



## A Position Paper: Nursing Research in Europe (Summary)

### The Work Group of European Nurse Researchers

The Work Group of European Nurse Researchers (WENR) was established in 1978 to: (1) build contact between nurse researchers from Europe and elsewhere and (2) to develop and promote systematic collaboration within the field of European nursing research. Approximately 25 European National Nurses Associations (NNAs) are involved in WENR. The working language of WENR is English with representatives appointed by the ICN-recognised NNA. WENR provides a unique opportunity for nurses in Europe to come together to discuss nursing research and clinical practice in order to build research capacity. WENR's biennial conference has provided a platform for many neophyte European nurse researchers who have gone on to be leaders in their own fields and countries.

In May 2001 WENR published 'A position paper on nursing research in Europe' in order:

- To influence European health policy;
- To embed nursing research in Europe;
- To promote the value of nursing research for the people of Europe; and
- To collaborate with PCN (The Standing Committee on Nursing) in establishing the value of nursing research.

In setting out its objectives, WENR acknowledged the importance of

- ICN's two priority areas in nursing research: 'health and illness'; & 'the delivery of care'; and
- WHO's European Health 21 (target 19) on Research and Knowledge for Health: 'By the year 2005, Member States should have health research, information and communication systems that better support the acquisition, effective utilisation, & dissemination of knowledge to support health for all'.

In its Position Paper on Nursing Research, WENR advised that the recommendations of The Council of Europe Report on Nursing Research (1996) be adopted formally by NNAs. However WENR believes that agreed statements, actions and policy must be translated into outcomes which are understandable, trans-national, capable of being put into action and take into account individual member States' interests. Therefore in considering outcomes WENR was mindful of the following:

- *the need to focus on health outcomes*
- *the need to consider how health delivery affects health outcomes*
- *the need to develop multi-centred nursing research*
- *the relationship between national and European priorities and WHO Health 21*
- *the financial impact of delivering high quality health activity*
- *that nursing does not occur in isolation.*

**Therefore WENR recommends that nursing research in the next decade (2001-2011) focus on:**

- **clinical outcomes which reflect the burden of disease**
- **multi-disciplinary working between all health and social professionals**
- **evidence-based nursing practice.**