

**74th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe, 29th-31st October 2024,
Copenhagen, Denmark
Agenda Item 11: Emergency Medical Teams Regional Action Plan 2024-2030**

The European Forum of National Nursing and Midwifery Associations (EFNNMA), in collaboration with the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and other co-signatories strongly support the adoption of the Emergency Medical Teams Regional Action Plan 2024-2030, which regionalizes the global Emergency Medical Teams 2030 Strategy.

This action plan aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 3.d, focusing on increasing emergency preparedness and national health workforces, and complements the ICN Core Competencies in Disaster Nursing for Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs).

We believe that the approval and implementation of this regional action plan will significantly enhance EMT capabilities, including nursing and midwifery disaster competencies, across the European Region. The development of advanced competencies in nursing and midwifery, and implementation of nurse-led teams are crucial for improving emergency health capacity response across the European region.

Therefore, we emphasize the importance of:

1. Investing in education and regular training of health professionals to ensure preparedness and competence in responding to humanitarian emergencies and disasters.
2. Including nursing and midwifery representatives in planning structures and processes to ensure effective coordination and response.
3. Enhancing EMT interoperability between government organizations, Defense health department and NGOs to strengthen health emergency preparedness and response.

We urge the adoption of this strategy to promote the systematic uptake and use of the EMT regional action plan and guidelines, improving emergency response capabilities at national, subnational, and regional levels in line with agreed minimum standards.

This will ultimately enhance access to quality health services for populations affected by crises through effective, scalable, and interoperable medical teams that are fully integrated components of resilient national health systems. By adopting this regional action plan, we can strengthen health emergency preparedness and response, ensuring better cooperation within countries and a more effective response to humanitarian emergencies and disasters.

The European Forum of National Nurses and Midwives Associations (EFNMA) is the joint voice of nursing and midwifery in the WHO European Region and was established to promote the continuous development of the nursing and midwifery professions in all Member States in the region in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) is a federation of more than 130 national nurse's associations (NNAs), representing the more than 28 million nurses worldwide. ICN works to ensure quality nursing care for all, sound health policies globally, the advancement of nursing knowledge, and the presence worldwide of a respected nursing profession and a competent and satisfied nursing workforce.

The European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) represents over 36 National Nurses' Associations and its work impacts on the daily work of 6 million nurses throughout the European Union and Europe. The EFN is the independent voice of the nursing profession and its mission is to strengthen the status and practice of the profession of nursing for the benefit of the health of the citizens and the interests of nurses in the EU & Europe.

The European Nursing Students Association (ENSA) is the voice of nursing students across the WHO/European Region, representing over 160,000 students committed to advancing the profession and advocating for high-quality nursing education. The ENSA currently unites 16 student member organizations from various European countries, fostering collaboration, knowledge sharing, and collective action to empower the next generation of nurses. The ENSA strives to create a strong, united front that influences healthcare policies and promotes the development of future nursing leaders.