



European Nursing Students Association Statement “The Financial Crisis and its impact on Nursing Education”

The European Nursing Student Association (ENSA) have recently been notified of the European Federation of Nurses (EFN) members report on the Impact of the Financial Crisis. The report shows that the financial crisis has an influence on healthcare in general and nursing and nurses in particular. Europe is experiencing budget cuts, loss of nursing post and workforce leading to an increased workload for nurses at the same time as there is a loss in pay. An area that is also largely effected by the financial crises identified in the EFN report is the nursing education and this is a main concern of ENSA. In addition to the visible effect, ENSA recognises that the increased workload on nurses has an impact on the outcome of our clinical education. Nurses are not only working for patients and their health and safety, but also as mentors and teachers for nursing students during their clinical placement. In times of crisis, healthcare should be available to all citizens and its quality should not be sacrificed for short term financial gains. It is of great importance to invest money in healthcare but as just as important to get the best healthcare possible for the money invested. As nursing students we are the experts on our education; how we experience it and what is missing, hence what is lacking in our knowledge. ENSA suggests the following will increase quality healthcare and patient safety.

- Around 50% of our education is spent in clinical placement. Therefore it is of great importance that our mentors are highly qualified, professional and competent not just as nurses but as mentors also;
- There must be enough nurses in the clinical placement to provide professional mentorship for all nursing students present;
- The mentors should have relevant training to mentor, giving opportunity for registered nurses to participate; Mentoring needs to be made attractive and beneficial for nurses. Allowing mentorship to be a highlighted focused area from a time consuming and financial prospective; and,
- The long term outcome of investing in mentors will be highly qualified newly graduated nurses. This will not only be beneficial for patient safety but crucial for good quality healthcare.

Please contact the Executive Committee from ENSA for more details. ensa@dbfk.de

11th July 2009



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The European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) was established in 1971 and is the independent voice of the profession. The EFN consists of National Nurses Associations from 32 Member States, and its work has an effect on the daily work of 6 million nurses throughout the European Union and Europe. The mission of EFN 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

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The European Nursing Students Association (ENSA) is a pan-European organisation for cooperation between national nursing student organisations or colleges of nursing in Europe to discuss both practical and theoretical parts of the nursing education. The main aim of ENSA is to promote the highest possible standard of education for European nursing students so that, accordingly, the highest possible standards of nursing and health service for individuals are promoted and maintained, unrestricted by conditions of race, creed, colour, politics and social status.

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