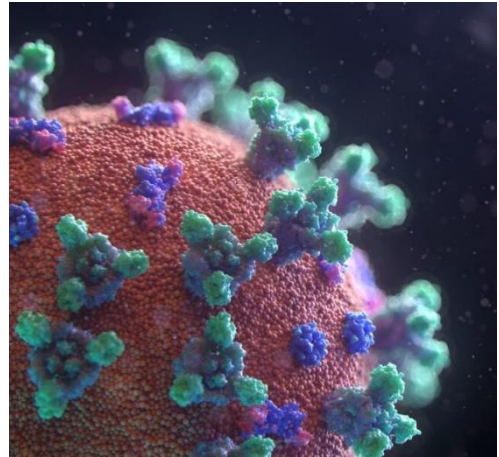
Prof Dame Anne Marie Rafferty
ENRF President

Dr. Paul De Raeve
ENRF Secretary General

I. EU HEALTH & RESEARCH AGENDA

As part of its [SORP 2017-2020](#), throughout 2020, the ENRF followed very closely the latest discussions and developments with regard to the EU health & research agenda. A key consideration was that the [Horizon 2020](#) EU framework programme was coming to an end and a new one - [Horizon Europe](#) - is starting in January 2021.

Nursing research has for many years been recognised as having a vital role to play in maintaining and promoting the health of European citizens while fostering the development of quality, efficient, and safe healthcare services. Over the past months, and due to COVID-19 crisis, EU researchers have been promised billions of euros in new research grants and programmes from governments and foundations around the world. The role of science in finding a vaccine, a cure, a strategy for coping with the pandemic was recognised and promoted by all health stakeholders, giving great opportunities for the nursing research community. But the key concern regarding these upcoming grants do not relate to the amount of money that will be allocated – it is more about where these funds will be allocated to. Especially in times of crisis, research policy spills over into many unresolved issues. The ENRF advocates that the majority of these should be allocated to nursing research.



Nursing researchers are now in the position to put forward the conclusions of their research to alleviate the situation at the frontline and should take this opportunity to team-up with health researchers from other disciplines and professions. This crisis has speeded and enabled research to move faster than during any previous outbreak. This is the time to coordinate the European and global research, including nursing research efforts.

Although the previous European Commission, under the mandate of Juncker, made clear that the Health Programme would be absorbed by other programmes into the enlarged “European Social Fund”, [COVID-19 has changed that perspective](#). It is important that nurse researchers prepare for this new way of thinking. Nursing research is key to contribute to the new EU Health Research Programme that would focus on improving health conditions across all EU Member States through better prevention, access, and treatment. Nursing research is essential to make new health innovations fit-for-practice.

The European Commission has re-drafted some parts of the Horizon Europe research programme to allocate €13.5B from the COVID-19 recovery fund into it:

“It’s clear that after the crisis we should reorient some of our priorities in a more strategic way. [...] One of the most important things is really to integrate our lessons learned during the crisis.” – Research Commissioner Mariya Gabriel has said.

This movement is in line with the European Union priorities in the coming years to ensure that healthcare systems are resilient enough to cope well with future pandemic and health emergencies. This is also aligned with the lobby efforts carried out in 2020 in cooperation with the European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) and the ENRF to make sure that the EU institutions put a greater focus on healthcare preparedness and investments in the nursing workforce. All these recommendations are compiled in [a report on lessons learned during the Ebola and COVID-19 crisis](#), the main conclusion of which is that “we are not prepared unless we are all prepared”. Unfortunately, as for Ebola, we were not prepared to face a crisis such COVID-19.

Horizon Europe: Structure



Investing in [research and innovation](#) is investing in Europe's future, in knowledge and new solutions to maintain and improve the European way of life. Horizon Europe will support European Partnerships to deliver on global [challenges](#) and industrial modernisation through concerted R&I effort with the Member States, private sector, foundations and other stakeholders.

Nursing researchers should build strong consortiums to apply for funds within the

new Horizon Europe research framework, for which the European research ministers agreed on a budget of €94 billion for the period 2021-2027. Nurse researchers are in a strong position to bridge academia with the reality of frontline nursing - especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their expertise is needed by the EU citizens. In this process, the [national contact points](#) have a [key role to play](#) in providing guidance, practical information and assistance on all aspects of participation in framework programmes.

The ENRF will continue following this up very closely in 2021 and seek opportunities for collaboration under the new EU framework programme – Horizon Europe.

