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## Introduction

Dear European specialist nurses,

On behalf of European Specialist Nurses Organization (ESNO), I want to thank you for effort and your personal engagement in global pandemic, and all what you gave to global health. Corona virus pandemic showed that specialist nurses with their knowledge and skills are irreplaceable part of teams in health care institutions all around the Europe. Nurses showed how important they are in every country especially regarding response to #COVID19. Our nursing heroes fought back to disease and assured better and safer health care even they jeopardize their lives and lives of their families.

Whole Europe should recognize this fact. All of this happened in the year 2020. which is the year of nurses and midwives.

We were forced to change our way of work and adapt to current conditions. We organized our General Assembly virtually and we succeeded to organize International Nursing Day event in the virtual environment. Our project did not stop; however, we increased our platform with new cooperation's.

ESNO supported Sustainable Health Equity Movement and nurses again played important role in defending human rights, and health is elementary.

ESNO will always support your work, and we will certainly work hard on recognition process for all specialist nurses. No matter whether you work in anesthesia, critical care, emergency or oncology, you all are important for the well being of the European citizens, and you all are so special to us. Thanks.

With kindest regards.

For additional information please contact:

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### **FoNSE, the ESNO foundation**

The Foundation of Nurse Specialists Europe (FoNSE) established in 28th April 2020 to handle all those projects with a long-term and complex character and health specific. The current projects will be developments of Nurses Guides. The topics are also carefully selected based on analyses, meetings with ESNO members, associates, European institutes and with those European organisation engaged with European Specialist Nurses.

The character of the guides that they are accessible to understand, useful in practice and based on evidence and best practices. The current under ESNO gradually transferred to co-organization of ESNO and FoNSE are: Nurses Information and Communication Guide on Biosimilars and Nurses Information and Communication Guide on Microbes, touching Vaccination, Antimicrobial resistance and Infection prevention Control.

See more FoNSE website [www.fonse-europe.eu](http://www.fonse-europe.eu)

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**Celebrating International Nurses Day, May 12th 2020**

The 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale was celebrated together with Year of Nurse and Midwife, on May 12th 2020. Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus crisis, the event was organized online, nonetheless it was successful with the participation of more than 70 nurses from all around the world.

Critical care, anaesthesia and emergency nurses were on the frontline of the battle against COVID-19, therefore the value of specialist nurses has never been more important than in 2020. The celebration was opened by Maria Teresa Parisotto, Executive Director at ESNO followed by speakers who transmitted touching messages particularly related to the situation of the nurses facing the COVID-19 crisis.

**Adriano Friganovic**, ESNO President, spoke about the critical role nurses played when an earthquake hit his town in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Expanding on the vital role nurses played, he said: *"In this crisis, specialised nurses were crucial, and I personally hope that fact will remain in the minds of the people who govern the European Union"*.

**Anne Felton** from the [Foundation of European Nurses in Diabetes](#) (FEND) expressed her thoughts on how COVID-19 has placed nurses in uncharted territories: *"Intensive care and anaesthetic nurses have had to throw out the book of procedures. They had to practice at the very edge of non-evidence-based nursing because that is what this condition has imposed on us"*.

**Alessandro Stievano** representing [European Nurse Directors Association](#) stated that nurses should be "at the table where the decisions are made". Talking about Florence Nightingale, he said Florence was "a great leader with a global vision". He emphasised how today's nurse leaders would need those levels of vision so they can *"be involved in policy and planning decision-making at the highest level to ensure our overstretched healthcare system can provide the best possible care"*.

**Bronagh Blackwood**, [President](#) of the [European Federation of Critical Care Nursing associations](#) (EfCNa), spoke for nurses from all disciplines now working in intensive care: "They have been scared. They have had to develop new skills along the way – and pretty fast". She called on countries and governments to appreciate the value of highly trained critical care nurses. *"We are not supernatural. We also suffer," she said. "Governments should recognise that we need care and compassion too. They have to give us their support"*.

**Adrian van den Hoven**, Director General at [Medicines for Europe](#), began by highlighting that *"the value of the nurse in the healthcare system has never been more important than in 2020". "The future is very critical," he concluded. "I am very excited to hear the thoughts of the nurses here today"*.

The panel of nurses from across Europe talked more of the challenges of COVID-19. **Eva Barkestad** from Sweden described how she in her 36 years as an ICU nurse has "never ever experienced something like COVID-19". Talking from her garden in Belgium, **Josefine Declaye** spoke of the success of the COVID-19 WhatsApp group she started to "create a sense of belonging among nurses". In Italy, **Cristiano Magnaghi** said that now is the time for nurses everywhere to say, "I'm here, I exist, and I'm here for you – and maybe the people can change their vision of us".

