



# HCWH Europe

2003-2013 REVIEW

# 10 Years Special Edition

**Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) is an international coalition working to implement ecologically sound and healthy alternatives to healthcare practices that pollute the environment and contribute to disease.**

Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe – Special Edition: 2003-2013

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HCWH EUROPE!

Is it really 10 years since Health Care Without Harm established an office in Europe? I still remember the first time I learned about HCWH and the proposal to start a European branch sometime in 1999 or 2000. I was just one representative of several international organisations meeting in Geneva at the very last preparatory meeting before the Stockholm Convention. It was my first time at such an international conference.

The HCWH offer was proposed over a dinner gathering and it sounded like a fairytale: “We have been offered money from a foundation to carry on work on a global scale. So we want to set up new branches of HCWH on every continent. You just propose a project, we provide the money!”

These were thrilling times for Europe: the Iron Curtain had broken down only 10 years prior to then and everything seemed possible in the former Eastern Bloc countries. Civil society there needed a boost and just a little seed money had a tremendous impact. So it was not a surprise that at first an office was established in Prague and early projects mostly focused on Central and Eastern European countries. This had been a great time generating expertise and building strong networks.

In these early times the Viennese Hospital Association was also quite active in the movement and hosted the first CleanMed in Europe in 2004. This conference was really an eye-opener for me. Never before did I attend such a kind of conference that at the same time served as





an industry fair for sustainable healthcare products. The strong exchange between science, civil society and industry left a lasting impact indeed. Visiting this conference clearly taught participants about the grave responsibility of the healthcare sector for our environment - you cannot pretend to care for health if you do not care for the environment. And besides, the sector is a big economic player that has to recognise its share in global responsibility.

What followed were the difficulties after a strong beginning: American foundation income dwindled because of weak exchange rates and the economic crisis. European member organisations were used to receive money for their own projects but were not educated to support HCWH Europe in return. Some of them were disappointed. It was only at that time that I was invited to step onto the board. I saw tiring struggles with the building of a new office structure and a long and often frustrating fight for sufficient funding sources. But there is light at the end of the tunnel. Finally the organisation succeeded in securing EU funds. The current Executive Director, Anja Leetz, was able to build a strong team working now at an office in Brussels and well placed in the midst of European politics. I put my faith in that team and in the ongoing projects to light the way to a more sustainable healthcare in Europe.

**Dr. Hanns Moshhammer, Vienna, Austria**  
HCWH Europe, Chair of the Board

# our goals

01 Create markets and policies for safer products, materials and chemicals in healthcare. Promote safer substitutes, including products that avoid mercury, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic and brominated flame retardants.

03 Transform the design, construction and operations of healthcare facilities to minimise environmental impacts and foster healthy, healing environments.

05 Secure a safe and healthy workplace for all healthcare workers.

07 Promote human rights and environmental justice for communities impacted by the healthcare sector, while assuring that problems are not displaced from one community or country to another.

02 Eliminate incineration of medical waste, minimise the amount and toxicity of all waste generated and promote safer waste treatment practices.

04 Encourage food purchasing systems that support sustainable food production and distribution, and provide healthy food on-site at healthcare facilities.

06 Ensure patients, workers and communities have full access to information about chemicals used in healthcare and can participate in decisions about exposures to chemicals.

08 Address climate change by improving energy practices and reducing the overall climate footprint of the healthcare sector.

QUOTE ”

# NGOs acting in the healthcare sector were an almost unknown phenomenon in Europe.

**Prof. Åke Wennmalm**

Former Head of Environment, Stockholm County Council & Former HCWH Europe Chairman of the Board

NEW PROJECT +

A database for non-incineration alternatives was launched on the HCWH Europe website. It listed vendors and facilities where these technologies were implemented.

POLICY BREAKTHROUGH 🔒

HCWH Europe was appointed as the only NGO to a working group set up by the Czech Environmental Ministry that prepared a waste management plan for hospital waste throughout the country.

POLICY BREAKTHROUGH 🔒

As a result of a scientific report and subsequent lobbying, HCWH Europe was successful in convincing the EU to ban new mercury thermometers and look closer into other mercury containing devices.

POLICY BREAKTHROUGH 🔒

HCWH Europe was successful in convincing EU Ministers of Health to consider amendments regarding the environmental impacts of pharmaceutical disposal on human health and the environment. Denmark, Belgium, Sweden, Finland, Austria all responded positively and supported these amendments.

POLICY BREAKTHROUGH 🔒

After the release and accompanied lobbying of HCWH Europe's report on phthalates in cosmetics "Pretty Nasty", the EU Parliament adopted amendments to the Council Directive which bans carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic substances (CMRs) in Cosmetics.

