



**EFN Report on
Planetary Health & Nursing in Europe**

October 2021



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Executive Summary

Nurses are trusted professionals who can act as change agents in addressing environmental changes that impact human health. Planetary health, defined as the highest standard of health and wellbeing worldwide, includes addressing ecological drivers, proximate causes, and mediating factors. Nurses are ideally positioned to champion the need for policies and actions that benefit both health and the environment.

Across the world, integrated public health and environmental policy initiatives are being developed to combat global environmental threats, with planetary health recognised as an approach to understand the relationship between human health and the planet. International frameworks like the Planetary Health Education Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals aim to improve planetary health, while EU initiatives like the Planetary Health Alliance, European Green Deal, and Horizon Europe also focus on this issue. Nurses have an important role to play, and investment in nursing research and workforce is necessary to impact EU health and Green Deal policymaking.

The current report presents data from a Europe-wide survey executed online in October 2021, with fourteen National Nurses' Associations providing qualitative responses. The survey aimed to gather information on policies, training programs, decision-making processes, and key actors advocating for the advanced role of nurses in the context of planetary health in different countries. Data were synthesized following standard content analysis approaches. The results are shared here to inform current and future policies, and strengthen planetary health in Europe.

The survey results indicate that European countries have various policies, initiatives, and training programs on planetary health, but the extent of nursing involvement in these initiatives varies. Nursing education and training programs on planetary health differ by country. Nurses advocate for an advanced role in decision-making related to planetary and environmental health across different countries. The results also demonstrate the important role nurses play in addressing environmental health issues, promoting ethical and sustainable healthcare practices, and increasing their participation in decision-making at all levels.

Across Europe there is an increasing recognition of the interdependence between the work of nurses, human health, and the health of the planet. European countries have developed policies and initiatives, indicating their commitment to addressing planetary health issues and integrating environmental health considerations into healthcare practices. The EFN survey provides important context for the development of further policy actions towards a healthier and more sustainable future for European citizens.

Main Report

1. Background

Nurses are the most trusted professionals, and they are in a privileged position to communicate with citizens on lifestyle change and prevention. Based on a long tradition of informing the public about diseases and promoting health, it is evident that nurses take on an important role as change agents in a variety of activities concerning the health aspects of local and global environmental changes.

The Rockefeller Foundation–Lancet Commission on planetary health defines "planetary health" as the highest possible standard of health, wellbeing, and equity worldwide with attention to the political, economic, and social systems of humans and the Earth's natural limits. In other words, planetary health is about the health of human civilization and the environment it depends on. It suggests solutions to address the effects of human-induced change on health, such as infectious diseases and mental health problems, by addressing the underlying ecological drivers (e.g. consumption patterns, biodiversity loss), proximate causes (e.g. air quality, disease exposure), and mediating factors (e.g. behaviour, governance).

Nurses can help communicate the need for policies and actions that benefit both health and the environment. These include preventing air pollution (responsible for 500,000 deaths and €166 billion in social costs annually in Europe), promoting a healthy and eco-friendly (plant-based) diet, reducing and managing waste, encouraging low-emission transportation, and helping people adopt sustainable lifestyle practices. Additionally, nurses can promote nature-based solutions, "green prescribing," increased resilience, and psychological care for environmental threats.

2. EU & International Framework

With an increase in awareness of global environmental threats, like climate change and loss of biodiversity, integrated public health and environmental policy initiatives have been developing to combat these issues. In the EU and international policy context, planetary health is considered as an approach that allows us to understand how our health relates to that of our planet. It recognizes that human activities are causing unprecedented environmental changes that threaten the health and wellbeing of current and future generations.

Internationally, the Planetary Health Education Framework (PHEF) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are leading frameworks aimed at improving planetary health. The PHEF was created by experts

in different disciplines and regions and consists of five foundational domains concerned with systems thinking, transdisciplinary collaboration, ecological determinants of health, social justice and equity, and transformative action. The SDGs, adopted by all UN member states in 2015, are 17 goals and 169 targets focused on ending poverty, protecting the planet, and ensuring peace and prosperity by 2030. The SDGs aim to address various aspects of planetary health, like climate change and health and well-being, and recognizes that human well-being depends on the health of natural systems.

In the EU, several initiatives are devoted to planetary health. For example, the Planetary Health Alliance (PHA) is a network of universities, NGOs, research institutes and government entities that promote research, education, and policy. Importantly, the European Green Deal is a package of policy initiatives aiming to make the EU climate neutral by 2050. Moreover, the Horizon Europe program includes funding for research and innovation on climate change, biodiversity, health, and food systems. Nurses, with their direct contact with citizens, have a crucial role to play in EU health and Green Deal related policymaking impacting planetary health. To achieve this, European institutions must invest in nursing research and in the nursing workforce.

3. Method

Data for the current report originate from Members of EFN who responded to a Europe-wide survey executed online in October 2021. Fourteen National Nurses' Associations responded to the survey representing views from different socioeconomic contexts and countries in Europe.

The EFN Members were asked to provide qualitative responses to the following questions:

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?
2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?
3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.

Following completion of the survey, data were summarised through tabulation techniques and synthesized following standard content analysis approaches. In line with other EFN reports, the results presented here are shared with key stakeholders and among the EFN Members not to compare or rank progress on the developments of advanced practice nursing, but rather to inform the current and future work of the European Commission and of the EFN Members in different countries; and, to foster

development of connections to support each other in this ongoing effort to strengthen planetary health in Europe.

4. Results

This survey presents input from 14 National Nurses' Associations across Europe: Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Montenegro, and the United Kingdom (UK). This represents a response rate of 40% of EFN Members, from across Western, Eastern, North and South Europe. The EFN Members' answers to the five questions are summarised and synthesised below.

4.1 What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?

Overall, EFN Members indicated there are a variety of policies, initiatives, and projects related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in different countries, regions, cities, and healthcare settings. In Denmark, for example, there is a workers' strategy for green transition that focuses on cross-sectorial cooperation, health and safety at work, worker participation, training and education, skills development, and job security. In Finland, there is an Adaptation Plan (2021-2031) to tackle climate change in the healthcare and social welfare sector, with individual hospitals having varying sustainability programs. Germany has a project called KLIK green, which implements climate management systems in hospitals and is led by a nurse, and KLUG e.V., the largest actor that raises awareness of the issue of planetary health with all professional groups in healthcare. The UK government has introduced the Environment Bill to set targets on air quality, and the NHS Long Term Plan aims to reduce CO₂ emissions. The Royal College of Nursing in the UK has also released a position paper on climate change and launched the "make one change" campaign to reduce the use of disposable gloves. Each country's response is summarised below. Details concerning the response of each country are given below, with the complete response provided in the appendix.

In Albania, the nursing profession is focused on patient comfort and satisfaction by promoting awareness of caring, helping, respecting, listening, sharing, and learning. They aim to create a healthy environment for patients. There are no specific policies or initiatives related to planetary or environmental health approaches. However, in Bulgaria there are many initiatives and projects related to planetary health and climate changes at national, regional, and local levels, but none are led by nurses. Nurses and Roma mediators teach Roma communities about hygiene, waste separation, and

how to use the healthcare system to improve their health and knowledge about the planet and climate change.

In Denmark, climate policies have moved from global to national levels, with a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 70% by 2030 and achieving climate neutrality by 2050. Nurses will play a key role in implementing initiatives, with a workers' strategy for green transition focusing on cross-sectorial cooperation, health and safety at work, worker participation, training and education, skills development, and job security. The Danish Nurses' Organization is a member of the Danish Trade Union Confederation and there are also green hospital initiatives led by employers in the health sector.

