

Conference Report



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 7TH ESNO CONGRESS: GREEN FUTURE, HEALTH WORKPLACE – NURSE SPECIALIST LEADING THE WAY

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ABSTRACT

The 7th European Specialist Nurses Organisation (ESNO) Congress, held in Zagreb from May 29 to 31, 2025, marked a pivotal moment for the advancement of specialist nursing in Europe. Centered on the theme “Green Future, Health Workplace – Nurse Specialist Leading the Way,” the congress addressed pressing contemporary challenges, including environmental sustainability, workforce resilience, and patient-centered care. The event featured dynamic sessions, including the Hackathon, which fostered co-created, actionable strategies, and plenary discussions that explored the integration of innovation, leadership, and ecological responsibility into nursing practice. The congress showcased 63 scientific contributions, reflecting a robust commitment to evidence-based advancements across diverse thematic areas. Significant milestones included the official launch of the Foundation of Specialist Nurses in Europe (FoNSE), established to provide operational and technical support to complement ESNO’s policy and advocacy missions, and the inauguration of the *World of Health Journal* as ESNO’s dedicated scientific platform. These initiatives demonstrate a multidimensional approach to empowering specialist nurses as leaders of systemic change, underscoring the crucial role of nursing in shaping resilient, equitable, and human-centered health systems. The congress outcomes emphasize the importance of uniting scientific excellence with

strategic vision to navigate the complexities of future European healthcare landscapes.

Keywords: Conference Report, Nursing, Leadership, Environmental Health, Evidence-Based Practice, Europe.

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, health systems worldwide have faced unprecedented challenges that expose deep structural vulnerabilities and highlight the urgent need for transformation (1–3). The COVID-19 pandemic intensified global workforce shortages and underscored the fragility of healthcare infrastructures, particularly the nursing workforce, which remains the backbone of patient care delivery (4–6). At the same time, the growing climate crisis has underscored the imperative of embedding environmental sustainability into health services, with healthcare systems accounting for nearly 5% of global greenhouse gas emissions (7,8).

Compounding these challenges, escalating rates of mental health crises among healthcare professionals, exacerbated by high workloads, moral distress, and a lack of systemic support, have raised alarm globally (9). Moreover, the shift towards value-based care demands new models of practice focused on patient-centered outcomes rather than purely procedural efficiency (10). Against this complex backdrop, the

role of nurses is evolving rapidly (10–12). There is a growing recognition of the need for strong, adaptable, and visionary nursing leadership capable of bridging clinical excellence, policy advocacy, environmental stewardship, and compassionate care (13,14). Nurse specialists, in particular, are uniquely positioned to drive these changes by innovating care delivery models, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and championing human-centered approaches at every level of the health system (14,15).

Building on this context applied to the European region, the 6th European Specialist Nurses Organisation (ESNO) Congress held in 2024 took critical initial steps toward redefining specialist nursing roles in a changing healthcare environment (15). The 2024 congress emphasized advancing nursing leadership, developing clinical and policy competencies, and integrating sustainability and digital transformation into nursing practice (15). Key themes included the importance of strengthening advanced practice frameworks, fostering transnational collaboration, and addressing equity in nurse workforce mobility and education. The congress highlighted significant gaps in policy alignment across Europe, inconsistent support for nurse well-being, and a lack of systematic strategies to embed environmental responsibility within healthcare settings (15).

These discussions underscored a clear and urgent need to move beyond conceptual frameworks toward concrete, implementable solutions that empower nurse specialists as agents of systemic change. This recognition set the stage for the 7th ESNO Congress in 2025, designed to translate these visionary ideas into practical action. With the theme “Green Future, Health Workplace – Nurse Specialist Leading the Way,” the 2025 congress aimed to catalyze nurse-led strategies addressing workforce resilience, environmental sustainability, and patient-centered care delivery. ESNO 2025 aimed to bridge policy aspirations with real-world innovation, underscoring the pivotal role of nurse specialists in shaping a sustainable and human-centered future for European healthcare systems. This was achieved by integrating dynamic formats, such as the Hackathon as a “warm-up starting”, alongside plenary and parallel sessions.

