



International Network of  
Health Promoting Hospitals  
& Health Services

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2025



# Contents

<b>Words from the Governance Board Chair .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Words from the CEO of the HPH Secretariat.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>The International HPH Network.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Year 2025 in Review: Key Highlights from the International HPH Secretariat.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Membership Growth.....	6
Digital Platforms.....	6
Social Media .....	6
<b>Our Members Around the World .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Organisation .....</b>	<b>9</b>
HPH Governance Board .....	9
Standing Observers from the Conference Secretariat.....	11
HPH Treasurer.....	14
Future Leaders Advisory Board.....	12
International HPH Secretariat.....	14
<b>Timeline of Events .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>HPH Task Forces Yearly Updates .....</b>	<b>16</b>
Task Force on Migration, Equity and Diversity.....	16
Task Force on Children and Adolescents.....	16
Task Force on HPH and Environment.....	17
Task Force on Health Promoting Built Environment.....	18
Task Force on HPH and Age-Friendly Health Care.....	19
Task Force on Well-being of Healthcare Workers Task Force.....	19
Task Force on Culture and Health .....	20
<b>Key Strategic Meetings 2025 .....</b>	<b>21</b>
36th General Assembly Meeting, May 2025.....	21
GB Meeting in Hamburg, June 2025 .....	22
37th General Assembly Meeting, November 2025.....	23
<b>Research Publications .....</b>	<b>24</b>
Policy Briefs.....	24
<b>Advocacy.....</b>	<b>25</b>
Health Promoting Built environments (HPBE) Webinar Series.....	25
Podcast with the with the Integrated Health Services Project (Kosovo).....	26
<b>Financial Report 2024 .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Conferences .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Stay Connected .....</b>	<b>31</b>

# Words from the Governance Board Chair

As Chair of the Governance Board of the International HPH Network, I am honoured to reflect on 2025—a year when the need for health promotion in and by health services has never been clearer. Across countries and contexts, our members work in systems challenged by chronic disease, workforce shortages, climate-related risks, and persistent inequities. In this landscape, HPH is not an “extra”—it is a practical approach to strengthening health, wellbeing, and resilience through everyday healthcare.

A key moment this year was our 36th General Assembly Meeting on 15 May 2025, which brought together Network Coordinators, Task Forces, and the International Secretariat to align priorities and identify concrete opportunities for engagement. While the General Assembly gathers representatives from national and regional networks it is important to recognize the many single members that build our network and pioneers in their respective country. All are equally important to transform the health systems toward health promotion, disease prevention, health equity, and sustainability. What gives me the greatest optimism is how much of our progress is being driven by members—through focused Task Force work and shared learning.

In 2025 we strengthened our role as a learning network. The development of an HPH Open Course with sessions spanning behaviour change, climate action, workforce wellbeing, age-friendly care, and quality assessment signals our shared commitment to building competence, confidence, and leadership for the next generation of HPH.

2025 was also a year of building toward what comes next. We announced the 2026 International HPH Conference in Malmö, Sweden, and began shaping the foundations for an ambitious scientific and practice-oriented program. And we took steps toward future-oriented standards work, including the initiative to develop new standards on climate resilience and environmental sustainability through structured expert consultation.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the International Secretariat, the Governance Board, our Network Coordinators, Task Force leads, and, most importantly, our members. Your daily work is where HPH becomes real. The Network grows stronger every time members participate, share practice, and invite others into this movement. Let us carry this momentum into 2026, expanding what we know, strengthening what we do, and demonstrating that health promotion is essential to the future of healthcare.

Sincerely,



Ralph Harlid MD

International HPH Network Chair, Governance Board

# Words from the CEO of the HPH Secretariat

The year 2025 has again shown how many health systems are being tested. Climate change, geopolitical tensions, widening inequalities, workforce shortages, and the growing burden of chronic and mental health conditions are reshaping the environment in which we work. Expectations are rising as well: people look to health services that are not only effective and safe, but also fair, resilient, and environmentally responsible.

In this context, the mission of the International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services (HPH) remains both timely and essential. Health promoting hospitals help shift the focus of care towards prevention, empowerment, and people-centered pathways. By embedding health promotion in governance, clinical practice, workplace culture, and community partnerships, our members contribute to better outcomes and stronger, more sustainable health systems.

Throughout 2025, the HPH Network strengthened regional collaboration, supported the implementation of the HPH Standards, and expanded opportunities for exchange and shared learning. Particular attention was given to linking health promotion with urgent global priorities — including climate action, workforce well-being, health literacy, and the reduction of avoidable and low-value care. These efforts underline a simple truth: improving health and reducing the environmental footprint of care go hand in hand.

Looking ahead, health promoting hospitals and health services will play a central role in shaping sustainable health systems for the future. This requires continued commitment

to evidence-informed action, partnership across sectors, and the development of the next generation of leaders within our network.

In 2026, we look forward to expanding our global online training offer, opening new opportunities for capacity building and leadership development worldwide.

I would like to thank our members, partners, Governance Board, and Secretariat for their dedication over the past year. I realize that many of these contributions are made on a voluntary basis and without financial compensation, which makes them all the more valuable — sustained by professional commitment, shared purpose, and the conviction that advancing health promotion truly matters!

Together, we continue to demonstrate that health promotion is not an add-on, but a core strategy for advancing health, well-being, and sustainability.



Prof. Dr. Oliver Groene PhD

International HPH Secretariat  
CEO



# The International HPH Network

Our revised vision and mission statements aligned with the 2026-2030 HPH Global Strategy

## Vision Statement:

The vision of the International HPH Network is that patients, health workforce and community members can achieve their highest health potential through health-promoting and sustainable health systems.

## Mission Statement:

The mission of the International HPH Network is to advance the transformation of health systems and services towards health promotion, disease prevention, health equity, and sustainability for the benefit of patients and those close to them, the health workforce, and communities worldwide.

*“Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services orient their governance models, structures, processes and culture to optimize health gains of patients, staff and populations served and to support sustainable societies.”*

From the Health promotion glossary of terms 2021. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2021.



# Year 2025 in Review:

## Key Highlights from the International HPH Secretariat

The International HPH Secretariat has made significant strides in advancing the Global HPH Strategy 2021–2025, implementing a variety of strategic initiatives throughout the year. Here are some of the key highlights:

### Membership Growth

As of December 2025, HPH’s membership reached a total of 593 (compared to 568 in 2024) members, reflecting the continued growth and strengthening of the Network worldwide. During the years, we were pleased to welcome new members to our established national and regional networks, including France, Sweden, Spain, the Republic of Korea, and Japan.

