



Statement from the European Council of Practical Nurses (EPN) board meeting in the Faroe Islands  
14.10.2014

***Clarion call to the authorities to use practical nurses and their qualifications  
anywhere in the social- and health sector!***

At the meeting the member countries of EPN discussed the extent to which the skills and knowledge the practical nurses have are being used in the different kind of working environments. Practical nurses experiences that their job is given to nurses, as well as we see, that the practical nurses qualifications and skills, are not being used optimally.

EPN questions the development we see in hospitals; there is a rising tendency to increase the number of nurses on behalf of practical nurses. EPN would like to point out that the sick and "specialized" patients need (even more) help and care on a basic level, in the often very short span of time they are hospitalized. In spite of this, practical nurses are in fact being wiped out from some hospital - wards. The conversion from practical nurses to nurses and specialized nurses also takes place within the municipal health and care sector.

EPN would like to advocate that conversion from practical nurses to nurses should not be carried out without considering all the implications for the patients and their need for basic nursing and care.

There will be a severe shortage in health and social personnel in many European countries in the near future, unless this challenge is met successfully. A large number of practical nurses are in the eldest specter of the working force, and the recruitment of young people is low.

The educational- and health authorities must work harder to improve recruitment to the practical nurse education. We must encourage young people to head for the social- and health sector, and give better opportunities to employees already in the sector, to upgrade their qualifications. Special efforts should be made to attract more male employees to the sector.