



## Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for the Hospital and Healthcare Sector: Main activities and outcomes in 2018

In 2018 the Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for the Hospital and Healthcare Sector (SSDC HS) dealt with a wide range of topics in the framework of the EPSU-HOSPEEM Joint Work Programme and carried out project-related activities that are presented below.

In April 2018, on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their [Code of Conduct on Ethical Cross-Border Recruitment and Retention](#), jointly adopted in April 2008, [HOSPEEM](#) and [EPSU](#) renewed their commitment to promote, guarantee and defend decent recruitment and working conditions for migrant workers from the EU and from outside the EU, in hospitals and healthcare facilities across Europe. In December 2018, HOSPEEM and EPSU presented the Code of Conduct, its implementation on national level and its use by national social partners in a webinar entitled "**Ethical recruitment of health professionals where do we stand in 2018?**" which was organised by the "Support for the health workforce planning and forecasting expert network" (SEPEN).

With the financial support of the European Commission, a joint [EPSU-HOSPEEM](#) project aiming at **Promoting effective recruitment and retention policies for health workers in the EU by ensuring access to CPD and healthy and safe workplaces supportive of patient safety and quality care** ran between January 2017 and December 2018. In 2018, HOSPEEM-EPSU focused on the follow-up to results and recommendations of the [HOSPEEM-EPSU](#) joint project (2014-2016) in the field of occupational safety and health (OSH). In the project framework, a social partners' conference on OSH titled **A sound mind in a sound body – taking care of those who are taking care of us** took place on 23 and 24 May in Vilnius (co-organised by [LSADPS](#)). The Social Partners were honoured by the presence of Dr Vytenis Andriukaitis, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety. It brought together more than 100 participants from 19 EU Member States and 4 non-EU countries. A **conference report** and **videos** with colleagues from national members are available on the [EPSU](#) and [HOSPEEM](#) websites, along with other relevant documents.

In December 2018 HOSPEEM and EPSU jointly organised a **dissemination workshop** that took place at the European Parliament in Brussels 2018 and was hosted MEP Jana Žitňanská (ECR, Slovakia) and co-hosted by MEP Brando Benifei (S&D, Italy). The main outcomes of the two joint projects on continuing professional development and lifelong learning as well as occupational safety and health were presented. Participants discussed the way forward to ensure healthy and safe workplaces supportive of patient safety and quality of care while also ensuring efficient provision of services. The workshop was enriched by national social partners' interventions and gathered approximately 30 participants from the employment and health sector. The presentations from the workshop and media toolkit to foster the dissemination of projects' results are available on the [EPSU](#) and [HOSPEEM](#) websites.

HOSPEEM and EPSU agreed on a **report** summarising the insights from a joint [online survey to follow up on the transposition, the use and the effects of the Directive 2010/32/EU on the prevention from sharps injuries](#) in the hospital and healthcare sector. It builds on 30 replies from HOSPEEM members and EPSU affiliates from 20 countries. The Secretariats have started an exchange with DG EMPL to explore possible activities to address still existing problems as highlighted in the report. The enquiry and the elaboration of the report that also contains recommendations to the national and EU-level social partners, to European institutions (in particular the European Commission and EU-OSHA) and to EU MS was the second follow-up activity by HOSPEEM and EPSU after a project in 2012 and 2013 (cf. Final Report in [EN](#), [FR](#), [DE](#), [ES](#) and [PL](#)).



## HOSPEEM and EPSU

### Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for the Hospital and Healthcare Sector

**HOSPEEM** is the [European Hospital and Healthcare Employers' Association](#). The association represents at European level national employers' associations operating in the hospital and healthcare sector, in order to coordinate their views and actions with regard to a sector and a market in constant evolution. HOSPEEM was formed in 2005 in order to represent the interests of European Hospital and Healthcare Employers on workforce and industrial relations issues. HOSPEEM has members across the European Union both in the state or regionally controlled hospital sector and in the private health sector. HOSPEEM members are health employers' organisations with the powers to negotiate on pay and on terms and conditions of service with their respective Trade Union partners. HOSPEEM is also a member of the European Centre of Employers and Enterprises providing Public services (CEEP).

**EPSU** is the [European Federation of Public Service Unions](#). It is the second-largest federation of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and comprises about 8 million public service workers from over 260 trade unions. EPSU organises workers in the energy, water and waste sectors, health and social services and local and national administration, in all European countries including in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood. EPSU is involved in five sectoral social dialogue committees, including for the hospital sector (<http://www.epsu.org/r/20>). EPSU is the recognised regional organisation of Public Services International (PSI). EPSU represents 3.5 million health and social services workers across Europe (ranging from social worker to doctor to hospital cleaner to the medical secretary to nurse) and is engaged in a wide range of issues on their behalf. EPSU is involved in legislative initiatives at EU-level, monitors and aims at influencing EU policies and runs projects in health and social care.

**HOSPEEM** and **EPSU** participate in the European Social Dialogue as the recognised European Social Partners in the Hospital and Health Care Sector. The Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for the Hospital and Healthcare Sector was set up in September 2006. HOSPEEM and EPSU agree on joint work programmes, stretching upon periods of two to three years; the current work programme covers the period 2017-2019 (see [EPSU](#) and [HOSPEEM](#) websites). A range of joint documents (declarations, code of conduct, framework of actions, framework agreements) have been adopted and multiple projects and activities have been successfully completed ever since.

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