

# ENRF Newsletter

## May 2023



Dear ENRF colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to the May 2023 ENRF Newsletter. The ENRF remains committed to keeping its Nursing Research Reference Points and EFN members informed of the latest EU developments related to research and innovation. In dialogue with the European Commission and the European

Parliament, the ENRF seeks to bring nursing research excellence and impact to the EU policy process.

Coordinating and consolidating nursing researchers' knowledge to strengthen the delivery of evidence-based nursing adds rigour and credibility to political decision-making and outcomes. Investing in research and innovation remains crucial for the prosperity of the EU and the European region, continuing knowledge generation, and developing solutions that can improve our way of life. This is especially important during this difficult time for all frontline nurses.

All over Europe, nurses are calling for action to ensure safe staffing levels and address growing concerns about their working conditions and the shortage of nurses. Nurses are leaving the profession in large numbers, making efforts to recruit and retain European nurses vital to ensure quality and safe patient care. A lack of human resources or the wrong skill mix can lead to care being left undone, leading to negative patient outcomes and staff dissatisfaction. Attention is also placed on the quality of frontline nurse education and mentorship, which is inconsistent, with nurse teachers facing challenges related to role ambiguity, credibility, job strain, and inconsistent expectations. While much work remains to be done, policymakers must prioritise the welfare of nurses and patients by taking action.

Violence against nurses is another major focal point for European nurses and nurse researchers. The new EU Directive on addressing violence against women, including domestic violence, will enshrine minimum standards in EU law to criminalise certain forms of violence against women. Nursing research on reducing violence and harassment against nurses is becoming a top priority of national, regional, local, and EU agendas.

Nursing research plays a vital role in driving resilience in healthcare systems, ensuring ongoing access to life-saving care. During these challenging times, it is crucial for research to support the development and evaluation of nursing innovation and to demonstrate the value of the nursing workforce.

Prof Dame Anne Marie Rafferty  
President ENRF

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### ENRF News

#### **'One Hour with Europe' with Emanuela Bellan from the European Commission DG Joint Research Centre**



The ENRF participated in the [event](#) organised by the Norwegian University of Science and Technology – Brussels Office ([NTNU](#)) on 27 March 2023 that gave an overview on the [Joint Research Centre \(JRC\) of the European Commission](#), its role, approach and future opportunities for Researchers, Universities and HEIs. Working closely with research and policy organisations in the Member States, European institutions and agencies and scientific partners in Europe and internationally, including within the United

Nations system, the JRC adopted a new approach to its [work](#), focused on better [prioritisation](#), more collaboration, and core [strengths](#). Emanuela Bella underlined the importance to boost science knowledge and innovation. More than ever, we need evidence to support policy to respond to the many challenges faced by society, including the EU nurses. For the ENRF and the nursing community it is crucial to see a concrete support to health and nursing research. As such, the ENRF will continue screening the JRC developments and look at opportunities for the nursing research in this.

### Labour and Skills Shortage in EU!

The ENRF participated in the [Research Seminar](#) on “Labour and Skill Shortages in the EU” that brought together researchers and academics across Europe to [discuss](#) the theoretical, methodological and policy implications of the latest economic and social research. The COVID-19 pandemic consequences affected the labour market boosting change in terms of technologies, innovations and new skills, with firms starting to invest more in innovative trainings to provide new digital skills to their employees and make them more competitive in the new emerging labour market. Upskilling and reskilling of nurses and allied healthcare professionals represents a fundamental step forward for creating a resilient healthcare ecosystem able to face new challenges. But this can only happen through the engagement of frontline nurses and nursing researchers in the co-creation of digital tools, impacting on workflows of the entire nursing profession. In the context of the European Year of Skills 2023, the European Commission just [adopted](#) two proposals for a Council Recommendation to support Member States and the education and training sector in providing high-quality, inclusive and accessible digital education and training to develop the digital skills of European citizens.



### Horizon Europe – Cluster 1: Research Info Days



The ENRF participated in the Horizon Europe [Info Days on Cluster 1 – Health](#) that gave an overview on the European Commission

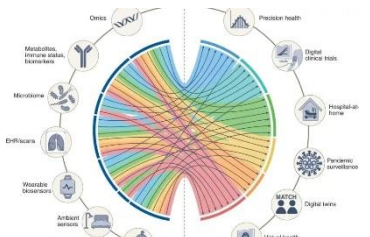
[Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2024](#) with a budget of €13.5 billion, to support researchers and innovators in Europe, of which €847m in grants dedicated to [Cluster 1 – Health](#). This cluster is aiming to deliver six destinations: Staying healthy; Living and working in a health environment; Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden; Ensuring access to innovative, sustainable, and high-quality care; Unlocking the full potential of new tools, technologies and

digital solutions; Maintaining an innovative, sustainable and globally competitive health-related industry. Don't miss the new Horizon Europe Health single-stage [calls for proposals](#) under these 6 destinations and make the difference! Using [Horizon Europe funds](#) to boost, support and improve nursing research is a great opportunity to create a more resilient healthcare system.

