Call for Volunteers – IFHE-EU Sustainability Working Group

Dear colleagues,

IFHE-EU is inviting its European member associations to nominate professionals interested in joining the **IFHE-EU Sustainability Working Group** – Hospital Engineering.

The Working Group has developed a 15–18-month Strategic Road Map aimed at promoting environmental, energy, economic and social sustainability across European healthcare systems and hospital infrastructures.

Its ambition is to establish IFHE-EU as a European reference point for sustainability in hospital engineering, bringing together hospital engineers, facility managers, healthcare organisations, universities, policymakers and industry representatives.

The Working Group will focus particularly on:

- energy efficiency and HVAC systems in hospitals;
- low-carbon hospitals, decarbonisation and climate neutrality;
- sustainable management of technical and biomedical systems;
- circular economy, healthcare waste and sustainable construction materials;
- digitalisation, smart hospitals and energy monitoring;
- infrastructure resilience, emergency preparedness and climate adaptation;
- life-cycle assessment, life-cycle costing and evidence-based decision-making;
- European policies, technical standards and professional capacity building.

Planned activities

Over the course of the Road Map, participants will contribute to:

- mapping European initiatives, stakeholders and best practices;
- identifying priority needs through surveys and thematic workshops;
- developing technical guidelines and practical tools for sustainable hospitals;
- defining hospital energy and environmental audit models;
- supporting pilot projects in hospitals and healthcare networks;
- organising webinars, short courses and other training activities;
- preparing policy and technical briefs, reports and a possible IFHE-EU white paper;
- disseminating results at IFHE-EU events and at the IFHE-EU Congress IHS 2027;
- contributing, where appropriate, to European standards, technical regulations, policies and funding programmes.

The Working Group will operate through a core team of approximately 7–12 members, supported by additional contributors according to the different thematic areas. Online meetings are expected to take place approximately once a month. Decisions will be consensus-based, and progress will be regularly reported to the IFHE-EU Executive Committee.

We are therefore looking for motivated professionals who are willing to contribute actively by sharing their experience, participating in meetings and workshops, supporting the preparation of technical outputs, and helping to identify good practices and pilot initiatives in their own countries.

Each IFHE-EU member association is kindly invited to circulate this call among its members and to nominate suitable candidates.

Expressions of interest should include:

- name and country;
- national association;
- organisation and professional role;
- main areas of expertise;
- preferred thematic area or activity;
- a brief statement of motivation.

Please send nominations and expressions of interest by **December 20th, 2026** to info@siais.it; pedrini.daniela@aou.mo.it.

The transition towards safer, more resilient, low-carbon and future-ready healthcare facilities requires strong European cooperation. We hope that professionals from across our member associations will join us and contribute their knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to this important initiative.

Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

Kind regards,
Daniela Pedrini
On behalf of IFHE-EU
Sustainability Working Group

IFHE-EU – Sustainability Working Group

Strategic Road Map (15–18 months)

Governance and Working Modalities

- WG Chair / Co-Chair
- Core team (7-12 members) + others member
- online meetings (every month)
- Consensus-based decision making
- Reporting to the IFHE-EU EXCO

1. Context and Purpose

The IFHE-EU Sustainability Working Group – Hospital Engineering area aims to promote environmental, energy, economic and social sustainability within healthcare systems and hospital infrastructures, with particular attention to the life cycle of buildings, safety, resilience, and quality of services for patients and healthcare professionals.

The Working Group acts as a European platform for dialogue and collaboration among hospital engineers, policymakers, universities and industry, fostering the integration of technological innovation, sustainable management, and healthcare policies.

Guiding Principles

- Evidence-based approach and life-cycle thinking
- Patient safety and operational continuity
- Reduction of the environmental impact of healthcare facilities
- Alignment with UN SDGs, the European Green Deal, and EU health policies
- Scalability and replicability across European healthcare systems

2. Strategic Objectives (2026–2027)

1. **Technical leadership**
   Position IFHE-EU as a European reference for sustainability applied to hospital engineering.
2. **Decarbonisation**
   Support the reduction of emissions and energy consumption in healthcare facilities.

3. **Infrastructure innovation**
   Promote sustainable technological and digital solutions for hospitals and healthcare networks.
4. **Capacity building**
   Strengthen the skills of hospital engineers and facility managers.
5. **Policy & standards**
   Contribute to the development of guidelines, recommendations and technical standards at European level.

3. Road Map Structure

Phase 1 – Start-up and Alignment (Months 1–2)

Objectives

- Define the scope, priorities and governance of the Working Group
- Map existing initiatives and key stakeholders

Key actions

- Online kick-off meeting
- Definition of WG mission and scope
- Mapping of IFHE / IFHE-EU best practices
- Identification of strategic partners

Deliverables

- WG mandate document
- Stakeholder map
- Operational work plan

Phase 2 – Analysis (Months 3–5)

Objectives

- Identify priority sustainability topics
- Co-design concrete and applicable outputs

Thematic areas

- Energy efficiency and HVAC systems in hospitals
- Low-carbon hospitals and climate neutrality

- Sustainable management of technical and biomedical systems
- Circular economy, healthcare waste and construction materials
- Digitalisation, smart hospitals and energy monitoring
- Infrastructure resilience, emergencies and climate adaptation

Key actions

- Internal IFHE-EU survey
- Online thematic workshops

Deliverables

- Needs analysis report
- Shared thematic framework

Phase 3 – Development and Piloting (Months 6–11)

Objectives

- Translate analysis into applicable technical tools
- Test sustainable solutions in real hospital settings

Key actions

- Development of technical guidelines for sustainable hospitals
- Hospital energy and environmental audit models
- Pilot projects in hospitals or healthcare networks within the EU
- Technical training (webinars, short courses) for hospital engineers

Deliverables

- IFHE-EU guidelines on sustainability in hospital engineering
- Technical and operational toolkit
- Pilot project reports

Phase 4 – Dissemination and Advocacy (Months 12–15)

Objectives

- Disseminate results and best practices
- Contribute to the European dialogue on healthcare and sustainability

Key actions

- IFHE-EU conference or dedicated session on *Hospital Sustainability*
- Policy brief on sustainable healthcare infrastructure
- Contributions to standards, technical regulations and EU calls

Deliverables

- Policy and technical brief
- Conference proceedings / white paper
- Dissemination plan

Phase 5 – IFHE-EU Congress IHS 2027

Objectives

- Assess results and impact
- Define the next phase of the Working Group

Key actions

- KPI evaluation
- Lessons learned analysis
- Update of the 2027–2029 Road Map

Deliverables

- Impact report
- Strategic recommendations

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

- Hospitals involved in pilot projects
- Technical guidelines and toolkits published
- Estimated reductions in energy consumption and emissions
- Professionals trained (engineers, technicians, facility managers)
- Engagement in EU policies, standards or programmes

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