

ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT OF THE EUROPEAN SPECIALIST NURSES ORGANISATION YEAR 2022

About ESNO

The European Specialist Nurses Organisation (ESNO) is a non-profit organisation and the goal is to facilitate and provide an effective framework for communication and co-operation between the European Specialist Nurses Organisations and its constituent members. ESNO represents the mutual interests and benefits of these organisations to the wider European community in the interest of the public health. Members of ESNO consist of individual European specialist nurses organizations.

WHAT WE DO:

ESNO promotes and represents the interests of Specialist Nurses in Europe. Through collaboration with stakeholder organizations and utilizing advanced science, we pursue recognition under the Directive of Professional qualification. We contribute to effective co-operation between health professionals, organizations, institutes and agencies, thus setting professional standards for education and continuing development.

HOW WE WORK:

ESNO implements long term strategies and policies to cohesively advance professional development and health projects in Europe. We achieve this through consultation with member colleagues and management associates. Through this cooperation we participate in a number of European Union institutions, forums and platforms, often with our partners in the health workforce.

OUR NETWORK:

Our network consists of a large variety of nursing field specializations such as clinical work, research, education, leadership and standardization in hospitals, community and universities. We, and our colleagues, consult and cooperate with healthcare professionals such as medical practitioners, pharmacists, occupational therapists, management and nursing associations in Europe and globally.

INTRODUCTION TO THE REPORT

The year 2022 was themed around strengthening the organization's structure, establishing Committees and working groups, and fostering closer relationships with stakeholders and institutes. Additionally, it aimed to invest in member relations and expand membership. These initiatives were prompted by the heightened attention on ESNO due to the gradual stabilization of the COVID crisis, which significantly impacted professionals in the nursing and care domains.

ESNO MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES

The aims of associations include bringing out the best of each member, forming a community and aiming for common goals. All the members contribute with their own special skills and viewpoints. It is these unique contributions that give ESNO its strength. Therefore, it's important that as many specialist nurses and nurses' organisations connect with ESNO as possible and join in with its activities.

Membership of ESNO means that members can make their mark, and that ESNO can invest in and support its members. Our plans for our members are to:

- Place a stronger emphasis on the recognition process of the specialist nurses.
- Strengthen relationships with European institutions and organisations.
- Publicise our mission through the campaign 'Caring4Nurses'.
- Engage with European health projects.
- Network for collaboration and communication between European Specialist Nurses Organisations and specialist interest groups in Europe

Over 2022 we had 15 member organisations and expanded the Organisational Associates members to 12 new members and 53 'Individual Associates'.

THE BOARD AND COMMITTEES

In November, the General Assembly ESNO elected a new board with functions and roles. All positions were taken for a two-year term.

- Adriano Friganovic, President
- Patrick Crombez, Vice President
- Nico Decock, Board member, lead Education Committee
- Christine Willems, Board member, member of Education Committee
- Alessandro Stievano, Board member, Treasurer
- Ber Oomen, Senior Advisor & Executive Director

SPECIAL POSITION

- Josefine Declay, Junior Policy Officer

ASSOCIATION SUPPORT – ESNO CONSORTIUM

Throughout 2022, it became evident that the range of activities, while initiated, remained fragmented. Harmonization within the organization was deemed necessary as most constituencies held dual responsibilities—engaging in clinical activities at the patient level while also participating in research, teaching, and organizational management. Acknowledging the urgency of nursing contributions, professional support was recognized as crucial. However, considering ESNO's limited capacity, the decision was made to collaborate on an 'association consortium support structure.' This involved establishing formal relations with five different organizational domains to bolster our organization:

- Finance, legal, and member administration: This involved collaboration with the Dutch organization 'Het Branch Bureau,' given ESNO's establishment under the Dutch constitution. [HBB](#)
- Congress and event management: Collaboration with an organization previously involved in managing our events to ensure ongoing event sustainability. [PCO](#)
- Scientific and research support: Partnership with Panaxea and various Nurses' universities across Europe. [PANAXEA](#)
- Visibility, social media, design, and relationship management, including fundraising: Engaging ZN Consultancy for design and social media, and Association Ambassadors for fostering ongoing relationships and fundraising efforts. [ZN Consulting](#)
- European Health Policy and strategy support: Collaborative efforts with [Acumenpa](#) and <https://healthfirsteurope.eu/>
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In September 2022, the first collective meeting was held at the ESNO office in Brussels.

Address: Sablon Tower, 14th floor, Rue Joseph Stevens 7, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

ESNO FOCUS GROUP ESTABLISHMENT

As part of the committee-building process, the ESNO Focus Group was established to work on the Microbes domain, which encompasses Education related to Microbes, Vaccination, AMR, Stewardship, and Infection Prevention Control. A pivotal activity included creating four Education Modules for each domain, which have since been updated and published on the website.

In the Infection Control domain, a webinar on CAUTI (Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections) was organized in December 2022. The entire webinar is available for viewing on the ESNO website.

[LINK TO FOCUS GROUP](#)

SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

In April, the third ESNO congress convened in Brussels, drawing approximately 100 participants. Under the banner of the 'Decade of the Specialist Nurse 2022-2030', the congress spotlighted the progressive evolution of specialized nursing roles within the European healthcare system. The event was a platform for sharing

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innovations and fostering policy discussions. These dialogues were framed in the context of Europe's preparedness for new outbreaks and the persisting nurse shortage crisis.

