

**"EMPOWERING HEALTH
PROFESSIONALS FOR A RESILIENT
EUROPEAN HEALTH FUTURE"**

14 JAN & **15** JAN

EUROPEAN
ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COMMITTEE

EUROPEAN
PRESS CLUB

ESN
EUROPEAN SPECIALIST
NURSES ORGANISATION

*"Exploring the
critical intersections
of policy, politics and
economics in today's
health landscape".*

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Shaping the Future of Healthcare: Building a Sustainable Paradigm for Nursing and Beyond

Tuesday 14 January

Location: *European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)*

Address: *Rue Belliard 99/101, 1040 Bruxelles, Belgium*

Link to Register: [REGISTER HERE](#)

09.00 – 10.00

ACCESS TO VENUE BUILDING AND REGISTRATION

10.00 – 10.30

WELCOME COFFEE

10.30 – 11.00

OPENING SESSION: HEALTH CHALLENGES IN EUROPE—THE ROLE AND IMPACT OF SPECIALIST NURSES

11.00 – 13.00

Exploring the critical intersection of policy, politics, and economics in today's health landscape.

Europe's health sector faces mounting challenges, from an aging population and chronic diseases to rapid medical advancements and the climate crisis. **Economic constraints and the need for sustainable solutions further complicate the landscape, creating complex demands on healthcare systems.** These issues extend deeply into the health workforce, with nursing professionals bearing a significant burden. Just skills improvement are not enough, as they come and go and are not sustainable.

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed critical vulnerabilities in both the quantity and quality of nursing staff, underscoring the urgent need for systemic change, it was and still is a huge European and global shock. However, despite recognizing this, many institutions continue to cling to outdated paradigms, missing the chance to implement meaningful, transformative solutions. A collective shift to a "new DNA" for healthcare professional workforce is required—one that redefines how we work together, fosters collaboration, and develops fresh narratives for a sustainable future. **Are we smart enough to utilise the huge potential, the right tools and best mechanisms?**

Persistent inflation and financial strain compound these issues, intensifying workforce shortages and operational challenges. Addressing these intertwined problems requires a unified strategy that considers

economic realities, workforce dynamics, and the evolving role of nurses in healthcare. Specialist nurses, in particular, are essential not just as care providers but also as leaders in public health, policy advocacy, and health system resilience.

This opening session will delve into the political and policy aspect of the critical role of specialist nurses in navigating these challenges. We'll explore how they contribute to patient outcomes, health system efficiency, and sustainable solutions, even amidst political, economic, and regulatory pressures.

Key topics include:

- **Policy Frameworks:** Understanding the European policies that influence nurse roles and healthcare delivery, including legislation around workforce autonomy, certification, and cross-border cooperation.
- **Economic Factors:** Analyzing the impact of economic instability on the healthcare workforce, job security, and the resources available to nurses, as well as the role of sustainable investment in advancing specialized nursing competencies.
- **Political Landscape:** Addressing the role of advocacy and collaboration in shaping policies that recognize and empower the specialist nurse's contribution, from preventive care to advanced interventions, and supporting a healthy workplace.

This session sets the stage for discussions on how specialist nurses can further strengthen their impact, despite economic and political pressures, and highlights the need for cohesive, cross-European efforts to support their essential role in achieving equitable, sustainable, and resilient healthcare.

SPEAKERS AND DEBATES

- *Dr. Adriano Friganovic, ESNO president*
- *MEP Andras Kulja, EPP and vice chair SANT and EMPL*
- *MEP Laurent Castillo, EPP and member of ENVI and SANT*
- *Ber Oomen, ESNO Executive director*
- *Katarzyna Ptak Bufkens, Commission DG Sante, TBC*
- *Agata Walaszczyk / Anna Thriunavaskarsu DG Growth*
- *Dr. Jacqueline Bowman, Founder of Foundation for the Rights of Citizens with Obesity - Pactev Adiposité – Adipositas Pact <https://pa-ap.org/en>*
- *Dr. Anca Toma, director European Patient Forum <https://www.eu-patient.eu/>*
- *Joris van Vugt, Senior Medical Director, External Customer Implementation Lead at Viatris.*

LUNCH

13.15 – 14.00 lunch

At the congress room

14.00 – 17.00

SESSION 2: SHAPING THE FUTURE—REFLECTIONS FROM NURSE LEADERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Insights on advancing specialist nursing in response to Europe's evolving health challenges.

