



Advancing Nursing Research

ENRF Newsletter

May 2022



Dear ENRF colleagues and Friends,

The COVID-19 pandemic has put the shortcomings of our health and social care systems in sharp focus. In these challenging times, nurse researchers have held a crucial role in sustaining research into the good functioning of health systems across Europe. Health research remains important not only in the development of new vaccines and treatment options, but also in supporting the development and evaluation of nursing innovations, and in demonstrating the value of the nursing workforce. The EU Institutions have made it clear that health research is a top priority for the wider EU policy agenda, in which nursing research will have an increasingly important role to play.

Unfortunately, 2022 saw the death of the President of the European Parliament, David Sassoli, who throughout his tenure was committed to supporting frontline nurses and researchers. While honouring him for his strong commitment, we welcome the new President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, with whom we will work to ensure nurse researchers continue to inform and stay involved in EU developments.

Many lessons were learned during the pandemic, including the important role of citizen participation in health policy development. The 'Conference on the Future of Europe' was a moment that allowed input on key policy topics that will shape the future of the EU in years to come. It is clear that research will continue to be a main driver for policy developments, not least in the health sector.

Nursing research has been shown to play a vital role in driving resilience in our health systems, and in so doing ensuring ongoing access to life-saving care. The ENRF welcomes the European Commission's proposal to launch Lump Sums Projects (*This type of funding is based on single lump sum price for all the work, removing all obligations on actual cost reporting and financial ex-post audits*), which can give a real boost to health research, as well as encourage small organizations to join efforts in furthering health research and innovation. Investing in research and innovation remains important for the prosperity of the European region, for continuing knowledge generation and development of solutions that can improve our way of life peri and post the COVID-19 pandemic.

We look forward to working closely with all of you to ensure the development of health policy in the EU continues to be informed by nursing research, thus retaining a focus on sustainable and patient centred outcomes.

Professor Dame Anne Marie Rafferty
ENRF President

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. See the last ENRF Briefing Notes: [Lump Sum in Horizon Europe](#); [Climate change and Health: Overview on national Policies in Europe](#); [European Research Area](#). See [here](#) all ENRF Briefing Notes.

ENRF Board of Directors meeting

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 on 23 February 2022, the Directors focused on the development of the 2 new ENRF Policy Briefs - on Advanced Practice Nurse and on Planetary Health - to be released soon; on the 4th version of the Stakeholder & Policy Mapping on Digitalisation to be updated and discussed at the next ENRF BoD meeting; and on the ENRF priorities and Action Plan 2022, as a follow-up of [2021 activities](#), namely networking with the [European Health Parliament](#) (EHP) - a movement of young professionals connecting and empowering the next generation of European health leaders to rethink EU health policies – which are taking into account the ENRF Policy Briefs in the development of their recommendations to be submitted to the European Parliament in August. Their priorities focus on Digitalisation – Linked to the ENRF Policy Brief on [Digitalisation](#); Future Proof (healthcare systems) – linked to the ENRF Policy Brief on APN & on [Care Left Undone](#); Sustainability (including environment) – linked to ENRF Policy Brief on Planetary Health; Wellbeing; Preventive & Self-Care. The final recommendations of these 5 working groups should reflect the ENRF evidence.



ENRF President addresses the EFN 114th EFN General Assembly

Invited to the [EFN](#) 114th General Assembly, Professor Dame Anne Marie Rafferty, [briefed](#) the EFN Members on the latest developments of the ENRF, namely the key Policy briefs on Advanced Practice Nursing and Planetary Health (to be released soon); the **ENRF Stakeholder & Policy Mapping** (on Digitalisation) – developed to help analyse, understand, and create effective strategies to promote [ENRF SORP](#) and [Policy Briefs](#), providing an analysis of the policy actors, networks and funding agendas to influence research policy and support EFN work; **Health & research EU agenda** – To ensure that nurse researchers and the EFN Members are prepared for the new **Horizon Europe** calls, namely under "Cluster Health", the ENRF has been following very closely this development and have been participated in several meetings at EU level on the topic, reporting key information on this to the ENRF nurse researchers and the EFN members through its [Briefing Notes](#); **ENRF Reference Points** – fostering the dialogue between researchers, practitioners and policy-makers/politicians, to build a common research capacity is a key aim of the ENRF. Finally, the ENRF President also mentioned the **ENRF communication** done through ENRF [Newsletters](#), [Briefing Notes](#), [Website](#), and Annual [Activity Reports](#), keeping ENRF nurse researchers and EFN members updated with the latest key EU news of interest for all. The EFN Members were very pleased with these significant developments and all the work done by the ENRF.

The Lump Sums Methodology: great opportunity for Nursing Research



In December 2013, the ENRF started its activities as key partners in EFN 2-year project - [ENS4Care](#), in which the EFN was the coordinator. This was a Lump Sum Project - a [methodology](#) which can be helpful for small organisations that are not familiar with European funds in obtaining funds and running research projects even if they do not have an

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internal administrative section able to prepare the necessary documentation for applying for these funds. In this context, the European Commission [announced](#) its commitment to reduce bureaucracy for allowing researchers to spend more time on their research activities rather than filling out expenses claims and timesheets. More information is available [here](#).

