



Advancing Nursing Research

ENRF Newsletter

December 2022



Dear ENRF colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to the last ENRF Newsletter of the year. The end of the year and the start of a new one gives us a good opportunity to look back at what was achieved in the difficult context we have been living in for over the last 2 years - first COVID-19, and now the war in Ukraine.

Even in these challenging times, nursing has played a crucial role in driving resilience in our health systems. EU Institutions have made it

clear that health research is a top priority for the wider EU policy agenda, in which nursing research has an increasingly important role to play (cf. [EU Commission signed the Agreement on Research Assessment; New European Innovation Agenda](#); 'Health at a Glance: Europe 2022' report. Health research is key in supporting the development and evaluation of nursing innovations, and in demonstrating the value of the nursing workforce. Therefore, it is important to build on these developments at EU level (from previous calls from [Horizon 2020](#) such as [Magnet4Europe](#), and new ones under [Horizon Europe](#)) and strengthen nursing research input.

Taking this into account, the ENRF continued committed to setting the future of the EU nursing research, by monitoring the work of the EU Institutions and focussing on integrating nursing research into the EU policy arena, in line with its [Strategic and Operational Research Plan \(SORP\) 2021-2024](#). First and the most important outcome for 2022, three new ENRF Policy Briefs on Advanced Practice Nursing, Planetary Health, and Violence Against Nurses are now published and available on [ENRF Website](#).

Furthermore, the ENRF continued to work on the development of the ENRF Stakeholder & Policy Mapping - with a specific focus on Digitalisation - to help analyse, understand, and create effective strategies to promote the 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. In this context, the ENRF is in close contact with the [European Health Parliament](#) bringing input to the recommendations on Digitalisation they [published](#). We welcome your feedback on how useful these policy briefs are.

The ENRF has been following very closely the [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" - aiming at promoting the health and well-being of the Europeans, through new knowledge, innovative solutions and a gender perspective to prevent, diagnose and cure diseases. This cluster is based on the development of new health technologies to protect and promote safety and well-being, in general and at work. All this being closely linked to the goal of making the healthcare system more cost effective, sustainable and accessible in order to tackle and combat poverty-related diseases and include patient participation and self-management. This cluster will work closely with the [EU4Health programme](#).

Last but not least, the ENRF continued to liaise with its Research Reference Points and the EFN Members on the latest key EU developments related to research and innovation, through [Briefing Notes](#), [ENRF Newsletters](#), and [ENRF Website](#) updates.

It is key that, in this nursing research development at EU level, the nursing research excellence and impact is brought to the EU policy co-

creation process on key topics as APN, digitalisation, planetary health, nurse mentorship, care left undone and violence against nurses, six [policy briefs](#) developed by the ENRF. From an EU perspective, it is clear that health care research is a top priority. It is therefore key to build synergies with the European Commission and the European Parliament to make sure that the EU puts a greater focus on healthcare preparedness and invest in nursing workforce.

I look forward to working with you in 2023 to make nursing research more visible at EU level. A peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year to you all and your families.

Professor Dame Anne Marie Rafferty
ENRF President

ENRF News

Professor Dame Anne Marie Rafferty addresses the EFN 115th EFN General Assembly

Invited to the 115th General Assembly of the European Federation of Nurses Associations ([EFN](#)), Dame Prof. Anne Marie Rafferty, ENRF President, gave an overview ([through video message](#)) of the current ENRF developments. She highlighted the three new developed ENRF Policy Briefs on: [Advanced Practice Nursing](#), [Planetary Health](#), and [Violence Against Nurses](#), following the ones developed in 2021 on [Care Left Undone](#), [Digitalisation](#) & [Mentorship](#), which highlight key recommendations to take forward for lobbying on research policy next to the European Commission.