In addition, individual members joined from a diverse range of countries, including Belgium, Iran, Israel, and Somalia, further enhancing the Network’s global representation. This sustained growth underscores the increasing recognition of HPH as a leading international platform for health-promoting healthcare and highlights the relevance of the Network’s mission across diverse health systems and contexts.

Looking ahead, HPH will continue to focus on strengthening engagement with new and existing members, supporting their integration into the Network, and fostering opportunities for collaboration and shared learning. Where possible and feasible, we would also like to support multi-country discussions that share the same language (e.g. our new members in South America and established members in different parts of Spain).



### Digital Platforms

#### Social Media



HPH’s social media presence continued to grow, reaching 909 followers and recording 215 unique visitors over the past year.



The HPH website attracted 14,187 visits including 12,435 unique visitors in 2025, generating 1,685 total and 1,532 unique downloads, including unique downloads, demonstrating sustained interest in HPH resources and publications.



# Our Members Around the World

For an up-to-day presentation of our global membership base, please consult: <https://www.hphnet.org/membership/#content-hph-map>

Total HPH Members  
(as of December 2025)

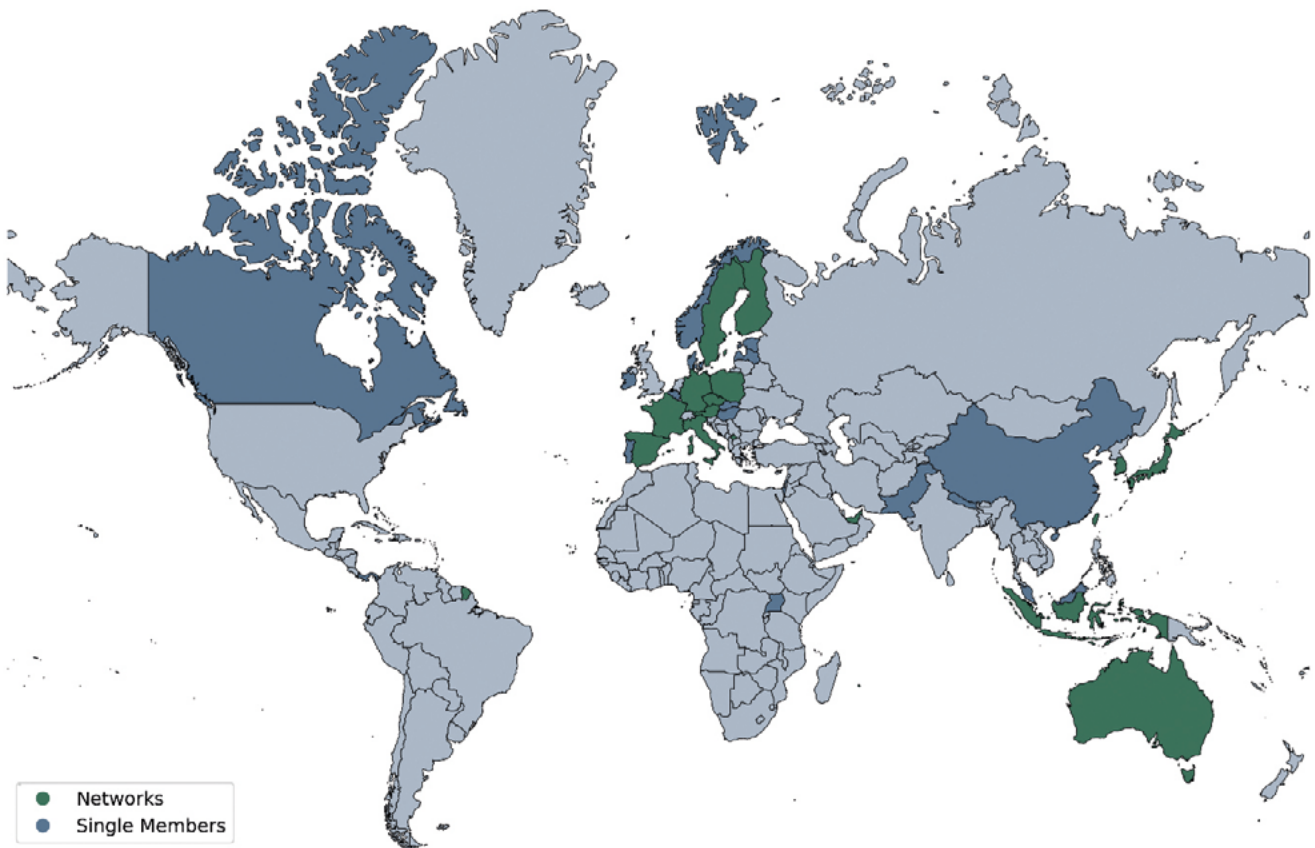
593

21 National/Regional  
HPH Networks

529

Single Members:

64



## Network Name

Australian HPH Network	9
Austrian HPH Network	21
Catalan HPH Network	27
Czech HPH Network	11
Emilia Romagna HPH Network	10
Finnish HPH Network	15
French HPH Network	31
Friuli-Venezia Giulia HPH Network	7
German HPH Network	15
Hong Kong HPH Network	3
HPH Campania Network, Italy	4
HPH Network of Korea	14
HPH Piemonte	10
Indonesia HPH Network	5
Japan HPH Network	126
Kosovo HPH Network	5
Polish HPH Network	10
Swedish HPH Network	64
Taiwanese HPH Network	136
Trentino HPH Network	3
United Arab Emirates HPH Network	3

## Single Members

Belgium	3
Bulgaria	1
Canada	3
China	6
Denmark	1
Hungary	1
Iran	14
Ireland	1
Israel	13
Italy	3
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	1
Latvia	1
Malaysia	1
Nepal	3
Norway	1
Pakistan	1
Panama	3
Singapore	2
Somalia	1
Spain	1
Uganda	1
United Kingdom	1
United States of America	1