For more information on this topic, refer to the following ENRF Briefing Notes published in 2020:

- ✓ [How to get prepared for Horizon Europe!](#) (December 2020)
- ✓ [The role of NCPs in Horizon Europe](#) (November 2020)
- ✓ [European Research & Innovation Days 2020](#) (September 2020)
- ✓ [Bridging the Implementation Gap Between Nursing Research, the General Data Protection Regulation, and Artificial Intelligence](#) (September 2020)
- ✓ [Co-creation & Co-design with the end-users – Real time data for the European Health Data Space](#) (July 2020)
- ✓ [EU's Health Budget and European Health Data Space](#) (May 2020)
- ✓ [Health Programme 2014–2020 - The Budget's Allocation for 2020](#) (February 2020)
- ✓ [Horizon 2020 a European Country Analysis](#) (January 2020)

More ENRF Briefing Notes on the topic are available on the [ENRF Website](#).

II. GOVERNANCE

In terms of governance, all EFN Members are entitled to nominate and elect the ENRF Board of Directors (BoD), composed by four representatives - elected from the EFN Members, and by the EFN members, of which one is the Founding Director, representing the EFN voice, and the ENRF Secretary General. 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 research plan – SORP \(2017-2020\)](#) that contains a set of values, content and theme for the Foundation to work on.

A. Board Members (2020-2022)

The ENRF [governing body](#) is currently composed by three Directors for a 2-year mandate (2020-2022), elected through online elections on 15-16 January 2020: 1 Founding EFN Director - Anne Marie Rafferty (Royal College of Nursing - UK - *ENRF President*) (38 votes in favour); and 2 EFN Directors - Izabella Uchmanowicz (Wroclaw Medical University - Poland - *ENRF Vice-President*) (33 votes in favour); and Andreas Xyrichis (King's College London - UK/Cyprus - *ENRF Treasurer*) (37 votes in favour); + the ENRF Secretary General, Paul De Raeve. As a result, the new ENRF Board of Directors is constituted as follow:

- Founding EFN Director and ENRF President:



Anne Marie Rafferty
Royal College of Nursing - UK

- EFN Directors:



Izabella Uchmanowicz
Wroclaw Medical University – Poland
ENRF Vice-President



Andreas Xyrichis
King's College London – UK
ENRF Treasurer

- ENRF Secretary General:



Paul De Raeve

B. Board of Directors meetings 2020

In 2020, the new ENRF Board of Directors (BoD) met 2 times online: on 5 March and on 7 September. **The 5 March BoD meeting** was a good opportunity for the ENRF Director to know each other and discuss key points to be taken further over the year, including: the ENRF constitutional changes as approved by the EFN October 2019 General Assembly, in Greece; the development of the first ENRF Policy Briefs to achieve concrete outcomes – Topics approved: ‘Care left Undone’; ‘Digitalisation’ (as follow-up of the Nursing Now EFN event in the European Parliament on 05/02/2020); ‘Nursing Mentorship’ (related to Erasmus+ project - QualMent, in which the EFN is a partner), to be presented to the ENRF BoD meeting in September 2020. The BoD discussed and endorsed the ENRF budget Plan 2020, and elected the ENRF President (Anne Marie Rafferty), Vice-President (Izabella Uchmanowicz), and Treasurer (Andreas Xyrichis). **On 7 September**, the ENRF Directors discussed the ongoing work as approved at the previous BoD meeting (5 March). The ENRF President explained that due to COVID-19 all the developments foreseen could not be taken forward. The BoD agreed on new deadlines to come up with the agreed deliverables to be discussed and approved at the next ENRF BoD in February 2021.



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 2020, the February and September EFN Executive Committee meetings were informed on the ongoing developments of the Foundation. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 pandemic, and the cancellation of the April 2020 EFN Brussels General Assembly the EFN Members were only informed on the ENRF ongoing work at the EFN online General Assembly, in October 2020. ENRF President explained that the ENRF is currently working on three nursing research policy briefs – all to be completed by February 2020, and that they are reviewing the ENRF’s constitution, as requested by the October 2019 EFN General Assembly. She then informed the EFN Members of the importance of strengthening the ENRF Reference Points, appointed by the EFN Members.

