

## Triad Meeting

14<sup>th</sup> May 2010

Ramada Park Hotel, Geneva, Switzerland

### **“The economic crisis: Impact and the way forward”**

European Federation of Nurses Associations  
(EFN)

Ioannis Leontiou  
Vice - President

## EFN

- Established in 1971
- Represents over 32 National Nurses Associations
- Its work has an effect on the daily work of 6 million nurses throughout the EU and Europe

### **EFN's Overarching objective No 2:**

- *“To support and facilitate a qualitative and equitable health service in the EU and Europe by a strategic contribution to the development of a sufficient, competent and motivated workforce of Nurses”*

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## United Nations

### Millennium Development Goals

Better results when Nurses and Midwives Associations are working towards *shaping the European Union policies* for achieving the best possible outcomes *utilizing a stakeholder approach.*

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### Millennium Development Goals:

*“an expression of basic human rights: the rights of everyone to good health, education and shelter”*

*“any possible failure would multiply instability, violence, epidemic diseases, environmental degradation and runaway population growth”*

*Keeping the promise: a forward-looking review to promote an agreed action agenda to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 - Report of the Secretary-General*

*United Nations A/64/665: [General Assembly Sixty-fourth session: Agenda items 48 and 114](#)*

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## **Achieving Millennium Development Goals**

- Examine all Millennium Development Goals through a gender lens
- Interventions with greatest impact on health
- Strengthening National Health Systems
- Scale up of global financing

*Keeping the promise: a forward-looking review to promote an agreed action agenda to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 - Report of the Secretary-General  
United Nations A/64/665: General Assembly Sixty-fourth session: Agenda items 48 and 114*

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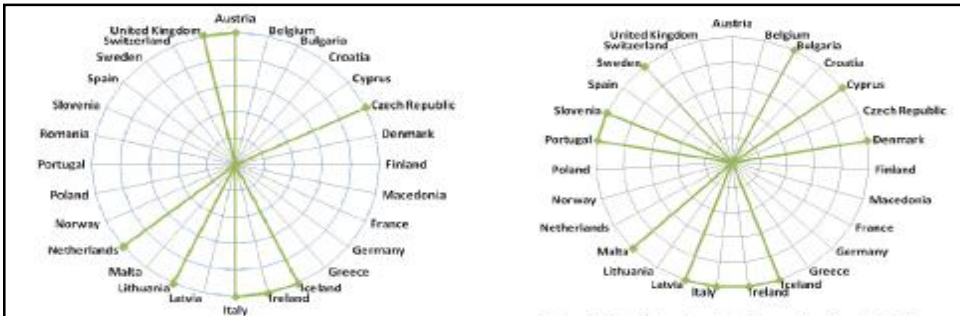
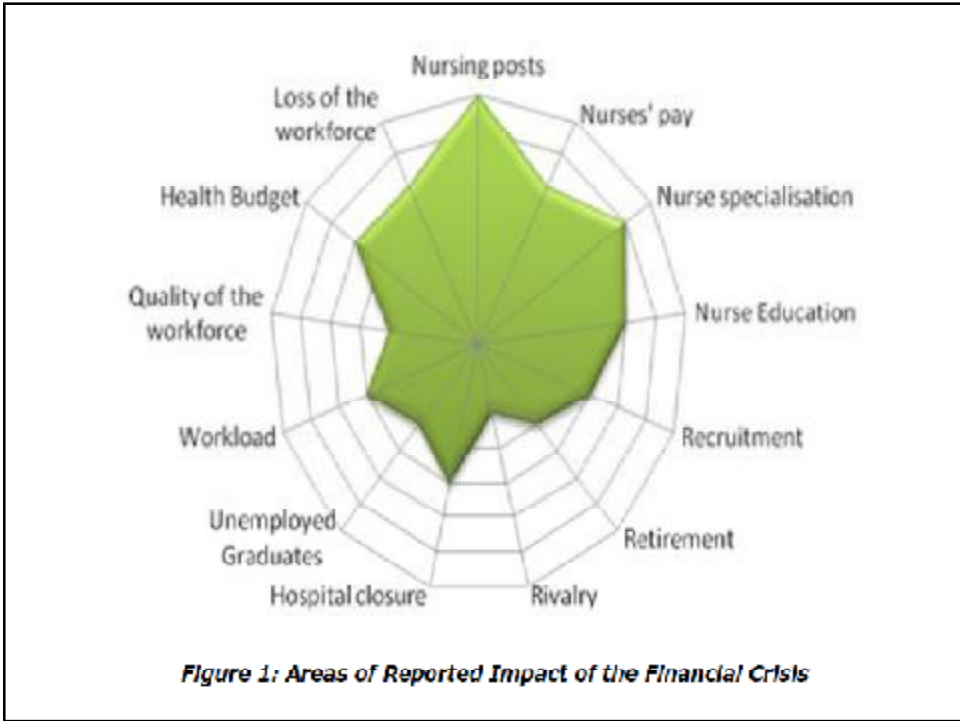
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## **Majority of EU countries reported:**