Moreover, in Finland, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health has published an Adaptation Plan (2021-2031) to tackle climate change in the healthcare and social welfare sector. The plan contains 43 objectives and 92 recommendations for measures covering environmental health, health and social services, social effects, mitigation measures, and repercussions. The Ministry is responsible for implementing, monitoring, and assessing the plan. Individual hospitals have varying sustainability programs, and HUS, the largest hospital district, is committed to the Climate Partners cooperation network of the City of Helsinki and business life to promote carbon neutrality and emissions reduction. However, nurses may feel powerless to make a difference and not always be heard, even if they want to help.

Germany also has various initiatives and projects that address planetary health. KLUG e.V. is the largest actor that raises awareness of the issue of planetary health with all professional groups in health care and other actors, including nurses. KLIK green is a project funded by the Federal Ministry for the Environment that implements climate management systems in hospitals and is led by a nurse. However, there are no policies that explicitly consider Planetary Health, which is a major gap in the agendas of the Federal Ministry of Health and the Federal Ministry of the Environment. It is expected to change with the incoming federal government.

The Icelandic Nurse's Association has implemented a sustainable approach that includes UN Sustainable Development Goals in its operations and has published a ten-year Health Policy in Nursing and Healthcare that also includes UN Sustainable Development Goals. Landspítali, the National University Hospital of Iceland, has a strong environmental strategy with UN Sustainable Development Goals and has received awards for its efforts. Other workplaces for nurses have environmental committees that implement environmental strategies.

In Ireland, the government published a Climate Action Plan in 2019 which supports the ambition to achieve a net zero target by 2050. The Interim Climate Actions 2021 will be used to drive continued delivery of climate action across all government departments and bodies. The health sector has published the first Climate Change Adaptation Plan for 2019-2024 and established a National

Sustainability Office to coordinate its work towards a more sustainable health system. The mission of the strategy is for the Health Service Executive (HSE) to become the leading sustainable organization by undertaking several actions including delivering low carbon quality sustainable healthcare, preserving natural resources, reducing carbon emissions, lessening the effects of climate change, safeguarding high quality patient care, and ensuring compliance with legislation and national energy, waste, and water efficiency targets.

Latvia has implemented several policies to improve the nursing profession, including the establishment of a professional standard and the requirement of a bachelor's degree for general care nurses. Nurses' salaries have also been increased by 11% in 2021. Additionally, a Nursing Continuing Education program will be launched from 2022 to 2027. However, there is no specific policy or initiative aimed at tackling planetary or environmental health issues led by nurses.

Portugal has policies in place to raise public awareness about climate change and its impact on health. Nurses, being in direct contact with communities, play a crucial role in educating and raising awareness. The Ordem dos Enfermeiros helps prepare responses to natural disasters and educates nurses to participate in multidisciplinary teams. Climate change is changing patterns of incidence and transmission of diseases and causes of death. Nurses are in a privileged position to educate and raise awareness about healthy life habits and implications for individual and collective health. More simulations are needed to create scenarios closer to reality. Investment in education for health and environmental protection is necessary to obtain health gains and reverse climate change effects.

The General Council of Nursing of Spain, along with other organizations, has launched an initiative on "one health" involving over 50 institutions to educate politicians and society about the importance of environmental, veterinary, psychological, and welfare health for overall health. They have also signed a letter urging national governments and representatives at COP26 to take action to avert the climate crisis and save lives. Similarly, the Swedish Society of Nursing has published a position statement on climate and environmental issues that outlines how nurses can contribute to reducing healthcare's carbon footprint and adapt healthcare to a changing world. Nurses are also involved in research and higher education, including a consensus statement on planetary health and education for sustainable healthcare authored by Professor Marie Elf.

Finally, the UK government has introduced the Environment Bill to set targets on air quality and provide local authorities with frameworks for enforcing environmental protections. Some cities have implemented Clean Air Zones and low emission zones, and the NHS Long Term Plan aims to reduce CO2 emissions by 57% by 2028/29. Nursing-led initiatives include the Royal College of Nursing's position paper on climate change and the "make one change" campaign to reduce the use of disposable gloves. The NHS Greener NHS program aims to reduce the impact on public health and the

environment and achieve net carbon zero, and there are examples of hospital-led best practices such as the Clean Air Hospital Framework.

4.2 What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?

The EFN Members gave different examples of education and training programs for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches. Some countries, such as Denmark and Sweden, prioritize these topics in nursing education, while others, such as Bulgaria and Iceland, mention them in other subjects or not at all. Some countries, such as Germany and Ireland, offer specific training courses for health professionals, and Spain is considering providing training courses. Portugal has programs that aim to educate nurses to act as environmental educators. Albania provides training on various topics such as waste management, while Montenegro has general nursing training. The Royal College of Nursing in the UK is developing a sustainability education program, and NURS-SuS EU offers education and training programs for sustainability literacy and competency. A summary of each country response is given below.

In Albania, there are several education and training programs for nurses on environmental health. These include raising awareness about environmental pollution and its impact on community health, educating nurses on how food diets affect patient health, promoting the use of environmentally friendly vehicles, waste management and separation at source, and providing sexual and reproductive health education to young people. However, in Bulgaria, there are no specific training programs for nurses on planetary health. Nevertheless, the subject is included in various courses such as Healthcare management, Public health, Epidemiology, and Philosophy of nursing. Additionally, different aspects of planetary health and climate change are included in CPD courses.

Moreover, in Denmark, planetary health, environmental health, and health promotion are prioritized in all educational settings for nurses, including bachelor and master's programs. This content is integrated into the focus on prevention, health promotion, and health literacy. In contrast, in Finland there are some educational programmes available for nurses on environmental responsibility, but the contents of planetary health are not included to a great extent in the nursing CPD programmes or nurse education curricula. But there is a part in the nurse education curriculum that demonstrates the ability to work according to the principles of cost-efficiency, sustainable development, use, recycling and disposal of materials, and cost awareness and economic activity.

The EFN Member from Germany, DBfK, indicated that the University of Munich offers a project that specifically trains nurses on the effects of heat waves. The DBfK plans to become active on the topic of planetary health in education, further education, and training. The KLUG e.V. (Climate Change and

Health), who is the largest actor in this space in Germany, offers the Planetary Health Academy, a training course for all health professionals. Similarly, in Ireland, the HSE offers an education and awareness programme on Green Healthcare Training & Awareness Programme to its staff as part of a broader strategy to improve resource efficiency in the health service. They also organize an annual Health Sector Climate Action Seminar and various campaigns and competitions promoting climate action and sustainable health services.

Nurses in Montenegro are educated and trained on planetary health and other environmental health approaches through general nursing training programmes. Similarly, in Portugal, there are undergraduate and master's degree programs in nursing that include subjects related to planetary or environmental health approaches. In these programs, nurses are seen to have a responsibility to promote environmental education and empower communities to change attitudes and values towards environmental problems. These programs also aim to educate nurses to act as environmental educators in formal and informal settings.

In Spain, the Training Centre of the General Council of Nursing is considering offering continuous training courses for nurses to raise awareness about the importance of climate change and how nursing can contribute to addressing it. Furthermore, in Sweden, nursing schools at universities and colleges are developing curricula in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as required by the Higher Education Act. For example, Dalarna University College is actively working on sustainable development within its nursing program, including understanding human vulnerability to real threats such as environmental disasters and the consequences of climate change. The curriculum incorporates concepts of environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

Finally, in the UK, the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is developing a sustainability education program to be launched in 2022. The NURS-SuS EU website offers education and training programs for nurses on sustainability literacy and competency, which is a partnership among four universities in Europe. Some nursing university programmes, such as Plymouth University, have already incorporated environmental sustainability into their curriculum.

