



Dear Members,

As the year comes to a close, we would like to share an important update from our association. Over the past few months, there has been a period of relative silence and slower activity. We acknowledge this openly, and we appreciate your patience and understanding during this time.

One reason for our reduced activity and visibility in recent months was the situation surrounding our annual conference. The event, scheduled for June 2025, together with the General Assembly planned during the conference, unfortunately had to be cancelled due to lower-than-expected registrations. Although this was a difficult decision, it also allowed us to reflect on how we can better design future events that truly align with our members' interests and needs.

A second factor for this transition phase was a change in our leadership. Our current President, **Door Lauwaert**, has stepped back from the role, and we would like to express our sincere gratitude for his tremendous work, dedication, and crucial contributions to building and strengthening our society. His commitment over the years has been invaluable, and he will be genuinely missed. At the same time, we wish him every joy and fulfilment as he enters retirement.



Door says goodbye....

Dear colleagues,

It is with great regret that I must announce my departure from EuSEN.

What began in 2010 in Pordenone (Italy) as an initiative by several passionate emergency nurses to work on a joint project, “the establishment of a European Society for Emergency Nursing”, has since grown into an indispensable authority within European emergency care.

When I took over as president of the association in 2011, it was not an easy task. Together with my fellow board members, we had to draw up statutes, build a network of locally recognised associations or working groups, create a newsletter, set up a website, ...

This did not always go smoothly, and our motto was often “Luctor et emergo” (I struggle, and I emerge).

The Corona epidemic made it from 2020 difficult to keep EuSEN alive and kicking. Many of our colleagues had a hard time, but we kept in touch, fortunately digitally.

During the 4th Global Conference on Emergency Nursing and Trauma Care in 2023 at Gothenburg, we made a new restart with EuSEN.

But now I want to step aside as president of EuSEN. As I approach my 70th birthday, I want to make place for young and passionate colleagues who will lead EuSEN the way ahead with the right spirit.

I would therefore like to express my sincere gratitude to all board members and colleagues from Europe and beyond for their excellent cooperation over the past years. I can look back on some wonderful moments and very pleasant professional contacts.

It has been an absolute honour for me to be part of this wonderful but not yet completed project.

“Acta est fabula” (The story is over (for me)).

Keep the EuSEN flame burning!!!



**With kind regards
Door Lauwaert**

We say hello to Jochen...

At the same time, we are *thrilled* to announce that, in the meantime, we have elected Prof. Dr *Jochen Bergs* as the new President, who is willing to take on this important responsibility.



A very warm **WELCOME** to **JOCHEN!**

Jochen has already begun supporting the Board's work, and we are grateful for his readiness to step in.

His role will become official following the election at the upcoming General Assembly, in accordance with our statutes.

Save the date:

We are pleased to announce that a new date for the official General Assembly has now been set:

General Assembly **17 April 2026 in Brussels**. More details, including time and venue, will follow shortly.

This meeting will also include a collaborative workshop dedicated to discussing the future direction of our association.

We believe that bringing together representatives from all member organisations will be essential as we plan how to strengthen our activities, engagement, and visibility in the coming years.

We look forward to reconnecting with you soon and continuing our work together.

Who is Jochen?

Interview with Prof. dr. Jochen Bergs, President-Elect of the European Society for Emergency Nursing (EuSEN)

Prof. Dr. Bergs, congratulations on your election as President-Elect of EuSEN. How does it feel to take on this role?

Thank you very much. It's a tremendous honor. Emergency nursing has been my professional home for many years, and EuSEN is the organization that connects and strengthens our community across Europe. I'm proud to contribute to this mission and excited about the work ahead.

You're an emergency nurse by background and remain clinically active. How does that influence your leadership?

Emergency nursing shaped my entire career. Although my academic roles keep me busy, I still work clinically as a volunteer in our national emergency medical system. Staying close to patients and the realities of frontline care keeps me grounded. It helps me understand the daily challenges emergency nurses face—staffing pressures, clinical complexity, rapid decision-making—and ensures my leadership remains connected to practice, not just policy.

You have also been involved with EuSEM for many years, particularly the Nursing Track at the annual congress. Can you tell us more about that?

Of course. I've been part of organizing the Nursing Track at the EuSEM congress for almost ten editions now. It's one of the highlights of my professional year. The congress brings together clinicians, educators, and researchers from all over Europe, and the Nursing Track has grown into a vibrant platform for showcasing emergency nursing expertise. I also greatly value representing EuSEN at the conference alongside Prof. dr. Thordis Thorseinsdottir and dr. Christine van der Linden. Together, we advocate for the nursing perspective within the broader emergency medicine community.

You hold several academic and editorial roles. How do they complement your work with EuSEN?

I'm appointed as Professor of Systems Innovation in Healthcare at Hasselt University in Belgium, where I also serve as the academic director of THINK³, our simulation and innovation lab. This role allows me to explore system-level improvements in healthcare delivery—something highly relevant to emergency departments, which are complex and often under pressure.

