



EFN POSITION STATEMENT ON EUROPEAN NURSING RESEARCH

"Nursing research is an integral part of nursing, aimed at providing new scientific knowledge that contributes to improvement of the quality of patient care"
(Council of Europe R96/1/1996)

The EFN recognises that despite increasing uptake of nursing research further support is still needed both at EU and Member State level towards realising the [Council of Europe Recommendation on Nursing Research R96/1/1996](#). Acknowledging that a research base in Nursing is essential not just for nurses but also for funders of health services and health policy makers, the EFN argues that Nursing Research has become an imperative component in building a **healthier and competitive** Europe.

The EFN Members have undertaken a survey entitled "[Nursing Research in Europe: reaching a consensus on strategic priorities](#)" and have concluded that the main priorities should now be to "identify/develop research evidence to underpin European Union policy-making", next to "increase awareness of research funding and training opportunities", and "monitor the impact of Nursing research on health and social care policy across Europe". Moreover, research objectives should be further clarified and aligned with current and future **policy trends** beginning with effective identification, utilisation and dissemination of existing evidence and scientific knowledge. Nursing, therefore, requires both the appropriate manpower with appropriate and relevant academic support, and the necessary time allocated to engage with such demanding but critically important research activities. To this end, European, National and International collaborations and joint initiatives could be instrumental in providing support and exchanging best practice.

In order to move this discussion forward, the EFN calls for further research capacity for Nursing at European and National level. Nursing research contributes substantially within health policies which should be recognised by the European Institutions and given equal weight in funds allocation. Building closer partnerships at EU level is therefore strongly supported through the development of a **new structure and organisation**. The EFN will work towards more nursing research awareness in the EU institutions and support EFN policy through research outcomes.

Bearing in mind that research conduct, including dissemination of existing evidence and implementation of findings, has to be considered as a continuous process, the EFN supports the Council in recommending that to promote quality Nursing research it is necessary to establish research units where **nurse researchers and policy makers can join forces** in carrying out long-term research on a continuous basis. The EFN perceives this to be particularly timely especially at EU level if Nursing is to contribute in realising Europe's Lisbon objectives.

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