# Organisation

## HPH Governance Board



Chair, Ralph Harlid, MD PhD, Sweden



Vice Chair Ilaria Simonelli, PHD, Italy



Past Chair; Prof Dr Bożena Walewska-Zielecka, Poland



Marianne Hochet, M.Sc, France



Ming-Nan Lin, MD PHD, Taiwan



Cristina Aguzzoli, MD, Italy

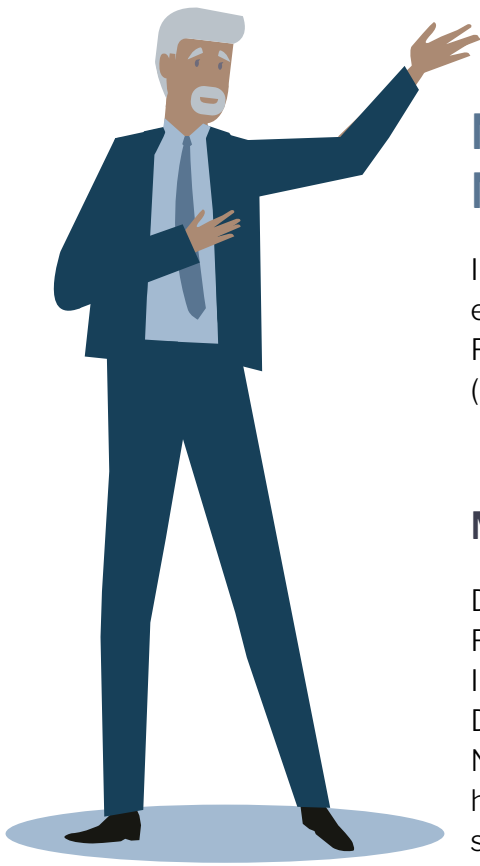


Jaekyung Lee, MD, South Korea



Nina Peränen, M.Sc, Finland\*

\*Following the conclusion of the Finnish network in 2025, Nina Peränen stepped down from her role on the Board as Finnish Coordinator in 2025.



## Newly Elected Governance Board Members

In November 2025, we were pleased to welcome two newly elected members to the Governance Board: Mitsuhiro Funakoshi (Japan HPH Network) and Raquel Gutiérrez Grau (Catalan HPH Network). Their profiles are presented below:

### Mitsuhiro Funakoshi (Japan HPH Network)

Dr. Mitsuhiro Funakoshi graduated from Kumamoto University Faculty of Medicine in 1987. He serves as Director of the Kyushu Institute for Social Medicine and President of the Fukuoka Iryo Dan. Since 2015, he has been the Coordinator of the Japan HPH Network, promoting the implementation of HPH principles in healthcare institutions. His main fields are preventive medicine, social medicine, and occupational health. He organized the 30th International HPH Conference in Hiroshima in 2024.

### Raquel Gutiérrez Grau (Catalan HPH Network)

Raquel Gutiérrez Grau is a nurse and Head of Patient Care and Experience at Salut Sant Joan Reus-Baix Camp, Spain. She serves as Secretary of the Catalan HPH Network and coordinates its Health Literacy Working Group, which brings together representatives from over twenty hospitals and health-promoting centers across Catalonia, playing a key role in the governance and strategic direction of the network. With strong background in healthcare management and organizational development, she leads strategic planning processes focused on quality improvement, patient and professional experience, and the integration of health promotion into the core functions of healthcare organizations, in alignment with the principles of the International HPH Network. She is also a lecturer at the Rovira i Virgili University. Her professional vision focuses on consolidating healthcare organizations capable of generating health value, professional well-being and positive community impact by integrating strategy, culture and transformational leadership.



## Standing Observers from the Conference Secretariat



Christina Dietscher, WHO-CC Austria

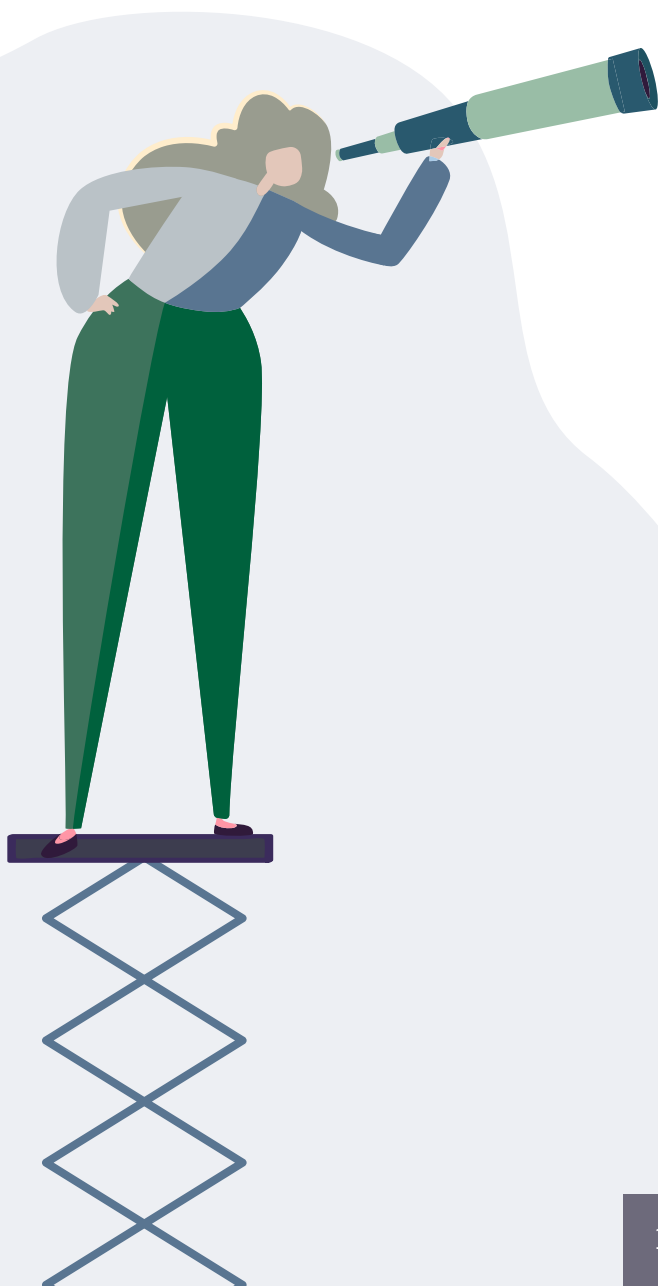


Birgit Metzler, MA, WHO-CC Austria

## HPH Treasurer



Prof Dr Bożena Walewska-Zielecka,  
Poland



# Future Leaders Advisory Board

In alignment with the Global HPH Strategy 2021–2025 and its Goal 3, Cultivating the Next Generation of HPH Leadership, the HPH Future Leaders Advisory Board was established in July 2024 as a strategic investment in the Network’s long-term vitality and impact. The Board offers a dedicated platform for young professionals to share perspectives, foster innovation, and contribute to shaping the future of HPH. In this report, we present the Board members as an expression of our continued commitment to developing emerging leaders.