She also stressed the evolution of the ENRF Stakeholders' and policy mapping document, including work to capture ENRF impact on the EU policy and research agenda, and ENRF major focus, over the last few months, on the [European Health Parliament](#) – with some successes for the ENRF in influencing their outcomes on [Digitalisation](#). She finally briefed the EFN Members on the EFN Executive Committee and ENRF Board of Directors meeting held on 1st June 2022 to discuss the future and sustainability of the ENRF. A proposal for an external review of the ENRF has been considered and a Terms of Reference is now being developed jointly by the EFN President & ENRF President, with the support of Pat Cullen (RCN – EFN Executive Committee member). The ambition is to present developments at the next EFN General Assembly, in April 2023.

Furthermore, the ENRF continues committed in informing its Nursing Research Reference Points and EFN Members on the latest key EU developments related to research and innovation through the ENRF Briefing Notes, available on [ENRF Website](#), and in advising the European Commission and the European Parliament, bringing nursing research excellence and impact to the EU policy co-creation process, namely through ENRF participation in key meetings. For more information on ENRF work and developments, visit: [www.enrf.eu](#)

IND – More research for a better future

On the occasion of the International Nurses' Day, ENRF [shed the lights](#) on the great contribution of nurses and nursing research for improving quality of care and health conditions across EU Member States. As the Covid-19 pandemic showed, more than ever, nurses play a key role for the well-being of citizens, patients and the entire healthcare ecosystem.



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Together with nurses, nursing research play a fundamental role for improving quality in the healthcare systems. Invest in nursing education and research is the needed starting point for creating resilient healthcare ecosystem able of facing future health crisis.

EU News

€12.4 billion budget for Horizon Europe in 2023

The EU [agreed](#) on a €12.4 billion budget for the Horizon Europe research programme in 2023; The final budget being 1.1% bigger than in 2022. Digital Europe, the EU's fund for the digital transformation, will get €1.3 billion. For more information on the breakdown of 2023 Horizon Europe budget, click [here](#).

EU4Health work programme 2023



The European Commission adopted the [2023 EU4Health work programme](#), with a total budget of €735,8 million. This work programme will allow to progress on priority actions as strengthening the EU's resilience to cross-border health threats and implementing the European

Health Data Space, the Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe and Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, as well as financing for the European Reference Networks, efforts to address mental health challenges and global health. This is a key opportunity for the nursing research to show how its outcomes are fundamental to create a resilient and innovative healthcare eco-system. The ENRF will [follow-up](#) closely on these developments.

Erasmus+ call for proposal for 2023

The European Commission launched the [call for proposals for 2023](#) under the [Erasmus+ programme](#), with an annual budget of €4.2 billion, out of a total of €26.2 billion for 2021-2027. The aim of [Erasmus+](#) is to increase the support for inclusion, active citizenship, green and digital transformation, both at EU and global level. Following up on the European Year of Youth, the programme will continue to ensure that the voices of the youth are heard in the EU, especially through an increase in youth activities funded through the Erasmus+. On the other hand, projects and activities under the Erasmus+ 2023 call will continue feeding into the EU's commitment to upskilling and reskilling, providing a key contribution to the European [Year of Skills](#) 2023. As nursing research has a key role to play in this, the ENRF will follow closely this topic and will keep its Reference Points and EFN Members informed on these developments in 2023. FREE webinar series on "[How to get Erasmus+ funding for your teacher training course](#)" will take place to prepare potential partners for Erasmus+ application and get funding for the schools, starting on 11 January 2023. Teachers and school staff with little Erasmus+ experience or no experience at all can attend it.



Reforming Research Assessment and San Francisco Declaration

The European Commission signed the [Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment](#), setting a common direction for changes in assessment practices for research, researchers and research organisations, with the goal to maximise the quality and impact of research. Together with the Agreement's signature, the European Commission also endorsed the [San Francisco Declaration](#) on Research Assessment (DORA), which sets recommendations to improve the evaluation of researchers and the outputs of scholarly research.