4.3 How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?

Country-specific approaches to integrating nurses into decision-making related to planetary or environmental health vary, with some countries being actively involved in promoting nurses' participation, while others lack any known integration or representation. For example, Albania expects nurses to practice ethically and safely for the environment, while in Denmark, they participate in an

"Employees' Climate Panel" to promote change. In Iceland, nurses can influence decision-making on environmental health within healthcare institutions. Ireland recognizes healthcare professionals, including nurses, as important in addressing planetary health challenges, and Portugal involves nurses in decision-making related to general and environmental health. In Spain, there is no clear representation, while in Sweden, issues of planetary health have been traditionally owned by non-nurse representatives. The UK has an active nursing involvement which participates in the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change and works towards developing an organizational strategy for supporting planetary and environmental health. Details of each respondent are included next.

In Albania, licensed nurses are expected to engage in professional role activities, including appropriate leadership for their education and position. Nurses are responsible for their professional actions and contribute to the quality of nursing practice. They are expected to collaborate with other healthcare representatives, communicate effectively, and use appropriate resources to ensure safe and effective nursing services. Nurses are also expected to practice ethically and practice safely and healthily for the environment, as defined by professional performance standards. In contrast, in Austria, nurses are not integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches. In Bulgaria, nurses are invited to discuss decision-making related to planetary health, but their voices are not always heard.

Moreover, in Denmark, the Danish Trade Union Confederation established an "Employees' Climate Panel" that includes a nurse. Many initiatives related to planetary health are being implemented, especially in the workplace settings. Nurses in Denmark have a unique role in promoting planetary health as they are seen as change agents due to their competencies in prevention and health promotion, as well as their people-centred approach, which allows them to act as health coaches. In Finland, hospitals have their own environmental responsibility groups, but the level of action, possibilities, and authority vary. In Germany, there are no known integrations of nurses into decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches, as there have not been any federal-level projects related to this topic.

Interestingly, in Iceland, nurses have easy access to influence decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches as this topic is considered a team effort. Nurses are situated in all levels of the organizational chart of each healthcare institution and can send an email or talk to the environmental committee with suggestions for the current environmental strategy. Nurses are members of the environmental committee and have the possibility to influence planetary health or other environmental health approaches within each healthcare institution in Iceland.

Furthermore, in Ireland, a recent research paper recognizes the important role of healthcare professionals, including nurses, in addressing planetary health challenges. The success of the climate

action plan relies on the decision-making of nursing leaders. Staff working in the HSE are encouraged to be involved in campaigns and competitions to raise awareness of climate change, and hospitals such as Sligo University Hospital and University Hospital Galway have achieved awards for reducing their energy consumption and promoting waste reduction through recycling and reuse initiatives.

In Latvia, professional organizations and nurses in the healthcare sector are actively represented in decision-making related to professional issues and nursing salaries, but there is no information provided related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches. Similarly, in Montenegro, nurses are not integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or environmental health approaches. Nurses in Portugal, however, are essential in decision-making related to health in general and environmental health specifically. They establish trust with patients and families and can promote healthcare in harmony with the environment. The Ordem dos Enfermeiros believes nurses should have a voice in policy preparation and decision-making at all levels.

Unfortunately, in Spain, there is currently no clear representation of nurses in high-level decision-making related to planetary or environmental health. Similarly, in Sweden, there is a lack of nurses in leading positions related to these issues, which have traditionally been owned by environmental protection representatives and epidemiologists. There are indications, however, that this is changing rapidly. Finally, in the UK, nurses are involved in decision-making related to planetary and environmental health through the RCN's membership in the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change, which advocates for responses to protect public health. The RCN is also developing a strategy to support climate change and planetary health as an organizational priority.

4.4 What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?

Nurses across different countries, including Albania, Austria, Iceland, Portugal, Sweden, and the UK, are advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health. The key actors vary across these countries, ranging from nursing associations, trade unions, government policies, healthcare sector-led groups, and universities. However, the overarching goal is to recognize the potential and value of advanced and specialized nursing roles in addressing the global health agenda and safeguarding the environment, health, and well-being of patients and citizens. Advocacy efforts are focused on promoting sustainability and ethical practices, educating nurses, and increasing nurses' participation in decision-making processes at all levels, including management. EFN Members' responses are summarised next, with further detail on each country.

Nurses in Albania are recognized as crucial actors in delivering healthcare and promoting planetary health through patient communication and ethical practices such as advocating for environmental

protection, healthy food, waste management, and sustainable transportation. In Austria, the Austrian nurses' association (ÖGKV) is the key actor advocating for an advanced role of nurses in various topics including planetary health.

In Denmark, various actors such as social partners and universities promote advanced roles of nurses in healthcare settings based on patient safety, satisfaction, and population health, and the Danish Nurses Organization (DNO) is still working on a strategy with the potential for a GCNO/CNO to advocate for advanced roles. In Germany, the German Nurses Association (DBfK) and the German Nursing Council (DPR) are interested in promoting the role of nursing professions in planetary health.

Moreover, in Iceland, the Icelandic Nurses Association (INA) and universities are encouraged to collaborate and develop a strategy based on the Position Statement and recommendations from the International Council of Nurses (ICN). In Ireland, trade unions, the Department of Health, government policy, and the Health Service Executive (HSE) are among the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health. In Latvia, the Latvian Nurses Association and nurses from hospitals lead the advocacy efforts.

Important developments are underway in Portugal where decision-makers, governments, and employers are called to recognize and value the potential of advanced and specialized nursing roles in responding to the global health agenda. The Portuguese public has already recognized the nursing profession's importance, but its empowerment needs to be further materialized, particularly considering new models of care, chronic diseases, emerging diseases, climate change, and universal health coverage goals.

In Sweden, the Swedish Society of Nursing is a key actor in advocating for advanced roles of nurses in planetary health at the national level. At the regional and healthcare levels, nurses with competencies in sustainability and planetary health are identified as potential key actors, but they are not yet established as such. The universities play a vital role in educating nurses, including those who aim to work in advanced roles in this field. Finally, in the UK, the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change (UKHACC) is a leading voice in advocating for advanced roles of nurses in planetary health. They have written to the Prime Minister and President for COP 26 to ensure the UK's Nationally Determined Contribution aligns with the aim of limiting global temperature rises to 1.5C. Global Action Plan, a charity focusing on sustainability, launched Clean Air Day in 2020 to raise awareness about the harmful effects of air pollution on the environment and health and how to safeguard them. The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is also advocating for sustainability and is a member of the Sustainable Healthcare Coalition. As the largest nursing profession worldwide, RCN recognizes the importance of acting on climate change and is working to embed sustainability within nursing resources and education materials.

4.5 Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.

Additional comments were also provided by the EFN Members. Specifically, in Bulgaria, many NGOs are running small projects to address planetary health at a local level, often hiring nurses as consultants and actors. This is a difficult task as nurses have other obligations and limited time to communicate planetary health issues to the public and encourage them to make positive lifestyle changes. During the pandemic, nurses have been invited to speak on national media channels to raise awareness.

In Finland, nurses often lack the knowledge and resources to act on planetary health and are overly tired due to the pandemic. Small signs of awareness and action are growing, and PhD theses by nurses are being developed. In Germany, the DBfK is working to incorporate planetary health into nursing training and degree courses. In Ireland, hospitals pose a large obstacle to successful planetary health initiatives due to overcrowding, clinician time pressures, and patient demands.

