



Statement on

Lessons learned from the implementation of Health 2020, the European policy framework for health and well-being – The Role of and Contribution of leadership in health policy and practice

69th session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for Europe

16-19 September 2019, Copenhagen, Denmark

The International Council of Nurses, The European Forum of National Nurses and Midwives Associations and the European Nursing Students Association acknowledge the value of Health 2020, the European policy framework for health and well-being in addressing the key public health challenges of the region. We especially acknowledge the value of WHO European Region Strategic Directions for Strengthening Nursing and Midwifery Towards Health 2020 goals.

We acknowledge the efforts of the Regional Director in relation to implementation of H2020 and the Nursing and Midwifery strategic directions. In particular we appreciate the collaboration and close working partnerships between the RD, the Regional Office and global and regional nursing and midwifery professional organisations.

We strongly support continued efforts to strengthen leadership--in particular with regard to nursing and midwifery. Earlier this year the World Health Assembly proclaimed 2020 the Year of the Nurse and the Midwife creating a unique opportunity to recognize the nursing and midwifery contribution to the health of our world by celebrating the bicentenary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. This celebration offers a background to recognize and honor past and present nursing and midwifery leaders across the region and the globe, raise the visibility of the nursing and midwifery in policy dialogue and invest in the development and increased capacity of the nursing and midwifery workforces.

In partnership with ICN and WHO the Nursing Now campaign has raised the profile of nursing and midwifery and has challenged governments and health sector employers to invest in the development of young nurses and midwives through leadership training, highlighted the importance of the need for more well-educated nurses and midwives, of investing in recruitment and retention strategies and of removing the barriers to the development of advanced practice roles that are proving highly effective at expanding healthcare coverage.

We are pleased to be collaborating with WHO at global and regional level to develop the State of the World's Nursing report. This first-ever report will provide a snapshot of the nursing workforce and inform national policy on strengthening nursing in order to make meaningful progress toward universal health coverage and the SDGs. We strongly urge Ministries of Health to proactively contribute to the report and nursing leaders to be actively engaged.

Through the appointment of a Chief Nursing Officer to WHO's senior management team, WHO DG has set a clear lead for investing in and supporting nursing and midwifery leadership. We urge the future Regional Director to establish the role of Chief Nursing Office at the WHO Europe Regional Office. We further urge Ministries of health to establish and empower the Government Chief Nursing Officer to provide much needed leadership to the nursing and midwifery workforces.

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) is a federation of more than 130 national nurses associations (NNAs), representing the more than 20 million nurses worldwide. ICN works to ensure quality nursing care for all, sound health policies globally, the advancement of nursing knowledge, and the presence worldwide of a respected nursing profession and a competent and satisfied nursing workforce.

The European Forum of National Nurses and Midwives Associations is the joint voice of nursing and midwifery in the WHO European Region and was established to promote the continuous development of the nursing and midwifery professions in all Member States in the region in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office.

The European Nursing Students Association is the voice of national student associations and student bodies across Europe established to promote quality nursing education in Europe and advocate for nursing students' rights.