Following our exploration of the broad health challenges facing Europe, this session brings together a distinguished panel of nurse leaders from national regulatory bodies, global certification and credentialing institutes, advanced nurse practitioners, and EU policy stakeholders. Together, they will provide a multi-faceted view of the strategic direction needed to strengthen and sustain the role of specialist nurses across the continent.

Through panel discussions and reflections, this session will examine:

- **Regulatory Perspectives:** Leaders from national regulatory bodies will discuss the policies required to enhance specialist nursing education, standardize competencies, and increase cross-border mobility. They will share initiatives that ensure specialist nurses can meet both national health priorities and EU health directives.
- **Certification and Credentialing:** Representatives from global certification and credentialing institutes will highlight the significance of universal standards in advanced practice nursing. This includes fostering greater alignment in certification processes to build trust, validate competencies, and facilitate recognition across borders.
- **Advanced Practice and Innovation:** Advanced Nurse Practitioners will offer insights into how expanded roles and scopes of practice can address healthcare gaps, especially in underserved and rural areas. They will share firsthand experiences on the value of autonomy, leadership, and collaboration in delivering impactful care.
- **EU Stakeholders' Vision:** EU representatives will outline relevant EU health initiatives, funding, and support for specialist nursing programs. They will address the critical need for cohesive policies that empower nurses, sustain workforce resilience, and contribute to sustainable health systems.

This session invites a dynamic dialogue to collectively reimagine the pathways, partnerships, and policy frameworks necessary for a future where specialist nurses are fully supported and recognized as essential pillars of healthcare across Europe.

SPEAKERS

- *Prof. Daniela Lehwaldt – Advanced Nurse Practitioners*
- *Dr. Peter Preziosi (USA) International, Inc. - Nursing Credentials Evaluation CGFNS <https://www.cgfns.org/>*
- *Dr. Maurizio Zega, Italian National Federation of Orders of Nursing Professions - FNOPI <https://www.fnopi.it/en/>*
- *Prof. Olle Ten Cate, Entrustable Professional, Activities and Entrustment and Decision-Making in Health - Professions Education <https://www.ubiquitypress.com/site/chapters/e/10.5334/bdc.p/>*
- *Anastasia Liossistou, Board member, European Dialysis and Transplant Nurses Association/European Renal Care Association <https://www.edtnaerca.org/>*
- *Dr. Cecile Dury, president Federation of Nurse Educators in Nursing science, FINE <https://fine-europe.eu>*
- *Dr. Alicia San José, Senior Lecturer in the School of Nursing of Hospital Sant Pau in Barcelona, representing the European Federation of Critical Care Nursing Associations (EfCCNa)*
- *Carmen Salvador Arnau, RPP, ‘Capacity Enhancing Innovation: freeing up resources within Healthcare systems’*
- *Dr. Jaap Kapper, representation the Dutch National Nursing Association V&VN www.venvn.nl*
- *Milena Angelova, Vice-presidents of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and Secretary-General of the Bulgarian Industrial Capital Association (BICA); Principal Lecturer at the Institute for Economic Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences*

