

# European Children's Hospitals Organisation



*Working together  
to face global  
challenges  
in children's  
healthcare*

Offering children and their families the best possible care is a priority of all healthcare systems, and children's hospitals play an important role in this process. Children's hospitals across Europe share a common mission and face similar challenges in delivering tertiary level care, but their needs and contributions can get overlooked in a system primarily focused on adults. By joining forces they can share data and best practice to improve patient outcomes, support development of new research collaborations and enhance staff training.

**ECHO** (European Children's Hospitals Organisation) members include many of the leading academic hospitals in Europe that take care of some of the most complex patients locally and around the world. Together, they are well placed to create solutions to some of healthcare's greatest challenges.

To achieve its goals, **ECHO** works with hospital administrators and staff, public health policymakers, healthcare organisations and patient associations.

There are more than **100 million children in Europe, with 16% of the population under 15 years old.**

## ECHO's vision

- To serve as an "echo" of **children's rights**
- To promote a **holistic** approach to caring for children
- To aspire to care for all **professionals** that work with us
- To seek excellence through **research, innovation and training**
- To act as a testimonial of friendship among people from **different countries**



# Quality, Outcomes & Value

## Sharing best practice

Comparing outcomes and sharing best practice can improve care, decrease variability of clinical results, ensure safety and identify most efficient care delivery models.

By leveraging the expertise and experience of its members, **ECHO** aims to identify sustainable approaches to the care of children with complex, chronic and rare illnesses.

**ECHO** will help children's hospitals improve the value of the service they offer by focusing on measuring, benchmarking and improving quality, while also examining the processes and resources that go into providing care.

# Research & Innovation

## Fostering research collaboration

**ECHO** promotes research collaborations and innovation amongst our members to improve all areas of patient care and hospital management.

Recognising that each member has particular research strengths,—**ECHO**'s goal is to identify synergies between ongoing initiatives and help identify projects that can generate meaningful data across all of our members.

Research and innovation isn't limited to implementing new technologies or evaluating new medicines. **ECHO** also supports the sharing and scaling of innovation in areas such as service delivery, workflow redesign or the changing roles of health professionals—all the while keeping the patient at the centre.



# Policy & Advocacy

**A voice for children's hospitals and the patients they serve**

**ECHO** advocates for the adoption of policies and practices and the dedication of resources to promote child health and the role of children's hospitals. It provides a voice for children's hospitals and their patients, ensuring the most vulnerable amongst us have equal access to the highest level of care.

Advocacy doesn't stop with writing a new policy—if a policy isn't implemented by managers and clinicians then it doesn't help patients or their families. This is why **ECHO** also advocates for and supports hospitals in the implementation of policies and practices identified as being most important to helping improve the care and experience of patients.

# Training & Workforce Development

**Training for excellence**

Clinical practice is constantly evolving, including how health care providers are trained. From learning to work in interdisciplinary teams to training subspecialists, there is a need for quality paediatric clinical training. Children's hospitals play an important role in this process. They train not only paediatric specialists but also general paediatricians and other health professionals who will work in the community or general hospitals.

**ECHO** helps promote the identification and sharing of best practice to improve the training of all professionals who care for children. By taking advantage of and learning from each member's strengths, **ECHO** supports members in improving their global continuous clinical education and subspecialty training.





# The future starts with healthy children and families

**An alliance  
to enhance  
patient care**

In consultation with patients and their families, **ECHO** leverages the expertise of researchers, clinicians and managers to support the development and implementation of evidence-based policies in children's hospitals throughout Europe.

By creating a unique environment to network with hospitals addressing similar issues, **ECHO** aims to improve the quality, sustainability and patient experience of services offered by children's hospitals.



We are building  
a network  
of children's  
hospitals across  
Europe to  
help member  
organisations  
improve the value  
and quality of the  
care provided to  
children and their  
families.



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*innovation*

*excellence*

*network*

*family*

*equality*

*children*

*collaboration*