In alignment with the European Pillar of Social Rights, this congress report situates the 7th ESNO Congress within a broader social policy context that emphasizes equity, civic participation, and rights-based health transformation (16). The congress actively contributed to strengthening civil society dialogue by engaging nursing associations, patient groups, and citizens’ organisations from across Europe, thus fostering inclusive co-creation of health policy and shared responsibility in decision-making processes (16,17). Mental health was addressed as a societal priority, with particular attention to its growing burden on individuals, communities, and the

healthcare workforce—highlighting nurses’ critical roles in providing integrated and compassionate responses across diverse care settings (18,19). Moreover, the congress created space to reflect on gender equity and social justice, recognizing that nursing—being predominantly female—offers a unique lens to address disparities in leadership, access to services, and representation in policymaking (19,20). These themes resonate deeply with EU priorities and social justice goals (16). Lastly, in acknowledging the interconnectedness of the digital and green transitions, discussions highlighted how nurses contribute to climate-conscious practices and ethical use of digital technologies in care (21,22). By integrating these dimensions, the 2025 ESNO Congress amplified the role of nurses as not only clinical professionals but as civic actors shaping fairer, more resilient, and socially responsive healthcare systems across Europe. In this context, summarizing the main highlights ensures wider dissemination among clinicians, policymakers, and researchers globally and also fosters ongoing dialogue and informs future strategic directions in nursing practice and policy. For this reason, this conference report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the 7th ESNO Congress, with a particular emphasis on the innovative outcomes of the Hackathon, major plenary discussions, and emerging thematic trends.

CONTEXT

The 7th ESNO Congress was held from May 29 to 31, 2025, in Zagreb, Croatia. Organized under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Croatia and the Mayor of Zagreb, the congress brought together nurse specialists, healthcare leaders, policymakers, and researchers from across Europe and beyond. With 210 participants representing 26 countries, the event served as a dynamic platform for exchanging evidence-based practices, exploring innovative care models, and fostering cross-national collaboration. The congress theme, “Green Future, Health Workplace – Nurse Specialist Leading the Way,” highlighted the critical role of nurse specialists in addressing contemporary challenges such as environmental sustainability, workforce resilience, and advancing human-centered, value-based care.

ESNO’S HACKATHON: 29 MAY 2025

On 29 May 2025, the 7th ESNO Congress in Zagreb hosted the 4th ESNO Hackathon, a dynamic and action-driven event designed to move beyond discussion and into tangible system-wide innovation. Under the rallying theme “Solving the Nurses Health Workforce Crisis in One Day — Are You Ready for the Challenge?”, nurse specialists, policy leaders, and partners from

across Europe joined forces to co-create transformative strategies for the future of nursing.

This Hackathon began with a shared foundational understanding: nurses are not only essential providers of care but also architects of systemic innovation. The event emphasized that the “software” of care, including communication, professional identity, and reflective practice, is just as crucial as the “hardware” of health systems for ensuring resilience, quality, and workforce retention.

Throughout the day, participants engaged deeply with seven key topics, identifying feasible, practice-based solutions while thinking across roles, disciplines, and institutional boundaries. The atmosphere was electric, filled with energy, creativity, and collective passion, demonstrating in real-time what nursing leadership looks like in action: collaborative, bold, and future-focused.

The Hackathon sessions prioritized: (a) co-creation over mere discussion, emphasizing shared responsibility and immediate applicability; (b) cross-disciplinary collaboration, integrating perspectives from clinical, strategic, and policy domains; (c) value-based and digital innovations, advancing sustainability and human-centered care. More precisely, the Hackathon addressed six main focus areas, each generating actionable proposals: nurse retention, mentorship as a structural necessity, mental health and well-being, value-based healthcare, interprofessional collaboration, open table insights (“What did we miss?”).

Central to the Hackathon’s ethos was the concept of “moral ambition”, recognizing nursing not just as a technical profession but as a moral and social calling central to human well-being. The commitment to humanizing care was evident throughout, with participants advocating for concrete, locally actionable strategies to close the gap between visionary policy and everyday practice.

The event culminated in a collective declaration that encapsulated the ideas, ambitions, and commitments generated during the session. This declaration will inform a report intended for European institutional stakeholders and serve as a blueprint for future collaborative initiatives.

The Hackathon’s impact extended beyond the congress itself. A follow-up event is planned at the EU Parliament on 4 November 2025, titled “Health Workforce and Care Strategy for the Future of Europe,” further amplifying the voice and leadership of nurses in shaping a resilient, intelligent, and sustainable healthcare system for all Europeans.