Chair: Dr Giuseppe Melcore, MD/MSc  
(Italy)



Vice Chair: Dr Elisabeth Nöhammer,  
Associate Prof. (Austria)



## Members:



Dr Sander de Souza, MD/MSc-MPH  
(France)



Dr Usman Iqbal, PharmD/MBA/PhD  
(Australia)



Ana Paula Beck da Silva Etges,  
Ph.D, Eng. (Brasil)



Sabrina Fournier  
(France)



Joanna Wargalla, MA MPH  
(Poland)



Monika Vanhova, MBA  
(Czech Republic)

# International HPH Secretariat



Prof Dr Oliver Groene  
PhD, CEO



Fatima Haering;  
MD, MSc; Project Coordinator



Philip Lewin,  
IT



Anja Brendtner,  
Administration

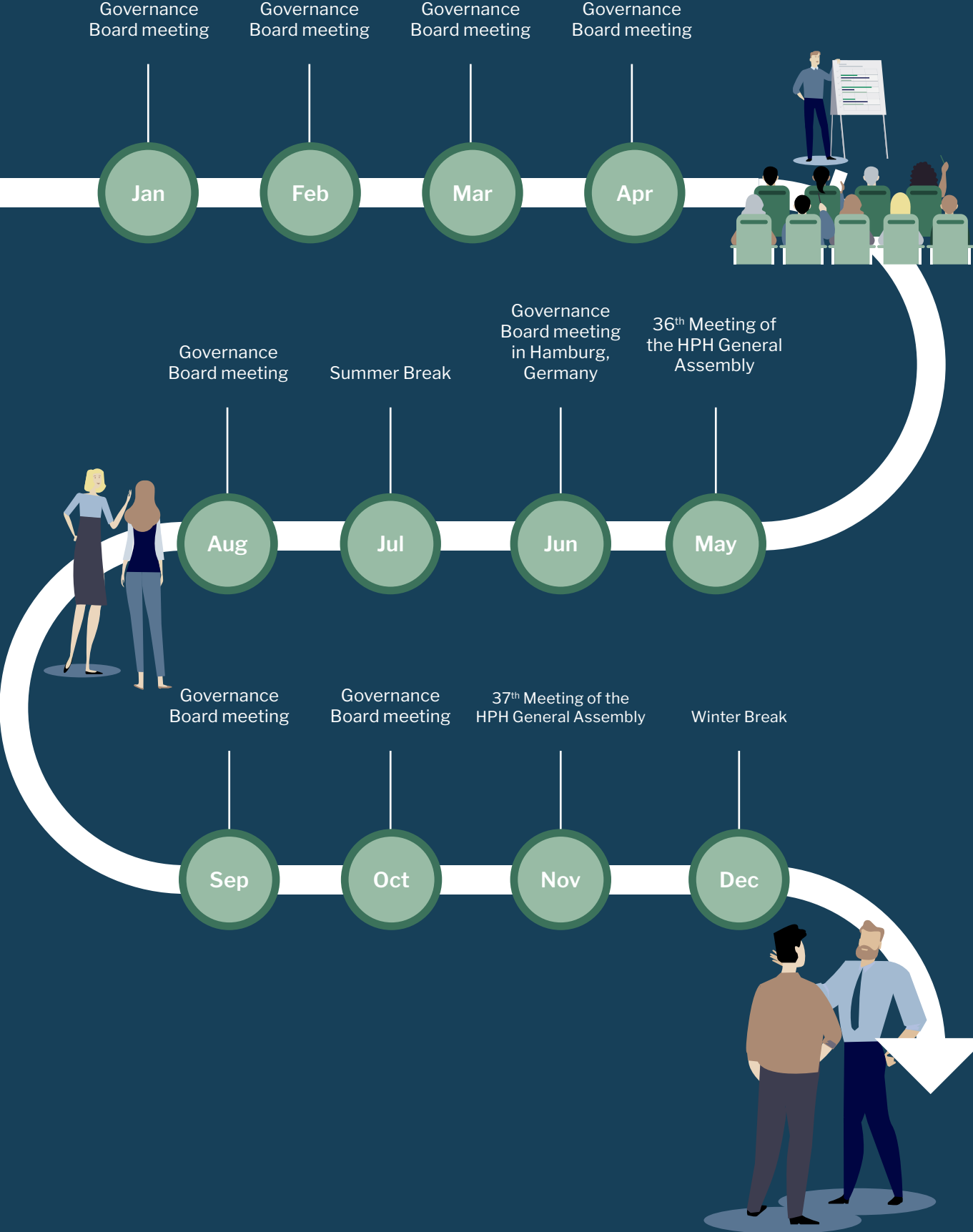


Lena Jessen,  
Communication



Maya Schikora,  
Finance

# Timeline of Events



# HPH Task Forces

## Yearly Updates

### Task Force on Migration, Equity and Diversity

Lead: James Glover and Hans Verrept

The MED-TF had a very busy year in 2025. Our key focus for the year was implementing the International Standards for Equity in Healthcare, as set out in our Action Plan as approved by the HPH Network. This involved:

- › Promoting the Standards at national and international events.
- › Recruiting new organisations to take part in the project.
- › Supporting a programme of self-assessment using the Standards for all participating organisations in the Task Force (38 institutions in six countries to date).

The Task Force is currently collating more than 50 examples of good practice identified by the Standards, ranging from innovation in meeting the healthcare needs of the most disadvantaged groups to employing a diverse workforce. In 2026 we will be moving to the quality improvement phase of the project and demonstrating how the Standards can also drive improvements in the way healthcare services work. New participants are always welcome!



### Task Force on Children and Adolescents

Lead: Dr. Ilaria Simonelli, PhD

In 2025 a particular focus was placed on strengthening recognition and implementation of children's right to play and participate in artistic and creative activities during healthcare experiences, in line with Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This work was closely aligned with the outcomes of the HPH-RNI (Red Noses International) Policy Brief on the Right to Play and Artistic Activities for Children in Healthcare (Policy-Brief-\_HPH\_RNI\_.pdf), as well as the long-standing results and standards developed by the HPH-CA Task Force. The policy brief consolidates scientific evidence and field experience demonstrating the positive impact of play, arts, and creative engagement on the physical, emotional, and psychosocial well-being of hospitalized children. The Task Force supported the framing of play and artistic activities not as optional or recreational add-ons, but as integral components of child-centred, health-promoting care. The Task Force facilitated exchange of good practices among member institutions, sharing examples of how play and arts have been integrated into routine care in diverse healthcare settings. These exchanges highlighted:

- › Positive effects on children's emotional well-being, coping, and sense of normality during hospitalization.
- › Benefits for families through reduced stress and improved communication.

- › Positive impacts on healthcare staff, including improved work atmosphere and enhanced relational care.

The Task Force actively advocated for the inclusion of children’s health promotion and rights in broader HPH discussions and strategies. By linking task force experience with the HPH-RNI Policy Brief, the Task Force contributed to raising awareness at network level about the importance of institutional commitment to play and artistic activities for children in healthcare.