New guidelines for knowledge valorisation in research and innovation

The European Commission published the [new guidelines for knowledge valorisation](#) which will become Council recommendations for the Member States, with the aim to increase social and economic value from knowledge

and transforming data and research results into sustainable products and solutions. It will align policy principles and measures for national, regional and local policy makers to maximize the transformation of research and innovation (R&I) results into solutions that benefit society.

The Conference on the Future of Europe

After one year of deliberations, the [Conference on the Future of Europe](#) (CoFoE) has come to an end. [49 proposals](#), which include more than 320 measures across 9 themes, have been adopted. This innovative method has been a great opportunity for citizens to be part of the decision-making process. More than 50.000 participants, included ENRF, have contributed and shared ideas for the future of Europe. During the Europe Day, the [final report](#) has been published. Among the topics covered by the CoFoE, the panel 3 "[climate change, environment/health](#)" has direct implications for the European research agenda and for the European healthcare systems and lifestyles. Read more [here](#).

The European Research & Innovation Days 2022 – More research for a better future



The European Research and Innovation Days is the annual event in which the European Commission brings together politicians, researchers, entrepreneurs and citizens to

discuss the future of research and innovation in Europe. This year the event focussed on new European Innovation Agenda, the European Year of Youth, the richness of European cultural creativity, and Horizon Europe Missions, giving participants the opportunity to discuss and shape new solutions to strengthen Europe's resilience and its strategic autonomy. This event is a key opportunity for the nursing research to make a real contribution to the future of Europe, and to bring the nursing research views to the EU level, making sure to boost innovation, research and digitalisation to make the healthcare sector stronger and resilient. To see the event's sessions, click [here](#).

The European Health Data Space

The European Commission launched the [European Health Data Space \(EHDS\)](#), one of the central building blocks of a strong European Health Union, which includes a list of proposals for creating a data space that can benefit citizens, researchers and healthcare systems. The EHDS focuses on 1/ Supporting individuals to take control of their own health data; 2/ Supporting the use of health data for better healthcare delivery, better research, innovation and policy making and; 3/ Enabling the EU to make full use of the potential offered by a safe and secure exchange, use and reuse of health data. Nurse researchers have a key role to play in this process. The huge amount of data produced can really help and boost nursing research and innovation. Read more by clicking [here](#).

Interesting Reading

"After the New Normal"

The [study](#) published by the European Commission entitled "[After the new normal: scenarios for Europe in the post Covid-19](#)" aims to outline the extent of the change that the Covid-19 pandemic could bring to the European Union and to Research and Development. 5 scenarios were designed within the European context taking into consideration our daily life from the beginning of the pandemic to 2040: 1/ The long recession; 2/ Back to "normal"; 3/ Big Tech shapes Europe; 4/ The Circular Economy; 5/ Green Utopia: new hope. Rebuilding a society that has been severely tested by a pandemic is not easy, and research is a fundamental element for achieving ambitious and impactful results.



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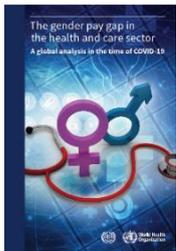
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Quality Education and Training for all

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has forced and continues to force many people, mainly women and children, to leave their country. The European Education Area of the European Commission published the document [“Guidelines on fast-track recognition of Ukrainian academic qualifications”](#) which aims to provide information on Ukrainian education system; Types of academic qualifications awarded; Useful digital tools for verifying teaching documents. The information is arranged according to the key target groups who use the website - schoolchildren and parents, students and researchers, as well as educators and academic managers.

On the other hand, Mariya Gabriel, EU Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, is looking at research and Innovation to support long-term recovery, as it is estimated that 15% of research and higher education institutions have been damaged due to Russian attacks. The recovery of higher education alone would cost €9.5 billion over the next ten years, to rebuild the higher education institutions that are partially damaged or destroyed completely, and to ensure teachers and professors continue to be paid and do not move to other sectors. The European Commission will also set up a Horizon Europe office in Kyiv by the end of 2023.

