

# **EUROPEAN RESEARCH NURSING FOUNDATION**

## **Activity Report 2022**

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## Foreword

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Dear ENRF Reference Points,

Dear EFN Members,

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that we present you this ENRF Activity Report, giving an overview of the Foundation progresses and achievements made during the year 2022.

Although 2022 was another challenging year for the nurses all over the globe, with an entire profession relentlessly caring for millions of citizens due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and on top the war in Ukraine, the ENRF continued its work of setting the future of the EU nursing research, by developing key policy brief linked to the EU Institutions policy priorities and as such informing politicians and policymakers about the importance and impact of nursing research on key EU policy arenas such as Violence and Unmet Needs, especially during and after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Bringing the nursing researchers' knowledge together to strengthen the delivery of evidence-based nursing to add rigour and credibility to the political decision-making and outcomes is key, as nursing research is a growing field even though it remains a relatively new activity in many countries. 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.

Over the last 3 years, and more than ever, nursing research has shown to play a vital role in driving the resilience in the healthcare systems, and in so doing ensuring ongoing access to life-saving care. Many lessons were learned during the pandemic, and it is clear that research will continue to be a main driver for policy developments, not least in the health sector.

With the recently adopted [European Innovation Agenda](#) underlying commitment to reinforce Europe's innovation potential, and aiming to support Europe in the development of new technologies to address the most pressing societal challenges, the nursing research will be key in the transformation of healthcare to ensure that the solutions brought to frontline will be fit-for-purpose and as such engaged the end-user.

It is therefore key that, at EU level, nursing research excellence and impact is brought to the EU policy co-creation process on key topics as Advanced Practice Nursing (APN), digitalisation, planetary health, nurse mentorship, care left undone and violence against nurses - six [policy briefs](#) developed by the ENRF over the last 2 years that provide key recommendations.

The ENRF will continue in 2023 to provide input the EU Institutions, mainly the European Commission and the European Parliament, to make sure that the EU puts a greater focus on deploying nursing research findings for being better prepared for upcoming health crisis's and their provide the evidence to invest in the EU nursing workforce.

Hope you enjoy reading the 2022 Activity Report.

Best Regards,

Prof Dame Dr Anne Marie Rafferty

*ENRF President*

Prof Dr Paul De Raeve

*ENRF Secretary General*

## I. EU HEALTH & RESEARCH AGENDA

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As part of its [SORP 2021-2024](#), and as in the previous years, the ENRF followed very closely, in 2022, the developments on the health & research EU agenda, and in particular [Horizon Europe](#), knowing that nursing research can bring a strong contribution to the EU Health Research Programme focusing on improving health conditions across all the EU Member States through better prevention, access, and

treatment.

The EU Institutions understood that health research is key and have made it clear that it is a top priority for the wider EU policy agenda (cf. [EU Commission signed the Agreement on Research Assessment](#); [New European Innovation Agenda](#) (aiming to help Europe to develop new technologies to address the most pressing societal challenges); [EU4Health](#) (aiming to reinforce crisis preparedness in the EU by contributing to the long-term health challenges by building stronger, more resilient and more accessible health systems); the [European Research Area](#) (aiming to create a single, borderless market for research, innovation and technology across the EU); and the '[Health at a Glance: Europe 2022](#)' report. Nursing research has an increasingly important role to play in supporting the development and evaluation of nursing innovations, and in demonstrating the value of the nursing workforce. Therefore, it is crucial to build on these developments at EU level and strengthen nursing research input.

To ensure that the nurses' researchers and the ENRF Members are prepared for the new Horizon Europe calls, namely under "[Cluster Health](#)", the ENRF followed very closely these developments, participating in some meetings at EU level on the topic, and reporting the key information on this to the ENRF nurse researchers and the EFN members through:

- [ENRF Briefing Notes](#) (sent by email & available on ENRF Website): [Horizon Europe Lump Sum](#) (02/02/2022); [European Research Area](#) (05/04/2022); [EU Health Programme 2021-2027](#) (09/07/2022); [Fostering Coherence in EU Health Research](#) (20/10/2022).
- ENRF Website homepage: [The Lump Sums Methodology](#) (02/02/2022); [European Research & Innovation Days – don't](#) (28/06/2022); [New European Innovation Agenda](#) (29/08/2022); [The European Commission adopts the EU4Health Work](#) (25/11/2022); [What EU money for health research?](#) (05/12/2022); [Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2024 is out!](#) (15/12/2022).
- [ENRF Newsletters](#) (sent by email & available on ENRF Website): [May 2022](#) and [December 2022](#).

The outbreak and subsequent pandemic of COVID-19, and the war in Ukraine, has challenged EU policies for health and has led to several new initiatives under a commitment towards a European health union, strengthening EU preparedness and response during health crises. From a nursing research perspective, investing in research and innovation is investing in Europe's future. 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.

