

# EDITORIAL – NURSING AND MIGRATION

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The shortage of nursing staff is one of the constants in European healthcare systems. As early as the 1950s, European countries were recruiting qualified nurses and trainees for the nursing profession from abroad in order to avert a crisis in their own healthcare systems. Since then, demographic change and advances in healthcare have exacerbated the shortage of nursing staff. A considerable number of people working in nursing today are migrants. Without them, it would not be possible to maintain adequate provision of nursing care, either in a domestic or inpatient setting. While some aspects of the history of migration in nursing seem to be specific to the era of post-war globalisation, the internationalisation of nursing is a much older phenomenon and dates back to before the modern professionalisation of nursing.

This seventh issue of the *European Journal for Nursing History and Ethics* 2025 is dedicated to the topic of 'Nursing and Migration' and has been edited for the first time by a group of guest editors: Fruzsina Müller, David Freis and Pierre Pfütsch begin their introduction by presenting the current state of research on this topic and providing an overview of the concept and of individual contributions to the issue. The explicit aim is to establish a fruitful exchange between historical and ethical perspectives. We would like to thank Fruzsina Müller, David Freis and Pierre Pfütsch for their excellent collaboration.

The open section of this issue includes both an article with a historical focus and one that is primarily ethical. Elisabeth Hall et al. examine the transformation of paediatric nursing in the Faroe Islands between the 1960s and 1980s on the basis of an oral history project conducted with nurses. The focus is on the specific conditions of caring for sick children in a small-scale, remote European country. Jonathan L. Behrens et al. take up the concept of self-efficacy and develop a specific understanding of ethical self-efficacy, which they discuss in terms of its significance for nursing (ethics) education.

In the Lost and Found section, Mia Vrijens presents a find from the collection of the Museum for Nursing in the Netherlands that originated in the context of the 1953 flood disaster, but does not – as is usually the case – focus on the flood disaster itself, but rather on the reconstruction of the infrastructure for district nursing. The funds for this reconstruction effort were collected through a radio campaign in Switzerland, making it an example of European cooperation and solidarity.