The Gender Pay Gap in the health and care sector



Inequality of wages between women and men continues to be a major problem. ILO and WHO launched a [joint report](#) entitled *“The gender pay gap in the health and care sector - A global analysis in the time of COVID-19”* which focuses on integrated and intersectoral policy action to accelerate achievement of SDGs and boost political attention to gender equality in the health and care workforce. In the healthcare sector, the most of nurses are women and

their vital work has to be recognised and paid as it deserves. Nurses are the backbones of the healthcare sector, and they cannot leave behind!

OECD Health Statistics 2022

The OECD published its [Health Database for 2022](#) that provides a comprehensive source of comparable statistics on health and health systems across the OECD countries. It is a fundamental tool to carry out comparative analyses for improving research and nursing research in the healthcare sector and draw lessons from the current situation and the other healthcare systems.



Data and the possible impact on research



The European Commission published a [study](#) on *“the Open Data Directive, Data Governance and Data Act and their possible impact on research”* that analyses the possible impact of these three main legislative instruments in the European strategy for the use of data in the field of research. The report expresses awareness of a difficult impact assessment and makes recommendations on key legal questions that need to be answered. These recommendations aim

to solve ambiguities in research data sector, interpretation of provisions and coherence between tools from the point of view of open scientific research policy.

How can countries achieve digital maturity in healthcare?

Covid-19 pandemic shed the lights on the key role of digital tools on the healthcare sector by giving a real boost on the digitalisation process. Digital technologies have always enabled policy makers, healthcare professionals, healthcare researchers and patients to make informed decisions to better manage healthcare delivery. But the real question is: What do successful digital healthcare systems have in common? Dedicated

Digital strategy, Designated funding, well-managed data, National Electronic Health Records are just some of the key elements necessary to improve the digitalization process. To read the article published by the World Economic Forum, click [here](#).

Advanced robotics and AI for the automation of tasks at work: current status and considerations for OSH

Automation in the workplace is constantly increasing. The rise of new technologies and the constant digital development bring out great opportunities from a professional point of view, but also new important challenges and concerns. As part of its four-year digitisation research program, EU-OSHA published an initial [report](#) mapping the current and potential uses across sectors and tasks – from industrial and warehousing robots to AI software in the healthcare sector and gives an overview of policies and strategies at EU and national level.



The impact of AI on Primary Care



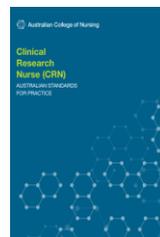
AI can have a positive impact on primary healthcare. Often, however, new technology is implemented using a top-down approach to solve a problem or meet a need, resulting in less consideration of the end-user in its development and implementation processes. According to the [study](#) *“Is primary health care ready for artificial intelligence? What do primary health care stakeholders say?”* to exploit the full potential of AI requires an approach that is closer to the end-user and uses a bottom-up approach.

A System Dynamics Model of Nursing Workforce Supply

According to the [study](#) published by the Minister of Health, Stephen Donnelly, and the Minister of Public Spending and Reforms, Michael McGrath, there is a need for a model that can govern an evidence-based health policy. The report demonstrates the need to increase Ireland's hiring of student nurses to ensure the state meets the WHO-GCP commitment, reducing its dependence on foreign-educated nurses and meeting the demand for future also addressing the challenges of the nursing workforce.



Clinical Research Nurse – Australian Standards for practice



The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) released the inaugural practice [standards](#) for the professionalisation and recognition of the role of Clinical Research Nurse in Australia, which represents a commitment to advancing nursing leadership and advocacy of professional practice for Australian Clinical Research Nurse (CRN).

10 keys to effectively communicating human rights

The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights together with the United Nations, the Council of Europe, ODIHR, ENNHRI, Equinet, and DG Justice and Consumers of the European Commission published the [“10 keys to effectively communicating human rights”](#), aiming to create impactful human right messages.

