

HOPE AGORA 2026 PROGRAMME



For more than 30 years, HOPE has organised, at the end of the annual Exchange Programme, an evaluation conference, which was recently renamed the HOPE Agora. For more than 40 years, participants of the HOPE Exchange programme have spent time in a European country to learn about how similar healthcare issues are tackled differently. During the HOPE Agora, exchange participants and some of their hosts gather to discuss a single topic. The HOPE Agora 2026 takes place from 29 to 31 May in Portugal, and the theme is: "Patient safety, patient experience."

The HOPE Agora is considered an integral part of the HOPE Exchange Programme; an opportunity to show and discuss observations and conclusions. Every year, participants of the HOPE Exchange programme work in groups to identify up to three good practices in line with the year's theme and based on their time in their host countries. This year, one of HOPE's flagship Horizon Europe projects, SAFEST, will also form part of the HOPE Agora. SAFEST is a 4-year research project working on improving patient safety in perioperative care across Europe and beyond. Researchers, clinicians, and patient representatives will present the project's preliminary results, patient safety recommendations, and patient-reported experiences, among other things.

DAY 1

Friday, 29 May 2026

09:30 - 09:45

OPENING REMARKS: 'PATIENT SAFETY, PATIENT EXPERIENCE'

09:45 - 10:15

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Dr. Carola Orrego (Fundación Avedis Donabedian)

10:15 - 10:35

PERIOPERATIVE PATIENT SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS: A COMPASS TO HEAD FOR SAFETY

Dr. Daniel Arnal-Velasco (SENSAR)

10:35 - 10:55

IMPLEMENTATION OF PERIOPERATIVE SAFETY STANDARDS IN HOSPITALS WORLDWIDE

Dr. Claudia Valli (Fundación Avedis Donabedian)

10:55 - 11:15	FROM MEASUREMENT TO IMPROVEMENT: PRIORITIZING IMPROVEMENT AREAS IN PERIOPERATIVE PATIENT SAFETY Dr. Hilly Calsbeek (Radboudumc)
11:15 - 11:45	COFFEE BREAK
11:45 - 12:15	BUILDING A PERIOPERATIVE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE: PATIENT PARTICIPATION AND CONTEXTUAL FACTORS Dr. Caroline Schlinkert (NIVEL)
12:15 - 13:00	IMPLEMENTATION EXPERIENCES FROM THE FIELD: PERSPECTIVES FROM HOSPITAL TEAMS Prof. Ana Azevedo (NOVA) and Dr. Anita Heideveld-Chevalking (Radboudumc)
13:00 - 14:00	LUNCH (PROVIDED)
14:00 - 14:45	EVALUATING THE SAFEST INTERVENTION ON PERIOPERATIVE SAFETY ADHERENCE AND SURGICAL COMPLICATIONS Prof. Paulo Sousa (NOVA) and Dr. Pedro Casaca Carvalho (NOVA)
14:45 - 15:30	COSTING AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SAFEST INITIATIVE Dr. Janika Bloemeke-Cammin (Optimedis) and Lennja Hama (Optimedis)
15:30 - 15:35	CLOSING REMARKS
15:35 - 16:05	COFFEE AND NETWORKING



Funded by
the European Union

SAFEST is funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

16:05 - 16:50 **PRESENTATION OF GOOD PRACTICES IN THE HOPE EXCHANGE PROGRAMME PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, PART 1**
Portugal, Poland, Malta, Austria, Latvia, and Belgium

19:00 - 21:00 **WELCOME RECEPTION**

DAY 2

Saturday, 30 May 2026

9:00 - 9:05 **WELCOME**

9:05 - 11:00 **PRESENTATION OF GOOD PRACTICES IN THE HOPE EXCHANGE PROGRAMME PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, PART 2**
Spain, United Kingdom, Sweden, Germany, France, Greece, and Finland

11:00 - 11:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:30 - 13:00 **WORLD CAFÉ**
Chair of the session: Ieva Lejniece

13:00 - 14:15 **LUNCH**

14:15 - 15:45 **PRESENTATION OF GOOD PRACTICES IN THE HOPE EXCHANGE PROGRAMME PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, PART 3**
Estonia, Switzerland, Italy, Moldova, The Netherlands, Denmark, and Ireland

15:45 - 16:00 **COFFEE BREAK**

16:00 - 17:00 **MEETINGS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**

20:00 **CONFERENCE DINNER**