D. ENRF Brussels' Office

In 2020, the ENRF Brussels Office, consisting of the Secretary General and the Secretary, supported by consultants in the area of Accounting, Social Security System, Web and IT management, Legal Affairs and on specific health, research & innovation policy areas, continued focussing on implementing the [ENRF SORP 2017-2020](#). Translating the EU political journey into the ‘language’ of nursing researchers, through the ENRF Newsletters, Press Releases and Briefing Notes, bridges the distance between Brussels and EU nursing researchers. Informing and keeping them up to speed is essential to put them in an advanced position to take nursing research & innovation further at EU and national level. As such, having an Office in Brussels equipped with experienced staff, and empowering researchers to exchange views on specific EU health, research & innovation areas, are key for the ENRF Office.

Over the year, the ENRF Office also made sure that all the administration burden was up to date and complying with the Belgium and the EU legislation (Moniteur Belge, Mensura, Social Security, EU transparency registry, etc.), taking into account all the updates to be made, including the regular information requested by both the Belgium administration and the European Commission.

2020 was challenging for nurses all over the globe, with the profession relentlessly caring for millions of citizens in unprecedented challenging times due to COVID-19. Although the pandemic obliged us all to lockdown for few weeks and to work online, the ENRF continued its work of informing the future of EU nursing research, by monitoring the work of the EU Institutions and focussing on integrating nursing research into the EU policy arena. 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.

In compliance with the agreement of the October 2019 EFN General Assembly, in Greece, due to EFN Members reflection on the future of the Foundation, the ENRF 2020 activities were 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 is taken by the EFN General Assembly. This meant for the ENRF Office the circulation of only two Newsletters over the year, fewer Briefing Notes, attending fewer meetings, less frequent engagement with social media, etc. At the same time, ENRF sought to keep the EFN Members, the ENRF Board of Directors and the ENRF Reference Points informed on the key topics for nursing research, including the ongoing EU discussions at central moments. Below are some of the key activities undertaken in 2020.

A. Policy Briefs

The ENRF cooperates closely with EFN to understand the research evidence the EFN needs to underpin EFN political lobby objectives, and as such prioritise ENRF research activities, and generate knowledge and evidence to support the work of EFN. As agreed by the October 2019 EFN General Assembly, in Greece, the ENRF has been requested to develop a few Policy Briefs as first ENRF concrete activities, to support the EFN Members and EFN EU lobby process. The ENRF agreed on key topics and developed, in 2020, 3 key Policy Briefs on areas of scientific and political interest, as approved by the ENRF BoD, on the basis of the current health research priorities in the European Union: Care left Undone; Digitalisation; Nursing Mentorship. These Policy Briefs will be discussed at the ENRF BoD meeting in February 2021, to be presented to the EFN Executive Committee and EFN General Assembly in 2021.

B. Review of the ENRF Constitution

Taking into account the reflection of the EFN Members over 2019 on the future of the ENRF, the EFN Members approved in October 2019 to review the ENRF Constitution, taking into account the recommendations of the EFN Working Group on the future of the ENRF, and of the EFN Executive Committee. This has been done over 2020 as key priority for the ENRF BoD to work on. The final version will be discussed at the BoD meeting in February 2021, to be presented to the EFN Executive Committee and EFN General Assembly in 2021.

C. Input to the European Commission Consultations

Answering European Commission consultations is a great opportunity to increase the ENRF visibility and to make sure nursing researchers' voice is heard at the EU political level. The ENRF always provides [input](#) to the European Commission consultations when seen relevant. Unfortunately, in 2020 due to the crisis, no major EU consultations were made available for the ENRF to provide input.

D. 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. Notable examples are the **EFN-ENRF-Nursing Now** event on Digitalisation, bringing together 150 non-nurses participants; and the meeting with the European Commission DG RTD (Cancer Mission) to explore where the ENRF and nursing research could support the future research agenda and Horizon Europe Mission on Cancer (*See below the meetings the ENRF participated in*).

The ENRF will continue to participate in key EU events and look to build reliable alliances with key EU health and social care stakeholders, and policy and decision-makers, to ensure that nursing research climbs higher on the EU Research and Innovation Agenda. The ENRF Office will continue this important alliance building in 2021, keeping in mind the new EU framework programme – [Horizon Europe](#), that can bring key alliances within EU projects and policy developments on nursing research and innovation.