### Key Outcomes

- › Strengthened visibility of children’s right to play and artistic participation within the HPH network.
- › Reinforced alignment between HPH-CA standards and emerging policy recommendations at international level.
- › Increased recognition of play and arts as essential components of holistic, health-promoting care for children and adolescents.
- › Consolidation of the Task Force’s role as a reference group for child-centred health promotion within HPH.

## Task Force on HPH and Environment

Lead: Dr. Ming-Nan, MD, MPH

In 2024 and throughout 2025, the Task Force on Environment continued to lead the global healthcare sector’s transition toward climate resilience and carbon neutrality. The Task Force continued to spearhead the global healthcare sector’s transition toward climate resilience and carbon neutrality. Under the leadership of Dr. Ming-Nan Lin, the Task Force focused heavily on capacity building and cross-sectoral collaboration, particularly bridging the gap between hospital-based sustainability and primary care.

A major highlight of the period was the active engagement with the primary care community at the WONCA Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Busan (April 2025), where the Task Force co-organized a workshop titled „Implementing the Singapore Planetary Health Declaration in Practice.“ This session produced actionable strategies for reducing medical waste, promoting low-carbon care pathways, and integrating micro-education on planetary health into daily patient consultations. The Task

HPH Society Taiwan signing MoU with Health Care Without Harm



Force also co-hosted the workshop „Towards a Greener Primary Care: Role-Playing for Planetary Health.“ This interactive session used role-playing scenarios to train physicians on how to advocate for eco-friendly practices—such as prescribing dry-powder inhalers—and how to negotiate sustainable policies with hospital administration. Dr. Lin was invited by Health Care Without Harm Southeast Asia to deliver the opening talk titled „Practical insights on turning ideas into change, with emphasis on leadership inside hospitals.“ Speaking at Sunway Medical Centre, he shared best practices from the „Race to Zero“ campaign to inspire emerging leaders in the Malaysian healthcare sector.

The Task Force’s leadership was recognized on the global stage at the WONCA World Conference in Lisbon (September 2025), where Chair Dr. Ming-Nan Lin was awarded the Five Star Doctor Award (Asia Pacific Region). This accolade honored his pioneering work in integrating environmental sustainability into hospital governance and medical education. Furthermore, at the 30th International HPH Conference in Hiroshima (November 2024), the Task Force organized a pivotal symposium on „Climate Change and Health Inequality,“ emphasizing the role of green healthcare in addressing social determinants of health.

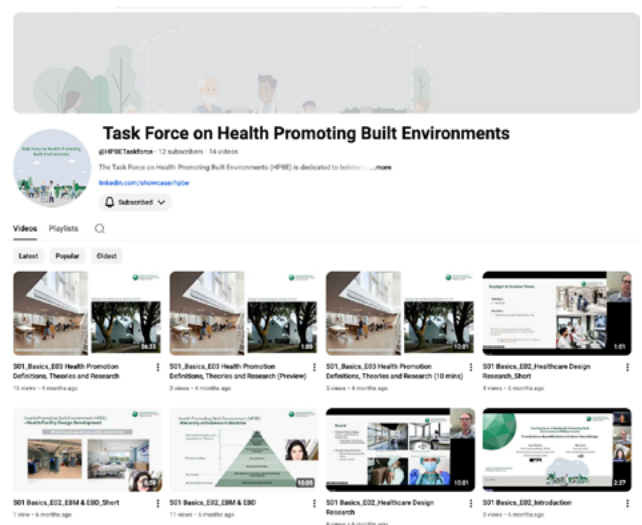
Throughout the year, the Task Force advanced the expert consultation for new Standards on Climate Resilience, collaborated with the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) network, and supported member hospitals in adopting the UN Race to Zero commitments. These activities reinforced the HPH Network’s mission to foster sustainable societies by demonstrating that planetary health is inseparable from patient health.

## Task Force on Health Promoting Built Environment

Lead: Elke Miedema and Peyton Fort

This year, the Health Promoting Built Environment (HPBE) Taskforce grew to 17 active members, all committed to strengthening knowledge sharing on how the built environment can advance the mission of HPH.

We launched a series of live webinars – promoted through our LinkedIn community – highlighting core knowledge linking principles of health promotion with healthcare building design, evidence-based design, and healing environments. These webinars are now available on our YouTube channel as short and long-form eLearning videos, providing continuous access for our interdisciplinary target audience across health and design disciplines around the world.



Workshop in World WONCA in Lisbon

Additionally, we have advanced our forthcoming scientific publication on enablers and barriers to a health-promoting built environment, featuring interviews with health leaders from across the European member countries of the HPH network. While the taskforce did not attend conferences collectively this year, we submitted abstracts to ARCH26 and the 2026 HPH Conference.



Moreover, we began exploring potential funding opportunities and industry and academic partnerships to enhance the taskforce’s sustainability and increase active project involvement and collaboration, as limited funding has made it challenging for members to allocate time. The HPBE Taskforce is excited to continue its growth and contributions in 2026, further advancing the integration of health-promoting design principles into the development of inclusive healing environments. The taskforce also runs an individual YouTube channel, learn more about them via the following channel link: <https://www.youtube.com/@HPBETaskforce>.

## Task Force on HPH and Age-Friendly Health Care

Lead: Dr. Shu-Ti Chiou

To address global population aging, the Task Force on HPH and Age-Friendly Health Care (TF-AFHC) continues to promote the role of Health Promoting Hospitals in fostering age-friendly healthcare and societies, aligned with the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030).

In capacity building, TF-AFHC co-organized a satellite event at the 2025 UN NGO CSW69 Forum titled „Application & Development of AI-enabled Solutions in the Care Industry.“ This session examined evidence-based AI practices and their contributions to the health of older adults and staff well-being. Additionally, the Task Force supported the Federation for the Welfare of Taiwan’s Seniors in designing the 2025 Summit on Older Persons’ Wellbeing. The event, attended by approximately 60 NGO leaders, featured Professor Ivonne Doyle discussing global progress on the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing, while the TF-AFHC Chair addressed existing gaps and strategies for improvement.

In advocacy and partnerships, TF-AFHC advised the Legislative Yuan in Taiwan on the passage of the Act of Strong-Generation

Policies and Economic Development. This legislation, effective January 1, 2026, aims to combat ageism and create enabling environments for active and healthy aging.

## Task Force on Well-being of Healthcare Workers Task Force

Lead: Gabriella Szorenyine, Jaekyung Lee and Cristina Aguzzoli

Our first year focused on gathering critical data and examples to guide our efforts effectively.