PLENARY HIGHLIGHTS

The plenary sessions of the 7th ESNO Congress unfolded

as an intellectually rich tapestry that advanced the congress theme through critical discussions spanning innovation, workforce sustainability, professional identity, and environmental stewardship.

Several presentations centered on envisioning the future of nursing practice and leadership within an increasingly interconnected and technologically advanced world. Fiona Timmins emphasized the imperative of translating evidence from global research and innovation into daily nursing practice, advocating for a model of care that is simultaneously grounded in science and responsive to evolving patient needs. Susan Gennaro offered a compelling exploration of artificial intelligence as a disruptive force in nursing, highlighting its transformative potential while cautioning against the risks of dehumanization. Sylvia Yuk Kuen Fung provided a comprehensive framework for the maturation of advanced practice nursing in Hong Kong, presenting a model that resonates with the aspirations of European nursing leadership. Similarly, Anders Kottorp addressed the complex dynamics inherent in multidisciplinary healthcare research, underscoring the necessity for nurses to assert leadership in collaborative environments that are often dominated by other professions.

In addressing the dual imperatives of workforce resilience and environmental sustainability, other speakers highlighted urgent systemic challenges and innovative policy approaches. András Tivadar Kulja discussed the European Union Health Workforce Crisis Plan (23), articulating the need for policy reforms that guarantee both sustainable employment and supportive working conditions for nurses. Aleksandar Racz framed climate change as the defining public health crisis of our time, urging nurses to take on leadership roles in both mitigation and adaptation efforts, a perspective echoed by multiple contributors who emphasized the importance of climate-conscious care. Snjezana Cukljek presented empirical findings on the quality of nursing working life and on nurses’ intentions to leave the profession, offering evidence to inform concrete retention strategies. Dianne Morrison-Beedy stressed that wellness-centered workplaces must be viewed as organizational imperatives rather than individual responsibilities, advocating for structural changes that support mental health and professional well-being. These discussions highlighted the complex interplay between the physical and psychological safety of nurses and the overall sustainability of healthcare systems.

The congress also delved deeply into the themes of professional identity, respect, and advanced leadership. Joyce J. Fitzpatrick’s presentation on global nursing leadership emphasized the pivotal role of specialization in strengthening the profession’s capacity to meet complex health demands. Alessandro Stievano and colleagues provided insights into the experiences of public health nurses regarding professional respect across various

European contexts, highlighting both shared struggles and culturally specific challenges. In a related study, Sara Carrodano and her team investigated the role of professional dignity in palliative and hospice care, revealing that dignity is not merely an abstract value but a tangible component of patient-centered nursing. Discussions around professional associations, such as Sigma Theta Tau, highlighted the importance of collective advocacy in shaping health policy and advancing the status of nurses within healthcare hierarchies.

A unifying thematic thread throughout the plenary program was the integration of climate-conscious and green care practices. Presentations on embedding environmental sustainability into intensive care units, integrating ecological responsibility into veterinary nursing education, and positioning climate change as a critical focus in public health practice collectively

demonstrated the multifaceted role of nurse specialists as agents of ecological stewardship.

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

The scientific contributions showcased at the 7th ESNO Congress offered a profound testament to the dynamism and intellectual rigor that characterize contemporary nursing scholarship. Reflecting the congress theme “Green Future, Health Workplace – Nurse Specialist Leading the Way,” these contributions collectively illustrated the strategic vision and operational capacity of nurse specialists to lead transformative change across multiple domains.

The scientific contributions summarized in this section are based on 63 abstracts presented during the congress, as detailed in Table 1.

Table 1. Overview of 61 scientific contributions presented at the 7th ESNO Congress, including title, authors, country or institution, and thematic area.

