



## EFN Policy Statement on the European Global Health Strategy

People's health, health systems, and health threats are central priorities underpinning the new EU Global Health Strategy launched by the European Commission in November 2022 that will steer the European community's action points up until 2030.

The EU Global Health Strategy aims to strengthen healthcare systems and deliver better healthcare, prevent and respond to global health threats addressing the link between the health of humans, animals, plants and our environment, tackling all infectious and non-communicable diseases (Planetary Health). The EFN welcomes the strategy strengthening pandemic preparedness and response across the world, and addressing inequalities and advancing towards universal health coverage. The EFN supports the strategy focusing on three “interrelated priorities” until 2030 that are delivering better health and well-being of people, strengthening health systems and advancing universal health coverage, and combating health threats by applying an inter-disciplinary One-Health approach.

- To address the first priority “better health and well-being of people”, the European Commission rightly focusses on “root causes of ill-health”, which includes poverty and social inequalities, new drivers of health that must be addressed in an integrated way that encompass climate change, environmental degradation, humanitarian crises, food insecurity, in addition to growing challenges such as antimicrobial resistance and mental health.
- To address the second priority “strengthening health systems and advancing universal health coverage”, the European Commission importantly focusses on health systems management, including workforce imbalances and resource shortages, and calls for maximising the use of artificial intelligence. Therefore, it is key the European commission and the Member States place nursing education at higher and university level, by law in all the EU-countries. Only

evidence-based education on higher and university level guarantees that nurses can respond to the challenges of the European healthcare systems.

- To address the third priority “combating current and future health threats” – the European Commission is calling on enhanced equity in access to vaccines and other countermeasures, for more effective disease surveillance at global level, and on stronger international rules and cooperation mechanisms on health – *“Expanding partnerships with a wide range of relevant stakeholders is of the utmost importance – promoting health sovereignty for more resilience and strategic autonomy supported by partners’ political commitment and responsibility”*. The European Commission and the Member States taking the responsibility to ensure the synergy between national and EU global health strategies and to work “closer than ever in a Team Europe approach”.

The strategy’s goals will require not only high political commitment globally – cooperation should be strengthened via deepened cooperation through G7, G20, and other global, regional, and bilateral partners – but also an important commitment of resources: *“The EU financial contribution will follow a new approach involving innovative finance, co-investment from partners and pooling with other international actors – and the EU’s influence in shaping the agenda must match its financing support as a champion of global health”*.

The EFN welcomes this unique opportunity to engage as the strategy is being developed and implemented. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the gaps in the global health security architecture; therefore, it is now crucial to break silos and take a holistic approach to health and wellbeing at the global level. This implies that health should be included in all policies. It is key to strengthen cooperation between the different actors, the need to increase and strengthen dialogue with key stakeholders at global level, and to support and include civil society in the development and the implementation of the strategy. This implies the recognition of the key role that health stakeholders, in particular nurses.

Nurses play a central role in enhancing the global health security with “One Health” and “Health in all Policies” as a key principle at the heart of the EU Global Health Strategy. Nurses position centrally to leverage digitalisation, workforce and research will strengthen healthcare systems. According to WHO, SDG cannot be accomplished without nurses.

The EFN therefore calls on the European Commission, to:

- Include nurses on all levels in strengthening pandemic preparedness and response across the world;
- Recognise nurses as key stakeholders in change for “better health and well-being of people”;
- Establish monitoring and providing tools for the well-being and health of nurses and have a strategy for recruitment and retention;
- Facilitate nurses’ key role in strengthening health systems and advancing universal health coverage, with a specific focus on workforce imbalances and nurses’ shortages;
- Embed nurses’ education at higher and university level to respond to the challenges of the European healthcare systems;
- Enhance nurses advanced roles in access to healthcare services and in cooperation mechanisms on health;
- Take a holistic approach to health and wellbeing at the global level with a specific focus on the “Team Europe approach”.

**Further readings:**

- EFN [Policy Statement](#) on European Care Strategy (October 2022)
- EFN Report ["We are not prepared unless we are all prepared"](#)
- EFN Policy Statement on [ILO Guidance of Nursing Profession Data](#)
- EFN Policy Statement on [Building and Sustaining a Resilient EU Nursing Workforce in the EU and Europe](#)
- EFN Policy Statement on [Consequences of Nurses Shortages in Public Health](#)
- [EU Global Health Strategy](#)
- [EFN Policy Statement on Nursing Planetary Health](#) (April 2022 – REV October 2022)

*Please contact Dr Paul De Raeve, Secretary General of the European Federation of Nurses Associations, for more information. Email: [efn@efn.eu](mailto:efn@efn.eu) – Tel: +32 2 512 74 19 – Web: [www.efn.eu](http://www.efn.eu)*

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