## Global Survey of Well-Being Programs

We conducted a comprehensive baseline survey on health and well-being programs for healthcare workers across HPH member institutions worldwide. This mapped existing initiatives and gathered information on good local practices promoting staff well-being.

## Response and Insights

Responses from a diverse range of hospitals and health services provided a clearer picture of current activities. Many institutions reported efforts in mental health support and stress management, whilst fewer had programs addressing workload or recognition—initiatives, shaping our priorities.

## Best Practices Compilation

Building on initial findings, we launched a follow-up questionnaire to collect detailed best-practice examples. We invited institutions with active initiatives to describe

their „flagship“ programs, yielding inspiring examples from multiple countries.

### Knowledge Foundation

These examples—from comprehensive wellbeing centers to innovative peer-support networks and creative stress-reduction activities—will form a compendium that any hospital in our network can learn from and adapt to their context, following a self-assessment with HPH Standards. We will share the first draft during a Symposium at the next International Conference in Malmo.

## Task Force on Culture and Health

Lead: Alda Cosola and Giuseppe Viola

The Task Force Culture and Health, inspired by the Global HPH Strategy 2021–2025 and the New Haven Recommendations, was established with the aim of building alliances and developing innovative solutions to promote an approach to care that actively engages people and values them in all their roles, through the performing arts.

During 2025, the Task Force secured the participation of 17 hospitals and healthcare

services, including four national and regional HPH networks. In collaboration with institutional stakeholders and Third Sector organizations, training activities dedicated to cultural health prescription were promoted, and the collection of best practices was initiated.

In line with the HPH Standards—particularly Standard 5, *Promoting Health in the Community*—the objective is to develop procedures and tools for evaluating the actions undertaken within a care approach oriented toward the social prescription of the performing arts. This approach integrates arts, creativity, cultural heritage, identity, and storytelling into care pathways for people with chronic conditions, mental health disorders, oncological diseases, and other chronic-degenerative illnesses. The Task Force also promotes community-based interventions in which cultural health prescriptions are fully integrated into care pathways and supported through dedicated funding. These experience will be presented at the 31st international conference on Health Promoting Hospital and Health Service – 2026, which will be held in Malmö, Sweden.



To the museum with a doctor's prescription: a collaboration between health local services (asl to3), in piedmont region (italy), and rivoli castle and the royal palace of venaria

# Key Strategic Meetings 2025

## 36th General Assembly Meeting, May 2025

The annual Governance Board meeting and General Assembly showcased a year of intensive strategic, technical, and operational work across the HPH Network, underpinned by strong collaboration between the Governance Board, Task Forces, National/Regional Networks, and the International Secretariat. The Governance Board presented an overview of its activities, including ongoing dialogue on global strategic priorities, efforts to strengthen collaboration with WHO, updates on the HPH educational course, and early planning for the upcoming international conference in Sweden.

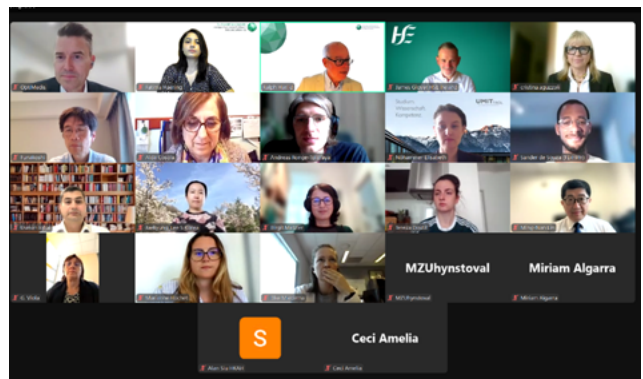
Task Forces reported substantial progress in translating strategy into action: the Task Force on Migration, Equity and Diversity advanced the multi-year Equity Standards Project, including development of a self-assessment tool and phased implementation across up to 40 countries; the Task Force on Health and Culture expanded international collaboration to build and disseminate people-centred, culturally informed care approaches; and the Task Force on Wellbeing of Healthcare Workers finalised and disseminated a global questionnaire, initiated a good-practice database, and began analysis to inform future implementation work. Together, these updates demonstrated concrete movement toward strengthening equity, workforce wellbeing, and person-centered care across diverse health system contexts.

Network and Secretariat presentations further illustrated the depth and reach of HPH's work. The Austrian HPH Network reported strong growth and mature recognition programmes in Tobacco-Free, Baby-friendly,

and Age-Friendly Health Services, alongside major updates to national guidelines and tiered recognition systems. The Swedish HPH Network presented the large-scale implementation of Targeted Health Dialogues as an integrated, person-centered prevention model embedded in primary care. The Future Leaders group reported progress on an evidence-based policy brief on mental health, reinforcing hospitals' role in integrated, non-pharmacological and psychosocial care.

The International Secretariat presented a proposal for a free global MOOC on Health Promotion Principles, Strategies, Best Practices and Evaluation, the 2024 Annual Report, and an overview of a growing network, alongside increasing digital visibility. The Conference Secretariat outlined preparations for the 31st International HPH Conference in Malmö 2026, with a strong thematic focus on sustainability, equity, resilience, mental health, digital innovation, and partnerships.

Collectively, the meeting reflected a highly productive year, with tangible outputs, expanding engagement, and a clear forward trajectory for advancing health promotion, equity, and sustainable healthcare systems globally.



## GB Meeting in Hamburg, June 2025

The Governance Board of the International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals (HPH) arranges a two-day meeting in Hamburg annually. The Governance Board meeting demonstrated strong strategic leadership and intensive preparatory work by the Secretariat in advancing key pillars of HPH's capacity-building, strategic direction, and global engagement.

A major focus was the development of the HPH Open Course, building on the successful German HPH Training Programme and lessons from large-scale international digital courses. The Secretariat presented a comprehensive concept including objectives, structure, learning outcomes, delivery modalities, and potential academic partners, followed by an in-depth Board discussion. The Board endorsed an exclusive, request-based registration model, aligned with HPH conference procedures, to ensure quality and relevance.

In parallel, significant progress was achieved on updating the HPH Global Strategy, with the Board agreeing on a refined mission, vision, and overarching goals that reaffirm HPH's leadership in reorienting health systems towards health promotion, disease prevention, and health equity. The Board further agreed to retain the current strategic framework, initiate a core writing group, and prepare a draft HPH Strategy 2026–2030, with progress to be presented to the General Assembly.

The meeting also advanced preparations for the HPH Conference in Sweden, with the



Row 1, L-R: Marianne Hochet, Birgit Metzler, Ralph Harlid, Oliver Groene. Row 2, L-R: Jaekyung Lee, Cristina Aguzzoli, Anja Stührenberg (AS).

