

EFN STATEMENT – WHO Regional Committee

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Accelerating primary health care in the WHO European Region – Social Impact

The European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) represents over three million nurses in the EU. Nurses with their scientific knowledge, skills and expertise impact positively on the health of individual citizens and societies. Nurses are in a privileged and strategic position to foster and influence primary care and deliver significant change in the health of the populations they serve. However, in order to for this valuable resourced to deliver optimal outcomes, nurses should be valued and proactively supported on the frontline, with fair and appropriate recognition and remuneration packages so they can remain in the profession. The citizens of Europe expect and deserve highly qualified and motivated general care nurses supported by advanced nurse practitioners' roles in primary care.

The social impact of nurses delivering preventative and appropriate healthcare through primary and community care, will enable populations to live longer with well managed co-morbidities and non-communicable diseases. But prevention comes first. At European level, policymakers focus on promotion and disease prevention with nurses strengthening primary care to help citizens independently live longer healthier lives.

The EFN is certain that primary healthcare delivered in collaboration with nurses will significantly and positively impact on the sustainability of the health and social care ecosystems and the quality of life of citizens.

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