# the beginning

## QUOTE

"HCWH Europe is a movement fundamentally based on making changes 'inside out' - not just 'demanding' change but making an active contribution within organisations that can make a difference in making these changes happen. An inspired concept - action rather than mere rhetoric - which forged an international collaboration of people I value and respect as having worked with."

Founding Member - Lone Hummelshoj  
Endometriosis Association

## QUOTE

"Registering HCWH Europe as a legal entity was a huge step forward in the development of the organisation. We gained more recognition at the European level: we received an EU grant and were invited to a round table discussion at the 4th European Ministerial Environmental Health Conference in Budapest."

Cestmir Hrdinka  
Former HCWH Europe Executive Director

## MILESTONE

As a result of a seminar co-organised with the Vienna Hospital Association on the adverse health effects of DEHP on specific patient populations, the neonatology unit of the paediatric clinic in Glanzing, Vienna became the first neonatology unit worldwide to announce it would manage completely without PVC.



**IT BEGAN IN 1999** when a group of committed non-government organisations came together united by the idea that the healthcare sector can do much more to ensure the health of the environment and that of its patients. After some initial projects, they decided to establish Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe in order to better tackle these issues at a European level.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2003, HCWH Europe registered as a European NGO in the Netherlands. From there, HCWH Europe began to take shape. They established a main office in Prague, drafted a constitution, elected a Board of Directors, appointed an Executive Director, Steering Committee and three Working Groups and the first board meeting of HCWH Europe was held in Prague on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2003.

# 2003

**QUOTE**

“It is heartening to see the interest and enthusiasm so universally evident and this is surely most espoused in your CleanMed conferences.”

Founding member  
The Irish Doctors Environmental Association (IDEA)

**MILESTONE**

More than 300 healthcare leaders from 28 countries gathered in Vienna for the inaugural CleanMed Europe. Participants represented a wide range of constituencies from the healthcare sector and more than 40 speakers contributed to a high-level conference programme and demonstrated the broad variety of topics and activities surrounding sustainable healthcare.

**NEW MEMBER**

HCWH Europe member Armenian Women for Health & Healthy Environment launched a transformative medical waste project that reduced the volume and toxicity of infectious medical waste and unused pharmaceuticals.

**MILESTONE**

Czech hospital Na Homolce in Prague showed leadership by substituting PVC IV bags with non-PVC alternative materials.

HCWH Europe is a unique collaboration between environmentalists and healthcare professionals who believe a green healthcare sector is a realistic goal.

Karolina Brabcova  
Former HCWH Europe Safer Materials Coordinator

**QUOTE**



# 2004

**AFTER A GROUND BREAKING YEAR SETTING UP** such a unique organisation, the team behind HCWH Europe built on their successes and welcomed 2004 with vigour. They focused on a range of vital issues as well as organising the very first CleanMed Europe conference in Vienna, Austria.



## **POLICY BREAKTHROUGH**



As a result of the medical device campaign, the German Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices has recommended the use of DEHP-free alternatives for specific patient groups and Swedish hospitals have agreed to stop using PVC tubing and IV bags in neonatal intensive care units.

## **REPORT/RESEARCH**



HCWH Europe wrote and distributed another report - Non-Incineration Medical Waste Treatment Technologies in Europe - at the 4th Ministerial Environment and Health Conference.

## **REPORT/RESEARCH**



HCWH Europe tested 48 common medical devices used in hospitals in Austria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Poland, Spain and Sweden for the presence of the phthalate DEHP. The tests showed that common medical devices made of PVC plastic contained between 17% and 41% of phthalates by weight. The report - Preventing Harm from Phthalate, Avoiding PVC in Hospitals - was first presented at the 4th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health organised by WHO Europe and strongly supports the elimination of this chemical from all healthcare products.

## **MILESTONE**



Whilst at CleanMed Europe, hundreds of people signed the "Vienna Declaration of Environmental Standards for Healthcare Facilities". The declaration called for binding environmental standards and specified concrete goals to be achieved.

HCWH Europe  
gains traction

HCWH Europe explored their reach and conducted waste audits on hospitals throughout European countries and with our members supporting them.

NEW MEMBER



We welcomed Stockholm County Council as a member organisation in 2005 - they have since become one of our most active members carrying out projects ranging from public procurement to green building.

POLICY BREAKTHROUGH



The DG Environment's Risk Reduction Strategy (RRS) Expert group agreed on eliminating DEHP from medical devices used for medical treatment of neonates.