E. 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. Below are some examples of meetings the ENRF Office attended in 2020:

- **Cancer-related comorbidities and complications - 2020 activities meeting, 09 January 2020, Brussels** - Meeting hosted by [Acumen Public Affairs](#) to discuss the cancer-related comorbidities and complications initiative and the statement sent to Commissioners Stella Kyriakides (DG Sante), Maryia Gabriel (DG Research) and Ursula van der Leyen (European Commission President). The participants had the opportunity to discuss the possibility of writing a research paper (White Paper) to give a scientific back-up to the chronic co-morbidities derived from cancer. The ENRF is following-up this development to get involved when needed.
- **European Cancer Forum - Towards a New Era in Cancer Care, 28 January 2020, Brussels** - Cancer is getting higher in the EU's political health/ Research agenda. This meeting brought together decision-makers, scientific leaders, patient groups, industry partners to discuss the new era in cancer care in Europe, including the latest developments in cancer treatment and if we can expect a cancer cure in the near future. Taking this further, [the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan](#) consultation has been launched, and three groups in the European Parliament have been formed to advance the cancer agenda in Europe.

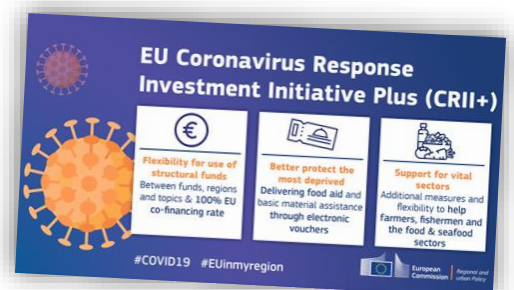


- **EFN-ENRF-Nursing Now event on Digitalisation (End-User Engagement and Research), 5 February 2020, European Parliament** - The ENRF, together with EFN and Nursing Now Europe, organised a high-level meeting at the European Parliament, followed by a diner-debate, to celebrate the hard work of nurses and nursing researchers in Europe.

Participants discussed the latest advancements of the digitalisation of the healthcare sector - including the nursing researcher perspective. Professor Dame Anne Marie Rafferty, ENRF Founding Director & President, took this opportunity to ease the audience into how Florence Nightingale's work still links to what the ENRF is trying to achieve today. During her intervention she explained that nursing research is very important in the transformation of healthcare, to ensure that the solutions discovered and applied are fit-for-purpose and suitable for the end-user. Participants (MEPs, civil servants from the European Commission, diplomats and other international health-related stakeholders) discussed the importance of the upcoming EU research fund, Horizon Europe, that will bring opportunities for nursing researchers to join strong consortiums and apply for research projects. See the report of the meeting [here](#).



- **Nursing Now Webinar, 25 March 2020, Online**, organised by the World Health Organisation to discuss the [State of the World's Nursing Report](#) - its contents, aim and the way stakeholders contributed to it. To take health and nursing to the next stage, it is key that nurses work together, bringing together nursing leaders, representatives, workforce and researchers.
- **Webinar on "COVID-19 and Horizon: What is to be done?", 8 April 2020, Online** - [Webinar](#) aiming to discuss the role of research, policy and the funds spent in emergency research under Horizon 2020. Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, the European Commission has announced hundreds of millions of euros in emergency research funding under Horizon 2020 to help find vaccines, cure and better coping strategies. The main discussions showed that in times of pandemics large-scale long-term research projects are needed to tackle this challenge.
- **Science-Business Webinar "Better prepared: Strengthening health systems for a post- COVID world", 28 April 2020, Online** - The [meeting](#) brought together leaders from policy, science, clinical practice and industry to discuss how to redefine 'preparedness' for the health systems and how to rethink health skills, training, education during this COVID-19 crisis, as its impact has driven health systems in Europe and beyond under an unprecedented level of strain, in terms of both the physical and human resources being used to fight its spread. Nursing Researchers have a key role to play in this to be better prepared for future pandemics.
- **Politico Webinar "Managing Chronic diseases in time of Coronavirus", 27 May 2020, Online**, to [discuss](#) on how to prepare health systems to avoid a vicious circle for chronic patients during and in the aftermath of the coronavirus crisis. The European Commission has proposed a new set of measures to mobilise support against the COVID-19 outbreak. Namely, it is the



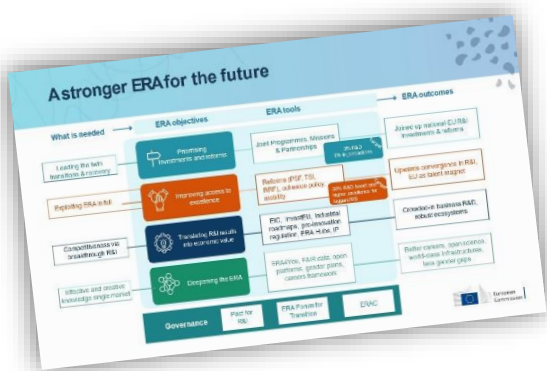
Coronavirus [Response Investment Initiative Plus](#) (CRII+). It is key that [nursing researchers](#) across Europe benefit from the CRII+ and other EU funds to better tackle the COVID-19 crisis as well as the challenges that our healthcare systems are currently facing.

