

EFN STATEMENT – WHO Regional Committee

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Health literacy in the WHO European Region – Digitalisation

The European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) represents over three million nurses and recognises the importance of the digitalisation of the health sector. New digital health tools cover the full range of functions to enable better outcomes but are often not co-designed with the frontline end-users. End-users' requirements are often developed in silos, in environments far away from patients and healthcare professionals.

However, for digital health to deliver its full potential, co-designed tools and programmes, co-created with nurses, and other end-users, is a facilitator for successful deployment and as such, an investment for change. Moreover, digitalisation practices and processes should focus on patient safety and empowerment, support continuity of care throughout the patient's journey, safeguard the quality of care and life, and reflect the multi-professional approach.

Among all the new digital health tools, Electronic Health Records have the most significant potential for change when it comes to improving the quality of cross-border care and interoperability. The importance of electronic health records and end-user involvement in co-creation is being positively demonstrated in two EU-funded projects working on Electronic Health Records, InteropEHRate and Smart4Health, with the determine ambition to digitalise healthcare to support health for all across Europe

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