



Advancing Nursing Research

ENRF UPDATE

June 2018

President's Message



Dear ENRF colleagues and Friends,

These months have been very important for the future of the EU research, and the ENRF has carefully monitored the work of the European Commission in developing its proposal for the [long-term EU budget](#).

The next crucial step will be the proposal on the next research framework programme (FP9) that will determine the way forward of the EU in relation to boost innovation and research. For the ENRF and the nursing community it is crucial to see a concrete support to health and nursing research, as we strongly believe that to achieve coherent and impactful health and social policies in Europe, decision-makers cannot leave nursing research and innovation out of consideration.

As emphasised on the occasion of the [International Nursing Day](#), nursing research is crucial to develop fit-for-purpose health and social policies, therefore the ENRF advocates for more support for nursing research and policies placing the patient at the centre of care with the nurses playing a central role in the coordination and integration. The ENRF calls on the Commission and the Parliament to ensure that the EU commitment towards promoting accessible health and social care for EU citizens remains a key priority for the EU.

Within this context, the ENRF is committed to promote nursing research and invite all institutes and organisations carrying out research activities to [join](#) and enrich our research network!

Karen Bjørø
ENRF President

ENRF News

ENRF Board Directors meeting

On 11 April, the ENRF Board of Directors (Karen Bjørø, Norway, Dorota Kilanska – Poland, Kate Seers, UK) met in Brussels to discuss the ENRF current priorities. The Directors focused on important nursing topics such as the Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANP), and PROMS & PREMS in a Value-based Health and Social Ecosystems. The meeting was also a chance to explore the future strategy of the ENRF, including fundraising opportunities.



ENRF supports EFN work in advancing the nursing profession

During the last EFN General Assembly, the ENRF Board of Directors briefed the EFN Members on the latest developments of the Foundation, that intends to be an evidence-based tool to inform EU decision making. The ENRF support to EFN can be particularly relevant for the development of the Advanced Practice Nursing in the EU, by undertaking a scoping exercise on the existing evidence and the extent to which EU curricula prepare ANPs for new roles in the health and social ecosystem.

Máximo González Jurado becomes ENRF Honorary Director



Máximo González Jurado, former ENRF President and active delegate for the EFN Spanish member, has been awarded the title of Honorary ENRF Director, in recognition of his support and service as the first EFN Founding Director and President of the European Nursing Research Foundation (2015-2017), for his key role in establishing the ENRF, and for his outstanding contribution to nursing and nursing research.

EU News

The European Commission proposes €100B for research programme

With the proposal for the [long-term EU budget](#), the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), the Commission outlined a €100 billion budget for its new research programme, running between 2021 and 2027. The figure announced by the Commission includes €97.6 billion for Horizon Europe, the EU's flagship research programme, and €2.4 billion for the Euratom nuclear research programme. This amount, although higher than 30% of the current research budget, is less than expected and proclaimed in the last months, when, during a speech held before the European Parliament in Strasbourg, the European Commission President, Jean Claude Juncker, said that the [EU should aim to double its seven-year spending](#) on research from around €77 billion in the current budget cycle, to €160 billion in the 2020s. The European Parliament already declared to be ready to bring these figures to € 120 billion.

Horizon Europe is the new research programme

The proposal for the next MFF includes the budget and main features of the next research Framework Programme (FP9) – Horizon Europe. The Commission explained that Horizon Europe, will help Europe remain at the forefront of global research and innovation. Building on the success of Horizon 2020, the new programme will continue to promote research excellence and strengthen the focus on innovation, for instance through the development of prototypes, intangible assets, knowledge and technology transfer. A new European Innovation Council will

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provide a one-stop shop for high potential and disruptive innovators, aiming to make Europe a front runner in market-creating innovation.

EU invests in digitalisation

The budget proposal also includes to establish a new Digital Europe Programme to shape and support the digital transformation of Europe's society and economy. By supporting strategic projects in frontline areas such as artificial intelligence, supercomputers, cybersecurity or industrial digitisation, and investing in digital skills, the new programme will help to complete the Digital Single Market, a key priority of the Union. The Commission proposes a combined increase of 64% in research, innovation and digital investment under direct management in the next Financial Framework. These investments will be complemented by research, innovation and digital projects supported by the European Structural and Investment Funds.