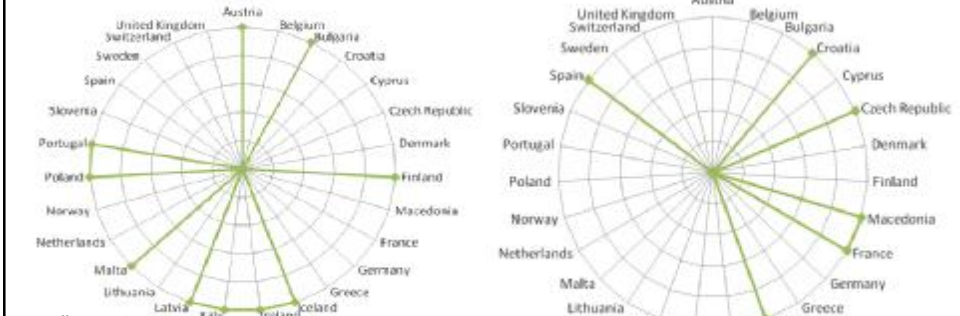
- Health budget cuts,
- Staff lay-offs,
- Closure of units,
- Hospitals and other healthcare facilities,
- Reduced salaries,
- Reduced intake of nursing students,
- Forced unpaid leave and;
- Reduced pension schemes

*EFN PRESS RELEASE: Investing in Health to Respond to Global Recession, 20 April 2009*  
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*“The efforts towards developing a high quality and sustainable health workforce able to deliver the highest standards of safety and quality in healthcare must not be sacrificed for short term gains; vision must prevail short-sightedness”.*

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EFN PRESS RELEASE: *Investing in Health to Respond to Global Recession, 20 April 2009*

**Figure 1: EFN members' synthesised concerns**



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EFN MEMBERS' PRIORITIES (April 2009)

## EFN MEMBERS' PRIORITIES

- ***Nurse education***
- ***Workforce planning, working conditions, and pay***
- ***Policy making and regulation***
- ***Patient safety and quality of care***
- ***Entrepreneurship***

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## EFN proposals

Make the application for Social Cohesion Funds more transparent and easy

Having the economic crisis in mind, the application of Social Cohesion Funds in a coordinated way should be a support for all EFN members

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## Green Paper for EU Workforce for Health

- Position statement and
- Letter to the Commissioner for Health

*“Provide the framework for the development of a high-quality health workforce of sufficient capacity and with the right skills to face future healthcare challenges”*

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1. EU monitoring and planning system to support decision-making
2. Investing in Human Capital,
3. EU Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Framework and;
4. Taking a gender approach to workforce.

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**EFN:**

“Promote and ensure high quality patient care based on the common values and principles in the EU health systems<sup>1</sup>”.

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 EFN POSITION PAPER ON THE FUTURE EU HEALTH SERVICES: September 2007



## **EU Directive on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare (Healthcare Directive)**

### **EFN Concerns**

- Possibility of increasing inequalities
- A system where services are primarily based on the ability to pay, resulting to a two-tier health system in which those who can afford to pay are served first ? [\[1\]](#)

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 EFN Position Statement on Patients rights in cross border Healthcare – October 2008



## QUALITY AND SAFETY STANDARDS

Response to the Directorate General for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO):

- Setting up a European Network of Quality and Safety Standards
- Develop clear and transparent principles and criteria and;
- Good practices in Quality of Care and Patient Safety

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EFN General Assembly, 16-17 April 2009, Brussels, EFN Policy Dialog on Quality and Safety Standards

**“Doing the right things,  
to the right citizens,  
in the right way,  
at the right time,  
using the right resources,  
in the right place  
every time and  
delivering the right services even better  
the next time,  
equals quality and safety”**

## **PRIMARY HEALTH CARE**

*“the increasing focus on Primary Health Care will be of huge benefit to citizens’ health and national budgets.*

*...the artificial distinction between health and social care should be removed and combined into a single integrated care system linking both policies together.”*

EFN Response to DG Sanco Green Paper on EU Workforce for Health 26 03 2009

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## **National Nurses and Midwives Associations:**

Further involved at the national level to raise the quality of inter-sectoral dialogue and debate aiming at improvement of the health status of the society

Inspire one another,  
Learn from each other and;  
Jointly, make stronger links to empower the co-operation between authorities and social partners internationally

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- 
- Strengthen dialogue
  - Face challenges
  - Work against social exclusion
  - Create equal opportunities for all citizens

**For better healthcare for everyone**

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