EHMA 2024

Shaping and managing innovative health ecosystems

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ABSTRACT BOOK

EHMA
European Health Management Association

Institutul Național de Management
al Serviciilor de Sănătate

GUVERNUL
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The European Health Management Association

The European Health Management Association (EHMA) is a not-for-profit membership organisation. Active since 1982, our vision is excellent health management for a healthy Europe.

We support the spread of knowledge on effective health management. Our actions focus on health management capacity and capabilities and aim to support the successful implementation of health policy and practice. We are a recognised and respected amplifier of best practices in the evolution of health management, with a European and global reach. Through our efforts, we make a difference across Europe to improve health for all citizens.

We are open to all those committed to improving health and healthcare. We play a crucial role in engaging with the full European health management ecosystem. We are a highly accessible and well-established place where people can debate and engage in issues that affect them, where they feel they can advocate for change, and find solutions. Through our members and networks, we reach local, regional, national, and international levels.

About the EHMA Conference

The EHMA Conference is Europe's preeminent conference on health management. Each year it gathers the full healthcare ecosystem, including health managers and leaders, healthcare professionals, researchers, academics, industry representatives, and decision-makers from Europe, and beyond.

The EHMA Conference provides a platform to discuss the latest health management research, tools and evidence from renowned researchers, academics and professionals. It is concerned on translating research into practice. It creates opportunities for dialogue and exchange on solutions to ensure the sustainability and resilience of health systems.

The European Health Management Conference 2024

EHMA 2024 is the 29th edition of our Annual Conference. This year's conference theme 'Shaping and managing innovative health ecosystems' encompasses the entire spectrum of health megatrends. From the digital transformation of healthcare systems and services, to the ever-growing importance of sustainability, and the evolving skill sets required by the healthcare workforce, we aim to explore how the health sector is adapting to these changes.

We emphasise an ecosystem approach, promoting collaboration among stakeholders. Our aim is to facilitate dialogue on how different health care actors can work together and leverage each other's strengths to drive innovation and address pressing challenges.

Acknowledgements

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Abstract Reviewers

Contents

The creation of a cost indicator and the implementation of green energy policies in Italian healthcare: a case study

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In recent years in Italy, we have assisted a marked acceleration of energy policies in the public sector, including healthcare. The debate surrounding energy efficiency policies in healthcare companies has been extensive, primarily due to the challenges in curbing energy consumption (Coccagna et al., 2017; Dion & Evans, 2023; McGain & Naylor, 2014). The need to move towards an environmentally and economically sustainable system has led to the implementation of new policies to reduce excessive consumption, self-produce energy, and use alternative sources to fossil fuels (García-Sanz-Calcedo et al., 2018; Hussain Khahro et al., 2021). To measure and evaluate the efficiency and savings derived from these actions through the years, it is necessary to create new energy performance measurement indicators.

The Region of Tuscany has developed an indicator for measuring energy costs in local health authorities. This indicator at the numerator considers the summer and winter temperature and the expenditure for the supply of electric and thermal energy, adjusted for the coefficients of the electric and thermal energy consumed and the price revision coefficients of power and fuels, and provides for the volume of the heated gross in the denominator.

The indicator was used experimentally as a case study in the hospitals of the South East local health authority in the years 2021 and 2022 and showed a reduction in the index in all facilities involved. Semi-structured interviews were also administered to top management and energy managers to verify which strategies have been adopted to reduce consumption and the role of the indicator in measuring and implementing these strategies.

These actions also involve changing staff behaviour through awareness-raising with specific campaigns, such as 'Mi illumino di meno' (I light up less)and the inclusion of energy efficiency actions in the company's code of conduct. The implemented actions also include producing energy from renewable sources, such as photovoltaic and cogeneration systems, and replacing traditional lighting fixtures. These good practices, combined with the infrastructural changes, have reduced electricity consumption in 2022 by 19 percent compared to 2021, with a quantifiable cost saving of approximately EUR 4 million, bringing self-production of the same to 25 percent of the total. These values, for the public sector, are undoubted of particular relevance, especially intending to reduce operating costs. In conclusion, this study shows that the implementation of energy-efficient practices in healthcare can lead to several benefits, including cost savings and a reduced carbon footprint.

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