The ENRF, and nursing researchers, will be key to move from EU research fragmentation and the lack of coherence towards impactful and outcome-oriented research outcomes with a key focus on exploitation. As such, the ENRF will continue, in 2023, to follow up on these developments very closely and inform the EFN members and the ENRF Reference Points.

## II. GOVERNANCE

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The ENRF Board of Directors (BoD) is responsible for defining the policies and priorities of the Foundation in accordance with its mission, vision and constitutional aims, included in the [ENRF strategic plan \(2021-2024\)](#) (SORP) that contains a set of values, content and theme for the Foundation to work on. All EFN Members are entitled to nominate and elect the ENRF Board of Directors (BoD).

### A. Board Members (2022-2024)

The ENRF [governing body](#) is currently composed by three Directors, re-elected in January 2022 for a 2-year mandate (2022-2024), and the ENRF Secretary General, Paul De Raeve:

#### 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:

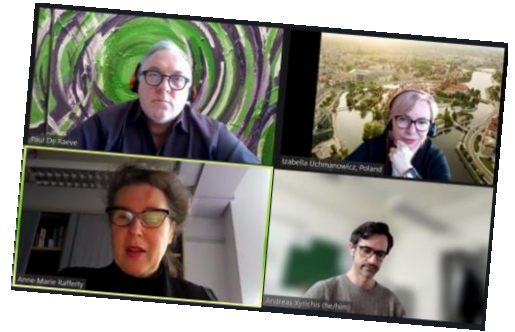


Paul De Raeve  
*ENRF Secretary General*

## B. Board of Directors meetings 2022

In 2022, the ENRF Board of Directors (BoD) met on:

- **23 February (Online)** – The BoD took this opportunity to reflect on the work done so far, and on the activities to be done in 2022, setting up some key priorities, as: to finalise a 4<sup>th</sup> Policy Brief on [Advanced Practice Nurse](#), and to develop two other ones on Planetary Health and on Violence against nurses. The BoD also decided to develop further the ENRF Stakeholder & Policy Mapping - approving to follow-up on the work of the [European Health Parliament](#) (EHP), networking and meeting people from the group on Digitalisation.
- **30 May (Online)** - To prepare the joint ENRF BoD/EFN Executive Committee meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022, aiming to brief the EFN Executive Committee on the latest ENRF developments, based on the decisions taken by the EFN Members at the EFN General Assembly in October 2019, in Greece.
- **3 October (Online)** – The BoD discussed and approved two new Policy Briefs - on [Planetary Health](#) and on [Violence against Nurses](#); the need to go over the [EFN SOLP 2021-2027](#) and the [ENRF SORP 2021-2024](#) to define the top priorities for the ENRF to take forward, namely in the context of Policy Briefs development to support the EFN lobby work; and the need to have the ENRF communication documents reviewed to have a more impactful documents' format.



## C. EFN Executive Committees & General Assemblies



As done since its establishment, the EFN Executive Committee and the EFN General Assembly were, in 2022, continuously informed on the ENRF developments, and on the ENRF Directors' reflections on ENRF work.

On the joint ENRF BoD/EFN Executive Committee meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022, the ENRF Directors and the EFN Executive Committee members discussed the future and sustainability of the Foundation, including the proposal for an external review of the ENRF. A Terms of Reference is being developed jointly by the EFN President & the ENRF President, with the support of Pat Cullen (RCN – EFN Executive Committee member). The ambition is to present some key developments on this to the EFN Members in 2023.



#### **D. ENRF Brussels Office**

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 2021-2024](#). It carried out the full ordinary management of the Foundation, based on the agreements adopted by the Board of Directors, making the link between the Foundation and EFN, building alliances with the MEPS, research bodies & experts, and making sure that the ENRF contributed to the policy decision making process from a nursing research perspective, focusing on the policy area/priorities as established by the ENRF Board.

One of the key activities for the EFN Office was to make sure to bring the key EU policy developments information to the nursing researchers, and to the EFN members, through the [ENRF Website news](#), [ENRF Newsletters](#), and [Briefing Notes](#). 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.

The ENRF Office also made sure that all the administration obligations were 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 and the regular information requested by both the Belgium administration and the European Commission.

The ENRF Office will continue to take this further in 2023.

### III. ACTIVITIES

In 2022, the ENRF continued taking forward its activities, even though reduced, in compliance with the agreement of the October 2019 EFN General Assembly, in Greece, and in the context of rethinking the future of the Foundation. Which meant for the ENRF Office the circulation of only 2 Newsletters over the year, less Briefing Notes, attending less meetings, no social media, etc. But keeping always the EFN members, the ENRF Board of Directors and the ENRF Reference Points informed on the EU topics seen as key for nursing research ongoing developments, and drafting some key documents as agreed by the EFN Members in 2019.