The Conference on the Future of Europe: 90 recommendations formulated

The [Conference on the Future of Europe](#), focusing on better ways of living; protecting our environment and our health; redirecting our economy and consumption; sustainable society; and caring for all, is a great opportunity for European citizens to discuss Europe's challenges and priorities. The theme "Reinforce the healthcare system" in the Stream called "[Caring for all](#)" is key for ENRF. On 21-22 January 2022, the Conference Plenary took stock of recommendations made by two European Citizens' Panels and national Citizens' Panels. In this third session, 90 recommendations were formulated: the panel on 'European democracy/Values and rights, rule of law, security' adopted [39 recommendations](#), and the one on 'Climate change, environment / Health' adopted [51 recommendations](#) (More information available [here](#)). On 29-30 April, the Plenary of the Conference on the Future of Europe met in Strasbourg for the last time. The participating citizens could express their positions on the [proposals made](#). With this last Plenary, the one-year process approaches its closing - on 9 May in Strasbourg, when the Conference Executive Board will deliver the final report of the Conference to the Presidents of the EU institutions.



Furthermore, the European Commission is organising [online information days](#), on 17-18 May 2022, on the updated [Horizon Europe missions](#) programme, which outlines calls for research, their budgets and scope. These Info Days we will present a wide range of new topics for all five missions, following the amendment to the [Missions' Work Programme 2021-2022](#) under Horizon Europe.

EU News

David Sassoli's passing and new European Parliament elections



It was with great sadness that the EU Institutions and stakeholders were informed that David Sassoli passed away on 11 January 2022. A great president who has always been at the forefront to support all nurses in Europe as demonstrated by the European Citizen Prize that was [awarded](#) to them (represented by EFN) in November 2021. The ENRF clings to the pain of its family, friends, party and MEP's. We also

take this opportunity to warmly welcome the newly elected [President of the European Parliament](#), Roberta Metsola, which we aim to meet soon. We are counting on her help and support to push many important EU agendas further, namely those crucial for nurses and nursing research. It is fundamental to invest in nursing research to improve the healthcare ecosystem. With our best wishes, we look forward to collaborating with the new President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola.



EU4Health Programme – Call for Proposals



The European Commission has launched the [calls for proposals for the EU Operating Grants](#) in the field of health under the [EU4Health Programme](#) (EU4H), in accordance with the [2022 Work Programme](#) and will be managed by the European Health and Digital Executive Agency ([HaDEA](#)). The regulatory framework for this EU Funding Programme is set out in: [Regulation 2018/1046](#) (EU Financial Regulation); The basic act ([EU4H](#)

[Programme Regulation 2021/522](#)). The budget available for this call is 9 million for NGOs and aims to financially support the activities and actions oriented to achieve the strategic objectives of EU policies. This represents a great opportunity to foster nursing research and innovation. Don't miss the opportunity!. More information [here](#).

Horizon Europe: destination 4

In the context of [Horizon Europe](#), lots of funding and tenders opened in 2021 will last until 2022. In particular, there are some calls which aim to reach impacts on the destination 4 "[Ensuring access to innovative, sustainable and high-quality health care \(Single Stage - 2022\)](#)" ([HORIZON-HLTH-2022-CARE-08](#)). These calls could be a great opportunity for nursing research to ensure innovation and innovative solutions in the healthcare ecosystem. Nursing research is fundamental to build resilient and robust healthcare systems and financing and supporting it is a key solution. Horizon Europe is providing the largest budget never allocate to health before, therefore don't miss this opportunity – Find your call! For more information click [here](#).



HERA - € 300 million for Research & Development



The European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority ([HERA](#)) is a key pillar of the [European Health Union](#) and a fundamental asset

to strengthen the EU's health emergency response and preparedness. On 10 February, HERA presented its [first annual work plan](#) which provides a budget of € 1.3 billion in 2022 to prevent, prepare and respond rapidly to cross-border health emergencies. The actions provided by HERA will be implemented in different phases. In the first phase, which is the Preparedness Phase, HERA will work closely with other national and EU health agencies, research communities, civil society and international partners for preparing EU for future health emergencies. For this phase, a budget of € 300 million is allocated for research and development against emerging threats. This budget could be a great opportunity for nursing research which can play a crucial role in making the healthcare sector fit-for-purpose. For more information, click [here](#).

European strategy for universities

The European Commission approved two new higher education initiatives - the [European Strategy for Universities](#) and a [proposal for a Council Recommendation](#) on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation, aiming to unlock the full potential of the higher education sector as the promoter of skills and knowledge and the engine for innovation and solving societal challenges. Universities have a unique position in this, playing a critical role in achieving the European Education Area (EEA) and the European Research Area (ERA), in synergy with the European Higher Education Area. With this initiative, the European Commission invites the EU Member States and their universities to join forces for the benefit of higher education and of the European Union as a whole.