Title (shortened)	Authors	Country/Institution	Thematic area
Professional respect in Finnish PHNs	Stievano et al.	Italy, Finland	Professional identity & dignity
Future nursing competencies	Notarnicola et al.	Italy	Education & competencies
Environmental sustainability in ICU	Sanhueza & Olive	Chile	Environmental sustainability
Climate change, nurses' awareness	Perna et al.	Italy	Environmental sustainability
Gamification in elderly wellness	Lommi et al.	Italy	Patient-centered innovation
Digital nursing education	Pišćenec & Trnčević	Croatia	Education & digital transformation
Stigma in mental illness	Marcomini et al.	Italy	Psychosocial & ethical dimensions
Dignity in palliative care	Carrodano et al.	Italy	Psychosocial & ethical dimensions
Leadership transformation	Notarnicola & Duka	Italy, Albania	Leadership & organizational development
Nutritional care self-efficacy	Belloni et al.	Italy	Leadership & competencies
Sepsis knowledge in students	Besker et al.	Multinational	Education & competencies
Patient engagement and gender	Marcomini et al.	Italy	Patient-centered innovation
Teach-back for hypertension	Marcomini et al.	Italy	Patient-centered innovation
Immunization challenges in Serbia	Mosic et al.	Serbia	Public health & policy
Migration of Albanian nurses	Dervishi et al.	Albania, Germany	Workforce resilience
Nature-based intervention for staff	Gardalini et al.	Italy	Workforce resilience & well-being
Household waste in Chilean health institutions	Olive et al.	Chile	Environmental sustainability

Fingerprint changes after chemotherapy	Belloni et al.	Italy	Patient safety & bioethics
Postoperative pain in cardiac surgery	Ahmetbegovic et al.	Sweden, Bosnia-Herzegovina	Patient-centered innovation
Healing power of nature	Armano et al.	Croatia	Environmental sustainability
Cluster of older adults' self-care behaviors	Gara et al.	Italy, Albania	Patient-centered innovation
ICU noise and staff outcomes	Bellini et al.	Italy	Workforce resilience
Veterinary nurse sustainability education	Gibbins	UK	Environmental sustainability
Code red: climate as health emergency	Racz	Croatia	Environmental sustainability
Hospital hygiene in Croatia	Močenić et al.	Croatia	Patient safety & policy
TikTok and nursing education	Ciannamea et al.	Italy	Education & digital transformation
Probiotics in IBD	Dugonjić et al.	Sweden	Patient-centered innovation
Self-efficacy in chronic conditions (Albania)	Gara et al.	Italy, Albania	Patient-centered innovation
Moral distress interventions	Marcomini et al.	Italy	Psychosocial & ethical dimensions
Patient safety in Slovak hospitals	Velková	Slovakia	Patient safety & policy
Green competence in veterinary education	Gibbins	UK	Environmental sustainability
Climate change & health risks	Racz	Croatia	Environmental sustainability
Sepsis curriculum	Rocca et al.	Multinational	Education & competencies
Social media in nursing education	Ciannamea et al.	Italy	Education & digital transformation
Self-care in multimorbidity (Albania)	Gara et al.	Italy, Albania	Patient-centered innovation
Waste management in Chile	Olive et al.	Chile	Environmental sustainability
Leadership styles and nurse satisfaction	Notarnicola & Duka	Italy, Albania	Leadership & organizational development
Nursing burnout & turnover	Ivziku et al.	Italy	Workforce resilience
Environmental hygiene and infection control	Močenić et al.	Croatia	Patient safety & policy
Nutrition clustering in Italy	Belloni et al.	Italy	Competencies & patient safety
Digital engagement & chronic conditions	Marcomini et al.	Italy	Patient-centered innovation
Elderly empowerment in chronic care	Gara et al.	Italy, Albania	Patient-centered innovation
Palliative dignity mapping	Carrodano et al.	Italy	Psychosocial & ethical dimensions
Climate-conscious intensive care	Sanhueza & Olive	Chile	Environmental sustainability
Gamification for older adults	Lommi et al.	Italy	Patient-centered innovation
Albanian nurse integration in Germany	Dervishi et al.	Albania, Germany	Workforce resilience
Veterinary education & green standards	Gibbins	UK	Environmental sustainability