DRAFT DAY SCHEDULE 14 JANUARY 2025

10.00 – 11.00	Welcome and Registration	
	SESSION 1	
11.00 – 11.05	Welcome and opening	Dr. Adriano Friganovic (ESNO)
11.05 – 11.15	Introduction and scope of European SANT for professionals	MEP Andras Kulja
11.15 – 11.25	DG Growth, Health, economics and professional qualification	Agata Walaszczyk / Anna Thriunavaskarsu
11.25 – 11.35	DG Sante, European mandate semester and challenges	TBC,
11.35 – 11.45	European health and integration of professionals	Ber Oomen (ESNO)
11.45 – 12.00	Panel debate	<i>MODERATION - David</i>
	SESSION 2	
12.00- 12.15	Professional in health system and Obesity	Dr. Jaqueline Bowman
12.15 – 12.25	The patient voice in professionals relation	Dr. Anca Tome
12.25 – 12.30	Capacity Enhancing Innovation: freeing up resources within Healthcare systems.	Carmen Salvador Arnau, RPP,
12.25 – 12.30	Health innovation and stakeholders collaborations	Joris van Vugt
12.30 – 12.40	European health innovation, impact on shortage and inequalities	MEP Laurent Castillo
12.40 – 13.15	Panel debate	<i>Ber Oomen</i>
13.15 – 14.00	Lunch and Networking	
	SESSION 3	
14.00 -14.15	Global collaboration, Credibility by Certification,	Dr. Peter Preziosi
14.15-14.30	Interrelation between National Specialist Nursing Organisation, constituencies and quality assurance	Dr. Jaap Kapper
14.30 – 15.00	Entrustable Professional, Activities and Entrustment and Decision-Making in Health - Professions Education	Prof. Olle Ten Cate
15.00- 15.15	Uniformity in Nursing professionals Narratives	Dr. Maurizio Zega, FNOPI
15.15 – 15.30	Short coffee break	
	SESSION 4	
15.30 – 15.45	Specialization, a European scope from the Dialysis and Transplant Nurses Association/European Renal Care Association	Anastasia Liossatu
16.00 – 16.15	Scoping the world of the Nurse Specialist in Intensive Care	Dr. Alicia San José
15.45 – 16.00	Challenges in the field of Nurse Educators and opportunities.	Dr. Cecile Dury
16.15 – 16.45	Health professionals voicing mechanism in the EECS.	Milena Angelova
16.45 – 17.00	Panel discussion Conclusions and round up.	



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Wednesday 15 January

Location: Press Club, Rue Froissart 95, 1040 Bruxelles, Belgium

08.30 – 09.00

WELCOME COFFEE AND REGISTRATION

09.00 – 13.00

SESSION 3: ADVANCING NURSE ENGAGEMENT IN KEY HEALTH INITIATIVES—
CERTIFICATION, IMPLEMENTATION, AND PREPAREDNESS

Empowering specialist nurses in Vaccination, Antimicrobial Stewardship, and Health Preparedness.

Opening session key note: Penilla Gunther

This session dives into the practical steps for enhancing nurse engagement in critical health areas, with a focus on certification and efficient program implementation. In today's health landscape, nurses play an essential role in vaccination, antimicrobial stewardship, and broader preparedness efforts. However, these efforts require structured support, streamlined certification pathways, and robust frameworks that recognize and enhance nurses' responsibilities in these domains.

Key areas of focus include:

- **Certification for Specialized Roles:** We will explore how structured certification programs can empower nurses to confidently lead initiatives in vaccination and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) management. Panellists will discuss the importance of avoiding delays in certification processes and provide practical solutions to harmonize standards, ensuring timely recognition of nurse competencies across the EU.
- **Implementation Strategies:** Drawing on case studies, we will examine the pathways to implementing specialized nursing programs in areas like vaccination and AMR stewardship. Emphasis will be placed on overcoming barriers, such as administrative challenges, resource limitations, and interprofessional coordination, that can often hinder program rollout.

www.esno.org secretariat@esno.org

This event is made possible with an educational grant by @viatris

- **Vaccination as a Core Responsibility:** As vaccination remains one of the most effective preventive health interventions, this session will address the critical role of nurses in promoting vaccine confidence, educating communities, and combating misinformation. Discussions will cover the necessary training, resources, and support systems to enable nurses to lead effectively in this area.
- **Antimicrobial Resistance and Stewardship:** Nurses are vital to the success of antimicrobial stewardship efforts, helping to monitor, educate, and advocate for responsible antimicrobial use. This discussion will examine the unique contributions nurses make in AMR and outline certification and training pathways to empower them in these responsibilities.
- **Preparedness and Response:** In the context of emerging health threats, from pandemics to environmental health crises, preparedness is paramount. Panellists will explore how nurses can be at the forefront of preparedness initiatives, equipped with the skills, resources, and certifications needed to respond effectively.

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.30

Session 4: From Vision to Action—Concrete Steps for Program Implementation

Action-oriented strategies for implementing specialized nursing programs with impact and sustainability.

In this 1.5-hour session, we'll focus on streamlined steps to implement specialized nursing initiatives effectively, from goal setting and framework building to overcoming barriers. Participants will gain the tools needed to create measurable impact and ensure sustainable success in areas such as vaccination, antimicrobial stewardship, and preparedness.

Agenda Outline:

1. Setting Goals and Building a Practical Framework (30 minutes)

- This segment focuses on setting measurable goals and creating actionable frameworks for health initiatives. Participants will learn timeline creation, resource allocation, and team role definition, with real-world examples highlighting successful planning and avoiding common pitfalls.

