



Advancing Nursing Research

ENRF Newsletter

March 2018

President's Message



Dear ENRF colleagues and Friends, this first edition of the European Nursing Research Foundation (ENRF) Newsletter occurs as we celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Foundation established by the European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN). Through the years the EFN members have been strong supporters of nursing science and research through the WENR

collaboration, ENS4Care and other development projects. In creating the ENRF, the EFN members have clearly recognised the essential role of evidence-based nursing care in health service delivery. Today evidence is also critical to leverage influence in health policy development with politicians and other decision makers at EU and national level. Nursing is the largest health profession and essential to sustainable health systems. The ENRF means nurses are prepared to on a role as major players in addressing the health and policy challenges of today and the future.

Europe is faced with the health challenges of an aging population as people are living longer and often with multiple chronic conditions. Lifestyle factors including excessive sugar and salt, inactivity and smoking increase the risk of chronic illness and drive up healthcare expenditure. Politicians and decision-makers are seeking new approaches to health and healthcare. Nurses are competent and have good solutions to health and care issues. Yet far too often nurses are not valued, many provide care in poor practice environments with little influence in decision-making and poor wages. In some EU countries governments are downgrading nursing education, seeking a quick fix on care. The ENRF is a tool for nurses' organisations to take on these challenges and to have an even greater impact on their practice environments and the health and quality of life of European citizens through nursing research.

In developing the ENRF strategic plan we have focused on four areas where the need for nursing research is greatest and where we believe the ENRF and nursing research can have the greatest impact:

- Development of positive practice environments (PPE) that support professional nursing
- Self-care for improvement of health and quality of life of individuals with chronic illness
- Strengthen nursing education and training in Europe
- Innovation for improvement of nursing clinical practice.

The ENRF's research priorities are linked to the EFN strategic priorities to ensure synergies between the two organisations.

The member associations of EFN have acknowledged the need to invest in nursing research, education, innovation and development - perhaps even more so in times of austerity. With their generous donations to the ENRF, the EFN members have shown their commitment to evidence-based nursing practice, the hallmark of excellence in nursing.

I wish to sincerely thank the EFN members as well as my fellow board members for electing me as EFN Founding Director and president of the ENRF. I am honoured to lead the strategic work of the ENRF board to fulfil the mission of this important new Foundation with Dr Paul De Raeve, Secretary General of the ENRF. In the coming months the board of the ENRF will be working to further develop and implement the strategic plan in close collaboration with the EFN.

Karen Bjørø
ENRF President

ENRF News

ENRF Board Directors meeting

On 16 February, the ENRF Directors (Dorota Kilanska – Poland, Birgit Vosseler – Switzerland, Kate Seers, UK) and ENRF President (Karen Bjørø, Norway) held their first annual online meeting. The ENRF Board mainly focused on discussing the implementation of the ENRF Strategic & Operational Research Plan "2017-2020". In addition, the ENRF Directors evaluated the opportunities related to the current Horizon 2020 [Working Programme](#). The ENRF Board strongly agrees on the importance and necessity for the EU research programme to dedicate more funding to health and nursing research to ensure that the next health policies are informed by all the necessary components.

EU News

Future of EU research funding

With the ongoing discussion on the upcoming [EU multiannual financial framework](#) (MFF), EU stakeholders wonder what will be the share of the EU money designated to research after 2020, that currently covers the 8 per cent of the overall EU budget. Speaking at the [conference](#) on the MFF, EU Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs, Valdis Dombrovskis, and EU Commissioner for Budget, Günther Oettinger, agreed on the need for a bigger share of the budget for innovation. The Commissioners also supported an increase of research spending, despite the loss of UK's €12B net contribution to the EU budget 2021-2027. These budget discussions are key in the design of our future! The ENRF will engage in Brussels' discussion and make sure nurses get their piece of the cake! It is only by engaging in Brussels' political discussion and meeting politicians that we can promote nursing research at EU level.

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ENRF UPDATE
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European Parliament pushes for more health research spending

On the same topic, the European Parliament has called to substantially increasing research spending to at least 120€ billion in the next seven-years cycle. The European Parliament Budget Committee's [report](#) stated that the current €77 billion research programme "cannot satisfy the very high demand" from applicants. In parallel, the Parliament's Industry, Research and Energy Committee provided its [opinion](#), stressing that health and space research spending needs to increase in the successor to Horizon 2020, Framework Programme 9 (FP9). The ENRF will follow closely, with key alliances, the budget discussion to get health research more upfront into FP9, knowing the upcoming European Parliament elections and the appointment of a new Commission takes place in 2019!