Social media in internships	Ciannamea et al.	Italy	Education & digital transformation
Stigma in mental illness	Marcomini et al.	Italy	Psychosocial & ethical dimensions
Fingerprint changes & cancer therapy	Belloni et al.	Italy	Patient safety & bioethics
Nature-based staff interventions	Gardalini et al.	Italy	Workforce resilience & well-being
Sepsis education and knowledge	Rocca et al.	Multinational	Education & competencies
Digital tools in patient engagement	Marcomini et al.	Italy	Patient-centered innovation
Probiotics & IBD disease control	Dugonjić et al.	Sweden	Patient-centered innovation
Immunization strategies	Mosic et al.	Serbia	Public health & policy
Waste sustainability gap in Chile	Olive et al.	Chile	Environmental sustainability
Climate emergency framing	Racz	Croatia	Environmental sustainability
Patient recovery & natural views	Armano et al.	Croatia	Environmental sustainability
Palliative care dignity mapping	Carrodano et al.	Italy	Psychosocial & ethical dimensions
Burnout & turnover predictors	Ivziku et al.	Italy	Workforce resilience
Nursing burnout and satisfaction dynamics	Ivziku et al.	Italy	Workforce resilience

The global heatmap (Figure 1) demonstrates a strong European core in scientific production, particularly led by Italy, which contributed the largest number of abstracts ($n = 34$). Contributions also emerged from other European countries, as well as from South America (Chile), Asia (Indonesia), and the Nordic region (Sweden, Finland), underscoring the congress's broad international reach and highlighting the active engagement of nurse specialists in diverse healthcare contexts.

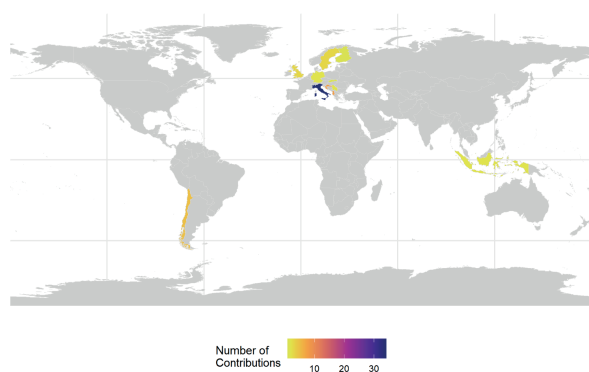


Figure 1. Global heatmap illustrating the distribution of scientific contributions presented at the 7th ESN Congress (2025), with higher intensity colors indicating a greater number of abstracts per country.

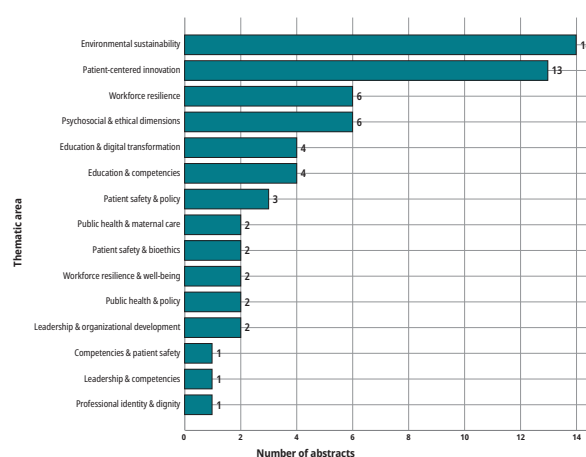


Figure 2. Distribution of abstracts presented at the 7th ESN Congress by thematic area

The distribution of abstracts by thematic area (Figure 2) highlights strategic priorities and scholarly focus of the 7th ESN Congress. Environmental sustainability and patient-centered innovation clearly emerged as the most represented themes, reflecting a strong collective commitment to integrating ecological responsibility and humanized care within nursing practice. The notable presence of contributions on psychosocial and ethical dimensions further

underscores the importance of addressing moral, emotional, and relational aspects in contemporary healthcare. Meanwhile, areas such as professional identity, workforce resilience, and leadership reveal ongoing efforts to strengthen nursing capacity and adaptability in an evolving health landscape. Collectively, this distribution mirrors a multidimensional vision of nursing that is both technically advanced and deeply rooted in human and planetary well-being.

Several presentations addressed the evolving landscape of workforce resilience and professional identity. Stievano and colleagues examined professional respect among public health nurses in Finland, emphasizing how self-respect and patients' trust serve as foundational pillars for fostering dignity and professional satisfaction (24). Complementing this, Notarnicola and collaborators provided a systematic review mapping future nursing competencies, underscoring the imperative to cultivate structural and higher-order cognitive skills in response to sociocultural and demographic transformations (24). These explorations underscored the necessity for cultural shifts within nursing and the strategic development of lifelong learning frameworks.

