



International Network of  
Health Promoting Hospitals  
& Health Services

# International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services



November 2021

# Health Promoting Hospitals & Health Services

## About the International HPH Network

The International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services (HPH) supports members to systematically incorporate health promotion concepts, values, frameworks and evidence into the governance, management, structure, culture and operations of hospitals and health services. The overall aim of this work is to ensure hospitals and health services optimize their contribution to health and equity outcomes of patients, staff, communities, populations, and environmental sustainability.



## History

The network was initiated by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1988 as a settings approach for the reorientation of health services. We promote and disseminate internationally-acknowledged principles, recommendations, and standards for health-oriented hospitals and health services defined in the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion (1986), Budapest Declaration on Health Promoting Hospitals (1991), Vienna Recommendations on Health Promoting Hospitals (1997), Bangkok Charter for Health Promotion (2006), and the 2020 Standards for Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services (2020).





## Vision

The vision of the International HPH Network is that 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.

## Mission

The mission of the International HPH Network is to work as a global leader, advocate, innovator, researcher and trusted partner to accelerate the reorientation of health systems and services towards improving health, wellbeing and health equity outcomes for patients and those who care for them, staff, and populations served, and to support sustainable societies.

## Values and principles

The values and principles on which the International HPH Network was founded remain relevant. They form the basis of this set of values and principles that now underpin the Network's priorities and actions.

- › Oriented to health, wellbeing and health equity outcomes
- › Committed to quality improvement
- › People-centered
- › Empowering
- › Proactive and innovative
- › Inclusive and collaborative
- › Respectful of all individuals and population groups
- › Honest, ethical and fair
- › Evidence-based
- › Transparent and accountable
- › Responsive to changing population health needs and models for health care
- › Responsive to psychological, social, behavioral, cultural, political, economic and environmental determinants of health.

# Why health promoting hospitals and health services?

Health promotion in health care is often misunderstood. While clinical interventions address health promotion by focusing on disease reduction and better perceived health status, the HPH Network aims at a broader understanding.

## The HPH conceptual model

The HPH conceptual model is based on theory and empirical evidence. It has been maturing since the first model “health and hospital” project (Vienna, 1989-1996), a European pilot hospital project (1993-1996), and the development of national/regional HPH networks (ongoing since 1995). These efforts have tested the feasibility of incorporating the vision, concepts, values, and fundamental strategies of health promotion into the governance, structure, and culture of hospitals and health services.



# The settings approach to health promotion

The settings approach considers and utilizes the influence of the setting in which people live, learn, work, and use different services. It recognizes that the health issues of a population group are the consequence of the relationship between the social environment and personal factors associated with the group.