Finally, Portugal stands to suffer heavily from climate change due to its geography, and nurses there are seen to be in a unique position to lead the way in mitigating its impact. Unfortunately, in Sweden, there is a lack of national coordination on planetary health issues such as climate change and health, making it necessary for regions to cooperate.

5. Contextualising the results

The European Union (EU) has grown increasingly concerned about the impact of environmental factors on human health, which has resulted in the development of several policies and initiatives to address the issue. These initiatives include those related to planetary health, which is a relatively new concept that recognizes the interdependence between human health, environmental health, and the health of the planet. Planetary health acknowledges that human health and well-being are intricately connected to the health of the environment and the sustainability of ecosystems.

The results of the EFN survey reveal essential initiatives in some countries, but also expose differences in the extent to which nurses are integrated into such initiatives. Various countries have interesting policies, initiatives, and projects on planetary and environmental health approaches in healthcare. Denmark's green transition strategy and Finland's Adaptation Plan are noteworthy examples. In Germany, the KLIK green project and KLUG e.V program show promise. The UK's Environment Bill and NHS Long Term Plan, along with the Royal College of Nursing's "make one change" campaign, also address this issue.

Nursing education and training programs on these topics vary by country, with some countries prioritizing the issue, while others mention it in other subjects, or not at all. Portugal has programs to educate nurses to act as environmental educators. The Royal College of Nursing in the UK and NURS-SuS EU offer educational programs for sustainability literacy and competency. The integration of nurses into decision-making related to planetary and environmental health varies by country, with some actively promoting their participation, while others lack representation or integration.

Nurses across various countries, including Albania, Austria, Iceland, Portugal, Sweden, and the UK, advocate for an advanced role for nurses in planetary health. Although the key actors vary in the different countries, the common goal is to recognize the potential and value of specialized nursing roles in addressing the global health agenda and safeguarding health, the environment, and well-being. Advocacy efforts focus on promoting sustainability and ethical practices, educating nurses, and increasing their participation in decision-making at all levels.

The EFN survey results provide crucial contextual detail for the development of further policy actions. Despite differences in approaches across countries, there is a clear recognition of the need for education and training for nurses to play an essential role in addressing environmental health issues. This shows that nurses can be instrumental in promoting ethical and sustainable healthcare practices. Furthermore, the survey results indicate that nurses advocate for an advanced role in decision-making related to planetary and environmental health. The involvement of nurses in such decision-making can lead to the development of effective, holistic, and sustainable healthcare policies, practices, and infrastructure that promote planetary health.

The survey results are encouraging and demonstrate that European countries recognize the need to integrate environmental health considerations into healthcare policies and practices. This recognition is leading to the rapid development of various policies, initiatives, and training programs aimed at addressing planetary health issues. Nurses are viewed as key players in this area, with advocacy efforts aimed at promoting sustainability and ethical practices and increasing nurses' participation in decision-making at all levels.

6. Policy recommendations

Nurses are integral to creating and executing health strategies for the world. With their expertise in disease and health maintenance, nurses can significantly shape local and international ecological concerns. To ensure their greatest influence, nurse involvement in global health must be promoted and expanded.

Several initiatives may be pursued moving forward, such as developing a common framework for nursing education and training on planetary health across Europe. This can be based on the best practice initiatives already in place in certain countries and can ensure that nurses are equipped with the necessary competencies and skills to address environmental issues in healthcare effectively.

It is also important to increase nurses' representation in decision-making. There is a need to ensure that nurses are well-integrated into the decision-making process related to planetary health policies. European countries should prioritize including nurses in policy discussions and making them key stakeholders in developing and implementing policies related to environmental health.

Other initiatives could be around promoting nursing research on the role of nurses in planetary health, to provide insights that can help in the development of evidence-based policies, practices, and infrastructure to promote sustainable healthcare. Alongside this should be a form of recognition and reward for nurses based on their contributions to planetary health. This will motivate nurses to continue advocating for and prioritizing environmental issues in healthcare.

As such, the EFN members call on the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the Council of the European Union to:

1. Facilitate and co-create concrete nursing planetary health actions, led by nurses in advanced roles;
2. Implement the nursing planetary health approach to protect the health of humans and the ecosystems on which it depends in all policies, primarily those related to the European Green Deal and with an emphasis on equity as a guiding principle;
3. Promote multilateral and inclusive governance by including nurses in decision making. This could be done by implementing a trans-sectoral planetary health policy framework; and
4. Finance nursing research and actions to ensure the participation of nurses in decision making and policy implementation.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, the EFN survey results indicate that there is a growing recognition of the interdependence between the work of nurses, human health, and the health of the planet among European countries. The survey also highlights the need for education and training for nurses to play a crucial role in promoting sustainable practices. Moreover, nurses are increasingly advocating for an advanced role in decision-making related to planetary and environmental health, indicating their potential to contribute to effective and holistic healthcare policies and infrastructure.

The initiatives and policies developed by various European countries demonstrate their commitment to addressing planetary health issues and integrating environmental health considerations into healthcare practices. The EFN survey provides crucial contextual detail for the development of further policy actions, ultimately contributing to a healthier and more sustainable future for European citizens.

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EFN Members input country per country



ALBANIA

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?

Direction for awareness raising of the nursing profession, which should be oriented towards patient comfort and satisfaction by showing: Care. Caring for, respecting and appreciating others. Help. Ready to assist in nursing care. Respecting. Show respect and appreciation for others, for example by maintaining patient confidentiality. Listening. Want to hear patient complaints. Feelings. Accept, feel, and understand the patient's feelings of sadness, happiness, and disappointment. Sharing. Share experiences and knowledge or discuss with patients. Smiling Smile to increase patient comfort. Crying Can get emotional responses, both from patients and other nurses. Touching. Perform physical and psychological touch as part of sympathetic communication with the patient. Believing in others. Believing that others have the desire and ability to continually improve their health. Learning. Always learn and develop yourself and your skills. Promotion: healthy people in healthy environments.

2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?

- Awareness of nurses and employees of health professions about environmental pollution which affects the health of the community
- Informing nurses how food diets affect the health of their patients (raising their awareness of self-care)
- Impact on the health of patients (community) of gas emissions from vehicles and their awareness of the use of vehicles that are environmentally friendly
- Separation of waste at source, to reduce the use of plasma, paper, etc., information on hospital waste management, expired medicines (their difference)
- Sexual and reproductive health education at a young age

3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?

Pursuant to professional performance standards, which describes the competent level of professional "ninja", including activities related to ethics, education, and quality of practice, communication, leadership, cooperation, evaluation of professional practice, resource utilization and environmental health.

All licensed nurses engage in professional role activities, including appropriate leadership for their education and position. They are responsible for the professional actions they perform, for the health care community, for the whole society.

Set standards:

- Ethics - A licensed nurse practices ethically.
- Education - A licensed nurse acquires knowledge and competencies that reflect current nursing practice.
- Evidence - based on practice and research - The licensed nurse integrates evidence and research findings into practice. Quality of practice - The licensed nurse contributes to the quality of nursing practice. Communication - The licensed nurse communicates effectively in all areas of practice. Leadership - A licensed nurse demonstrates leadership in the environment of professional practice and profession.
- Collaboration - The licensed nurse collaborates with other health care representatives, family and others during the nursing practice.
- Evaluation of professional practice - The licensed nurse evaluates his / her practice in relation to the standards and instructions of professional practice, statutes, relevant rules and regulations.

