



Advancing Nursing Research

# ENRF Newsletter November 2021



Dear ENRF colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to the last ENRF Newsletter of the year. Looking back at 2021, we can see that this has again been a tough year for nurses around the world. Nurses continue to work hard to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, with lots of lessons learned which will be central to moving health care forward. From an EU perspective, it became clear that health care research is a top priority for the European Citizens and EU policy agenda.

We are at a crucial moment for the future of EU nursing research with the European Commission Framework Programme - [Horizon Europe](#), and its [calls](#) for proposals. This is a unique opportunity for nursing researchers to get involved in EU developments and in doing so ensure that EU policy makers are aware of the benefits of nursing research. 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. Therefore, it is vital that citizens, including nurses and nursing researchers, play a key role in designing and prioritising research. It is time to take action, and bring the nursing research voice to the EU.

The ENRF works to build synergies with the European Commission, and to make sure that the EU puts a greater focus on healthcare preparedness and investments in the nursing workforce. We need more research on how nurses and nursing care have been affected by the pandemic, including on "Care left undone", especially as we are moving into another wave of COVID-19. It is important to optimise nursing research contribution to EU policies, and ensure that it benefits from new opportunities within Horizon Europe.

In these difficult times, the ENRF works to raise the voice of nursing research and to advance research for the benefit of frontline care. We will continue to focus on EU developments bringing you all the information and tools needed to take this journey further. We look forward to continuing this good collaboration with you all in 2022 and to make nursing research more visible at EU level.

Professor Dame Anne Marie Rafferty  
ENRF President

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## ENRF News

### European Citizens' Panels of the Conference on the Future of Europe



The ENRF General Secretary, Dr Paul De Raeve, was invited as expert to share his knowledge and expertise with the citizens participating in the [European Citizens' Panel](#), on "Climate change, environment and health". During the conference, Dr De Raeve suggested focusing health research on citizens' unmet needs

and, in this context, nursing research plays a key role, and stressed that "we are not prepared, unless we are all prepared", taking into account the

lessons learned from both the Ebola and Covid-19 crisis. Nursing research plays a fundamental role as regards "care left undone" and "violence-stigmatization". Health research has become a priority for Europe. It is time to act! The European Commission, the EU Council and the European Parliament have committed to listen to the Europeans and to follow up on the recommendations once the ideas submitted online have been analysed and published. By spring 2022, the [Conference](#) is expected to reach conclusions and provide guidance on the future of Europe. More information is available [here](#).

### ENRF President addresses EFN 113<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

Invited to the [EFN](#) 113<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, ENRF President, Anne Marie Rafferty, briefed the EFN Members on the latest developments of the Foundation, that include some key outcomes as the publication of 3 **ENRF Evidence Based Policy Briefs** on [Care Left Undone](#); [Digitalisation](#) and [Mentorship](#), and the current drafting of a 4<sup>th</sup> one on Advanced Nursing Practice, to be released in the coming months; the revision of the **ENRF Constitution** as approved by the EFN members at the EFN General Assembly, in Greece, in October 2019, taking into account the recommendations of the EFN Working Group on the future of the ENRF, and of the EFN Executive Committee; the development of an **ENRF Stakeholder & Policy Mapping** looking at the ENRF Action Plan and Priorities 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 in order 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](#); and last but not least, **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 important developments and the significant work done by the Foundation. They believe that a lot can be achieved via the EU research programs and by further considering the concept of 'health in all policies'. In this, the ENRF and the nurse researchers can have a key role to play.

### Up-skilling & Reskilling as part of the well-being of the European Workforce

The Covid-19 pandemic changed all social patterns and strongly changed the way we care. Consequently, new skills are needed with a constant attention to the well-being and mental health of healthcare professionals, in particular nurses. In a constantly changing labour market that is increasingly globalized, digital, robotic and green, the need to build and acquire new skills has become fundamental. The [meeting](#) the ENRF attended on 2 November, made an in-depth analysis on the new future skills necessary to be acquired in the coming years. The main focus was on digital skills. Ms Manuela Geleng, Director for Jobs and Skills, European Commission DG EMPL, made clear that Covid-19 pandemic gave a boost to digitalisation process, and stressed the critical issues related to the lack of digital skills, especially in the adult healthcare professionals. "It is important to recognize that without skilled healthcare professionals, implement innovation is not possible", she said. As such, skills are at the top priority in the EU political agenda. The way of working is changing, and it is necessary to be constantly updated in order to enjoy the benefits of the digital and globalized world. In this context, nursing research plays a

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fundamental role. Up-skilling and reskilling are fundamental for nursing profession and needs evidence-based support to build a resilient nursing workforce.