#### A. Evidence Based Policy Briefs

The ENRF Policy Briefs are one of the main achievements for the ENRF in 2022. Following-up on the work started in 2020 on the EFN research evidence needs to underpin EFN political lobby objectives, the ENRF continued to develop some Policy Briefs to support the EFN Members and EFN EU lobby process. As such, in 2022, the ENRF published 3 new Policy Briefs linked to the current health research priorities in the European Union:

[Advanced Practice Nursing](#); [Nursing Planetary Health](#)

and [Violence Against Nurses](#), with their own

recommendations. This becomes the mechanism for identifying the priorities to take forward for lobbying on research policy next to the

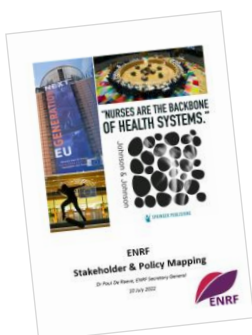
European Commission. These 3 Policy Briefs come next to the ones already

published in 2021 on [Care left Undone](#); [Digitalisation](#); [Nursing Mentorship](#). They are all available on [ENRF Website](#). The ENRF Board of Directors is now looking at the next Policy Briefs to be developed in 2023 – The themes are still to be defined, in compliance with the EFN lobby priorities.



#### B. Stakeholder & Policy Mapping

In 2021, the ENRF Board of Directors discussed and approved the need to have a stakeholders' & policy mapping for one of the defined ENRF priorities, to help analyse, understand, and create effective strategies to promote [ENRF SORP](#) and [Policy Briefs](#), and provide an overview on the policy actors to be in touch with to influence research policy, next to support the EFN work. Digitalisation was seen by the ENRF BoD as a key topic to develop this stakeholders' & policy mapping, taking into account



In 2022, the ENRF continued to develop this document, based on a first version drafted in 2021, with major focus on the [European Health Parliament](#) - a movement connecting and empowering the next generation of the other European health leaders to rethink EU health policies – constituted by a group of 60 young professionals. This led to some successes for the ENRF in influencing their outcomes on Digitalisation with ENRF views taken into account in their final [recommendations](#). The ENRF will follow-up on this positive outcome and continue to develop this key policy document in 2023.

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environment) linked to ENRF Policy Brief on [Planetary Health](#). The ENRF Office will continue this important alliance building in 2023.

## E. Meetings

Invited to participate in some key meetings, the ENRF Board and ENRF Secretary General, took the opportunity to raise nursing research, to make the Foundation known, including how and why it has been established, its aims and objectives, and how the ENRF and the nursing research can contribute to the EU debate.

Below some examples, just to name a few, of the meetings the ENRF Office attended in 2022:

- **EU4Health 2022 work programme Information Session for Operating Grants**, on 20 January 2022. Organised by the European Commission and HaDEA it aimed at presenting the procedure for Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) operating grants under the EU4Health 2022 Annual Work programme.
- **Meetings with the European Health Parliament (EHP):**
  - o **Working Group on 'Wellbeing of Healthcare Workers'** - Cidália Eusébio (Clinical consultant), on 18 February 2022 – to discuss how the ENRF could support framing some of the nursing issues with evidence-based recommendations. ENRF Policy Briefs were seen as a good basis to take into account in their discussions.
  - o **EHP President - Eleonora Varntoumian (EONS)**, on 25 February 2022. Eleonora presented the EHP, its activities and focus. They believe that the solutions must come from the young European health leaders who influence the policies that will ultimately concern their generation as they age. Their first step in this process was to make a mapping on the members and their expertise/interest to create 5 pillars to work on, then to build comparison with the previous editions, and finally to map what are the current priorities in Europe on the 5 topics/pillars identified.
  - o **Working Group on 'Digital Health Transition and Governance' vice-chair** - Dr Henrik Sliwka, MD at Janssen Europe (EMEA). They aim at delivering policy recommendations on digital health and digital health governance on 3 topics: data sharing; digital literacy; and digital health innovation, stressing the importance to engage people for boosting digitalisation and to implement digital health literacy, and the need to include the nursing researchers views in the recommendations, making sure that they pick up DIR55 (Art. 31), and CPD.