### EU News

#### EHDS – A great opportunity for nursing research!

The European Health Data Space (EHDS) set up in May 2022 by the European Commission, one of the first building blocks in the [European Data Strategy](#), aims to give researchers access to high quality health data for enabling the development of drugs, vaccines and medical devices, and to inform healthcare delivery and improve the resilience of Europe' healthcare systems. Every day, a large amount of health data is being produced in the healthcare sector and remain inaccessible for secondary uses due to great fragmentation and very restrictive privacy policies. According to the European Commission proposal, researchers, companies and institutions will require a permit from a health data access body granted to use de-identified data for approved research projects. The European Parliament [wants](#) to make sure it's trusted and [more robust](#) than in the original proposal.



#### The Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate – by the EU Commission!



The European Commission EU Member States, and 26 partners countries [launched](#)

on 19 January 2023 “The Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate”, being the first Ministerial-level global forum dedicated to trade and climate and sustainable development issues. This Coalition aims to build partnerships between trade and climate communities to identify the ways in which trade policy can contribute to addressing climate change. It will promote trade and investment in goods, services and technologies that help mitigate and adapt to climate change. In the health system, every day, large quantities of substances harmful to the environment are produced, which are among the main causes of climate change. In order to tackle the effects of climate change, the engagement of nurses and researchers can be key for implementing measures in the hospitals which aim to reduce the pollution and the spread of harmful substances. Read more [here](#).

## Open Research Europe

The [Open Research Europe](#) is celebrating 2 years. Being the innovative publishing platform dedicated to providing Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, COST Action, and Euratom researchers with a fully open access, free, and collaborative publishing venue for any research they wish to share, this could be a good opportunity for boosting nursing research and make it more visible. It gives to research a rapid open access publication, making it accessible and available for consultation both to other researchers and to citizens. Since its launch in 2021, more than 1.800 authors from 340 different institutions have published their work on this platform.



## EU's 10<sup>th</sup> Research Framework Programme

Not starting before 2028, the EU stakeholders are ready to negotiate for more long-term vision, better balance and a bigger budget of the Horizon Europe's successor, the 10<sup>th</sup> EU framework programme in research and innovation (FP10). The European Commission has just closed a consultation on the EU programmes that will feed into this new upcoming framework programme. Some requests for research and innovation at EU level are on the table, including new technologies to help tackle the climate crisis. But all this requires investment, and EU stakeholders are already calling for a doubling of the EU's research budget. Research and innovation will shape the future and the nursing researchers have here a key opportunity to influence the next EU framework programme. Read more [here](#).

## Interesting Reading

### Digitalisation is changing the labour market



Digitalisation is changing the way we work, which requires new and updated occupational safety and health (OSH) solutions. Building upon its [foresight study on digitalisation](#), the European Agency for Safety and Health ([EU-OSHA](#)) is running an 'OSH overview' [research project](#) (2020-2023) to provide in-depth information for policy, prevention and practice in relation to the challenges and opportunities of digitalisation in the context of OSH. It aims to provide policymakers, researchers and workplaces with reliable information on the potential impacts of digitalisation on OSH so they can take timely and effective action to ensure professionals are safe and healthy.

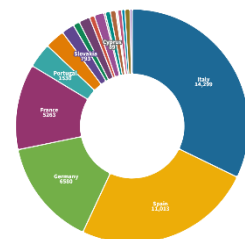
## Planetary Health



Through a [Declaration on Planetary Health](#), the Academic health institutions have declared the health of the planet a Code Red emergency and call for immediate implementation of Planetary Health education and research, and the transition to climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems in order to build a healthy, sustainable, and just future for all. Healthcare professional, especially nurses, play a key role in [nursing planetary health](#).

## Research and Innovation with Recovery and Resilience Facility Fund

The EU's €723.9 billion Recovery and Resilience Facility fund (RRF), set up in 2021 to help member states recover from the social and economic impact of COVID-19, will direct huge sums of money to research and development in the coming years. To date, a combined total of just over €44 billion is earmarked for R&D, involving 55 policy reforms and 169 investments. With a few exceptions, countries have dedicated between 4% and 13% of their allocations for research, with the average standing at about 10%. Read more [here](#).



## Research and Innovation to Thrive in the Poly-crisis Age



The European Commission DG Research and Innovation published a [policy brief](#) entitled "*Research and Innovation to Thrive in the Poly-crisis Age - What do we need from the next Framework Programme and the Missions?*" that explores how Europe's research and innovation policy can make a decisive contribution to creating a Europe where citizens live well, at peace and within planetary boundaries. It calls for R&I to adapt quickly, to be effective for a context of continual mega-crises, complexity and insecurity, and to fully align with the resulting societal and policy challenges. The authors recommend European R&I policy, the next Framework Programme, and the EU Missions, to embrace four principles in order to be fit for the 2030s: Take risk to manage risk; direct the action; anticipate, adapt and learn; and align and integrate.

## European Nursing Research foundation

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