



News from Brussels

Year 2024 – Issue n°6

#6

- **A New Era for Nursing Ethics: ENE's modernized Code**
- **Telenursing Project's 4<sup>th</sup> meeting: The growing influence of digitalization in healthcare professions**
- **Empowering Nursing and Midwifery: The Global Partners Meeting 2024**
- **EU Commissioners reaffirm EU's will for a European Health Union**

## A New Era for Nursing Ethics: ENE's Modernized Code

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of March, the **Hellenic Regulatory Body of Nurses** (ENE) published a proposal for a new Greek Code

of Nursing Ethics, reflecting the evolving challenges and

advancements of the nursing profession. This initiative follows Law 4999/2022 (Article 29) and a formal request by Deputy Minister of Health Mr. Themistocleous, leading to the setting up of a specialized Committee within ENE in November 2023.



The Committee responsible for drafting this proposal was composed of a diverse group of experts. The proposed Code aims to set uniform standards for nursing practice, ensuring high performance through principles of equality, ethical principles, and fair competition. Instead of punitive measures, the Code offers supportive guidance to direct nurses in their professional conduct.

The document addresses several contemporary issues, including Continuous Professional development (CPD), and integrates the role of technology in healthcare delivery through digital care via telenursing. It also takes into



*Mr. Dimitrios Skoutelis, President of ENE*

consideration the ethical implications of artificial intelligence in nursing. Articles 27 and 28 focus on AI and telenursing, using up-to-date terminology aligned with current research and projects.

The ENE Board of Directors has unanimously approved the proposal, which was then submitted to the Ministry of Health. Consequently, Minister of Health Mr. A. Georgiadis announced the imminent institutionalization of the new Code, highlighting governmental support for these updates.

The complete proposal for the new Code of Nursing Ethics was made available on the ENE website on March 4, 2024, and can be found under this [link](#). As the Ministry of Health prepares to adopt this new Code, it marks a significant step forward for nursing practice in Greece. The ENE's proactive efforts ensure that the profession keeps pace with global trends and technological advancements.

## **Telenursing Project's 4<sup>th</sup> meeting: The growing influence of digitalization in healthcare professions**

The 11th and 12th of June, the fourth TeleNursing Project Meeting took place in Foligno, Italy. This meeting marked a significant step in the advancement of the project, bringing together partners to discuss progress and plan the steps ahead. Participants engaged in detailed discussions on various aspects of the project, including feedback on the training platform, recruitment updates, and dissemination strategies. The meeting highlighted the commitment of all parties involved to ensure the successful implementation and impact of the TeleNursing initiative. ENC was represented by our Treasurer, Mr. Lampros Bizas, and our Junior Policy Advisor, Mr. Charles Bary.



As you know, the TeleNursing project, in which the ENC is a key partner, is supported by the European Commission and aims to enhance the digital competencies of healthcare professionals, particularly nurses and midwives, who are at the forefront of healthcare service provision. This initiative addresses the critical gaps in telecare technology skills. By leveraging new digital tools, the project aims to improve the quality of healthcare and its access within the European Union.

Looking ahead, the TeleNursing project is going to make a significant impact on the healthcare sector by equipping frontline workers with essential digital skills. Continuous collaboration and innovation will be crucial in overcoming challenges and achieving the shared vision of improved, digitally-enabled healthcare services. For more information about this Telenursing Project, please follow [this link](#).

## **Empowering Nursing and Midwifery: The Global Partners Meeting 2024**

On the 24th of May, The city of Geneva witnessed the **2024 Global Partners Meeting (GPM) for Nursing and Midwifery**,

focusing on the contributions of nursing and midwifery to building resilient health systems and communities.

Previously

known as the “Triad Meeting,” this event was an opportunity

to review and accelerate progress on the Global Strategic Directions for Nursing and Midwifery 2021-2025 and to address data gaps in the State of the World’s Nursing (SoWN) 2025 report.



The event aimed to enhance nursing and midwifery leadership at all levels, assess progress on

strategic goals, and improve data reporting for the SoWN 2025 report. The Global Strategic Directions for Nursing and Midwifery (SDNM) 2021-2025 outlines key focus areas: **education, jobs, leadership, and service delivery**. Within these areas, midwives and nurses must be provided with the necessary competencies, create and retain jobs, strengthen leadership within health and academic systems, and ensure a supportive and effective work environment. The SDNM emphasizes the importance of robust data, intersectoral policy dialogue, and evidence-based decision-making. It enables midwives and nurses to contribute fully to achieving universal health coverage (UHC), addressing the health impacts of climate change, managing international migration, and ensuring healthcare access in rural and remote areas.

Primary targets for the SDNM include health workforce planners and policymakers, educational institutions, public and private sector employers, professional associations, labor unions, development partners, international organizations, and civil society. By addressing the distinct roles of midwives and nurses, the SDNM aims to improve health service efficiency and access, supporting the goal of universal health coverage. The strategic directions within the SDNM highlight the need for context-specific and occupation-specific actions to maximize the contributions of midwives and nurses.

## EU Commissioners Reaffirm EU's Will for a European Health Union

Completing the process of European integration also involves a **European Health Union**. The EU Commission published, on the 22nd of May, a statement highlighting the significant achievements in **protecting people's**



*Ms. Stella Kiriakides, EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety*

**health at the European level.** The COVID-19 pandemic, or better, the EU's demonstrated ability to manage and overcome such a complex time, has in fact kicked off discussions on a

possible **Health Union**. Today, the EU wants to continue on this path even if the greatest obstacle often comes from the Member States as **health is a matter of national and not EU competence**.

In the statement in question, **Stella Kyriakides**, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, outlined the positive account of what has been achieved so far : *“The unity and solidarity that emerged when faced with the most difficult health crisis in modern times has led to the creation of a strong European Health Union,”*. However, even if the EU is going in the right direction, it is only a first step. *“Our citizens rightfully expected more in the health sector, we will continue to develop our Health Union in the coming years.”*

Much still needs doing. According to an analysis commissioned by the European Parliament, the completion of the Health Union through common supplies and better prevention than that of Member States can save about 109,000 lives each year. The Europe of Health remains an ambitious but complicated project, especially since the issue of health, under the Treaties, is of national competence. However, what the EU did during the pandemic showed that **managing health at the European level would bring benefits**, and thus the Commission wants to push on this path. The statement can be understood as a strong message to the new College of Commissioners to continue the good work already realised.