- Resource Utilization - A licensed nurse uses appropriate resources to plan and provide nursing services that are safe, effective, and financially responsible.
 - Environmental health- Licensed nurse practices safely and healthily for the environment
4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
Nursing is the main artery of health care delivery, where they with their skill provide care to patients, are in direct contact with them, communication with them is the strongest weapon to influence their planetary health. With ethical communication they show patients the importance of protecting the environment, healthy food, managing waste at source, using bicycles, or ecological motor equipment, etc.
 5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.
The nursing service is under the supervision of the head nurse who is selected from the ranks of nurses with at least 3 years of work experience and the highest qualification in the institutions where they work. We need to introduce some elements that we have before: - Overload at work - Lack of safety at work - Lack of protective equipment at work - Stress at work



AUSTRIA

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?
There are no such policies.
2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?
There are no education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health.
3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
Nurses are not integrated.
4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
The Austrian nurses association (ÖGKV) is the key actor advocating for an advanced role of nurses in many different topics.
5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.
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BELGIUM

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?
2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?
3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.



BULGARIA

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?

In Bulgaria there are a lot of initiatives and projects on different levels – national, regional and local, concerning planetary health and climate changes. No one is led by nurses. Every ministry has its own policies and the administration leads the process. There are different initiatives in the Roma communities, where nurses and Roma mediators teach people how to take care about their children in a new way, to grow them with new hygiene behaviour, how to clean their homes and how to separate the waste in the proper containers. The nurses help them to understand the healthcare system and how to use it. But the main idea is to teach them to live a healthier life, to let their children go to school and receive better knowledge about the Planet as a whole, about the climate changes and how to be more responsible for their personal and public health.

2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?

No special training programmes for nurses on planetary health, but this content is included in the course of Healthcare management, Public health, Epidemiology, Philosophy of nursing. In the CPD courses the different aspects of planetary health and climate changes are included.

3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?

The nurses are not integrated in the decision-making related to planetary health. They are invited to discuss, but not always their voice is heard.

4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?

No key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses not in planetary health, not even in hospitals, or even in primary health care.

5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.

Many NGOs run different small projects on planetary health on local level and they invite nurses as actors and as consultants. This is a difficult job, because they have another working place and they don't have enough time to communicate with the community on planetary health and to agitate people to change their life behaviour to a new one in order to save the Planet and their personal life and health. It is a challenging process even now in the Pandemic situation. The national media channels invite nurses (usually leaders and teachers, they are well prepared on planetary health issues) to speak to the public openly, and we think it is a success. We hope soon our voice will be heard.



CROATIA

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?
2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?
3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.



CYPRUS

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?
2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?
3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.



CZECH REPUBLIC

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?
2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?
3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.



DENMARK

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?

In Denmark climate politics has moved from the global level to the European level to the national level. Now, it is time for the next step of the climate policy. Delivering on the political goals will move out to the workplaces and into the Danes homes. Workers – like nurses - will play a key role in implementing the initiatives and not least finding further potentials. In December 2019, a large majority in the Danish Parliament agreed that Denmark should adopt an ambitious and binding Climate Act with the goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 70% in 2030 and a long-term goal for climate neutrality by 2050, at the latest. The latest political initiative “Denmark can more – 1” also prioritizes the green transition of Denmark – like allocating money for green transition initiatives and education and further education in green transition. Danish Nurses’ Organization is a member of the Danish Trade Union Confederation – FH – representing more than 1.3 mio Danish workers. In FH, we have prepared a workers strategy for green transition. The strategy focuses on cross-sectorial cooperation and does not just contain narrow climate actions but also a number of important preconditions for a successful and cost-efficient transition: Health and safety at work, worker participation, training and education, skills development and job security. The employers also have initiatives in the health sector – like “The green hospitals”.

2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?

Planetary health, environmental health and health promotion are at some level prioritized in all educational settings for nurses – both in university colleges (bachelor level) and in the universities (master level) like master’s degree in public health science. In Denmark it is included in the focus on prevention, health promotion and health literacy.

3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?

The Danish Trade Union Confederation has established the "Employees' Climate Panel". The panel prepares several proposals for an even greener everyday life in the workplaces, and the proposals will also contribute to the development of the trade union movement's climate policy. We have a nurse sitting in this panel. Many initiatives especially in the workplace settings. In Denmark, we see nurses are having a unique role when it comes to planetary health. As described in the EFN Policy Statement on the Nurses’ Contribution to Tackle Climate Change from 2020, nurses are to be seen as change agents. Nurses competencies within prevention and health promotion together with a people centred approach make them uniquely to act as a health coach.

4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?

In Denmark, we advocate for advanced role of nurses in all the settings where it makes sense to the benefit for the health of the population, patient safety, patient satisfaction etc. Advanced roles – understood as APN – are quite new. Thus, DNO is still working on a strategy. The key actors until now have been the social partners and the universities. We would benefit of a GCNO/CNO when it comes to advocating for advanced roles.

5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.

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ESTONIA

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?
2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?
3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.



FINLAND

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?
Ministry of Social Affairs and Health has in 2021 published an Adaptation Plan (2021–2031): Climate change in the healthcare and social welfare sector. The Adaptation Plan is based on the National Climate

Change Adaptation Plan 2022 and the climate change and adaptation work carried out in the healthcare and social welfare sector. The Adaptation Plan contains 43 objectives and 92 recommendations for measures. The measures cover areas relating to environmental health, health and social services (incl. occupational safety and health), social effects, mitigation measures and repercussions. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health is responsible for implementing, monitoring and assessing the Adaptation Plan. Please

see: https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/163160/STM_2021_20_J.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y There are varying sustainability programmes by the individual hospitals, see e.g. the environmental responsibility programme by the Finland's largest hospital district, HUS: <https://www.hus.fi/en/about-us/strategy-and-responsibility/corporate-responsibility/environmental-responsibility> HUS is committed to the Climate Partners cooperation network of the City of Helsinki and business life, where they promote carbon neutrality and the reduction of emissions. Many hospitals have their own environmental responsibility groups, but the action and real authority vary. The aims/strategies and the real-life-reality do not always meet. Nurses might have a feeling that they are quite powerless even they wanted to make a difference and they are not always heard.

2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?

There are some scattered available, e.g. 5 ECTS CPD programme by the South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences: Environment responsibility in the patient care. But the contents of planetary health are not to a large extent included in the nursing CPD programmes available, the contents are not either included to a great extent in the nurse education curricula, even though it includes a part: Demonstrates ability to work according to the principles of cost-efficiency

- Sustainable development taking into account the environment
- Use, recycling and disposal of materials
- Cost awareness and economic activity

3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?

Many hospitals have their own environmental responsibility groups, but the action, possibilities and real authority vary.

4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?

No.

5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.

Nurses do not necessarily know how to influence and act. It might be even a challenge to have recycling in their own coffee rooms, not to mention the bigger picture. Due to the pandemic nurses are now extremely tired and all the work experienced as extra (new tasks or modes of operation related to sustainability work) might at present provoke resistance. We can see that awareness is little by little growing and turning also into modes of action. Some PhD thesis by nurses are also under preparation and we will have them in hand in the becoming years.



FRANCE

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?

2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?
3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.



FYR MACEDONIA

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?
2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?
3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.