- **Working Group on 'Wellbeing of Healthcare Workers'** - Mónica Gómez Castañeda (MD – Oslo University) on 18 March 2022, to exchange views on recruitment & Retention strategies, nurses & doctors leaving the profession (25%) and Wellbeing, Burnout and Mental Health.
- **DG Santé event on "Climate Change and Health"**, on 16 March 2022. The meeting made clear that addressing climate change impacts on health in an effective manner requires actionable national policies, and in particular, emphasis on protecting health in national climate change adaptation policies, and the consideration of climate change impacts in the national public health strategies are needed. (*Link to ENRF Policy Brief on Nursing Planetary Health*)
- **Meeting on Lump sum grants in Horizon Europe**, on 29 September 2022, which gave an [overview](#) on the lump sum model, its added values, how to write a proposal and how to plan the budget in the case of a lump sum grant.
- **DG Santé Launch event on the EU Global Health Strategy**, on 30 November 2022, [aiming](#) at ensuring the EU's central role in the global health debate. Presented as an important step forward for reducing inequalities in health, it explores how to leverage digitalization, workforce and research.

## IV. REFERENCE POINTS NETWORK

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For the European Commission it is key to know ‘who’ is behind the Foundation and who it represents. Therefore, building an internal nursing research reference points network is key to show the European Commission that the ENRF is a 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](#).

The ENRF believes that it is key to foster the dialogue between researchers, practitioners and policymakers/politicians, and to bring the nursing researchers’ knowledge together to strengthen the delivery of evidence-based policies, in order to add rigour and credibility to the political decision-making and outcomes. As such, the ENRF is looking at how to best reach out the ENRF Reference Points, nominated by the EFN members across Europe, and re-energise them. This would provide the ENRF a link to all EU Members States strengthening the ENRF capacity to support EFN EU policy work, and more visibility at European level for the national reference points. This would also increase their research potential to respond to the main health issues in Europe, next to having opportunities to collaborate on research calls with colleagues across Europe: the ENRF becoming a facilitator for research, not a competitor.

In 2022, the ENRF Office made sure to provide the reference points, and the EFN members, with as much information as possible on the ongoing EU developments on research that could be helpful for nursing research, through the ENRF Briefing Notes, Newsletters, Press Releases, etc.

The ENRF will continue building on this network in 2023, together with the EFN members.

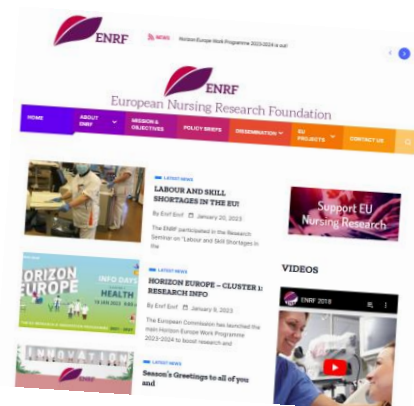


## V. COMMUNICATION

Crucial to enhance effectiveness, communicating on the ENRF activities is crucial for making it visualised, and to get the message across, and to engage ENRF reference points to the work of the ENRF and to make the Foundation more visible, especially at EU level. In 2022, 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](http://www.enrf.eu)) is aiming at making the Foundation more visible. Next to a Homepage with news, 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). Being a key tool, the ENRF launched in April 2022 an updated version of the ENRF website, that is managed by the Brussels' Office and will evolve as the Foundation will.



### ENRF Newsletter

On a regular basis, when significant information is available, the ENRF publishes its Newsletter that refers to the main news for nurse researchers/nursing research at EU level that can support and influence their daily work. In 2022, the ENRF Office published 2 Newsletters: [May 2022](#) and [December 2022](#). All ENRF Newsletters are available on [ENRF Website](#).



### 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, the ENRF Reference points, and the EFN Members, the ENRF Office published in 2022 several key Briefing Notes: [Horizon Europe Lump Sum](#) (February 2022); [Climate and Health](#) (March 2022); [European Research Area](#) (April 2022); [EU Health Programme 2021-2027](#) (July



2022); [Fostering Coherence in EU Health Research](#) (October 2022). All the ENRF Briefing Notes are available on [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 for the moment these are not so much used as agreed by the EFN members at the October 2019 EFN General Assembly.



## VI. CONCLUSION

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As demonstrated by COVID-19 pandemic, more than ever nurses, always at the frontline of care for citizens and patients, doing their utmost to provide high-quality and safe care, have an essential role to play in running the healthcare systems in the EU. From a nursing research perspective, investing in research and innovation is investing in Europe's future.

Therefore, in these challenging times, health research remains important to support the development and evaluation of nursing innovations, and to demonstrate the value of the nursing workforce. Turning weaknesses in health research into strengths will be the key challenge for health research in the EU in the coming years.

The ENRF will be key to move from EU research fragmentation and the lack of coherence towards impactful and outcome-oriented research outcomes with a key focus on exploitation. As such, the ENRF will continue to follow on these EU developments, bringing valuable information to the EFN Members and the ENRF Reference Points, and getting closer to the EU policymakers bringing at EU level the nursing research evidence on key policy topics, thus supporting EFN daily lobby work.

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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**

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