## EU News

### New call for proposals

The Horizon Europe call for proposal “[European partnership fostering a European Research Area \(ERA\) for health research](#)” aims to 'tackle disease and reduce the burden of disease' (Destination 3 of 'Health' Cluster). Therefore, proposals for this call must aim to deliver direct and personalized results that seek out expected results such as: research funders, policy makers and the research community working together in an effective joint approach to deliver topics of common interest and benefit Europe; Research funders and policy-makers generate knowledge for cardiovascular disease, related to nutrition and nanotechnology for the purpose of clinical management, and comparative efficacy. [Horizon Europe](#) seems to be the best tool and the greatest budget ever to boost research and nursing research in the health sector. It is a big opportunity to increase nursing research and to demonstrate how its outcomes are fundamental to create a resilient and innovative healthcare eco-system. The budget foreseen for this call is € 30.000.000 and the deadline is 21 April 2022 (Opening date of this call: 12 January 2022). For more information on the other calls of Horizon Europe Cluster 1, see [here](#).

### Horizon Europe: Cluster 1 – Health



The cluster 1 of Horizon Europe aims to improve health and well-being of European citizens through new knowledge, innovative solutions and, where necessary, gender perspective. Other purposes connected to the

Health Cluster are the development of new health technologies, health risk mitigation, the protection of populations and the promotion of good health and well-being in general and at work, next to making public health systems more cost-effective, equitable and sustainable, prevent and tackle poverty-related diseases and support and enable patients' participation and self-management. 6 destinations matching:

- Staying healthy in a rapidly changing society
- Living and working in a health-promoting environment
- Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden
- Ensuring access to innovative, sustainable and high-quality health care
- Unlocking the full potential of new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society
- Maintaining an innovative, sustainable and globally competitive health-related industry

For more information, see [here](#).

### “Strengthening Europe in the fight against cancer - towards a comprehensive and coordinated strategy”

The [BECA Committee](#) of the European Parliament held its first meeting to examine the amendments to the [draft report](#) “Strengthening Europe in the fight against cancer - towards a comprehensive and coordinated strategy”. 1.500 [amendments](#) were tabled to strengthen the right to live and work in health-friendly environments and to ensure better access to screening, early diagnosis and more suitable treatment. A great deal of



attention has been paid to research and innovation as necessary tools to find a cure for cancer. Greater investments are expected in new technologies, such as artificial intelligence, which together with big data offer endless new possibilities. Better investment has been defined for the protection of researchers by taking action to avoid burnout in the sector and giving greater career opportunities in this area. In this context, encouraging nursing research is a key point in finding a cure in the fight against cancer. For more information, click [here](#).

## Interesting Reading

### Resilient healthcare systems



The Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated more than ever the need for strong leadership globally to support the resilience of health systems. For this purpose, the collaboration and involvement of different actors is necessary, even if not reached by the health sectors. In this context, nursing research plays a key role in life and a strong and resilient health system capable of addressing future health crises. To read WHO

Civil Society Working Group on NCDs Position Paper, click [here](#).

### Europe Gender Gap

[Eurofound](#) has published the most recent results relating to gender questions, which show that Covid-19 has contributed to work even more towards gender disparities between women and men by negatively affecting their mental well-being and work-life balance. In terms of pay gap, the data reported by Eurofound, show that on average in Europe the minimum wage of women is 14.1% less per hour than men. This gap increases or decreases in the different EU member states (as in Estonia, Latvia, Austria and Germany where it goes up to 20% or Italy, Romania and Luxembourg where it decreases to 5%). For more information, click [here](#).



### Gender Inequality Index 2021: Health



According to the report published by the [European Institute for Gender Equality](#), focusing on health, Covid-19 pandemic had important and negative repercussions on gender equality in different sectors such as work, money, health and knowledge. According to the report, the pandemic marked the increase in cases of violence against women to worsen their mental and physical health. This still strong inequality continues to have a negative impact in our society, especially in nursing, a sector in which

women are the predominant figure. To read the report, click [here](#).

### Climate change effects on health: the Lancet Countdown report 2021

Independently monitoring the negative effects of climate change on health, the Lancet Countdown published a report, based on 44 indicators explaining the steady increase in a delayed and inconsistent negative health response from all countries of the world. The report calls for swift action to be implemented that puts citizens' health at the fore. To read the report, click [here](#).

