

Climate and Environment: Challenges for Hospitals and Healthcare Services

HOPE Agora 2023 Theme Guidance

CONTENT

An important part of the HOPE Exchange Programme is to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise between healthcare professionals in a European context. In pursuance of this, the HOPE Exchange Programme terminates with the HOPE Agora. This closing conference is considered an integral part of the HOPE Exchange Programme giving the participants the possibility to show and to discuss their observations and conclusions.

Every year, as a part of the HOPE Agora, the participants of the HOPE Exchange programme give a presentation of their experiences in the host country on a specific theme identifying up to three good practices. The theme for HOPE Agora 2023 is “Climate and Environment: Challenges for Hospitals and Healthcare Services”.

The theme can be approached in different ways. Climate and environment changes are impacting healthcare services, with increasing diseases linked to air pollution, infectious diseases, flooding, etc. Hospitals and healthcare services then have to adapt and develop their resilience. This approach deals more with the adaptation of buildings, organisation, professionals to various impacts.

The HOPE Exchange participants are however invited to focus more on the other aspect: how the healthcare sector is impacting the climate and the environment and more positively how it is trying to reduce its impact. The impact of the sector stems from different sources such as buildings, transports, medical chemicals and gases, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, textiles, food and energy.

To identify the up-to-three good practices, the participants are invited to check at national, regional and local level.

The following questions should help HOPE Exchange participants to cover those three steps.

Sources of evidence

Does the country have national plan(s) regarding the reduction of healthcare carbon footprint and environmental impact? Is there any national or regional or local plan in place?

How analysis is performed

Are there indicators to follow? Are hospitals adapting the national/regional plans? Do they have collaborative approaches?

Outputs

Is there any service organising the implementation of the plans? How improvements look like? Is there a strategic planning?



PRESENTATIONS

Participants in the HOPE exchange programme are asked to give up to three good examples of how hospitals and healthcare services are reducing their impact on climate or environment, based on what they have encountered during their stay in their host country,

In most receiving countries, there will be participants of different nationalities and professional backgrounds. The process of identifying and reaching consensus on practical examples will then be an important, if not the most important, element. The process of producing the end result is at least as important as the content of the PowerPoint presentation.

The PowerPoint presentation for each country should focus on practical examples, stimulating factors/initiatives and barriers that the participants have come across at national, regional, healthcare and/or ward levels. The participants are asked not to include a description of the health care system of the country in which they have stayed.

One of the major objectives of the exchange is to identify elements in the healthcare system they visited that the HOPE participants find inspiring or worth considering when looking at the challenges that they face at home in their own country. Participants are not asked to assess the health system in the country in which they have stayed. Rather, they are invited to reflect on what they would like to see implemented in their own country, region, institution or ward, or what they could learn from their host country. The task is oriented, as all the exchange is, on what to bring back home.

Working process

Step 1

Participants will individually identify examples.

Step 2

They will exchange what they have found with other participants staying in the same country. If they do not meet before the end of the programme, national coordinators will organise this exchange by internet.

Step 3

Participants will have to choose together up to three practical examples.

Step 4

Participants will prepare a PowerPoint presentation of up to three practical examples. The participants are also invited to explain the reasons behind their choice.

Presentations

- The presentations at the final conference are supposed to be 12 minutes long and should be delivered to the organisers at the latest 13.00 on Friday 2 June 2023. The presentation should not go below the time limit, nor exceed it.
- Presentations should be made in PowerPoint ONLY. Any sound effects and movies should be incorporated in the PowerPoint file.
- Diagrams and graphics are welcomed where appropriate or necessary to explain an idea or to visualise a process.



Copyright

Presentations must stand-alone (as a pdf-file) as they will be used for publishing on the website. This must be considered when using special effects or in respect to copyright restrictions.

- Preferably, use only your own photographs as illustrations within the presentation.
- It is strongly recommended to only download images from websites that offer images free of royalties for commercial use (e.g. www.pixabay.com).
- The absence of a copyright notice does not mean that an image or illustration may be freely used. If in doubt, assume you cannot use it.
- In case copyright images are being used within the presentation, proof of purchase stating the intended use of those images must be provided to HOPE.
- The names of all participants in a country should be mentioned on the presentation. They will be held personally responsible in case of copyright infringements.