GERMANY

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?
There are various initiatives and projects that address planetary health in Germany. KLUG e.V. (Climate Change and Health) is the largest actor in Germany. The association tries to raise awareness of the issue of planetary health with all professional groups in health care and other actors. Physicians are particularly active, but the Health for Future initiative under the umbrella of KLUG e.V. also has a group for nursing professionals. KLIK green is a project funded by the Federal Ministry for the Environment that implements mitigation of climate change in hospitals. More than 10% of all German hospitals are equipped with climate management systems through KLIK green. The project is led by a nurse. Policies that explicitly consider Planetary Health do not exist. This is a major gap in both the agendas of the Federal Ministry of Health and the Federal Ministry of the Environment. We expect this to change with the incoming federal government.
2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?
The University of Munich (LMU) has a project that specifically trains nurses on the effects of heat waves. The DBfK plans to become active on the topic of planetary health in education, further education and training. KLUG e.V. offers the Planetary Health Academy, a training course aimed at all health professionals.
3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
There are no known integrations into decision-making so far. However, as there are no known projects at federal level concerning planetary health, no participation has been made possible so far.
4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
The German Nurses Association (DBfK), together with the German Nursing Council (DPR), has a great interest that the nursing professions playing a major role in promoting planetary health.
5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.
The awareness raising of the nursing profession for planetary health is currently difficult, because for many nurses the working conditions are very challenging and demanding. The DBfK will work to integrate the topic of planetary health into the curricula of nursing training and degree courses.



GREECE

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?

2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?
3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.



HUNGARY

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?
2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?
3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.



ICELAND

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?
The Icelandic Nurse's Association (INA) has implemented a sustainable approach in its operation and that applies both for the operation in the office as well as for the members of the Icelandic Nurse's Association and includes UN Sustainable Development Goals. The INA has also published and implemented a new ten year Health Policy in Nursing and Healthcare which also includes UN Sustainable

Development Goals no. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9. Landspítali - The National University Hospital of Iceland, which is the biggest workplace for nurses in Iceland, has a very strong environmental strategy that includes an environmental strategy, climate change strategy with UN Sustainable Development Goals. Landspítali has received many awards for their environmental strategies. Other workplaces for nurses have a special environmental committee which includes several members that implements an environmental strategy etc.

2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?

There are no special courses yet in the program for nursing students to planetary health or other environmental health approaches at Landspítali, University of Iceland or the University of Akureyri.

3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?

Nurses have an easy access to have an influence on planetary health or other environmental health approaches since this topic is considered a team effort to solve. Nurses are situated in all levels of the organizational chart of each institution and therefore all decision-making regarding sustainability. Nurses can send an email or talk to the environmental committee if they have any suggestions to the current environmental strategy at their workplace. Nurses are members of the environmental committee and have a possibility to have influence to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in Iceland within each healthcare institution.

4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?

It is very important that the INA and the universities collaborate and develop a strategy on planetary health. The Position Statement and recommendations from ICN is a very good foundation for such a collaborative project. It is also important to establish a formal curriculum within the Universities' Faculty of Nursing, which addresses planetary health and environmental health approaches and will be followed in teaching the nursing students.

5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.

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IRELAND

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?

The Irish Government published its Climate Action Plan in 2019 which supports the ambition emerging within the European Union to achieve a net zero target by 2050. The Plan outlines the leadership role public bodies can play in taking early action on climate, achieving our decarbonisation goals and using best practice in taking climate action. An Interim Climate Actions 2021 will be used to drive continued delivery of climate action across all Government Departments and bodies, while the Climate Action Plan 2021 is being prepared for publication this Summer. The overall implementation rate to the end of Q4 2020 stands at 78%, with 391 measures completed out of a total of 500 measures due. In 2019, the first Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the health sector (2019 – 2024) was published. The plan identifies the main climate change-related impacts and risks we expect to face in the health sector in the coming years and identifies concrete measures we can take to build resilience and to reduce our vulnerabilities. The Adaptation Plan will be incorporated into Corporate plans and Service plans throughout the health sector, including in the areas of risk assessment and emergency planning. The HSE published The Sustainability Strategy for Health which aims to achieve a more sustainable health system. It also

established a National Sustainability Office to coordinate its work. The mission of the strategy is for the HSE to become the leading sustainable organisation by undertaking several actions including:

- delivering low carbon quality sustainable healthcare
- preserving natural resources
- reducing carbon emissions
- lessening the effects of climate change
- safeguarding high quality patient care
- ensuring compliance with legislation and national energy, waste and water efficiency targets

2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?

The HSE as part of the broader strategy provides an education/awareness programme on Optimising Power at Work / Green Healthcare Training & Awareness Programme to all its staff. These education and engagement campaigns aim to change staff behaviour towards resource use and work and improve resource efficiency in the Health Service. The HSE also runs an annual Health Sector Climate Action Seminar as well as several competitions and campaigns around climate action and sustainable health services.

3. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?

A recent Irish research paper into planetary health has recognised the important role of health care professionals in their ability to “challenge health practice from the inside.” (Kirk, et al. 2021). The success of the climate action plan, will be reliant on the decision making of key nursing leadership roles. Staff working in the HSE are encouraged to get involved in campaigns/competitions that will raise the issue of climate change. For example, Sligo University Hospital, was awarded the ‘Green Flag’ and becomes the second hospital in the country to attain the award from An Taisce and the Foundation of Environmental Education (FEE). Work by staff and management to attain Green Flag status included a reduction of energy consumption by 16% since 2016 as well as promoting waste reduction through recycling and reuse initiatives. University Hospital Galway was named winner of ‘The BIG Switch Off’ competition earlier this year. ‘The BIG Switch Off’ is run by the Office of Public Works (OPW) in collaboration with HSE Estates and is part of the Optimising Power at Work staff energy awareness campaign.

4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?

Trade Unions, Department of Health, Government Policy, HSE

5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.

The hospital environment has been identified as a challenge to the success of any planetary health actions. The current overcrowding being experienced in many Irish hospitals is one such obstacle. Clinician time pressures, patient demands and emergency admissions were also identified as challenges (Kirk, et al., 2021). Strong leadership will be vital for successfully implementing climate actions.



ITALY

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?
2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?
3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.



LATVIA

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?
 - Profession standard of nurses (12.08.2020)
 - General care nurse classification (starting 2021)
 - One level (min) Bachelor's Degree - increase salaries 11% for nurses (2021)
 - Nursing Continuing Education, designed to challenge (2022-2027)
2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?

Until 2021, was two levels education for nurses – I level higher level and II level higher level, with this year only Bachelor's Degree classification- General care nurse.
3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?

Mentioned processes have facilitated the active representation of professional organizations and nurses in the health care sector (professional issues) and government (nursing salaries)
4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?

Professional organization (Latvian Nurses association), nurses leader (from hospitals) and nurses.
5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.

Nurses are burn out.



LITHUANIA

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?
2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?
3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.



LUXEMBOURG

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?
2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?
3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.



MALTA

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?
2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?
3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.



MONTENEGRO

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?
We are not aware of any involvement of nurses in the above mentioned projects.
2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?
Nurses in Montenegro are educated and trained on planetary health and other environmental health approaches through general nursing training programmes.
3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
According to our knowledge nurses are not integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health.
4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
So far, nurses have not been contacted or involved by any actor in this matter.
5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.
It is necessary to involve nurses in our country in implementing planetary health actions.



NETHERLANDS

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?
2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?
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4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.



NORWAY

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?
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POLAND

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PORTUGAL

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?

