



EFNNMA Position Statement on agenda 5(c) item “Towards a sustainable health workforce in the WHO European Region: framework for action”

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The European Forum of National Nursing and Midwifery Associations (EFNNMA) warmly congratulates the WHO Regional Office for Europe on the development of the European framework for action towards a sustainable health workforce aimed to accelerate progress towards achieving the population health objectives of Health 2020, and the longer-term health goals for Member States in the European Region, by sustaining a transformed and effective health workers within strengthened health systems.

Representing the largest group of health professionals in every Member State, EFNNMA would like to emphasise that nurses and midwives have a ‘triple impact’ - not only on health outcomes and the quality of health services, but also on gender equality and economic growth. Nurses and midwives are in the best position to make a contribution to health literacy and chronic care, health promotion and quality of life. We play a crucial role in improving access to health care services, strengthening primary health care, improving quality of life and increasing life expectancy.

Investing in nursing and midwifery workforces, liberating and developing our professions to maximize our potential is arguably the one of the biggest workforce challenges facing the Region. EFNNMA hopes that the adoption of European Framework for action will fuel the implementation of another important WHO document “European strategic directions for strengthening nursing and midwifery towards Health 2020 goals” which define the areas which require special attention, namely: effective workforce planning and transforming education, evidence-based practice, and a positive working environment. All of the above is possible only through strong leadership and involvement in decision-making.

European Forum of National
Nursing and Midwifery
Associations



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There are numerous examples of innovative programs led by pioneering nurses and midwives, but too often they are left with no attention. EFNNMA highly values close and continued collaboration with WHO European Office and urges Member States to build up strong alliances with their national associations, using the experience of the largest professional group to better plan and implement health policies.

EFNNMA, a Forum of 30 national associations from 25 Member States, offers its full support in the implementation of the European framework for action and will work with all partners towards the goal of sustainable, transformed and effective health workforces within strengthened health systems with nurses and midwives at their heart.

The European Forum of National Nursing and Midwifery Associations (EFNNMA)

is the voice of nursing and midwifery in the WHO European Region.

Co-founded with WHO in 1996, it is an independent group of 30 associations from 25 Member States. It represents a large proportion of the European Regional nursing and midwifery workforce of 7.3 million.

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