Last steps before the launch of FP9

Meanwhile, EU institutions, Member States and stakeholders also contributed with their [opinion](#) on the limitations of the current framework programme and their expectations for the future. Among their positions, it emerged the importance of a required balance between two conflicting dimensions: excellence and cohesion; the role of citizens in co-designing FP9 and the co-creation of its results; and interactions between higher education and research and innovation.

Industries' concerns on the next research framework programme

Industry has made its voice heard to shape the future FP9. In particular, looking at the possibility to see in Horizon Europe a mix of elements from the current programme's 'societal challenges' and 'leadership in enabling industrial technologies' into one consolidated section called "global challenges", the employers association, Business Europe, has called for [Horizon Europe to maintain a dedicated industry pillar](#). Civil society groups are worried about industry influence over research priorities, arguing that companies' inclusion in the global challenges section would make the budget spending harder to control and less transparent.

FP9 brings evolution to EU research

In preparation for the next Research Framework Programme, the EU's recently appointed Director-General for Research and Innovation, Jean-Eric Paquet, said that FP9 will be based on the formula 'evolution, not revolution' in continuation of the work already done. He also stressed the importance of [open science](#), [open innovation](#) and [open to the world](#) as priorities for the next research programme. With the discussion on the next EU funding programme almost completed and the budget almost decided, the ENRF calls on the EU institutions to get health research more upfront into FP9, including funding opportunities to boost nursing research.

But less complexity is needed in the next R&D programme

In parallel, European Court of Auditors has called on the European Commission [to simplify the structure and administration of the next Framework Programme 9](#). The auditors recommend that

researchers and their organisations should be given more time to adapt to changes made in work programmes and other legal aspects of Horizon 2020. The auditors also call for increased legal certainty and better procedures for reimbursing costs. Simplified rules are needed to encourage applications!

Universities urge EU to boost research spending in FP9

In this context, European Universities including the League of European Research Universities (LERU), the European University Association (EUA), the Guild and Cesaer, have come together calling the European Commission for a doubling of the EU research budget to €160 billion in the upcoming Framework Programme 9. Increasing the budget would enable the EU to emerge as a global leader in different areas including healthcare. The ENRF supports the request for more funding dedicated to health and nursing research to improve the quality of European healthcare services.

Is EU Health Programme going to disappear?

The recently announced EU budget plan includes a reorganisation of some of its health-promotion activities. Namely, the EU Commission €420 million Health Programme will be consolidated with several other programmes into an enlarged European Social Fund, aimed at improving society overall. The overall budget for the European Social Fund is €101.2 billion and, as part of that, the Health Programme will aim at "reducing inequalities in access to public health and quality health care among member states, protecting people from serious cross-border health threats by avoiding and countering health crises, empowering health systems with emphasis on their digital transformation, (and) supporting EU health legislation." It will also try to make national healthcare systems work better, based on the formal recommendations that the Commission periodically makes to Member States.

EU Semester Country Recommendations address research

As part of the European Semester process, the Commission has published the [Country Specific Recommendations](#) (CSRs) with the attempt to coordinate national budgetary and reform priorities. With the CSRs 2018, the Commission urges governments to accelerate reform of their research systems. The analysis mixes the familiar overviews of slow reform attempts in countries like Slovakia, Italy and Spain, with positive assessments for countries that spend a lot on research, such as Denmark and Finland. Other particular cases concern Lithuania, that needs boost to public investment in research and development; and Portugal, missing the enabling conditions for stronger academia-business cooperation.

Healthcare systems' innovation is too slow in Europe

According to the [European Innovation Scoreboard](#), although the European innovation system has grown by 2% from 2010 to 2016, performance has declined for both 'Public R&D expenditures' and 'Venture capital investments', having a knock-on effect for innovators. These numbers can have a negative effect on the European healthcare research and quality innovation, that has difficulties to be fully integrated in the national health systems.