In parallel, environmental stewardship emerged as a prominent thematic axis. Contributions such as the narrative review on environmental sustainability in critical care units by Sanhueza and Olive offered a comprehensive framework for integrating ecological responsibility into highly resource-intensive settings, advocating for life cycle assessments and the 5R framework as pivotal strategies for emissions reduction (24). The pilot study by Perna and colleagues on promoting consciousness and behavioral change regarding climate and health risks further exemplified nurses' capacity to catalyze public health action through educational interventions grounded in planetary health principles (24).

The domain of patient-centered innovations and digital transformation was vividly represented. Lommi and colleagues reviewed the application of gamification as a means of enhancing socialization and quality of life among older adults, highlighting its potential as an engaging and participatory strategy for promoting active aging and well-being (24). Pišćenec and Trnčević introduced advanced digital platforms in nursing education, illustrating how technology-enhanced learning environments can foster clinical competencies and enhance student confidence prior to patient contact (24). These contributions demonstrated the critical intersection of technological adoption with human-centered care, underscoring the dual imperatives of innovation and compassion.

Moreover, the congress featured research exploring the psychosocial and ethical dimensions of care. Marcomini and colleagues mapped stigma experiences among

individuals living with mental illness, elucidating the multifaceted impact of social exclusion and advocating for individualized, empathetic care environments (24). Carrodano and co-authors examined dignity in palliative and hospice care, revealing it as a vital, tangible component of patient-centered nursing that extends beyond abstract ethical constructs (24).

Further enriching the scientific discourse, contributions on leadership and organizational development offered valuable insights. The work on leadership transformation and nursing dynamics by Notarnicola and Duka underscored the importance of fostering adaptive, value-based leadership models to address the volatility and complexity of contemporary healthcare systems (24). Simultaneously, empirical studies on nurse self-efficacy in specialized domains, such as the clustering analysis of nutritional care self-efficacy among Italian nurses, provided nuanced perspectives on tailoring professional development to specific clinical competencies (24).

ESNO FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

A memorable evening unfolded during Gala Dinner of the 7th ESNO Congress, marked by celebration, recognition, and professional pride. During the event, Adriano Friganović and Alessandro Stievano formally presented the Fellowship Awards, honoring excellence in specialist nursing and acknowledging outstanding contributions to clinical practice, leadership, and research.

Marie Louise Luiking also presented special recognitions to the Alpha Alpha Gamma Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, and conferred an Award of Excellence to ESNO President Adriano Friganović in recognition of his distinguished contributions to critical care and his visionary leadership in nursing.

The evening further featured the official presentation of the new ESNO Fellows, a distinguished group of 13 nurse specialists acknowledged for their exceptional commitment to advancing practice, education, and policy across Europe.

LAUNCH OF THE FOUNDATION OF SPECIALIST NURSES IN EUROPE (FONSE)

A key milestone of the 7th ESNO Congress was the official launch of the Foundation of Specialist Nurses in Europe (FoNSE), a pivotal initiative aimed at strengthening specialist nursing capacity and advancing operational excellence across Europe. FoNSE was established to serve as an operational backbone that complements ESNO's policy and advocacy mission, providing strategic and technical support to foster research, education, and cross-disciplinary collaboration. Its core objectives include promoting evidence-based practice, developing

standardized educational frameworks, facilitating international cooperation, and advocating for the formal recognition and harmonization of specialist nursing roles throughout the European Union. The foundation embodies a forward-looking vision to position Europe as a global benchmark for specialist nursing innovation, addressing critical workforce challenges while enhancing patient-centered, technologically integrated, and environmentally sustainable care models. The launch of FoNSE signifies a substantial step towards consolidating specialist nursing practice and reaffirms the collective commitment to shaping a resilient and future-ready healthcare workforce.

Rosario Caruso (Italy) serves as Executive Director, providing strategic oversight and scientific leadership grounded in extensive expertise in nursing research and policy. Shirley Gibbins (UK) acts as Secretary and Deputy Treasurer, bringing substantial operational and administrative acumen to support the foundation's governance and financial stewardship. Maria Cassar (Malta) leads educational initiatives as Education Lead, leveraging her deep experience in curriculum development and professional training to promote harmonized specialist education across member states. Kristian Civka (Croatia) serves as Communication Manager, responsible for enhancing the foundation's visibility and fostering engagement with diverse stakeholders through effective dissemination strategies. Finally, Arianna Magon (Italy) holds the role of Treasurer, ensuring sound fiscal management and supporting the foundation's sustainable growth.