- **Science-Business Webinar “Real world data: Transforming the future of European health?”, 30 June 2020, Online** – This [event](#) brought together EU Commission and EU stakeholders representatives to explore the implications of real world, real time data for the anticipated European Health Data Space, a revitalised European Research Area, as well as other key digital policies such as the European approach to Artificial Intelligence and data strategy. The COVID-19 outbreak has taught us that we need to focus a lot more on healthcare at the EU level. Preparedness is key. The data ecosystem also plays a key role as data is in so many health-related places, next to health literacy, also an area in which the EU should do a lot more. When it comes to [research](#), the EU needs to cooperate with all levels of civil society – including patients. The next step is to have very targeted funding for concrete projects on the trendiest topics. We need to increase the budget for Horizon Europe as well as allocate funds to the new EU4Health Programme, and build partnerships and cooperation and give rapid funding to timely projects. In Europe we have the needed leadership. International cooperation is possible and is positive for the EU, but at the same time, the EU values, principles, and interest need to be always defended.
- **Scientific Panel for Health webinar 'Recommendations for health research in Europe - Design for Impact', 13 July 2020, Online** - The European Commission's Scientific Panel for Health (SPH) is a science-led expert group based on the provisions of the Horizon 2020 Specific Programme, which is tasked with helping to achieve better health and wellbeing for all. The Panel's main roles were to provide foresight and overall vision and strategy, as well as, to identify bottlenecks to innovation and propose solutions in the area of health and biomedical research. The aim of this [webinar](#) was to present the SPH recommendations on how to advance health research in Europe to ensure that research is designed for positive impact – that includes co-designing with citizens and patients, as developed in SPH events with extensive stakeholder engagement during the SPH's mandate of the past 5 years.
- **Bridging the Gap Between New Technologies, Health Research and the Protection of Personal Data conference, 18 September 2020, Online**, organised by the University of Vienna (Austria) to [explore](#) the rise of new technologies (new algorithms and artificial intelligence) and address the debates surrounding the regulatory framework and use of new technologies in the healthcare sector, in particular, in light of privacy and data protection.



- **European Research & Innovation Days 2020, 22-24 September 2020, Online.** This European Commission's annual flagship [Research and Innovation event](#), brings together policymakers, researchers, entrepreneurs and the public to [debate](#) and shape the future of research and innovation in Europe and beyond. By creating connections between cutting-edge scientific research and the most pressing challenges of a generation, the European Research and Innovation Days represent a unique opportunity to join the conversation and enact real change.

- **European Parliament Interest Group on Innovation in Health and Care “Transforming healthcare: A European healthcare workforce” Virtual Roundtable, on 1st October 2020, Online**, organised by Heath First Europe, to [discuss](#) on prioritising innovation on the EU health and social care agenda, raising awareness of patient-centric solutions for sustainable, accessible and resilient health systems, and implementing innovative solutions for patients and healthcare professionals. The Parliamentary Interest Group is an important vehicle not only to support MEPs in their work on public health, but to help bring forward concrete ideas and solutions for the many challenges we face as citizens when it comes to accessing high quality health and social care.
- **ENRF meeting with the European Commission DG RTD (Cancer Mission), 10 November 2020, Online**, to explore where the ENRF and nursing research could support the future research agenda and Horizon Europe Mission on Cancer. The ENRF President explained that for the ENRF it is key to build synergies with the European Commission and optimise nurses’ contribution and impact to the EU policies. Nurses are always taking innovation (developed by others) and use it, but it is time that nurses are also the innovators. Nurses have a key role to play in this. And in terms of cancer, nurses have a huge experience (advanced practice) that is key in the innovative work they are doing every day.
- **Horizon Europe Belgian launch event, 12 November 2020, Online**, coordinated by the Belgium National Contact Points (NCPs), to [discuss](#) on the new EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (Horizon Europe) and share experiences, lessons learnt when participating in Horizon 2020 actions. This meeting was also aiming at presenting the NCPs that exist in Belgium and to whom we can turn to for advice regarding the Framework Programmes.
- **Meeting the European Commission DG Research, 23 November 2020, Online**, to explore how nursing research can create resilient healthcare in the EU and Europe, and discuss the availability of EU funds (ref. upcoming [EU4Health](#) programme - managed by DG Sante) to fund nursing research and/or to alleviate the pressure of nurses at the frontline of healthcare – including the 30% of nurses who have already left the profession.