Board providing substantive input on the conference title, plenary themes, and keynote profiles across priority areas including resilient and sustainable health systems, health equity, mental health, digital innovation, and cross-sector partnerships. Detailed technical input was consolidated by the Secretariat to guide further planning. Additional governance decisions reflected operational efficiency and long-term sustainability, including adjustments to the summer meeting schedule, agreement to formally follow up with WHO on prior correspondence, and extension of the HPH Future Leaders' term to two years with a possible one-year extension. Collectively, these outcomes underscore a highly productive meeting and the strong collaboration between the Governance Board and Secretariat in steering HPH's strategic evolution

# 37th General Assembly Meeting, November 2025

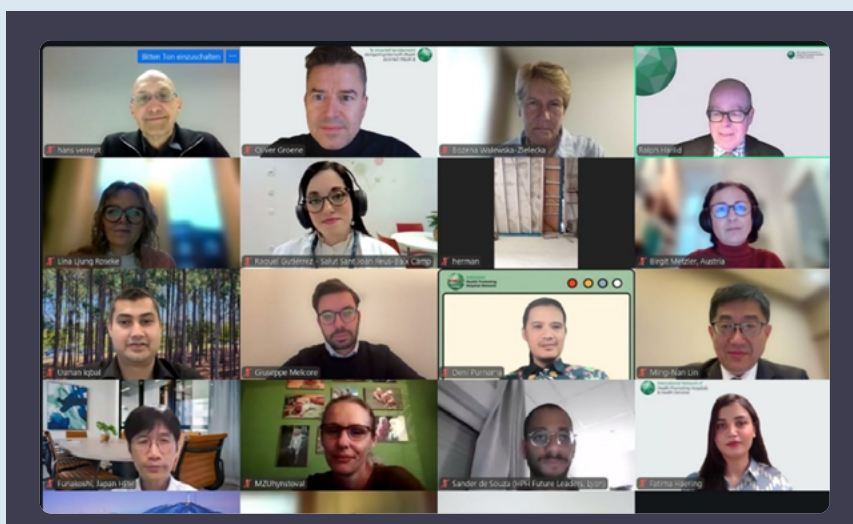
The 37th General Assembly confirmed the HPH Network’s continued strategic consolidation and strong member engagement, with formal approval of the agenda, previous GA minutes, and the audited financial statements, confirming sound financial management and a modest annual surplus.

Members were introduced to the draft HPH Strategy 2026–2030, developed through extensive preparatory work, SWOT analysis, and multi-level considerations (institutional, national/regional, and international). The draft sets clear priorities around growing engagement, strengthening implementation support, advancing equity and sustainability, and deepening partnerships, and was met with constructive feedback that will inform the next revision prior to formal adoption in 2026. In parallel, the General Assembly approved targeted constitutional updates to ensure governance arrangements remain fit for purpose, including extended renewal terms for future Board leaders and task forces, and clarified participation of Secretariats in the GA. Governance Board elections were facilitated transparently, with renewal of two current Board members and a follow-up voting process initiated for one vacant seat.

Substantive programmatic work was showcased through network, task force, Secretariat, and conference updates. The Japanese Network illustrated the role of community pharmacies a frontline health-promoting settings, demonstrating practical, community-based prevention

and patient empowerment. Task Forces on Migration, Equity and Diversity and Wellbeing of Healthcare Workers reported ongoing development of tools, surveys, and implementation guidance addressing inequities, burnout prevention, and workforce mental health—reinforcing people-centric and resilient health systems.

The International Secretariat announced the launch of the HPH Open Course in Q2 2026 and expansion of the policy brief series on priority topics such as climate change, workers’ health, children’s rights, and artificial intelligence.



Updates from the Conference Secretariat confirmed steady preparations for the 31st International HPH Conference in Malmö 2026, which will coincide with the 40th anniversary of the Ottawa Charter and focus on sustainable, equitable, and resilient healthcare systems. Collectively, the Assembly demonstrated a highly productive year marked by strengthened governance, expanding capacity-building, and tangible progress toward implementing the HPH mission across settings and regions.

# Research Publications

## Policy Briefs

HPH has successfully completed and publicly published three policy briefs, which are now available on the HPH website.

Links to the policy briefs: <https://www.hphnet.org/library/>

Other policy briefs on “Health promotion as a significant responsibility of hospitals and health services” and “What are the potential Contributions and risks of Artificial Intelligence for Health Promoting Hospitals and Health services” are under production. Further policy briefs on Mental health, HPH in LMICs, Cost-effectiveness and ROI of HPH interventions are being designed.



# Advocacy

## Health Promoting Built environments (HPBE) Webinar Series



Webinar Series on  
**Health-Promoting Built Environments (HPBE)**

First Webinar (E1) is about:  
**the Basics of Health Promotion  
in Healthcare Design**

26th February - 16:00 - 16.45 (GMT - UTC)

**Fatima Haering**  
MD, M.Sc  
**HPH Network &  
the HPH-standards**

**Elke Miedema**  
BBe Msc PhD  
**the HPH-standards  
& Built Environment**

**Peyton Fort**  
MHA, WELL AP, EDAC  
**the HPBE Taskforce &  
the webinar series.**

At the beginning of 2025, the Taskforce on Health Promoting Built Environments (HPBE) organized a webinar series aimed at strengthening knowledge and capacity in integrating health promotion principles into the design of healthcare and care facilities. The series provided foundational insights into the field, combining current research, best practices, and practical inspiration from industry experts.

The first session focused on the fundamentals of embedding health promotion in healthcare facility design. Fatima Haering, Coordinator of the HPH Network, contributed as a guest speaker, presenting a comprehensive overview of the work of HPH, its Standards,

and their alignment with the Health Promoting Built Environment approach. Elke Miedema introduced the strategic role of the built environment in advancing health outcomes.

The recording of the first session is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECQ6eYjE3n8>.

The webinar series comprises four sessions in total. Further information on the activities and vision of the Taskforce is available on the HPH website: [www.hphnet.org](http://www.hphnet.org), and on the Taskforce webpage:

<https://www.hphnet.org/tf-hph-hpbe/>

## Podcast with the with the Integrated Health Services Project (Kosovo)

Prof. Oliver Groene, PhD, CEO of the HPH Network and Chief Scientific Officer at OptiMedis AG, participated in an interview with the Integrated Health Services Project (Kosovo) for their ATC Podcast, where he discussed the evolving role of health systems in addressing chronic diseases, the importance of patient empowerment and wellbeing, and the need to move beyond purely biomedical models of care. Kosovo

had recently joined the HPH network. In that context, the conversation highlighted how health-promoting, integrated, and people-centred approaches can strengthen prevention, improve long-term outcomes, and support individuals in actively managing their health, while also reinforcing the central role of hospitals and health services in advancing sustainable, equitable care.

