

PNAE Article 2026



Experiencias, programas e intervenciones

Paediatric Nursing Associations of Europe (PNAE)

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ABSTRACT

The *Paediatric Nursing Associations of Europe* (PNAE), established in April 2003, is a regional network affiliated with the *International Association of Paediatric Nursing* that brings together professional nursing associations from over 20 European countries. Its central mission is to promote the health, well-being, and rights of newborns, children, young people, and their families, guided by the principles of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC, 1989).

PNAE's main objectives include strengthening paediatric care through cooperation, communication, and collaboration among paediatric nurses across Europe; fostering a unified voice on key contemporary issues affecting child health; and promoting the active participation of children and their families in health decisions. It also seeks to ensure safe, effective, and personalized care, while enabling nurses to share knowledge and uphold the quality of care that children and families are entitled to receive.

The PNAE has a multinational coordinating team that leads its strategic direction and governance.

The PNAE has developed surveys, position papers, and key statements on paediatric nursing in Europe. A highlight is the updated *Definition of Paediatric Nurse* document.

A notable example of PNAE's research work is the European study on *Paediatric Early Warning Scores* (PEWS) and *Rapid Response Systems* (RRS). Led by Dr. Orsola Gawronski in collaboration with the *European Society of Paediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care* (ESPNIC). Conducted across 21 countries with 185 participating hospitals, the study revealed substantial variability in the implementation of early warning systems and rapid response teams for deteriorating paediatric inpatients. These findings highlight the need for standardized guidelines to enhance patient safety and reduce disparities in clinical practice throughout Europe.

Another significant initiative is *PeDXR*, an Erasmus+ project (2024–2026) integrates immersive technologies into higher education to strengthen clinical reasoning, communication, and competency-based training, while reducing dependence on limited clinical placements.

In conclusion, PNAE has become a cornerstone in advancing paediatric nursing practice, education, and research across Europe. Through collaboration, advocacy, and innovation, it continues to ensure that all newborns, children, and young people receive high-quality, equitable, and rights-based nursing care.

Key-words: paediatric nursing; Europe; PNAE; child rights; international collaboration; health education.

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- We have had a new article published during 2026!

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- Thank you to you all!

Paediatric Nursing Associations of Europe - 47th meeting