

European HOPE Exchange Programme for Hospital Professionals and Host Hospitals 2027: Application deadline 31 October 2026

The Hospital and Healthcare Federation (HOPE) runs an annual exchange programme for senior hospital staff. The German Hospital Federation (DKG) is a member of HOPE and is, among other responsibilities, responsible for the national coordination of the exchange programme for Germany. The programme offers hospitals the opportunity to host guests from abroad (e.g. UK) with the aim to benefit from their experience within a European context. Furthermore, hospitals can send their own staff to a European country (e.g. UK) for a four-week placement as part of professional development. This form of staff development not only fosters knowledge transfer across Europe, but also helps further develop the staff's leadership skills.

The HOPE exchange programme will take place next year from May 3 to 30, 2027. The AGORA, the concluding meeting at the end of the programme, will be held in Rome from May 28 to 30, 2027. Next year, both the exchange and the concluding event will be held under the theme "Digital transformation in healthcare."

Who can apply?

Hospital staff in leading positions with at least three years of professional experience and the necessary language skills for the host country (English proficiency is a minimum requirement) are eligible to apply. The exchange programme is aimed at managers and aspiring leaders from all professional areas in the healthcare system. Through an introductory event organized in the host country by national HOPE coordinators, participants have the opportunity to gain comprehensive information about the respective healthcare system and to meet fellow participants. Experiences gained during the stay in the host country are presented at the final meeting, known as AGORA. Following their stay, participants compile a report documenting their experiences in the host country. Successful completion of the exchange programme is confirmed by a HOPE certificate.

Interested hospitals in Germany (and UK) may also apply to serve as host institutions, offering foreign participants the opportunity to undertake a professional placement at their facility. Hospitals wishing to participate in the exchange must provide free accommodation and low-cost meals. Once matched, participants work with the host hospital to develop an individualized internship programme; this may cover areas such as administration and supply management, public relations, human resources, controlling and planning, quality assurance, and more. Participants are expected not only to work within their specific professional field but also to gain insight into the broadest possible range of management aspects. A local coordinator at the host hospital oversees the planning of the internship, which should ideally include a social programme. The application deadline for hospitals for the 2027 exchange programme is also October 31, 2026.

Application

Information regarding the 2027 exchange programme is available on the HOPE website (www.hope.be) at <https://hope.be/programme-2027/>. Here, you will find details on the programme schedule, contact information of national coordinators, milestones for the organisational process and application, as well as reports from previous years. All relevant forms — which must be completed and submitted by the specified deadlines — can be downloaded via this button: **Documents Exchange programme 2027**. Interested individuals and host hospitals in Germany may submit their applications to the DKG (German Hospital Federation), Division IV, Wegelystraße 3, 10623 Berlin. Dr. Doris Voit, the national coordinator for Germany at the DKG headquarters, is available to answer questions about the exchange programme via email at d.voit@dkgev.de.

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