



The European Forum of National Nursing and Midwifery Associations (EFNNMA) calls the Portuguese Parliament to implement the *Competence Certification System* for nurses

The European Forum of National Nursing and Midwifery Associations (EFNNMA) Steering Committee calls the Portuguese Parliament to implement the *Competence Certification System* for nurses approved in 2009 by a unanimous decision of the Portuguese Parliament.

This process represents a good practice of licensing professionals giving higher accuracy to the process of professional competences certification necessary to guarantee safety and quality for citizens.

This system includes a period of clinical supervision for nurses, in both professional induction and in the transition to new competency profiles, which is highly recommended in the international experience and in literature.

The clinical supervision is of critical importance because it focuses in how practitioners engage with patients and clients for their benefit, to improve care and standards, and to develop personal and professional skills, as well as satisfaction to patients and professionals¹.

The Portuguese Model for certifying competences for nurses it's an excellent example of policies built to guarantee that professionals acquire, develop and maintain proficiency in practice, ensure their accountability and aid their specific personal and professional growth and development¹.

Clinical supervision models, as approved by the Portuguese Parliament in 2009 in the *Ordem dos Enfermeiros Statute*, offers protection to independent and accountable practice and supports continuous professional development as requested by the Directive 2013/55/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013, amending Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications and Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 on administrative cooperation through the Internal Market Information System ('the IMI Regulation').

For the reasons stated, The European Forum of National Nursing and Midwifery Associations (EFNNMA) Steering Committee approved this call to the Portuguese Parliament to maintain and reinforce the legal instruments to implement the *Competence Certification System* for nurses approved in Law 111/2009, of 16th of September.

Valentina Sarkisova
EFNNMA Chair

¹ Bond M.; Holland S.; Skills of Clinical Supervision for Nurses – a practical guide for supervisees, clinical supervisors and managers; Second Edition; McGrawHill Open University Press; New York, 2010; ISBN 978-0-33-523815-6