Raising public awareness to the problem of climate change is neither new nor recent. However, it was only recently that civil society has started to concern about it. It is increasingly clear that climate change is a reality that is here to stay and we must adopt a proactive attitude in order to deal with its harmful effects. In what concerns to health professionals, the need to adopt proactive attitudes is even more fundamental. We must not forget that climate change entails health risks for the populations. Nurses, as professionals in direct contact with the communities, play a relevant role in the education/ raise awareness of the populations. Health professionals must be increasingly prepared to deal with the consequences of climate change and natural disasters. Within the scope of its attributions, the Ordem dos Enfermeiros helps in the preparation of responses to natural disasters. Among others, the Ordem dos Enfermeiros can educate nurses to participate in multidisciplinary teams and act in the best possible conditions. But, in our opinion, there is still much to be done. For example, it is fundamental to conduct simulations in order to have a more precise notion of the necessary means of response, by creating scenarios that are as close as possible to reality.
2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?

Environmental Education is essential to modify the relationship between humankind and nature. Nursing has much to contribute to revert the cycle of environmental degradation and people's health. Nurses are responsible for educative actions towards the promotion of community health and for the training of Nurses who may act in the Promotion of Environmental Health, empowering the community with a view to changing attitudes and values when facing environmental problems. It is important to educate nurses to act as environmental educators in both formal and informal settings. Thus, there are undergraduate curricula in Nursing which have subjects related to, for example, intervention in catastrophic situations (Escola Superior de Enfermagem do Porto) Global Nursing (Universidade Católica Portuguesa),

community health and ecology (Universidade de Aveiro), and masters' courses in community nursing also have subjects related to this area.

3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?

The common denominator of Nurses that makes them be in all the "frontlines" is the proximity and trust that they establish with people, patients and their families. Therefore, it is essential that nurses in Portugal are involved in the decision-making processes related to health in general and, in this specific case, to environmental health. Nurses, as frontline healthcare providers, can assume a key role in terms of promoting health care in harmony with the environment, respecting the surroundings. From this perspective, the Ordem dos Enfermeiros considers essential that nurses are heard and have a word to say regarding the policy preparation and decision-making processes at national, regional and local level.

4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?

As Dr Tedros said in 2019, "Universal health coverage and the goals enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals cannot be achieved without empowering nurses and nurse specialists and harnessing their power". An evidence of this is the public's recognition of the importance that nursing and nurses have had in recent years. But decision-makers, Governments and employers have to go further in materialising this recognition. The potential recognition of the specialised and advanced nursing roles will have to be recognised and valued as one of the ways to respond to the global agenda of universal health coverage, to new models of care, to chronic diseases, to the emergence of new diseases, to the fight against the consequences of climate change, etc.; It is essential that nurses are recognised for their demonstrated leadership capacity, participating in all levels of decision making, namely by integrating management bodies.

5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.

Portugal is among the European countries that are most vulnerable to climate change due to its geographical features. Specifically, it is foreseen that this region will experience heat waves potentially deadly, droughts and forest fires even worse than those known. It is also estimated that millions of inhabitants will be affected by greater water scarcity, coastal flooding risks... in Portugal, climate change should increasingly be a national priority. The impact of climate change is already being felt in the health of our patients and this public health emergency may jeopardise the stability of our health system. Changes in climate affect practically all organs and systems, contributing to an increase in the incidence and prevalence of various pathologies. As nurses are the most representative profession in the health area, we can assume an active and relevant role in mitigating and adapting to the consequences of climate change on the health of our patients, our Health System and the our planet. We need to change our habits in health units, by promoting behavioural changes and by raising the awareness of the community in general to this problem. It is essential to adopt measures to combat climate change and its impact, as this is one of the Sustainable Development Goals. Thus, one of the aims of Nursing and nurses is to empower families regarding lifestyle habits conducive to environmental protection. Thus, it is necessary to analyse the problems arising from climate change and the resulting challenges. Furthermore, it is important to reflect on the role of nurses as privileged agents in educational interventions with families in the context of family and environmental health. It is urgent to immediately adopt actions to mitigate, which combat the causes, and adaptation actions, which minimise the impacts, aiming at a carbon neutral and climate resilient society. We are probably the last generation to be able to stop climate change and, therefore, we have a duty to act.



ROMANIA

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?

2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?
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SERBIA

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?
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SLOVAKIA

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?
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4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.



SLOVENIA

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?
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SPAIN

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?

In recent months, the General Council of Nursing of Spain, together with organizations of doctors, veterinarians and pharmacists, we have launched an initiative on "one health". It is an initiative that has already involved more than 50 institutions from all areas (health and non-health), including environmental entities from Spain. In November we will launch this platform that aims to educate politicians and society in general about the care that must be carried out to improve health, from all points of view. Without good environmental, veterinary, psychological or welfare health, full health will not be possible. Additionally, we have signed a letter calling on national governments and their representatives at COP26 to take all necessary action to avert the climate crisis and save millions of lives. <https://healthyclimateletter.net/>

2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?
From the Training Center of the General Council of Nursing of Spain (ISFOS: Higher Institute of Health Training) we are analyzing how to contribute through continuous training courses to raise awareness about the importance of climate change and our contributions from Nursing.
3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
At this time we do not have a clear representation on this issue in the high decision-making levels of the Ministry of Health or Ministry of the Environment.
4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
-
5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.
We are not aware of actions carried out by other nursing groups in this matter.



SWEDEN

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?
At the national level, the Swedish Society of Nursing, has in 2021 published a position statement regarding climate and environmental issues. The position statement is an important contribution to how climate change will affect health, and how nurses can both contribute to reducing healthcare's carbon footprint and work with adapting healthcare to a changing world. Nurses are also involved in research and higher education. Professor in nursing Marie Elf is one of the authors of the AMEE Consensus Statement: Planetary health and education for sustainable healthcare. An important contribution to our understanding of how nursing and planetary health are linked to each other.
2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?
The Higher Education Act state that “the higher education institutions must promote sustainable development, which means that current and future generations are assured of a healthy and good environment, economic and social welfare and justice”. Several nursing schools at the universities and university colleges are now developing curricula in line with the SDGs. An example is Dalarnas university colleges, which actively works within the nursing program with questions about sustainable development. The syllabus contains goals such as understanding of human vulnerability to real threats due to war, migration, environmental and natural disasters, and describe the consequences of current climate change based on the concepts of environmental, economic and social sustainability as part of sustainable development.
3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
We would probably describe it as a lack of nurses in leading positions in health care when it comes to decision-making related to planetary health. Traditionally, subjects like this are not “nurse issues”, they have been owned by environmental protection representatives and epidemiologists at different levels within the healthcare (both in the clinic and in higher education), but this situation are rapidly changing.
4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?

At a national level, the Swedish Society of Nursing are a key actor. At region level and within the healthcare nurses with competences within sustainability care and planetary health should be a key actor, but they are not there yet. The universities are an important “key actor” in the work with educate nurses (both nurse students and nurses at the clinic).

5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.

In Sweden, there is no national co-ordination of issues regarding planetary health actions such as climate change and health and how the healthcare on a national level will reach the SDGs. There are 21 regions and we think that there must be a greater cooperation between the regions on these issue.



SWITZERLAND

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?
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UK

1. What are the policies, initiatives and/or projects put in place to tackling planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or healthcare settings? Which one are led by nurses?

Government led initiatives:

- **The UK Environment Agency’s 2021 report** ‘State of the environment: health, people and the environment’ found that air pollution “is the single biggest environmental threat to health in the UK”. To mitigate this that, the UK government’s Environment Bill, updates legislation around environmental protections and recovery, that were previously set out in European law. The Bill aims to “deliver cleaner air for all by requiring the government to set targets on air quality, including for fine particulate matter, the most damaging pollutant to human health”, and will require the government to regularly update its “National Air Quality Strategy”. The Bill establishes a nationwide concentration target for fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in ambient air, provides local authorities with new frameworks for enforcing environmental protections and introduces new environmental standards for vehicles. However, critics of the Bill, including opposition political parties, charities, NGOs and environmental groups, warn that the current drafting of the Bill fails to guarantee the independence of the Office for Environmental

Protection (OEP), or grant the OEP legal remedies needed to protect the environment. Critics also warn that the long-term proposals set out in the Bill are undermined by loopholes.