**Maria Teresa** concluded the event with some take home messages *"all of us need to take the responsibility of promoting the nurse profession. It is time to speak up. It is time to leave the modesty behind. It is time to position ourselves in the centre of the scene. Nobody can do it for us. We are the owner of our future."*

The feedback received showed just how vital nurses found the opportunity to come together:

The virtual event marked the launch of the year-long #Caring4Nurses campaign. A final message to remember, "Together Everyone Achieves More (TEAM)", so let's work together for a better patient care, by #Caring4nurses".

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## **ESNO launches CAMPAIGNING FOR NURSES**

**#Caring4Nurses**

**12 MAY 2020 – 12 MAY 2021**

Nurses are at the forefront of our health care system. They're always there providing vital and expert services, unprecedented workload, provide high specialist care, putting themselves at risk, to take care of us, because sometimes we don't realize it until it is obvious. They have proven we can count on them, even in difficult and risky situations. Now it's time we appreciate their true value and take care of them'.

On the 12th May 2020, on International Nursing Day, in the year of the Nurse and Midwife 2020, a campaign started and will extend for a full year, until 12th May 2021.

During the months of 2020, too much has happened with health professionals and above all the nurses. They have had too few opportunities to showcase their contribution, related to COVID19, but above all about the nursing profession in general. There is even much more to address, than what has happened in this in one year. Health organisations supporting this campaign by embracing the nurses' contribution in both creating a year-long campaign showcasing the best nurses have to offer in all aspects.

This campaign will be built over 12 Month, 12 storylines and 12 topics. In this campaign, "every day will be nursing day". The reason for the campaign is to utilize the current appreciation for healthcare workers to give nurses the recognition and working conditions they deserve: It is critical to support and invest on nurses, not just now, but at all times.

Read all about the Campaign: [www.caring4nurses.eu](http://www.caring4nurses.eu)

This Campaign is created with : [ZN Consulting](#)

For additional Information please contact:

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## ESNO congress 2020 and 2021

Please mark in you agenda the third online ESNO Congress 2021.

This is the third and last in a sequence of three on the same title 'The Specialist Nurse in European Healthcare towards 2030' emphasizing on the importance of harmonized education and recognition in the European context. This is to be held on the 24, 25 and 26th of February 2021 and as an integrative activity in the ESNO nurses' campaign #Caring4Nurses. This congress will be a mainly online event as it will be expected that in the period February a new outbreak of Corona or in relation to Influenza nurses might not be able to travel or need to be at their location. But with this restriction we also see opportunities, to have more nurses from Europe engaging online, personal or in company.

We like to encourage saving the dates 24, 25 and 26 February 2021 afternoons to engage person but also in company online event from all European regions. Prior to the congress day, an ongoing video tour will start on all coming presentations and introductions of speakers. Save the date and prepare for the call for abstracts soon by following #ESNO2021 [www.esno-congress.eu](http://www.esno-congress.eu)

### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS IS OPEN

For More information please contact:

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## ESNO Education Committee

As the Corona virus has not been stopped by borders, it is the momentum that our professions could benefit from a recognition that allows them to exchange cross border expertise for the benefit of patients. The committee is in the process to structure the elements allowing us to trace the specific competencies that have helped promote the professional culture of specialist nurses. The elements of this expertise are obviously linked to the acquisition of knowledge, know-how and interpersonal skills throughout the curriculum.

Through exchanges with European Union stakeholders, it has emerged that ESNO is a reference organisation for collecting and relaying information on specialised nurses. The Education committee consist of 12 ESNO member representatives with focus on education and standards. In May an interim report has been developed and shared to the members with a timeline, with key in September a online meeting with the members and 18 November a meeting in Brussels with December a report towards further steps.

For Additional Information please contact:

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## ESNO MEMBERS NEWS

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**FEND** Foundation of European Nurses in Diabetes  
*The pan European non-profit organisation for nurses working in the specialty of diabetes*

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF FEND

FEND was established 25 years ago in part in response to the challenges of the diabetes epidemic in Europe and the challenges of the St Vincent declaration which set out objectives to be achieved in relation to the provision of diabetes services across Europe and the reduction and monitoring of complications. However, it took us a further five years to establish a pan-European not-for-profit organisation addressing the professional needs of nurses working in the specialty of diabetes in both primary, secondary care and community care. It is a registered charity under the Charity Commission of

England and Wales.