2. Navigating Certification, Regulatory Steps, and Overcoming Barriers (30 minutes)

- This section covers strategies to streamline certification and meet regulatory standards while addressing barriers like funding, collaboration, and resistance. Facilitators will share solutions to enhance success in diverse healthcare settings.

3. Case Study Workshop and Interactive Q&A (30 minutes)

- Outcome: By the end of this session, participants will have a concrete action plan, strategies for certification and compliance, and effective tools for turning health initiatives into sustained, impactful programs.

Participants: All of 14th event, with special participants

- MEP's (TBC)



Dr Milena Angelova

Dr Milena Angelova has been serving as Secretary-General of the [Bulgarian Industrial Capital Association](#) since 2002 and as [SGI Europe](#) Vice-President since 2011. She's been a Member of the [European Economic and Social Committee](#) since 2007. Member of the [Bulgarian Economic and Social Committee](#) since 2006 and is well known as an active participant in the policy-making processes in Bulgaria. In June 2022, Dr Angelova was appointed Bulgarian [SME Envoy](#).

She has twenty-five years of successful track record in representing the interests of the business community at EU and national level regarding important topics such as sustainable development and CSR, SME promotion, innovation and knowledge transfer, skills, future of work, etc. Associate professors on Marketing and Sustainable Development at the [Economic Research Institute at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences](#).

Dr. San José is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Nursing of Hospital Sant Pau in Barcelona.

Before her career took a twist into the academic field, Alicia had gained nursing and, especially, clinical intensive care experience in different European countries, including Sweden, England, France and Spain.

The fact of working in different countries allowed Dr. San José to learn English and French, and when she returned to Spain, she joined the university as a student to do Translation and Interpretation Studies, gaining the sworn translator and interpreter nomination for English and French languages.

She has also worked in research in the Hospital Clinic in Barcelona, one of the best research hospitals in the country. She got her PhD in Health Sciences in 2015.

As a lecturer she has worked in three Spanish Universities where in the three of them, she held the post of Director of International Relations, with big successes such as initiating lateral agreements with the US and England for students and professors.

She adores her profession, and she thinks nurses can achieve great things with adequate support and training.



Professor Olle ten Cate

, PhD, is an emeritus Professor of Medical Education at University Medical Center Utrecht, the Netherlands, and a 2024-25 Visiting Professor at the University of California, San Francisco.

After medical school (MSc) and a PhD in social sciences, he served four decades at the Universities of Amsterdam and Utrecht, contributing to curriculum innovation, educational research, and faculty development in health professions education, locally, nationally and internationally.

He founded and led the Center for Research and Development of Education at UMC Utrecht (2005-2017), was president of the Netherlands Association for Medical Education (2006-2012), and published (500+) and presented (600+) widely, and mentored over 25 PhD students. He received the J.P. Hubbard award of the US NBME, the Ian R. Hart award of the Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE), the Netherlands Association for Medical Education’s Han Moll medal, and a Dutch Royal Distinction.

He is a Fellow of American Educational Research Association, a Fellow of AMEE and an Honorary Fellow of the UK Academy of Medical Educators.

His interests include, among other areas, competency-based education in health professions education. In particular with the use of entrustable professional activities and entrustment decision making.



Peter Preziosi, PhD, RN, CAE, has become its President and CEO.

Dr. Preziosi previously served as Chief Innovation and Business Development Officer of CGFNS and most recently was at the World Health Organization responsible for establishing the quality and learning standards for its newly established global learning academy as Team Lead for Quality, Standards and Credentials. Dr. Preziosi becomes the fifth CEO in CGFNS’ 45-year history. He plans to strengthen its presence in the United States and broaden its global reach as the exemplar in protecting the public by assuring migrating health professionals are eligible to meet standards and practice requirements according to jurisdictional conditions. As an ISO-9001 organization and a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations ([CoNGO](#)), CGFNS is positioned for growth.

Dr. Preziosi said, “I appreciate the opportunity to lead CGFNS into a new era of technology-driven services both in the U.S. and abroad, so as to serve our stakeholders with excellence and state-of-the-art efficiencies. Health professionals’ mobility and workforce development are converging, where governments and employers are demanding innovative solutions in addressing health system challenges worldwide. The CGFNS team aims to meet those challenges as we design new solutions in credentialing and other services to meet those in need.”