- **At a local level**, several cities such in the UK, for example Belfast, have implemented ‘Clean Air Zones’. In early 2021, local authorities in Birmingham and Bath introduced charges to drive vehicles that exceeded emission standards, and London’s Ultra-Low Emission Zone is also currently being expanded. Scotland will be introducing Low-Emission Zones from March 2022, in cities such as Edinburgh. In January 2021, Welsh Government introduced a white paper on a Clean Air Bill, which includes proposals on low emission zones.

Nursing led initiatives:

- The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has published a position paper on responding to climate change. This paper sets out that climate change undermines the very foundations of health, and nurses have a duty to protect and promote public health. It sets out key priorities for consideration and action. The RCN acknowledged and endorsed the climate emergency declared by the UK Government and committed to engage with RCN members and take action on this issue on behalf of them and the profession.
- In May 2021, the RCN launched the “make one change” campaign, to safely reduce the use of disposable gloves, highlighting the need to stop the inappropriate overuse of gloves to protect our planet’s resources. With millions of gloves used in health and care every year these steps could make a vital contribution to sustainability.
- The Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) for England, Ruth May, provides professional leadership for nurses across the health care system, and is the principal advisor to the Government on all nursing issues. The CNO priorities are in line with the NHS Long Term Plan and the CNO holds sustainability within their portfolio.

Health service led initiatives:

- The NHS Long Term Plan commits to a 57% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2028/29 by making health care more sustainable, cutting waste and reducing emissions.
- The Greener NHS programme in England works with staff, hospitals and partners to share ideas on how to reduce the impact on public health and the environment and reach net carbon zero. In October 2020, the NHS committed to become carbon-neutral by 2040. As part of this programme, the NHS has published a report into its carbon emissions, titled “Delivering a ‘Net Zero’ National health Service”. The report recognised that the “climate emergency is a health emergency” but that as much 4% of England’s entire carbon footprint can be attributed to the NHS. To reduce its emissions, the report recommends that the NHS address the energy efficiency of its buildings, invest in a zero-emission fleet of non-emergency vehicles and ambulances, and reduce the use of nitrous oxide and other anaesthetic gases – an issue raised by the Royal College of Nursing (RCN’s) Midwifery Forum.
- NHS plans vary across the devolved nations, in March 2021, NHS Wales published plans to decarbonise the sector by 2030, and sets out 50 initiatives and targets for achieving this. These come under six areas; carbon management, buildings, transport, procurement, estate planning and land use, and approach to healthcare. NHS Scotland has committed to becoming a net-zero by 2045. From April 2020 all new NHS Scotland buildings and major refurbishments must be net-zero and NHS Scotland’s supply chain will be reviewed to determine the environmental impacts.
- There are also examples of hospital-led best practice. The ‘Clean Air Hospital Framework’ co-developed by Global Action Now and Great Ormond Street Hospital is self-assessment tool that hospitals can use to improve air quality in the vicinity of the site and the wider community. It focuses on seven key areas to mitigate air pollution, including transportation, procurement, construction and energy. For example, it suggests that staff who walk or cycle to work be given benefits equal or greater than vehicle mileage expenses, that hospitals procure goods and services from suppliers that are actively working to reduce air pollution, and that any gas boilers are replaced with electric boilers.

2. What are the education and training programmes for nurses on planetary health or other environmental health approaches?

- The RCN is currently working to develop a sustainability education programme, which will be launched in 2022.
- There are a variety of available education and training programs for nurses on the NURS-SuS EU website This is a European partnership of four universities Esslingen (Germany), Jaen (Spain), Maastricht (the Netherlands), and Plymouth (UK), and is funded by Erasmus +. The

Aim of the project is to provide a learning offer in Sustainability Literacy and Competency in nurse education.

- Nursing university programmes, for example Plymouth University, have worked to embed sustainability within the curriculum and deliver evidence-informed sustainable education.
3. How are nurses integrated into the decision-making related to planetary health or other environmental health approaches in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
- The RCN is a founding member of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change. The UKHACC brings together nurses, doctors and other health professionals to advocate for responses to climate change that protect and promote public health. This alliance has close relationships with international and national stakeholder organisations and is active in lobbying on health issues impacted by climate change.
 - The RCN is currently developing a strategy in support of climate change and planetary health as an organisational priority.
4. What are the key actors advocating for an advanced role of nurses in planetary health in your country, region, city and/or health settings?
- The UK Health Alliance on Climate Change (UKHACC) has established itself as a leading voice on the intersection of human and planetary health. In preparation for COP 26 the UKHACC wrote to Prime Minister Boris Johnson, and President for COP 26 Alok Sharma, to make specific calls around the UK's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) which sets out a country's plans to decarbonise. UKHACC called on the UK government to ensure their NDC is consistent with aims to limit global temperature rises to 1.5c through domestic action and in a way that is compliant with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.
 - Global Action Plan, a charity focusing on "the connections between what's good for people and good for the planet" launched 'Clean Air Day' in 2020. 'Clean Air Day', which claims to be the UK's largest air pollution campaign, hopes to raise awareness of the harmful effects of air pollution on the environment and our health and how we can take simple actions to safeguard both.
 - The RCN is a member of the Sustainable Healthcare Coalition. This is a healthcare sector led group that promotes sustainable practices through the collaboration of its members.
 - The RCN as the largest trade union and professional body for nurses in the UK aims to integrate sustainability into all elements of RCN business. As the largest profession delivering, influencing and leading health and care globally ; nursing and midwifery is uniquely placed to advocate, educate and lead action to mitigate risks associated with global temperature increases, improving the health and well-being of UK and international patients and citizens. RCN members recognise the importance of health and social care providers acting on climate change now for the benefit of health and social care recipients, population health and sustainability of the health care workforce. The RCN is working to embed sustainability within member resources and education materials in order to maximise impact and speed of change in this area.
5. Please provide any additional information, comments, or challenges nurses are experiencing in your country in implementing planetary health actions.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

NHS England (2020) Delivery a net zero National Health Service - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/greenernhs/wp-content/uploads/sites/51/2020/10/delivering-a-net-zero-national-health-service.pdf>

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Royal College of Nursing (2019) combating climate change – the view from maternity - <https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/blogs/combating-climate-change-the-view-from-maternity>

GOV.UK (2021) Environment Bill: Air quality factsheet -
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-bill-2020/10-march-2020-air-quality-factsheet-part-4>
GOV.UK- Clean Air Zones Transport for London - Ultra Low Emission Zone -
<https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone>
Global Action Plan - Clean Air Hospital Framework - <https://www.actionforcleanair.org.uk/clean-air-hospital-framework#:~:text=The%20Clean%20Air%20Hospital%20Framework%20is%20a%20free,on%20seven%20key%20areas%20to%20tackle%20air%20pollution%3A>

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The [European Federation of Nurses Associations \(EFN\)](#) was established in 1971 and is the independent voice of the profession. The EFN consists of National Nurses Associations from 35 EU Member States, working for the benefit of 6 million nurses throughout the European Union and Europe. The mission of EFN is to strengthen the status and practice of the profession of nursing for the benefit of the health of the citizens and the interests of nurses in the EU & Europe.



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