- **Virtual Conference “One Hour with Europe: A new ERA for Research and Innovation”, 24 November 2020, Online**, organised by the Norwegian University of Science and Technology ([NTNU](#)) in cooperation with the Norwegian Contact Office for Research, Innovation and Education ([NORCORE](#)) on EU funds for research and innovation. This [conference](#) provided up to date information on what is happening in the EU institutions, on the latest developments in terms of funding, and the future opportunities that the various EU initiatives hold for researchers – including [nursing researchers](#).

- **Virtual event “European research and innovation beyond 2020”, on 1st December 2020, Online**. Organised by Politico, this [event](#) gathered key European research policymakers, industry leaders and experts to discuss on what to expect in Horizon Europe and what it means for Europe’s research and innovation.

- **Webinar “An introduction to Horizon Europe”, on 3 December 2020, Online.** Organised by EMDESK Academy in cooperation with Europa Media Training, the [webinar](#) was aiming to learn about the structure of Horizon Europe - the upcoming research and innovation Programme, what is most likely to be funded, what are the major changes in the proposal templates, the main differences in evaluation, reporting, and finance.
- **Workshop “Introduction to Need-led Innovation in Healthcare”, on 10 December 2020, Online.** Organised by the [EIT Health Fellowship Network](#), the participants could [explore](#) what ‘Need-led Innovation’ means in health care innovation and learn how to apply the methodology to drive results in their organisations. They also had the opportunity to discuss potential collaborations around need-led innovation for the BP2022 call.

IV. REFERENCE POINTS NETWORK

The aim of the Foundation is to foster the dialogue between researchers, practitioners and policy-makers/politicians, in order to build a common research capacity by providing concrete solutions for reformed health and social care systems with a highly skilled, motivated and qualified nursing care workforce, as set out in the EFN Strategic and Operational Lobby Plan ([SOLP](#)). It is therefore important to establish links with various national reference points, nominated by the EFN members across Europe, which will enable the ENRF to have a direct link to national nursing researchers and other academics in the field of nursing.

Close collaboration gives benefits to both parties: giving the ENRF a link to all EU Members States strengthening the ENRF capacity to support EFN EU policy work, and the national reference points get more visibility at European level and as such increase their research potential to respond to the main health issues in Europe. The National Reference Points also have opportunities to collaborate on research bids with colleagues across Europe: the ENRF becoming a facilitator for research, not a competitor.

On the other hand, 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 Brussels' Office 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 Institutions 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. As such, the EFN Members regularly provide input to this list, making sure this is updated and as accurate as possible. This is the strength of the ENRF which can build their capacity to get to the EU Institutions.

In 2020, the ENRF Office made sure to provide the reference points with as much information as possible on ongoing EU developments on research that could be helpful for nursing research, through the ENRF Briefing Notes, Newsletters, Press Releases, etc. the ENRF Office circulated to them and to the EFN Members.

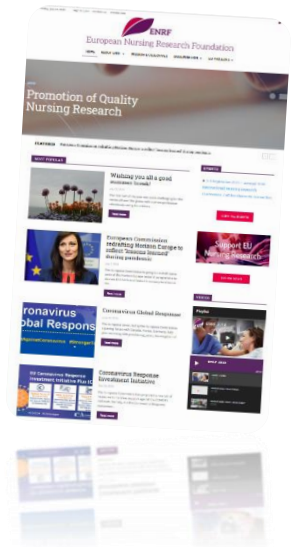
The ENRF will continue building on this network in 2021.

V. COMMUNICATION

Crucial to enhance effectiveness, communicating on the ENRF activities is necessary to increase its visibility, to get the message across, to engage ENRF reference points to the work of the ENRF, and to raise awareness at EU level. In 2020, in order to share important information on nursing research at EU level, the ENRF Board of Directors, the ENRF Reference Points, and the EFN members, received on regular basis the ENRF [Briefing Notes](#), and the [ENRF Newsletter](#). The ENRF Office also regularly updated the [ENRF Website Homepage](#).