But delays in implementing FP9 can damage research

However, the parallel negotiations on Brexit are delaying the discussion on the research budget. The Commission has presented the [serious consequences](#) that this delay can have on research, risking to lose around 5,000 research jobs per month.

H2020 delivering on research and innovation in Europe

The European Commission has published a snapshot of the main [achievements](#) of Horizon 2020 after three full years of implementation (2014-2016), analysing over 300 calls for proposals. The brochure presents facts and figures on the projects' results of the years examined. Since the start of Horizon 2020, a total EC financial contribution of EUR 24.8 billion has been allocated to signed grants. The largest share of funding has been allocated to the Excellent Science pillar (37.5%), mainly to the European Research Council. The Societal Challenges pillar accounts for 36.6% of the funding, with most funding going to Societal Challenge 1 on Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing. It is key for the ENRF to engage in the Societal Challenge as all nursing challenges relate to this chapter!

EU research programme boosts science

When the final H2020 Work Programme has been presented last October, EU Research, Science and Innovation Commissioner Carlos Moedas stated that science is at the core of today's most promising breakthrough innovations. The great investment of the Commission will have a significant impact on areas such as artificial Intelligence, genetics, and personalised medicine. Nursing research has a crucial role to play providing evidence of the important [contribution](#) that the advance nurse practitioner can bring when developing personalised health systems, as well as nursing contribution to multi-disciplinary research within the area of Personalised Medicine. Alliance building in this research area is key if nursing researchers want to take up their seat around the quite medical dominated research stakeholders. When it comes to Personalised Healthcare, Person-centred care, nurses should be leading research designs.

124,2 € million for innovation procurement in 2018-2019

In the framework of the Horizon 2020 calls in 2018-2019, the EU offers funding to public procurers and other stakeholders from different countries to prepare and implement [pre-commercial](#)

[procurements](#) (PCP) and [public procurements of innovative solutions](#) (PPI) together. The aim is to support the public sector to drive innovation from the demand side through innovation procurement. PCP addresses the development and testing of innovative solutions, while PPI focuses on the deployment of innovative solutions. Calls are available in health, security, energy, ICT etc.

LIVE INCITE Pre-Commercial Procurement launched

Swedish, Spanish and Danish healthcare procurers have joined up in [LIVE INCITE](#). Their aim is to encourage the market to develop interactive IT-solutions that empower patients and support lifestyle changes in order to improve outcomes of surgical procedures as well as cost effectiveness of healthcare providers. Interested bidders are invited to submit offers to the [call for tender](#) by 16 March 2018.

H2020 invests in governance projects! Finally!

The EU research programme has opened its funds to another important topic, [European governance](#). The aim of these new calls is to tackle urgent and recent social issues that European Member States are facing. The approach chosen by the calls for projects is to address and find sustainable and innovative solutions from the angle of inclusive and reflective societies. The aim is to support the collection of new evidence and the development of policy options to develop new governance paths. At the moment, 8 calls for projects are open, focus on topics from [ideologies](#) and polarisation to inclusive [public services](#). And when it comes to public services, nursing research outcomes should be implemented to improve good governance! Leadership and good governance are two concepts nurses know very well!

New ideas for the next research programme

The next EU research Framework Programme 9, to start in 2021, could include a new funding agency for disruptive innovation with a similar title as one proposed recently by French President Emmanuel [Macron](#). The Commission's draft plan includes a portion of the programme called "spreading excellence" dedicated on boosting science and technology capabilities across the EU. Meanwhile, the research programme will keep focusing on well-known global challenges including health; inclusive, resilient and secure societies; digitalising and transforming industry and services; climate, energy and mobility; and natural resources. The ENRF will follow the creation of the 'agency' closely!

EU funding boosts work-life balance

To implement the [Europe 2020 strategy](#), the Commission has launched the [Employment and Social Innovation](#) (EaSI) programme. The financing tool aims to promote a high level of quality and sustainable employment, guaranteeing adequate and decent social protection, combating social exclusion and poverty and improving working conditions. The aim of the call for projects is to support governmental and non-governmental actors, social partners in delivering national policy reforms as regards reconciling work and private life in line with the rights and principles set out in the European Social Pillar. The budget is estimated at €10.000.000, and the deadline for submission is 18 April 2018. It is key nurses'

researchers build up consortia, submitting proposals. We need to get nursing proposals submitted!