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European Commission Regulation (EU) 2022/20

The European Commission published the [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2022/20](#) with the aim of establishing rules and procedures to encourage cooperation between Member States in assessing the safety of clinical trials.



Second statement on emerging Health and Environmental Issues



The Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks ([SCHEER](#)) of the European Commission published a [second statement](#) on Emerging health and environmental issues. The aim of this scientific committee is to draw the

Commission's attention to specific problems which pose a risk to safety, health and the environment. The Scientific Committee reviews and evaluate relevant scientific data and assess potential risks, and then provides opinions on the health, environmental and emerging risk. This second statement draws the Commission Services' attention to 9 emerging issues in the non-food area that Committee members have identified as having a potential impact on human health and/or the environment in the future, including human-computer/robot interfaces, climate change and water pollution, nanotechnology organics, and the chemical risks in a circular economy.

New economics expert group to advance health equity

WHO/Europe, [launched a new economics expert group](#) to advance health equity, through the WHO European Office for Investment for Health and Development in Venice (Italy). The group, constituted of 14 representatives and research specialists, was set up to push the acceleration of progress towards healthy living across Europe. The goal is to put European citizens and their well-being at the centre by quantifying the costs and benefits of public goods such as food, fuel, housing, security.



Nursing symposium - New Horizons for Postdoctoral Researchers in Nursing Science

The Department of Nursing Science, University of Turku, Finland organizes the [first international symposium](#) for postdoctoral researchers in nursing science, on 8-9 December 2022. All the postdoctoral researchers in nursing science and their mentors are warmly welcomed to join and network with colleagues.

Interesting Reading

Emerging trends and technologies: a horizon scan for global public health



WHO recently [published the findings](#) of a global horizon scan, conducted by a group of international experts, in 2020 and 2021, on emerging technologies and trends relevant to global public health. 15 new and emerging technologies and scientific advances that may have a significant impact on global health over the next two decades were identified, as: Pandemic preparedness and prevention; Vaccine distribution; Addressing misinformation and disinformation; Using real-world evidence; Artificial intelligence; Digital health and surveillance; Telemedicine; Migrant health. WHO is already addressing a number of these areas and is actively engaged, for example, by convening expert groups, issuing guidelines and guidance and setting norms and standards on many of the topics identified.

Advanced robotics and artificial intelligence

As part of [its 4-year research programme](#) on digitalisation, EU-OSHA published an [initial report](#) that sets the scene, presenting types and definitions of AI-based systems and advanced robotics for the automation of tasks at work. The report also maps current and potential uses across sectors and tasks – from industrial and warehousing robots to AI software in the healthcare sector and provides an overview of the policies and strategies at EU and national level.



Resources allocation based on evidence

According to the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine, an evidence-based approach would ensure a better allocation of resources and investment in education, and this would allow for better education systems. Allocating resources based on scientific evidence and evidence obtained from research rather than internal and external policies should impact health, well-being, and the economy. Supporting nursing research and researchers in their work would allow to improve the EU health system, and to make it become more efficient and capable of dealing with any health crisis. Better health systems mean better care for patients and better well-being for the community. Boost the proof, boost nursing research! Read the complete article [here](#).

Spark study on enhancing implementation of the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive



SPARK just published the results of a [study](#) aiming to support the European Commission's (DG SANTE) work to deepen the analysis of difficulties encountered by patients to access healthcare in another EU Member State, and the shortcomings in the practical application of Directive 2011/24/EU. The main findings show that the way prior authorisation procedures are implemented differs greatly across Member States. Guiding Principles were developed to provide recommendations to streamline and simplify Prior Authorisation procedures; Certain administrative procedures and requirements across Member States and EEA EFTA countries may be regarded as creating potentially unjustified obstacles for patients seeking cross-border healthcare under the Directive; The 2019-toolbox can still be helpful to further enhance the implementation of the Directive. Most Member States indicated that the Toolbox is implemented by their NCP. Patient organisations, healthcare insurers and healthcare providers do not appear to be familiar with the Toolbox; A limited number of Member States implement consultation arrangements between NCPs and relevant national stakeholders such as healthcare insurers, providers and patient organisations. For more information, click [here](#).

IOC and WHO promote vaccines equity and healthy lifestyle

During the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022, the WHO Director-General stated that *"The Olympics are about, hope, solidarity, unity and peace. Especially hope to end this pandemic. I hope we will achieve the 70 per cent vaccination in each and every country around the world by mid this year, and hope the acute phase of the pandemic will be over, so that people will come together like always."* Once again, the vaccine appears to be the main tool to overcome this pandemic period. And once again the activity of nursing researchers plays a predominant role in the fight against covid-19. Read more [here](#).