✂ ENRF Website

Updated on regular basis with key information/news, the ENRF Website (www.enrf.eu) aims 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, Constitution and Internal Regulation, mission and objectives, and Dissemination (Newsletters, Briefing Notes, Press Releases, input to the EU, articles). The Website is managed by the Brussels' Office and will evolve alongside the Foundation.



✂ ENRF Newsletter



In 2020, the ENRF Office published only 2 Newsletters: [May](#) and [December](#). As Founding organisation, the EFN also takes the opportunity to mention the ENRF in its Newsletter ('[EFN Update](#)') when it is seen relevant. As 2020 was a year of setting up the priorities 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 2020 several key Briefing Notes: [Horizon 2020 a European Country Analysis \(January 2020\)](#); [Health Programme 2014–2020, The Budget's Allocation for 2020 \(February 2020\)](#); [EU's Health Budget and European Health Data Space \(May 2020\)](#); [Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Plus \(May 2020\)](#); [Co-creation & Co-design with the end-users – Real time data for the European Health Data Space \(July 2020\)](#); [Bridging the Implementation Gap Between Nursing Research, the General Data Protection Regulation, and Artificial Intelligence \(September 2020\)](#); [European Research & Innovation Days 2020 \(September 2020\)](#); [The role of NCPs in Horizon Europe \(November 2020\)](#); [The Future of Research and Innovation Funds in the EU \(November 2020\)](#); [How to get prepared for Horizon Europe! \(December 2020\)](#). All ENRF Briefing Notes are all available on the [ENRF Website](#).



✂ **Social Media**

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 yet have a lot of followers, the few posts/tweets do reach a lot of people. Due to scoping down ENRF activities as agreed by the EFN members at the October 2019 EFN General Assembly, the ENRF was not very active on Social Media in 2020, but the activities is expected to increase as the work of the Foundation will develop.

✂ **EFN Communication Channels**

» **EFN activity Reports**

An overview of the activities linked to the Foundation have been mentioned in each EFN Activity Report since 2013, when ENRF was created. This will be the case also for the EFN Activity Report 2020. For more information, see EFN Activity reports [here](#).

» **EFN Updates**

The EFN Updates aim to keep the EFN Members and other key EU health alliances informed about the EFN policies, actions and relevant European initiatives, by making reference to the main information for nurses and the nursing profession within the European Union and to the key issues to influence the European Institutions. As such, and as Founding organisation, the EFN has taken the opportunity to mention the ENRF when it is seen relevant. In 2020, even though the EFN did not mention the work of the Foundation, as it is kept to the bear minimum, the EFN did disseminate some news linked to research, nursing research and innovation that could be useful for EFN members and the ENRF reference points. See all the EFN Updates [here](#).

VI. CONCLUSION

The nursing profession is known for being at the frontline of healthcare, at the bedside with patients, and for driving quality in patient experience. And in these times of the COVID-19 crisis, this is more than ever a reality, with nurses 24/7 at the bedside to provide care to patients with COVID-19.

Nursing researchers are in a privileged position between the nursing profession (who are at the frontline of care) and the nursing academia (which drives the innovation and research that will later impact society). The nursing research community has the possibility to research on how to better educate nursing, measure what are sufficient and safe levels of staffing, examine community health resources and partnerships, and to ensure that any new developments impact our healthcare systems and the workforce positively, ensuring its successful deployment and achieving meaningful transformation.

For the ENRF this is key. Nursing research should be translating knowledge into health and social care 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.

Due to all the challenges our healthcare systems are facing today – ageing population, growing number of patients living with chronic diseases and co-morbidities, the uneven digitalisation of health, pandemics, to name a few – it is key that nursing research paves the way for the nursing workforce, running health services on the frontline, to upscale innovation and find new solutions to intractable problems in health and social care.

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 policymakers 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.

Contact Details

European Nursing Research Foundation

Prof. Dr. Paul De Raeve

ENRF Secretary General

Clos du Parnasse 11B – 1050 Brussels – Belgium

Tel: +32 2 511 34 84

Email: enrf@enrf.eu

Web: www.enrf.eu

Registration Number: 533.978.961

Transparency Register: 067386320464-72