



EU Roadmap to advance Lifelong Learning

The need of investing in education and skills is recognised by the European Commission as essential to sustain innovation and productivity growth, especially in the current context of rapid technological change and an ageing population across Europe.

Within this framework, investing in high-quality education and training of nurses is of paramount importance to ensure that their skills respond to the rise of chronic conditions, requiring long-term treatments, and are up-to-date with the increasing use of digital health solutions.

The EFN recognises the right and duty of lifelong learning (LLL) for nurses in the light of delivering high quality care and patient safety. LLL helps to ensure that nursing practice is up-to-date, contributes to improving patient outcomes and increases the public confidence in the nursing profession ([EFN Position Paper on Continuous Professional Development](#)).

In particular, the EFN believes that to ensure the health workforce of the future is properly skilled to deliver long-term care services, further attention and commitment should be devoted to advance and promote LLL. The EFN encourages the European Institutions to undertake legislative and not legislative initiatives to implement the Principle 1 of the European Pillar of Social Rights – Education – and namely to:

- Guarantee that high-quality training and access to LLL constitute a high priority in the next European Commission agenda;
- Ensure that Directive 2013/55/EU is adequately transposed to national education programmes and that policy-makers guarantee access to LLL, which ensures evidence-based practice and, therefore, better quality care and outcomes ([EFN Position Paper on European Pillar of Social Rights](#));
- Adopt measures to guarantee access to LLL: available time, human resources and cost. Cooperation and agreements among competent authorities, employers and professionals' organisations should address these issues;
- Implement LLL in accordance with up-to-date research and scientific evidence in the nursing field;
- Include eSkills in the education and the training of nurses at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, as well as ensuring their LLL. The necessity for nurses, and all healthcare professions, patients and carers, to be equipped with the right eSkills to accompany the new technology facilitating health and social care services delivery, including e-services, is key to fully integrate IT solutions into existing health and social care pathways;
- Through the European Semester Country Reports and Country Specific Recommendations, promote among all stakeholders, including competent authorities and employers, the importance of LLL and the need to enable nurses to undertake LLL suitable to their needs and interests.

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