Dr. Preziosi received his BSN at Florida State University and his Masters in Education, Public Administration from Columbia University. He attained from the University of Pennsylvania his PhD in Health Policy and Administration and an MGA in Public Administration.

About CGFNS International, Inc.

Founded in 1977 and based in Philadelphia, CGFNS International is an immigration-neutral not-for-profit organization proudly serving as the world's largest credentials evaluation organization for the nursing and allied health professions. CGFNS International is an NGO in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and is a member of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO). For more information, visit <https://www.cgfns.org>.



Jaap Kappert

Jaap Kappert, board members of the National Nursing Organisation Netherlands.

Jaap Kappert has worked as a nurse and nurse specialist in various hospitals and the VVT (nursing, care, and home care sector). He is currently affiliated with the Brentano Foundation, a group of nursing homes in Amstelveen. In addition, he works as a lecturer for the Master of Advanced Nursing Practice at the Arnhem and Nijmegen University of Applied Sciences (HAN).

Since 2015, Kappert has been involved with V&VN Nurse Specialists, serving in roles such as board member, secretary, and member of the Networks & Guidelines Committee. Since 2018, he has worked as a policy officer for V&VN Nurse Specialists and as an advisor within the V&VN office.



Cécile Dury

Cécile Dury is a general nurse, holds a Master's degree in Public Health. She is currently Director of the health sector department at the University college of Namur-Liège-Luxembourg.

During her mandate at FINE Europe, she worked on the modernisation of the EU/36/2005 Directive on the mutual recognition of professional qualifications.

She was invite to participate in several debates on nursing reform in French-speaking Belgium.

In 2018, she became FINE Europe President and re-elected in 2022



Maurizio Zega

Maurizio Zega is an Executive Steering Committee Member of the National Board of the Italian Regulatory Authority for Nursing (FNOPI). He is the president of OPI of Rome and the head nurse Director of Fatebenefratelli Isola Tiberina Hospital in Rome, Italy. He was Director of Sitra (Servizio

infermieristico Tecnico e Riabilitativo Aziendale) of the Fondazione Policlinico Universitario Agostino Gemelli IRCCS in Rome - Italy (FPG). Previously, he had several national and regional roles: component of the Technical Secretariat of the Minister of Health; manager at the Public Health Agency of the Lazio Region (where he experimented different forms of hospital-territory continuity of care and drafted procedures for continuity of care, devising innovative interventions for the hospital, including the implementation of a Management Information Program for decision support for Nursing sponsored by the University of Tor Vergata and the Centre of Excellence for Nursing Scholarship -CECRI- in Rome - Italy). He is an Adjunct professor at the Faculty of Medicine of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Rome and, since 2014, on the board of OPI of Rome. In 2019, with FPG collaborators, he won the Milan Polytechnic's award for "Digital Innovations in Healthcare."



Anastasia Liossatou

EDTNA/ERCA Executive Committee Member, Publications Coordinator, Head Nurse, Dialysis Unit, Kefalonia General Hospital Greece, PhD (c) The University of Peloponnese

Anastasia Liossatou, Head Nurse at the Haemodialysis Unit, General Hospital of Kefalonia, Argostoli, Kefalonia, Greece, has 27 years' experience, of which 24 in the nephrology field. Anastasia was trained as a nephrology nurse at the General Hospital of Papageorgiou, Thessaloniki, Greece.

Her background is in haematology and hypertension while she was working at The Royal Liverpool University Hospital, Liverpool & St Georges Hospital, London, UK. She holds a master's degree in Nursing from the University of Liverpool, UK and a Diploma in Education. Anastasia has been an EDTNA/ ERCA volunteer since 2003, serving the Association from various roles such as an EDTNA/ERCA Newsletter & Journal Co-Editor and the Chair of the EDTNA/ ERCA Scientific Programme Committee.

In 2018, she joined the EDTNA/ERCA Executive Committee (EC), where she has undertaken the role of the Publications Coordinator. She has also contributed as a project leader, an Editor and the author of several guidebooks published by EDTNA/ERCA, and has presented many times at the EDTNA/ERCA conferences. Anastasia is the EDTNA/ERCA EC link to ESNO.

Currently, Anastasia is undertaking her PhD at the Department of Nursing, The University of Peloponnese, Tripoli, Greece.

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