[LINK TO SCIENCE COMMITTEE](#)

ESNO EVENTS

ESNO CONGRESS 2022

In April, the third ESNO congress took place in Brussels, attracting approximately 100 participants. The congress was held under the overarching theme of the 'Decade of the Specialist Nurse 2022-2030', highlighting the evolving roles of specialized nurses within the European healthcare system. The event featured the sharing of innovations and encompassed policy discussions. These discussions were contextualized against Europe's readiness for new outbreaks and the ongoing nurse shortage crisis.

INTERNATIONAL NURSING DAY 2022

The International Nursing Day 2022 was held face-to-face this time, in the heart of Brussels. It set the start of an annual tradition for celebrating this day in Brussels each year on the same date - May 12th. This time, we also formally launched the programme for the 'Decade of the specialist nurse 2020-2030' campaign. It was welcomed by a number of European organisations, with the presence of Maya Mathews, head of Unit for Performance of National Health Systems, DG Sante and emphasising on the future role of the Specialist Nurse in the health environment and stressing the relevance of the recognition and tackling the urgent matter of nurse shortage.

[LINK TO REPORTING CONGRESS](#)

PUBLICATIONS

During 2022 we did the following publication

- Four modules on Microbial aspects, related to the ESNO Nurses Communication and Education Guides
 - o Microbes
 - o Vaccination
 - o AMR and Stewardship
 - o Infection Prevention Control
 - o Biosimilar Switch management
- ESNO published two position statements
 - o TEMPER THE SPECIALIST NURSES' HETEROGENEITY IN THE INTEREST OF QUALITY PRACTICE AND MOBILITY ([LINK](#))
- ESNO POSITION STATEMENT INFECTION PREVENTION AND COMPASSION, "Clinical isolation should never mean human isolation" ([LINK](#))

[LINK TO ALL PUBLICATIONS](#)

COOPERATION WITH EU INSTITUTIONS

During the year 2022, we remain active in a diverse spectrum of European Union institutes and activities.

- We maintained frequent communication with DG Sante concerning preparedness and data collection on specialist nurses. During these interactions, DG Sante supported ESNO's proposal to establish an

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'ESNO Nurses Pool'. This pool aims to collect specific and current demographic information, addressing real-time issues. It serves as an additional information source alongside OECD, EuroStat, and WHO data, which often tend to be too generic and dated. This initiative recognizes the urgency for swift policy actions, especially considering the severe shortage posing a significant threat to the entire public health sector.

- ESNO had a notable presence in the EMA as part of the Health Working Party. A dual presentation was delivered at a nurses' congress in Amsterdam, resulting in a collaborative video project.
 - o [SEE VIDEO](#)
- Collaboration and coordination efforts were made with the ECDC to align activities and campaigns. This collaboration acted as support for our educational and communication materials intended for publication.
- ESNO was an active member of the European commission initiatives Coalition of Vaccination'

COOPERATION WITH OTHER PARTNERS

ESNO's involvement spanned across a wide spectrum of activities, encompassing participation in various health initiatives and engagements at the private industry level. While not formal relations, ESNO actively contributed to the creation of agencies and consultations within the healthcare sector. This collaborative engagement extended beyond our domain, involving fellow healthcare professionals from diverse sectors, including pharmacists, medical practitioners, and patient organizations. Our participation was instrumental in fostering connections and alliances within these domains, enabling a comprehensive approach to addressing healthcare challenges

ESNO OFFICE IN BRUSSELES

In order to centralize our operations within the Brussels environment, we successfully established an office through a shared office contract. This office space serves as our official postal address and provides a dedicated area where ESNO representatives can work and conduct larger meetings. For instance, it hosted the General Assembly, as well as meetings for the ESNO focus group and other sessions involving collaborations with healthcare partners in the Brussels region

SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVATION

Amidst the multitude of activities mentioned, ESNO significantly bolstered its social media presence, experiencing a notable surge in visitors and a substantial increase in followers, particularly on LinkedIn. Moreover, our efforts extended to augmenting our publications on YouTube. However, despite these strides, we acknowledge that we have yet to fully harness the platform's complete potential. As elaborated in the introduction, establishing a robust structural framework remains an ongoing endeavor. Nevertheless, ESNO continues to actively engage through the following channels

- Web site
- Facebook site
- Twitter account
- LinkedIn
- YouTube

ESNO AND EU FUNDED PROGRAMS

The ESNO is since 2022, a formal stakeholder in two Erasmus plus projects. This is related the education and skills development of the health professionals in the nursing domain.

EUVECA

EUVECA is an ERASMUS+ project designed to support the development of future-oriented skills within the health and care sector. At the heart of the project is the creation of 7 European Regional Vocational Excellence Hubs, which will collaborate using a European Platform for Vocational Excellence in Health Care. [LINK TO PROGRAM](#)

BEWELL

A project to promote the upskilling and reskilling of the European health workforce. Over the next four years (2022-2026) we will develop a green and digital skills strategy for the health ecosystem that can be implemented at a local, regional, national, and ultimately at the European level through the Pact for Skills. [LINK TO PROGRAM](#)

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

In response to increased interest from nursing organizations, we have expanded our association to include a broader spectrum of individuals, namely,

- 'ESNO Organisational Associates',
- 'ESNO Individual Associates.'

These entities are welcomed to participate in ESNO programs and projects; however, they do not hold formal voting rights or positions on the board. Through this structure, we aim to meet the expectations of nurses seeking engagement within the European health domain. Moreover, for ESNO, it represents a valuable avenue to link nurses with the European health policy and strategy domain, facilitating interconnectedness and collaboration