



World Health
Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE
64TH SESSION

Copenhagen, Denmark, 15–18 September 2014



Strengthening Nursing and Midwifery:

European strategic
directions towards
Health 2020

COMPENDIUM
OF GOOD PRACTICES
IN NURSING
AND MIDWIFERY

Nurses and midwives: A vital resource for health

Technical briefing

Wednesday, 17 September 2014, 13:00



World Health
Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR
Europe

Regional Committee for Europe
64th session

EUR/RC64/TD/2

Copenhagen, Denmark, 15–18 September 2014

4 September 2014
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Technical briefing, Wednesday, 17 September 2014
13:00–14:00

Nurses and midwives: a vital resource for health

Health 2020, the policy framework for health and well-being in the WHO European Region, highlights nurses and midwives as having key and increasingly important roles to play in society's efforts to tackle the public health challenges of our time, ensure the continuity of care and address people's rights and changing health needs.

A study conducted by the Regional Office for Europe has documented that a variety of new health care models and innovative practices in nursing and midwifery exist and many of them have been implemented in various settings across the European Region, ranging from small-scale projects to nationwide nursing and midwifery reforms. The findings show that nurses and midwives are a vital resource towards improving population health and reducing health inequalities; however, their work is not always well-documented or rigorously evaluated and it is rarely shared within and across countries. Thus, the potential impact of nurses and midwives in supporting Health 2020 implementation in the Region is not yet fully realized.

Role of nurses and midwives in supporting Health 2020 implementation¹

"Nurses and midwives have key and increasingly important roles to play in society's efforts to tackle the public health challenges of our time and in ensuring the continuity of care and addressing people's rights and changing needs. Nurses and midwives together form the largest group of health professionals in the Region. Because they have close contact with many people, they should be competent in the principles and practice of public health, so that they can use every opportunity to influence health outcomes, their social determinants, and the policies necessary to achieve change. This applies in particular to those who work in community settings, as well as in schools, industry, prisons and facilities for displaced people. Skills in exerting political influence, negotiating and making decisions, as well as financial, business and cultural competencies, will be an important part of the new repertoire of all nurses and midwives, thereby equipping them to work effectively and enabling them to work at all levels across all relevant sectors." [p. 115]

¹Health 2020: a European policy framework and strategy for the 21st century. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2013 (<http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-policy/health-2020-the-european-policy-for-health-and-well-being/publications/2013/health-2020-a-european-policy-framework-and-strategy-for-the-21st-century>).

Scope and purpose

The purpose of this technical briefing is to promote debate among Member States and relevant stakeholders on how to strengthen nursing and midwifery in order to maximize their potential and enable their full contributions for supporting Health 2020 implementation.

The health workforce should be continuously developed and redesigned to provide for changing patterns of health care. This needs to be underpinned by research and evidence; and innovative practices that result in benefits to patients and populations should be promoted, disseminated and implemented. Two products that sustain these developments for nurses and midwives and that will enable and support them to improve care, health and well-being for the people and communities they service are discussed here today.

- First, the policy framework, “*Strengthening nursing and midwifery: European strategic directions towards Health 2020*,” will be presented as a draft for consultation. It is a framework to strategize action – the first of its kind in the WHO European Region. The policy framework identifies 12 objectives, four priority areas and four enabling mechanisms that strengthen nursing and midwifery and align policy and practice with Health 2020. A region-wide consultation process in the coming months aims to engage and encourage Member States and key stakeholders to provide input to the policy framework and its suggested implementation mechanism.
- Second, a “*Compendium of good practices in nursing and midwifery*”, based on 55 country case studies from 18 Member States in the European Region will be launched. The Compendium demonstrates good practices in nursing and midwifery and describes how they contribute to the implementation of Health 2020 and to improving the quality of health care services. The Compendium is designed to provide evidence to policy-makers on how nursing and midwifery contributions and different models of care can influence future progress and key health policy targets and, hence, how to make the best use of the nursing and midwifery workforce as a vital resource for better health and well-being.

The above documents can provide technical guidance to individual Member States by identifying ways to improve workforce capacity, professional education, working conditions, and to strengthen health care services at country, regional and institutional levels.

The technical briefing will be in English, with simultaneous translation into Russian.

Provisional agenda

Time	Topic/speaker
5–7 min	Welcome and introduction WHO update on the draft policy framework, “ <i>Strengthening nursing and midwifery: European strategic directions towards Health 2020</i> ,” and on a “ <i>Compendium of good practices in nursing and midwifery</i> ”
25 min	Panel discussion on gaining insight into nursing and midwifery practices at the country level <ul style="list-style-type: none">• experience of Finland• experience of England (United Kingdom)• experience of Israel• International Council of Nurses• European Commission
20 min	Open discussion
3–5 min	Conclusions

Expected outcomes

The expected outcomes of the technical briefing are:

- to kick-start the consultation process for Member States and key stakeholders to provide input and feedback to the policy framework, “*Strengthening nursing and midwifery: European strategic directions towards Health 2020*”;
- to better understand nursing and midwifery roles and models of care contributing to the health and well-being of the population of the European Region, with a focus on the implementation of Health 2020;
- to engage political commitment to realize the potential and contributions of nursing and midwifery to influence future progress in supporting Health 2020 implementation.

Further information

Dr Galina Perfilieva
Programme Manager, Human Resources for Health
Division of Health Systems and Public Health
Tel.: +45 45 33 68 09
Email: gpe@euro.who.int

= = =