The European Commission publishes guidance on upcoming new data protection rules

The [General Data Protection Regulation](#) (GDPR) will enter into force on 25 May 2018. The rules will have an impact on the use and process of personal data in many fields. To facilitate the different sectors to be compliant with the new law, the Commission has published some [guidance](#). The GDPR will also affect the process of data in research for what concerns [the purpose of data processing](#), the [storage period](#), and [how much](#) data can be used. ENF and ENRF are following the GDPR discussions in Brussels as it is key for good governance of both organisations.

GDPR Code of Conduct in progress

In order to prepare to the implementation of the new data protection rules, [BBMRI-ERIC](#) is formulating a [Code of conduct](#) for the health research sector. The Code is drafted from a researcher's perspective, with a current focus on the legal basis for data (re)use; responsibilities as (joint) controller/processor in different research settings (e.g., biobank or clinical trial); and the appropriate safeguards (e.g., pseudonymisation). The Code of Conduct for Health Research tries to fill the gap in the [GDPR](#) to protect [patients'](#) rights and safeguard [health research](#), [biobanking](#) and [registries](#)." ENRF follows these discussions making sure the code will be 'fit for purpose'!

Artificial Intelligence impact on healthcare

A [report](#) on the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the UK health system has recently highlighted some benefits and barriers of the newest health technology. Among the main benefits, AI can help address the health and wellbeing gap by predicting which individuals or groups of individuals are at risk of illness; providing health professionals and patients with access to cutting edge diagnostics and treatment tailored to individual need; and address the efficiency and funding gap by automating tasks, triaging patients to the most appropriate services and allowing them to selfcare. The study remarks that in order to apply AI to support a more efficient healthcare system that delivers better outcomes, it is first necessary to overcome concerns of both the public and [healthcare professionals](#). It is also stressed that AI is an enabler, not an end in itself. Therefore, it should not be regarded as tool that will decide what objectives or outcomes should be reached.

The EU pushed to invest more in Artificial Intelligence

Meanwhile, the Commission has been called to keep pace with rivals in AI and cybersecurity research. According to Jürgen Rüttgers, former science and technology minister in Germany, the EU should devote [extra attention to Artificial Intelligence](#) by adding add separate funding lines for artificial intelligence and security/connectivity.

Wearable biosensors do not deliver as expected- Surprised?

According to a recent [study](#) on the impact of remote patient monitoring on clinical outcomes, the increasing use of wearable biosensors among the population is not resulting in improved patient outcomes. Namely, although these devices provide some

help in improving outcomes for certain conditions, including obstructive pulmonary disease, Parkinson's disease, hypertension and low back pain, there is not enough evidence that they consistently change clinical outcomes in a meaningful way. Therefore, it becomes crucial to concretely [engage frontline](#) in the co-design of eHealth tools to ensure their efficient use.

mHealth reduces surgical infections, but increases nursing workload

Researchers from the University of Wisconsin developed a new [smartphone app](#), WoundCare, that allows patients to send images of their surgical wounds for monitoring by nurses, allowing earlier detection of surgical site infections and prevention of hospital re-admissions. The new approach foresees a greater involvement of the patient, with important improvement in patient safety and satisfaction aspects, along with cost-saving aspects due the decrease of surgical site infections. However, nurses highlighted the difficulty in finding time to review the wound images on top of an already heavy clinical workload.

Prevention spending still low among European countries

The recent OECD [working paper](#) on the health expenditure of OECD countries on prevention highlights that only a small fraction of health spending goes on prevention activities, with a large proportion allocated to healthy condition monitoring programmes (44%). Nurses are ideally placed to act as a health coach and to help [prevent](#) Non-Communicable Diseases by supporting healthy lifestyle. Therefore, it is crucial to inform national health prevention policies with nursing findings. [ENS4Care](#) EU project, building on 175 good practices collected, led to five key [guidelines](#), including one on [prevention](#)! Building on the study outcomes, it is key to convince politicians to allocate research budgets to prevention, and not only diseases.

EU-funded study investigates curing influenza

The EU-funded network [PREPARE](#) is preparing Europe for infectious disease threats and launching the research needed to defeat them. The network is currently working on responding to the [seasonal influenza](#) in Europe. PREPARE addresses harmonised large-scale clinical research studies on infectious diseases, prepared to rapidly respond to any severe ID outbreak, providing real-time evidence for clinical management of patients and for informing public health responses.

Central and Eastern Europe tackle obstacles to research

Scientists from nine Central and Eastern European countries gathered in Brussels to launch the [Alliance4Life project](#), aiming to address the underlying causes of the disparity in health research and innovation between the older EU Member States and the ones that joined more recently. The initiative will provide the European Commission with recommendations for how to improve health innovation in the region and bring up conditions for research to levels of other EU countries.