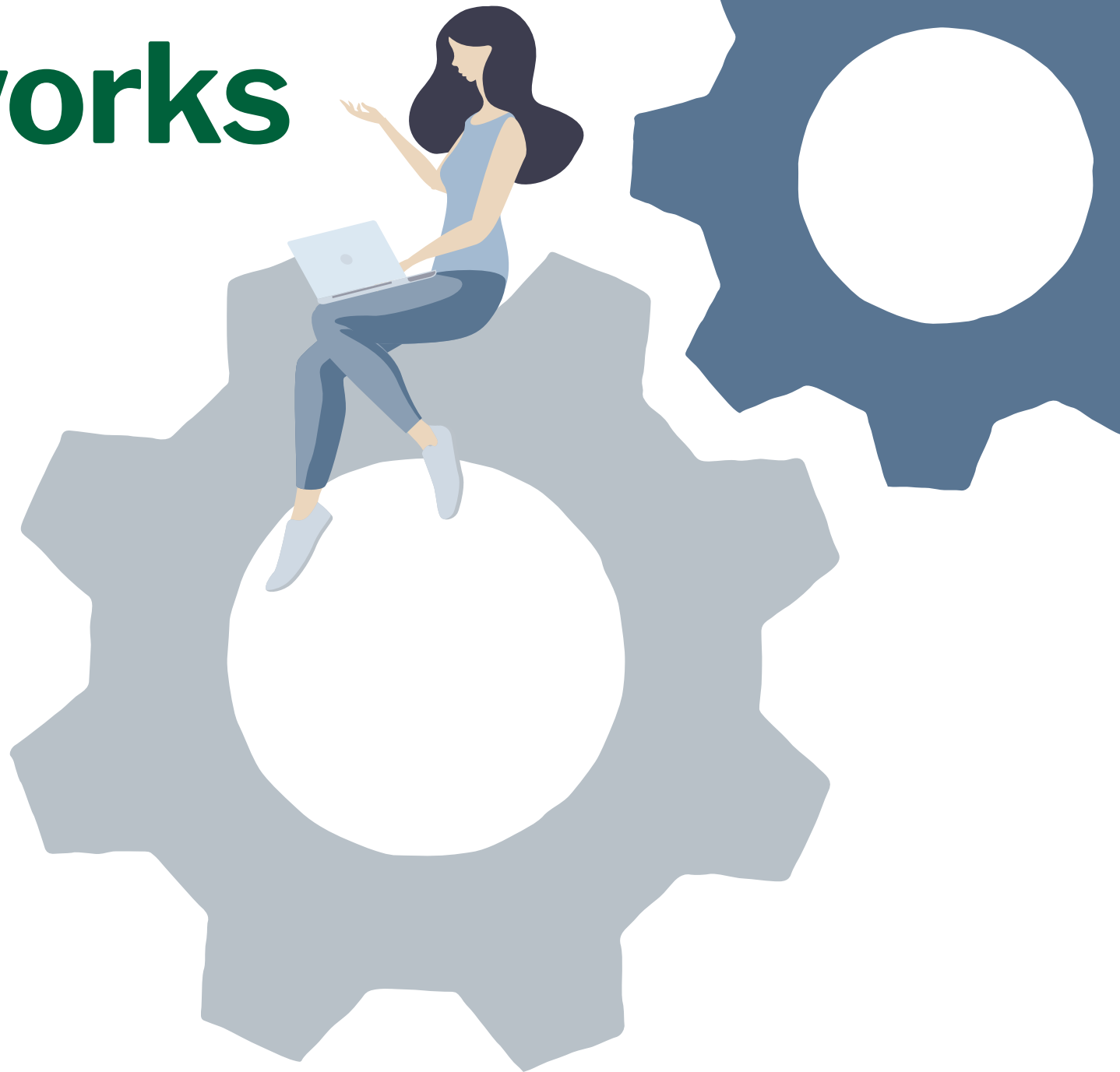


# How it works

For a hospital or health service to realize the full potential of the HPH approach, a comprehensive, continuous approach can be taken that utilizes organizational development and quality management systems.

## Starting points in implementing the HPH concept in a hospital or health service can include:

- › setting up a specific HPH management structure
- › informing and involving clinicians and staff in health promotion communication
- › developing annual action plans, including specific projects for implementation and development of issue- or population-specific policies
- › introducing procedures to measure and monitor health outcomes, health impact and health gains for patients, staff, and community populations over time



# The 2020 Standards for Health Promoting Hospitals & Health Services

The 2020 Standards for Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services reflect various novel areas of policy, practice, and evidence in order to support a broader implementation of the HPH vision. They build upon years of work within the HPH Network, as well as the developmental work for new standards in areas such as health literate organizations, standards for specific target groups such as the elderly, and thematic areas such as children and adolescent rights, environmental sustainability, and the societal impact of health care.