Check here full episode: [Health Promoting Hospitals - Full Episode](#)



# Financial Report 2024

The audit report 2024 was assessed and approved by the HPH treasurer Prof. Dr. Bożena Walewska-Zielecka and presented to the General Assembly during the 36th General Assembly Meeting in November 2025.

## Income

Total income for the year 2024 was €160.408.

The primary source of this income comes from HPH membership fees from National and Regional HPH networks and single members.

## Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year 2024 was €155.388.

The expenditure includes various costs such as Personnel costs (Coordination, Partnerships and education, Management, Accounting, Communications, Web and social media platforms and Assistance). Other costs include Tax Certificates, legal fees, travel costs and Platform hosting/ Media design.

All items were expected and within normal range. HPH Secretariat costs were fully in line with contract, more so, the HPH realized a surplus of €5,020.



# Conferences

## 31st International HPH Conference

The **31st International Conference** on HPH will take place on 20–22 May 2026 at Slagthuset in Malmö, Sweden, hosted by Region Skåne, under the overarching theme “*Creating Sustainable Healthcare Systems to Promote Health, Equity and Resilience in Times of Global Crises.*”

The conference comes at a particularly timely moment, as 2026 marks the 40th anniversary of the WHO Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion, providing a powerful opportunity to reflect on four decades of progress while shaping the next generation of health-promoting and people-centred healthcare systems. Malmö, an internationally recognised

hub for innovation, sustainability, and social inclusion, offers an ideal setting for this global exchange of ideas, evidence, and practice.

<https://www.hphconferences.org/malmo2026/info/registration>

The scientific programme will address five interlinked priority areas: resilient and sustainable healthcare systems and 40 years of health promotion; health equity across the life course; anxiety, mental health and stress-related disorders; digital innovation and the ethical use of technology; and partnerships for sustainable, equitable and resilient healthcare systems.



International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals & Health Services

REGION SKÅNE

**31<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services**

**Creating Sustainable Healthcare Systems to Promote Equity and Resilience in Times of Global Crisis**

May 20-22, 2026  
Malmö, Sweden



[hphconferences.org/malmo2026](https://www.hphconferences.org/malmo2026)

**Last day to register:  
April 30, 2026**

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Following plenary sessions will be a part of the Malmö conference:

**Plenary 1:**

Advancing Resilient and Sustainable Healthcare Systems: 40 Years of Health Promotion

**Presentations:**

40 years of Ottawa Charta on Health Promotion: Reorienting health systems for equity and empowerment - A vision still ahead of its time? (working title).  
*Speaker: Ilona Kickbusch*

Leading transformation of complex systems  
*Speaker: John Holmberg*

**Plenary 2:**

Promoting Health Equity Across the Life Course

**Presentations:**

Health equity through the life course: The role of health systems (working title).  
*Speaker: Michael Marmot*

Social prescribing for healthy ageing for older persons. *Speaker: Katsunori Kondo*

**Plenary 3:**

Anxiety for the Future, Mental Health and Stress Related Disorders: From Concern to Action

**Presentations:**

The role of design for inclusion and participation (working title). *Speaker: Andrea Möhn*

Societal pressures and mental health – living with uncertainties in a fragmented world (working title). *Speaker: Dr Ledia Lazëri*

**Plenary 4:**

Digital Innovation and Ethical Use of Technology and their Significance for Health Promotion

**Presentations:**

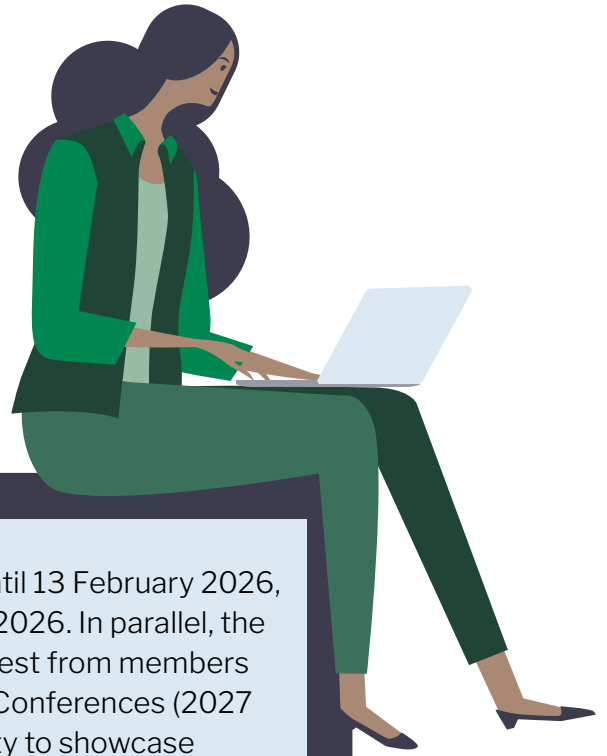
Digital health literacy in times of misinformation and disinformation (working title). *Speaker: Robert Griebler*

**Plenary 5:**

The Importance of Partnerships for Sustainable, Equitable and Resilient Healthcare Systems – Challenges and Opportunities

(Title and Speaker TBC)

Through plenary sessions, parallel sessions, mini-oral presentations, and e-poster discussions, the conference will bring together policymakers, healthcare leaders, researchers, clinicians, and health promotion practitioners to share cutting-edge research, implementation experiences, and policy innovations.



**Early bird registration** will be available until 13 February 2026, with final registration closing on 30 April 2026. In parallel, the HPH Network invites expressions of interest from members wishing to host future International HPH Conferences (2027 and beyond), offering a unique opportunity to showcase national and regional achievements, strengthen partnerships, and elevate visibility in global health promotion. Interested in hosting a future International HPH Conference?

Contact us at: [conference-secretariat@hphconferences.org](mailto:conference-secretariat@hphconferences.org)

# Stay Connected

We warmly invite all participants to stay informed about the event by visiting the HPH website and the conference website, where the latest updates, news, and practical information will be shared.

We look forward to your active participation in this important gathering dedicated to advancing health promotion within hospitals and healthcare settings. Your engagement and contributions are essential to the success of our collective efforts and to strengthening the HPH community worldwide.

## Stay connected for updates and resources:

**Website:**



**LinkedIn:**

**Conference Website:**





# International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals & Health Services

This report was written by Fatima Haering and Prof. Dr. Oliver Groene of the International Secretariat on behalf of the International HPH Network.

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