

HOPE Agora 2022

Using Evidence in Healthcare Management



On 3 and 4 June 2022, HOPE Agora 2022 took place in Brussels focusing on the theme “Using Evidence in Healthcare Management”.

For more than 30 years, HOPE is organising at the end of its annual Exchange Programme an evaluation meeting renamed more recently Agora. Participants spend four weeks in a European country to learn about how similar healthcare issues are tackled differently. During the Agora event, HOPE Exchange participants and some of their hosts are gathering in one place to cover a single topic.

About 150 participants were present this year to share good practices related to evidence in healthcare management that they had identified during their stay in the host country. It directly followed and built on the HOPE Agora 2019 which topic was “Evidence-Informed Decision-making in Healthcare Management”.

The approach of “evidence-based medicine” was understood as meaning that policy-making and managerial decisions should be based on best available evidence and not on beliefs and long-established practices. In increasingly complex health systems, the ability to use all types of available evidence to improve decision-making in healthcare is crucial to ensure that citizens are offered the best care possible.

On 3 June, the HOPE Agora was chaired by HOPE President Urmaz Sule. The first part of the day was dedicated to presentations from the Amsterdam University Medical Centre, University of Amsterdam. Niek Klazinga, also working at the OECD, presented the six parameters which drive hospitals for the better during the COVID-19 period. Damir Ivankovic, member of the HealthPros network, made a presentation of the “Beyond hospital data” project related to changes in governance and the use of data during COVID-19. His colleague Sofia Carvalho reviewed the impact of COVID-19 on clinical pathways for acute myocardial infarction, cancer, and acute care.

Then, a 50-minute panel discussion went on the theme “Sustainability of changes for the better”, chaired by Niek Klazinga. Damir Ivankovic and Sofia Carvalho were joined by three other panelists: Helle Kruuse-Andersen, Danish HOPE Exchange participant in The Netherlands; Bill O’Reilly, Irish HOPE Exchange participant in Germany; and Antoine Malone, HOPE French National Coordinator.

The panel was followed by the first presentations of HOPE Exchange participants who stayed in Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark and Estonia.

On 4 June, the Agora was chaired by HOPE Vice-President Eamonn Fitzgerald. This second day was dedicated to other HOPE Exchange participants’ presentations regarding good practices identified in their host country: Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Spain, United Kingdom.

Over the course of the day, a *World Café* was also organised to allow participants to share their experiences and ideas around different topics. The Agora ended with the meetings of participants by country of origins.

[Link to the agenda](#)

[Link to the presentations](#)