In identifying these needs, it helped to clarify the challenges and opportunities in establishing the specialty of diabetes nursing care, research and education in Europe. A significant component was the concept of interdisciplinary teamwork.

The co-founders of FEND also recognised the importance of effective alliances across Europe in other key disciplines, e.g. the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) proved to be reliable allies in the background.

FEND established the following partnerships:

- 1- With the faculty of Nursing University of Uppsala
- 2- With the Florence Nightingale faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Palliative Care, Kings College University of London (ongoing)
- 3- FEND Professor, chair of Diabetes Nursing Care, Research and Education

The following academic accredited programmes have now been established under the leadership of Prof Angus Forbes (3 above) and his team at Kings College. These programmes are fully funded by FEND.

- 1- Three-year MSc programme in diabetes care, research and education
- 2- Three PhD Fellows
- 3- Two post doc Fellows

Applications for the above programmes are open to FEND members who meet the relevant criteria as laid down by the university. These programmes have proven to be most successful, in particular the MSc programme encourages members from across Europe to participate thus enriching the experience of the students who come from different health care systems. The official language is English.

Beyond the academic programme offered by FEND there is the opportunity to collaborate with other relevant pan-European organisations, e.g. EASD, PCDE, IDF Europe, WHO Europe. These alliances have further enhanced the position of the speciality of diabetes nursing and the recognition that FEND is a key player in policy development nationally and a pan European perspective. In effect FEND is not only addressing the significant challenges of the diabetes epidemic with key organisations but also developing future leaders.

The FEND annual conference is a key calendar event in the public domain of diabetes conferences. The conference itself is open to all disciplines and in recent years it has been encouraging to note that other disciplines are participating and contributing to the scientific poster exhibition. The keynote

presentations have been recorded as webcasts for many years and are available to view on the website. It is equally noteworthy that the conference attracts participants from beyond Europe, e.g. US, Canada, Australia, Japan. In 2020 the FEND conference will be delivered online as a virtual conference because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Once again FEND has risen to the challenge and is currently pre-recording all the conference keynote presentations inhouse. We are particularly appreciative that all of our speakers have collaborated magnificently.

It is somewhat ironic as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of FEND that WHO has designated 2020 as the “Year of the Nurse and Midwife” in honour of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. It is a significant achievement to have this recognition by WHO and in the midst of all this recognition and history there is the COVID pandemic. This additional pandemic binds the profession of nursing and midwifery in a global sense. At a global level we in FEND pay tribute to the intensive care specialist nurses who have shouldered this challenge in an inspiring way at times at great personal cost. We salute all of them and light our candles in recognition of them.

In essence FEND is a virtual organisation with no physical offices, its Executive Committee is elected from its members and all are unpaid volunteers. FEND has had a website presence since 1996. FEND has extended its area of collaboration beyond those already mentioned to include ministries of Health, ECDC, European Diabetes Working Group (MEPs) and also of course ESNO. Being part of ESNO is a very positive experience and an excellent opportunity to share and learn with other specialities in ESNO. The current leadership and structure is imaginative, flexible and has an acute understanding of the nature of collaboration.

The challenges ahead for the recognition of nursing specialties are serious. We are confident that with creative engagement at a national level will be essential to bring about national recognition. Engagement with relevant European institutions is also important however FEND believes the of reality of success rests at national level therefore working with national societies will be essential and also with the statutory bodies that govern the professions of nursing and midwifery.

In the context of FEND the description of the role of the Diabetes Specialist Nurse is evolving, i.e. to include clinician, researcher, educator, advocate, innovator, counsellor, influencer.

On behalf of FEND I wish to express our thanks to Adriano Friganovic, ESNO

President and Maria Teresa Parisotto, ESNO Executive Director for the opportunity to share this brief history of FEND in the ESNO newsletter. In due course we look forward to reading yours.

We wish you all every success, stay well and safe and celebrate the “Year of the Nurse and Midwife”.

Anne-Marie Felton

FEND President

[www.fend.org](http://www.fend.org)

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## ESNO Webinars

In collaboration with the [European Health Management Association](#) (EHMA) ESNO is going to organize a range of Webinars, with the intention to do this monthly. In this there are three scheduled:

- 16 September Nurses #COVID19, Nurses personal experiences
- 17 September Nurses and #COVID19 on experiences on PPE and Safety
- See full program and registration at [www.fonse-europe.com](http://www.fonse-europe.com)

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READ OUR BLOG →



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EUROPEAN SPECIALIST  
NURSES ORGANISATION

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