

netwerk **verpleeg**TM kunde



kinder
verpleegkundigen

EEN WERKGROEP VAN HET NETWERK VERPLEEGKUNDE

PNAE 2022 – WELCOME TO BELGIUM - Ostend! Paediatric Nursing Working Group



Nursing Week – biggest congress in Belgium



3600 participants – 220 speakers – 200 volunteers

- 18 study days for 18 different specialisations within nursing
- Including one paediatric nursing study day with 440 participants!
- The result of the 20 different working groups within NETWERK VERPLEEGKUNDE, whose volunteers work all year round on advising policy and exchanging knowledge and information.
- Interdisciplinary working and thinking, across specialisations, is of key importance within NETWERK VERPLEEGKUNDE. This is the only way for us to be a point of contact for policymakers.
- We include the specific attention points for paediatric nurses in our interdisciplinary thinking.

Our home in Brussels

Vergote Square 43



Open house for ALL nurses - you are always welcome!

- Founded in 1936
- 8000 members – of whom 500 are paediatric nurses
- 45 mandate holders on federal and regional councils and committees
- 550 volunteers in 20 different working groups for different specialisations
- 8 regional networks in Flanders
- 5 FTE employees
- No regional or federal subsidies
- [Members of the NETWERK VERPLEEGKUNDE paediatric nursing working group](#) – Nice to meet you!

Specific representation of the paediatric nursing working group



European councils and committees

- **PNAE**

Federal councils and committees

- **Federal Nursing Council**

Flemish councils and committees

- Accreditation committees for the training courses that lead to a professional specialisation in paediatric nursing

Most recent advisory papers

- **COVID vaccinations for children between 5 and 11 years of age**
- **Shift in children's care from hospitals to home care**
- **COVID vaccinations and breastfeeding**
- **Specialisation profiles within nursing**



Number of nurses in Belgium



Who specialises in what?

- 126,000 active nurses
- (76,000 active nurses in Flanders)
- 17% of nurses in Belgium have a specialisation
- 8 accredited areas of specialisation in nursing:
 - diabetes care
 - operative care
 - palliative care
 - mental health care
 - paediatrics and neonatology (exact number unknown)
 - oncology
 - geriatrics
 - emergency / intensive care



Legal obligations of paediatric departments in hospitals



What % of specialists is required on the paediatric ward?

Art. 28. § 1. There must be sufficient nursing staff, suited in number and qualification to the nature and volume of the patients' problems.

§ 2. **At least 75 %** of the nursing and care staff working in the care programme must consist of paediatric nurses, **holding a bachelor's degree in nursing with a specialisation in paediatrics.**

§ 3. **There must be at least one nurse** belonging to the 75% of qualified nurses mentioned in the previous paragraph present on the ward **24 hours a day.**



Attractiveness and remuneration of a specialisation in paediatric nursing



Keeping the profession attractive isn't easy in Belgium either!

- All nurses in Belgium are paid on an equal pay scale (IFIC).
- Distinction between nurses with a bachelor's degree and specialised nurses (higher pay grade).
- BUT!! The nurses on paediatric wards are not paid according to the pay scale for specialist nurses in Belgium. The Belgian government has not recognised these wards as ones to which higher pay is allocated. (2015)
- This contradicts the slide we just saw, which clearly embeds the need for specialisation in the law.
- HOWEVER, in 2022: introduction of a bonus of 150 euros/month.



**We keep working hard
Just like you
With a lot of enthusiasm 😊**

