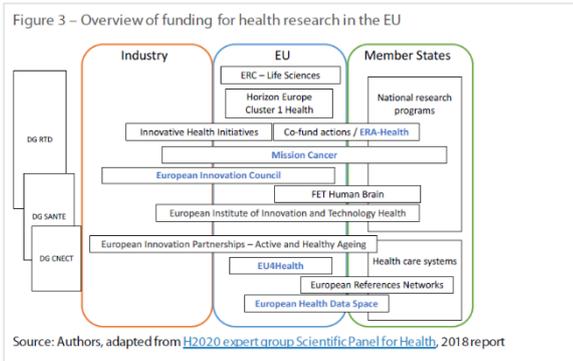




ENRF Briefing Note

Fostering Coherence in EU Health Research

Strengthening EU research for better health – Strengthening Nursing Research



The outbreak and subsequent pandemic of COVID-19 has challenged EU policies for health and has led to several new initiatives under a commitment towards a [European health union](#), strengthening EU preparedness and response during health crises.

COVID-19 highlighted several weaknesses in health research that appear to be systemic and inherent to the organisation and funding of health research in the EU. A common denominator in these weaknesses is the fragmentation and the lack of coherence.

Importantly, this [study “Fostering coherence in EU health research - Strengthening EU research for better health”](#), on behalf of the European Parliament's Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA), examines whether the organisation and support for health research in the EU is adequate and fit to face future challenges.

The study takes into consideration:

- Strategic health research funding through the EU framework programmes;
- Inequalities between Member States in EU health research funding;
- Global competitiveness and leadership for EU health research funding;
- Challenges to translating research into better health.

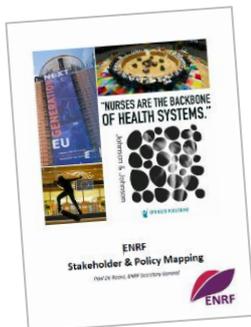
The authors conclude that the current proposals for a European Health Union do not address the systemic weaknesses of EU health research, and in turn put forward other policy options to foster health research coherence:

- Increase the EU budget for collaborative research;
- Increase health research opportunities in the ECDC and HERA;
- Restructure ECRIN as a central EU body with central financing;
- An EU platform for funding agencies and optimisation of co-funding;
- A European health research council;
- A European health institute;
- A high-level scientific adviser for health.

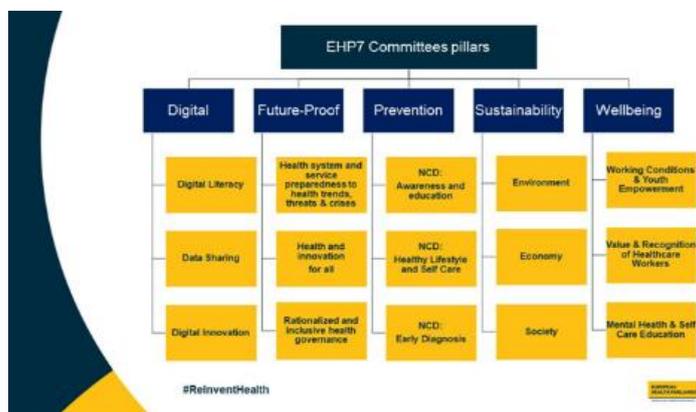
Policy options 1-3 build on existing structures; policy options 4-6 present a design for new structures for synergies and leadership; policy option 7 aims to strengthen leadership and advice for policy.

The [ENRF](#) can play a significant role in setting the [EU Health Research](#)! To prepare for a more coherent European Health Union Research Agenda, the ENRF has developed key Policy Briefs, highlighting the importance of nursing research in some key areas:

- ▶ **Left Care Undone** (See ENRF Policy Brief [here](#))
- ▶ **Digitalisation** (See ENRF Policy Brief [here](#))
- ▶ **Nurse Mentorship** (See ENRF Policy Brief [here](#))
- ▶ **Advanced Practice Nursing** (See ENRF Policy Brief [here](#))
- ▶ **Nursing Planetary Health** (To be released soon)
- ▶ **Violence Against Nurses** (To be released soon)



Furthermore, to help analyse, understand, and create effective research strategies, building on the [ENRF Strategic and Operational Research Plan \(SORP\) 2021-2024](#) and the ENRF Policy Briefs, providing an analysis of the policy and research actors and networks in order to influence EU Health Research, the ENRF has been networking and meeting people from the [European Health Parliament](#) (EHP) - a movement connecting and empowering the next generation of European health leaders to rethink EU health policies – constituted by a group of 60 young professionals.



Seventh European Health Parliament key policy topics

Fostering the dialogue between researchers, practitioners and policymakers/politicians, to build a common research capacity, the ENRF is seen as a facilitator to link the nursing researchers' institutions to the EU Institutions and EU Programs as Horizon Europe and Erasmus+, making always sure that these developments are in line with the EFN Strategic and Operational Lobby Plan ([SOLP](#)) 2021-2027, thus being in constant contact with the EFN Executive Committee, and providing a clear briefing on the ongoing developments to the EFN Members.



Crucial to enhance effectiveness, communicating on the ENRF activities is crucial for making it visualised, and to get the message across, especially at EU level. As such, the ENRF publish on regular basis important information on nursing research at EU level, through [ENRF Briefing Notes](#), [ENRF Newsletter](#), and on the [ENRF Website Homepage](#).



As demonstrated by Covid-19 pandemic, more than ever, nurses have an essential role in running the healthcare systems in the EU, always at the frontline of care for patients doing their utmost to provide high-quality and safe care. From a nursing research perspective, investing in research and innovation is investing in Europe's future.

Therefore, in these challenging times, health research remains important to support the development and evaluation of nursing innovations, and to demonstrate the value of the nursing workforce. Turning weaknesses in health research into strengths will be the key challenge for health research in the EU in the coming years. The ENRF will be key to move from EU research fragmentation and the lack of coherence towards impactful and outcome-oriented research outcomes with a key focus on exploitation.

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