In this context, it is essential to clearly articulate the complementary yet distinct roles of ESNO and FoNSE in advancing specialist nursing across Europe. While ESNO remains a distinguished professional association focused on promoting the political, policy-based, and professional voice of specialist nurses, its core mission centers on recognition, education, and advocacy. Through strategic networking, policy engagement, and dissemination of best practices, ESNO strengthens the professional identity and influence of specialist nurses within the European healthcare landscape.

FoNSE, in contrast, functions as an operational and technical enabler that underpins and amplifies ESNO's strategic objectives. As an advisory foundation, FoNSE provides essential support through funding acquisition, organizing educational and research initiatives, and facilitating evidence-based dissemination activities. Its mission is deeply rooted in advancing specialist nursing by enabling research-driven resources, promoting educational harmonization, and fostering innovation in practice.

FoNSE's strategic aims, facilitating ESNO's mission, supporting the development of specialist nursing roles, fostering cross-disciplinary collaboration, promoting excellence in practice, and advocating

for the recognition of specialist nurses as critical components of the healthcare system, demonstrate its commitment to building a sustainable and impactful framework for the profession. Together, ESNO and FoNSE represent a cohesive and synergistic alliance, combining policy leadership with operational expertise to shape a future-ready, resilient, and high-quality specialist nursing workforce across Europe.

LAUNCH OF THE WORLD OF HEALTH JOURNAL AS ESNO'S OFFICIAL SCIENTIFIC PLATFORM

Another significant milestone marked during the 7th ESNO Congress was the official launch of the World of Health Journal, introduced as ESNO's dedicated scientific platform (25). This initiative embodies ESNO's commitment to advancing nursing and healthcare excellence across Europe by providing a dynamic venue for knowledge exchange, evidence dissemination, and scholarly collaboration. The journal is envisioned as a catalyst for fostering interdisciplinary dialogue, highlighting the pivotal contributions of specialist nurses, and strengthening the visibility and impact of nursing science in shaping the future of health systems. The inauguration of the World of Health Journal underscores ESNO's strategic focus on supporting research-driven practice and promoting the essential role of specialist nurses in advancing patient-centered and evidence-based care across diverse healthcare settings.

PUBLICATION OF THE ESNO ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Following the congress, the ESNO Annual Report 2024 was officially published (26), consolidating a year of strategic advancements and reinforcing ESNO's commitment to strengthening specialist nursing across Europe. Titled "A Value-Driven Association: Advancing Nurse Autonomy for a Resilient European Health System," the report highlights key achievements in education standardization, policy influence, and professional recognition. It underscores ESNO's pivotal role in shaping European health policy, advocating for harmonized certification frameworks, and promoting specialist nurses as central actors in health system resilience and patient safety. The report also details the successful implementation of high-impact initiatives, including the development of complementary vaccination curricula, the publication of specialized educational resources, and ongoing contributions to European policy dialogues. The Annual Report 2024 serves as both a reflection on past progress and a strategic roadmap for advancing nursing leadership and capacity-building initiatives in the years ahead, with a focus on long-term value and measurable impact.

CONCLUSION

The 7th ESNO Congress in Zagreb served as a landmark event that underscored the scientific rigor and innovation driving contemporary nursing practice, while also articulating a clear strategic vision for the future of specialist nursing in Europe. The congress highlighted the essential role of nurse specialists as catalysts for systemic transformation by addressing critical themes, including environmental sustainability, workforce resilience, and patient-centered care. The launch of the FoNSE and the World of Health Journal provided pivotal infrastructural and scholarly platforms to advance evidence-based practice, educational harmonization, and policy advocacy. Complemented by the publication of the ESNO Annual Report 2024, these milestones collectively reflect a multidimensional strategy aimed at empowering specialist nurses to lead in an increasingly complex healthcare landscape. Ultimately, the congress reinforced the imperative of uniting scientific excellence with strategic foresight to build a resilient, equitable, and human-centered future for European healthcare systems.

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