



European Nursing Student Association Newsletter

2nd Edition

2021

VACCINATION

In March 2021, ENSA President Catherine attended the annual meeting of the Coalition for Vaccination, of which ENSA is a member (<https://www.cpme.eu/coalition-for-vaccination/>).



The Coalition was convened by the European Commission in 2019, is co-chaired by the European Federation of Nurses (EFN) and consists of 15 European associations of health care professionals and student associations, in addition to having 10 associated organisations. The Coalition aims to support delivering accurate information to the public, combating myths around vaccines and vaccination, and exchanging best practices on vaccination. Last year, the Coalition ran an advocacy campaign to promote the uptake of vaccines among health professionals and their patients.

This year, the Coalition is working on a new European project called IMMUNION – “improving **IMM**unisation cooperation in the European **UNION**” (<https://www.cpme.eu/immunion-promoting-vaccination-uptake-across-the-eu/>)

ENSA is on the Scientific Advisory Board for the IMMUNION project, and Catherine represented ENSA at the kick-off meeting in April. The project will run for two years and IMMUNION’s overall objective is to contribute to and complement wider European efforts to improve vaccine uptake by improving collaboration amongst key actors in the field of vaccination in order to deliver better vaccine education to health professionals and better information to the general public.

IMMUNION project aims to share validated vaccination training materials and resources with health professionals and students across Europe, strengthen the existing Coalition for Vaccination and its long-term sustainability and visibility, develop and provide training opportunities for health professionals and students on vaccination communication, enhance collaboration between public health institutions, health professionals and the media and foster evidence-based reporting on vaccination, and increase understanding of the drivers of vaccine inequalities and address vaccination coverage issues in vulnerable and underserved populations.

The ENSA Board recognises with great concern that nursing students in many European countries have not been prioritised in the vaccination campaigns. Nurses, doctors, and older people had every right to be at the top of prioritisation lists. Yet a lot of nursing students worked on COVID-19 units and cared for people and patients infected with the virus the same as nurses and were not offered the vaccination at the start of the campaign. The ENSA Board urges politicians and employers in Europe and worldwide to prioritize nursing students in future vaccination campaigns in the same way as nurses and doctors.

TOGETHER WITH ENSA

The ENSA Board invited nursing students from Europe to a virtual meeting on Monday the 31st of May. Nursing students from Ireland, Germany, Norway, Croatia, Spain, UK and Poland were in attendance and shared their perspectives on how COVID-19 has affected nursing programmes in their countries. They also discussed the future of nursing education in Europe going forward.

SURVEY OF NURSING STUDENTS

Student nurses have had an academic year like no other in living history, though experiences and situations have varied from country to country. The ENSA Board are interested in gathering data from nursing students across Europe on how they have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic over the past year. Please take 6 minutes to complete this survey and have your experiences in your country included!

The survey is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TL879L8> and the closing date to answer is the 31st of July 2021.

EFN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In April, Catherine attended EFN's General Assembly to provide an update on the work of the Board so far this year. EFN outlined the three position statements they have developed over the last year on [mentorship](#), [violence and harassment against nurses](#), and [artificial intelligence](#).

WHO EUROPEAN REGION BIENNIAL MEETING

In March 2021, ENSA President Catherine and Vice President Edel attended the WHO European Region's biennial meeting of government chief nursing and midwifery focal points European forum of national nursing & midwifery Associations. The biennial meeting provided a platform for key nursing and midwifery representatives in the European Region to discuss the regional challenges, opportunities and specificities in relation to the priority areas – education, jobs, service delivery and leadership - that should be considered when developing a roadmap that will be implemented in the WHO European Programme Work 2020-2025:

Education

- Align education and practice and ensure faculty preparation;
- Make evidence-based practice (clinical research, skills, implementing, outcomes) a core component of undergraduate education to ensure quality in care and future nurse and midwifery research;
- Improve digitalisation and simulation tools in education, which could contribute to rural pipelines of students – examples from the region and more Member State collaboration are needed.

Leadership

- Develop leadership and strengthen senior leadership;
- Ensure that students are encouraged to engage in leadership as a possible career path during undergraduate education.

Jobs

- Ensure adequate jobs, and how to attract, recruit and retain;
- Secure safe staffing, as recruitment and retention is more difficult if staffing levels are not safe – case studies are needed.

Service Delivery

- Improve regulation and adapt workforce policies;
- Support the implementation of multi-professional clinical guidelines, and ensure nurses and midwives are part of developing them.

UPCOMING ENSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) – SAVE THE DATE!

This year, ENSA's AGM and conference will be held virtually on the **6th of October 2021**. An agenda will be published closer to the time, but student members from across Europe are welcome and encouraged to join us on this day. The theme for this year is 'perseverance through the pandemic', and there will be guest speakers from the European Commission and the World Health Organisation on the pandemic, vaccines, and vaccine hesitancy. At the AGM, there will be an outline on the work of the Board over the past year, a vote on the new Board for the coming year, in addition to votes on changes to the ENSA constitution. More information will be provided closer to the time on how to register interest in applying for a Board position, but if you have any questions at all in the meantime, please feel free to email president-ensa@outlook.com.

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If your student nursing organisation is not yet associated with ENSA, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We would love to hear from you and help you to become involved in representing your country's nursing students at an international level. Don't forget that you can keep up to date with ENSA via our social media channels:



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