

HOPE contribution to the call for evidence on the EU global health resilience initiative

HOPE welcomes the Commission's proposition to strengthen global health resilience. The unique position of hospitals - being on the front lines during health emergencies, maintaining essential services under pressure, and serving as anchor institutions in their communities – means they need to be at the centre of the reflections on resilience frameworks.

Achieving resilience can only be done through robust domestic health systems, and with respect to the responsibilities of the Member States.

HOPE supports the development of “resilient, country-led health systems able to deliver essential services”. We, however, must bring the point that this can only be achieved through measures for workforce planning, training, and well-being within the EU and beyond. Tackling “the expected surge in non-communicable diseases and other challenges to [the] health systems” can only be achieved through a strong health workforce.

We appreciate the wish of “diversifying global supply chains and support local manufacturing of health products in our partner countries [...]”. Hospitals experience firsthand the fragility of global supply chains during crises such as COVID-19, and shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE) and medicines disrupt care delivery.

HOPE welcomes the reinforcement of health security at global, regional, and national levels. We would like to recommend including hospitals in national and EU-level crisis simulation exercises.

Lastly, we endorse the priority on “fighting misinformation and disinformation”. Health and healthcare workers are increasingly impacted by this topic, from the impacts of misinformation on vaccines or in the harassments and threats targeted at healthcare professionals.

HOPE, the European Hospital and Healthcare Federation, is a European non-profit organisation, created in 1966. HOPE represents national public and private hospitals associations and hospitals owners either federations of local and regional authorities or national health services. Today, HOPE is made up of 36 organisations coming from the 27 Member States of the European Union, as well as from the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Serbia as observer members. HOPE mission is to promote improvements in the health of citizens throughout Europe, high standard of hospital care and to foster efficiency with humanity in the organisation and operation of hospital and healthcare services.