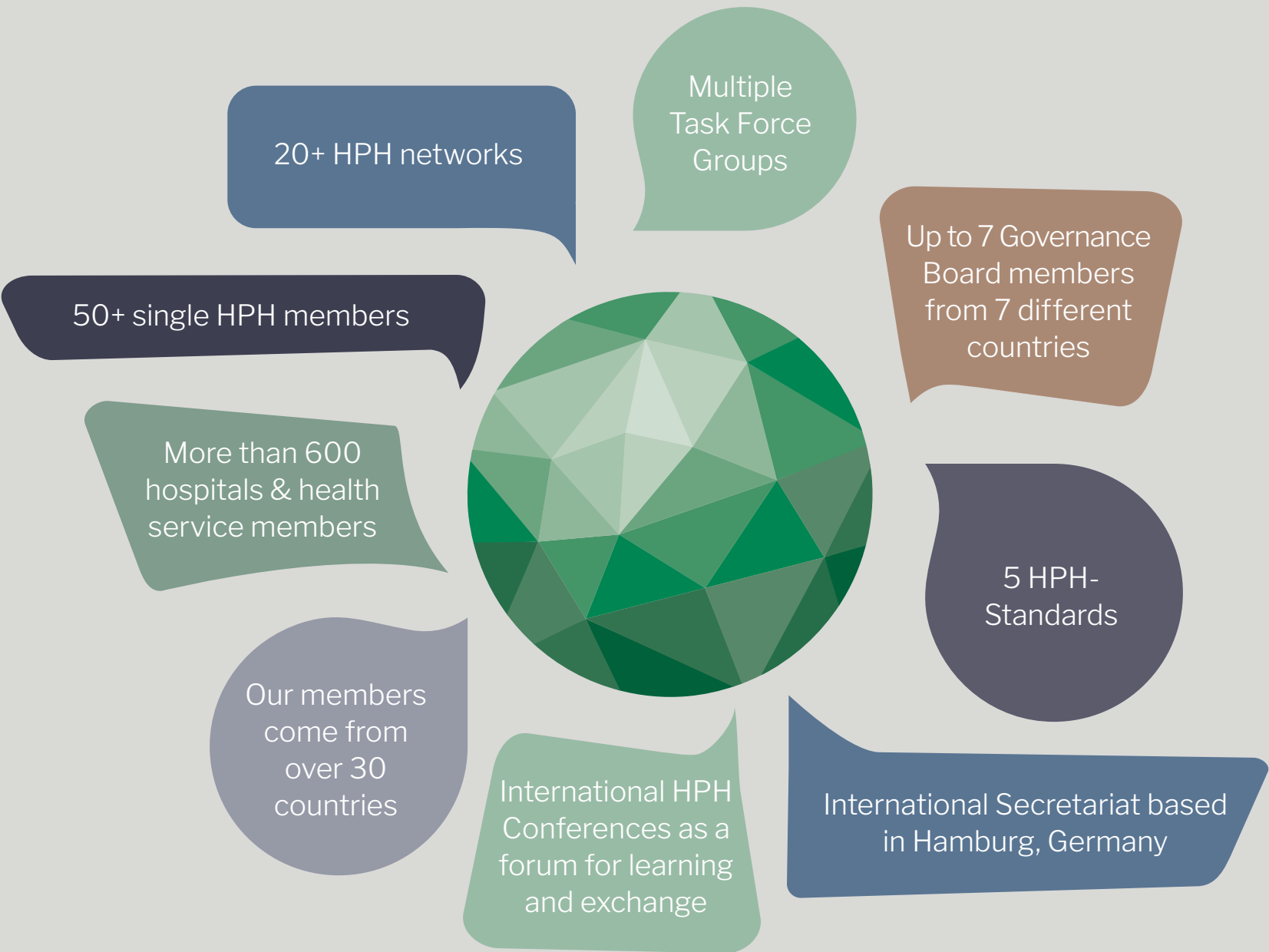




## Standards can be used by managers and health professionals to:

- › assess health promotion activities in hospitals,
- › improve the capacity of health care organizations in improving health promotion activities,
- › refocus the organization's strategy to better address overarching health system challenges,
- › involve all professionals and the patient in improving the quality of care,
- › improve the coordination of care with other healthcare providers,
- › improve the health and safety of patients, family, caregivers, and the community.

# At a glance



# Become a member of the International HPH Network

## Who can become a member?

We welcome any hospital, health service, or organization with an interest in health promotion to apply to join the International HPH Network and collaborate with a community of around 600 health care institutions world-wide. Our network works to support all health care organizations in their efforts to be health-oriented and to ensure that prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation be viewed from a health promotion perspective.

## HPH members around the world

Our network includes 20 HPH Networks and 50 single HPH members world-wide who collaborate to reorient healthcare towards the promotion of health. In total, over 600 hospitals and health service members from over 30 countries have joined our community.



# Benefits of membership



**Patient and patient organizations** will benefit from HPH because we focus on the perceived needs of patients and relatives, creating better chances for self-determination and self-care. These aim to achieve a better quality of service and quality of care, while improving the sustainability of health outcomes.

**Clinical staff** will benefit from HPH through its focus on health outcomes, health-related quality of life, patient satisfaction and health literacy, and by including health promotion principles such as empowerment and co-production into their professional standards. At the same time, all hospital staff will benefit from workplace health promotion strategies to reduce back pain, stress, hazardous exposure to substances, and injuries.







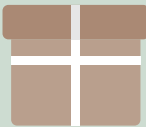
Health orientation and promotion is important for **hospital owners and management**. These principles serve to create strategies and processes for improving the health gain of services, thereby improving effectiveness and efficiency and providing more value for money. The reputation of health care institutions, both as service providers and workplaces, can be improved, repositioning health organizations in a competitive health market.

# How to join



There are two levels of membership: networks (corporate members), and hospitals and health services (individual members). In addition, we include affiliated members. These members are not eligible for normal hospital or health service membership, but are organizations or institutions that support HPH and work with health promotion.

## Individual Membership

- Step 1** Fill out and sign the Letter of Intent (LOI) 
- Step 2** Check to see if there is an existing HPH network in your country or region. 
- Step 3** If a network exists, send the LOI to the network coordinator, who will forward it to the International HPH Secretariat. 
- Step 4** If no network exists in your country or region, send the LOI directly to the International HPH Secretariat. 
- Step 5** After approval by the HPH Governance Board and payment of membership dues, you will receive a welcome package. 

## Corporate Membership

If you have three or more hospitals or health services in your region or country you are eligible for corporate membership and can become a HPH Network of Hospitals and Health Services.

HPH Networks serve as coordinating institutions for health promoting hospitals and health services in the specific country or region and act as the focal point between the individual members and the International HPH Secretariat.

To become a HPH network, fill out the HPH Network Agreement form. By signing the form you agree to accept the obligations of corporate membership.



# Contact us

## The International HPH Secretariat is based out of the office of OptiMedis

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