In addition, I am an Associate Editor for International Emergency Nursing, which keeps me closely connected to scientific developments in our field. These roles help me bring research-based, systems-oriented thinking into EuSEN's strategic direction.

Who is Jochen?

Interview with Prof. dr. Jochen Bergs, President-Elect of the European Society for Emergency Nursing (EuSEN)

What will be your key priorities as President of EuSEN?

I see three strategic priorities:

Strengthening the professional identity of emergency nursing

We need clearer recognition of emergency nurses' advanced competencies and unique contributions.

Fostering research, evidence-based practice, and innovation

Supporting nurses to engage in research, simulation, and knowledge-sharing is essential to modern emergency care.

Promoting collaboration and professional mobility across Europe

Emergency nursing is inherently international. EuSEN can help harmonize standards and connect national associations more effectively.

What challenges do you think emergency nurses across Europe face right now?

Workload and workforce shortages remain major issues. Emergency nurses regularly operate under intense pressure, with increasing patient loads and rising acuity. Another challenge is access to continuous professional development—especially in an environment where time and resources are limited. And of course, mental health and wellbeing must be at the forefront. Supporting our teams is vital for safe and resilient patient care.

How will EuSEN help address these challenges?

EuSEN provides a unified voice for emergency nurses at the European level. Through our working groups, partnerships, and conferences, we support education, create opportunities for cross-border collaboration, and advocate for policies that reflect the realities of emergency care. Our role is to empower nurses with the knowledge, networks, and recognition they deserve.

Do you have a final message for emergency nurses across Europe?

Absolutely: thank you. The dedication of emergency nurses is extraordinary, and often unseen. EuSEN exists to support you—whether you're a student, a newly graduated nurse, or a seasoned expert. I encourage everyone to engage with the society, share your experiences, and help us shape the future of emergency nursing. Together, we can elevate our profession and improve emergency care for patients everywhere.

Happy holidays

To the Emergency Nurses who show up daily with courage, skill and heart!

Christmas gifts that truly matter for Emergency Nurses ✨

- ✨ The gift of quiet moments in the midst of chaos
- ✨ The comfort of teamwork that lifts you up
- ✨ Kindness from patients, families and colleagues
- ✨ A proper break to breathe, rest and recalibrate
- ✨ Laughter that lightens the heavy days
- ✨ Emotional safety and understanding
- ✨ Recognition of the invisible labour you carry
- ✨ A reminder that your presence changes lives

As we approach the holiday season, we extend our warmest wishes to you
and your families.

May the Christmas period and the New Year bring you peace, joy, and
renewed energy.



With warm regards,

Petra Valk-Zwickl, Vice-President, on behalf of the EuSEN board



EuSEN

European Society for emergency Nursing



EuSEN Board:



President-elect: Jochen Bergs (B)

Vice-President: Petra Valk-Zwackl (CH)

Secretary: Ole-Petter Vinjevoll (N)

Treasurer: Yves Maule (B)

Other board members:

Frans de Voeght (NL)

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Vida Bračko (SLO)

Website: Yves Maule (B)

Newsletter editor: Petra Valk-Zwackl (CH)

www.eusen.org



EuSEN

European Society for emergency Nursing

Are you interested in Emergency Nursing?
Then join the European Society for Emergency Nursing NOW!

The society's aim is to promote nursing activities in the field of emergency care

The Society's purpose is:

- *to promote science and art of nursing in emergency care
- *to promote contacts, exchange and cooperation between European emergency nursing associations
- *to represent emergency nurses within and outside of Europe
- *to draft and promote standards for training, implementation of the profession and management in the field of emergency nursing
- *to harmonize the training of emergency nursing across Europe
- *to promote cooperation with all healthcare professionals, institutions and organizations with a professional interest in emergency care
- *to promote basic knowledge about emergencies throughout the population.

EuSEN is a NON-Profit association. To be a member with EuSEN you need to be a member of a local or national emergency nurse association. The association needs to have local standards and official statutes.

Do you want to learn more about the EuSEN Please contact :

The President of EuSEN

Door Lauwaert

Post address: UZ Brussel, Emerg. Dpt, Laarbeeklaan 101, 1090 Brussels, Belgium

Or door.lauwaert@uzbrussel.be

To join us - Fill in the admission form on the next page.

www.eusen.org

**Subscription available with a
45% discount for EuSEN members**



Individual membership EuSEN

Dear future member,

If you want to support us developing EuSEN, you can become an individual EuSEN Member.

Membership fee for individual member had been fixed to **20€/year** by the EuSEN Board . This money help us to promote the association throughout Europe.

As an Individual Member, you'll be informed of any evenemential action of EuSEN and every publication, you'll also have member price for Congress supported by EuSEN and any promotional action held by EuSEN.

Individual Membership don't give the right to vote at the General Meeting Assembly (Only for the Association) and membership of EuSEN don't mean that you are member of all the European nurses associations.

WE NEED YOU, if you want to help us by becoming a individual member, fill the form (see website EuSEN) and the treasurer will contact you as soon as possible to give you information about the procedure to pay the annual fee.

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www.eusen.org



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