



# Gesundheit

## After Work Lectures

### Future Lack of Skilled Nurses and Midwives in the European Region

Facts, programs and efforts of the World Health Organization's European Forum of National Nursing and Midwifery Associations



### Prof. Dr. Valerie Fleming

Policy Adviser for Nursing and Midwifery for the World Health Organization European Region and Consultant in Midwifery of ZHAW Dept. G

Tuesday, 24th January 2012, 6 – 7 p.m.  
TN E0.54, Technikumstrasse 71, 8400 Winterthur



## Gesundheit

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### **Prof. Dr. Valerie Fleming**

Emeritus Professor of Glasgow Caledonian University, Policy Adviser for Nursing and Midwifery for the WHO European Region, Consultant in Midwifery of ZHAW.

### **Future Lack of Skilled Nurses and Midwives in the European Region: Facts, Efforts and Programs**

Nurses and midwives comprise the majority of health care professionals in Europe and thus play a key role in the successful delivery of health services. In line with the upcoming international health workforce crisis, the WHO European Region currently faces serious shortages of well-qualified nurses and midwives.

This session will show efforts to meet with this fact and outline roles of actors in this process as i.e. the one of the Policy Adviser for Nursing and Midwifery in the European Region. It will also show programs that are being developed and give an overview of the work done by partners such as the Chief Nursing Officers, the European Forum of National Nursing and Midwifery Associations and the WHO Collaborating Centres in Midwifery and Nursing. A final focus will be on the process involved in becoming a Collaborating Centre of the WHO.

Since its founding in 1948, the World Health Organization WHO has become renowned for its fight against many of the killer diseases through development of vaccines, treatment protocols and intensive campaigns. It is less well known perhaps for its work in human resources for health care, despite this being the focus of the 2006 annual report. In that report frightening shortages of midwives and nurses were noted in sub-Saharan Africa in particular. However in our own European region recent estimates suggest that by 2020 there will be a lack of two million skilled nurses and midwives.

After having worked as a midwife in India, Thailand and New Zealand, Valerie Fleming held several midwifery positions. Thereby, she realized in many parts of the world consultancies for the WHO and other institutions before becoming Policy Adviser for Nursing and Midwifery of the WHO European Region in Copenhagen.

#### **Further Information:**

[www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/Health-systems/nursing-and-midwifery](http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/Health-systems/nursing-and-midwifery)

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