QUOTE



"There were plans for dozens and dozens of new medical waste incinerators across Central and Eastern Europe. By teaching proper segregation, waste reduction and offering alternatives, HCWH Europe was able to stop many of them."

Cestmir Hrdinka

Former HCWH Europe Executive Director

# HCWH Europe tackles waste management

## POLICY BREAKTHROUGH



HCWH Europe became a conditional member of the Medical Devices Expert Group (MDEG) working on the issue of PVC/DEHP. With active advocacy and engagement in the amendment process for the Medical Device Directive, HCWH Europe welcomed the news that medical devices containing DEHP needed to be labelled.

## NEW PROJECT



HCWH Europe produced [www.greeninghealthcare.net](http://www.greeninghealthcare.net) and the XCHANGE database as a key European web portal for healthcare facilities. Healthcare professionals could find essential information on PVC, mercury, hospital waste, pharmaceuticals, transport, laundry as well as individual case studies from hospitals on how specific problems and projects were addressed and solved.

## MILESTONE



A new network of environmental managers from hospitals in Sweden and Denmark was established at a meeting organised by key HCWH Europe members.



**WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT** of the healthcare sector's waste disposal practices, HCWH was determined to facilitate and improve the waste management systems of healthcare institutions.

# 2005

QUOTE

CleanMed Europe translates sustainability into housekeeping.

A CleanMed Participant

EVENT

HCWH Europe organised a train-the-trainers seminar for waste management trainers from five Central and Eastern Europe countries.

NEW MEMBER

We welcomed more key member organisations - BUND (Friends of the Earth Germany) and the UK Soil Association.

MILESTONE

Health Care Without Harm's President & Founder Gary Cohen receives the Social Entrepreneur Award from the Skoll World Forum.

POLICY BREAKTHROUGH

The Danish government sued the European Commission over their annulment of a ban on deca-BDE, a brominated flame retardant (BFR).

# building a sustainable future

## MILESTONE

The joint ownership agreement was unanimously decided upon – it connects all four HCWH regions and ensured joint decision making on global issues.

## NEW PROJECT

HCWH Europe initiated 3 working sub-groups to work on green procurement, sustainable food and pharmaceuticals.

## QUOTE

“The HCWH Europe fact sheet jointly produced with HEAL was the stimulus for our ‘National Initiative for Mercury free Health Care in Ireland’ the following year, when we organised nationwide workshops, undertook a small bio-monitoring assay of hair samples and issued leaflets jointly with HEAL for distribution through doctors consulting rooms.”

The Irish Doctors Environmental Association (IDEA)

## MILESTONE

The Emilia Romagna region was awarded the Best Practice Award at CleanMed Europe in Stockholm.



### AS HCWH EUROPE FOCUSES ON IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABILITY

within the healthcare sector, 2006 was a year that laid the groundwork and integrated new measures to build an effective and active portfolio of campaign activities throughout Europe.





# MEPs voted for a ban on non-electronic mercury thermometers and other instruments which contain mercury and sold to the public as measuring instruments.

**MILESTONE**



HCWH Europe translated EcoBuy, the ground-breaking green procurement toolkit by the City of Vienna, in order to expand its reach.

**POLICY BREAKTHROUGH**



The European Parliament’s Environment Committee supported our position to widen the scope of the mercury export ban to include the ban on healthcare products that contained mercury and to issue the ban earlier.

**QUOTE**



“Rather than simply promoting the idea and possibilities of green procurement, EcoBuy actually sets out specific and practical information for products which hospitals use: the criteria they should have, plus sample contracts and questionnaires for procuring environmentally preferable goods and services.”

Jamie Page  
Former HCWH Europe Green Procurement Coordinator

## NEW PROJECT

We also contributed to the proposed EU guidelines on environmental criteria for purchasing laboratory and medical devices by putting together a set of scientific studies.

## NEW MEMBER

HCWH Europe welcomed the Committee for Sustainable Development in Healthcare (FR) and Ecobaby Foundation (NL).

## EVENT

HCWH Europe teamed up with the European Environment Bureau and Friends of the Earth Europe to hold an educational seminar for Members of the European Parliament.

## POLICY BREAKTHROUGH

The EU Waste Framework Directive (WFD) announced its goal - to ensure EU waste laws encourage efficient use of resources and minimise pollution from waste disposal.



**HCWH EUROPE CONTINUES TO GROW** in its capacity to positively influence the healthcare sector. There were valuable collaborations pursued and distinctive decisions made in 2007.

# 2007

# HCWH Europe investigated the impact of EU regulations regarding unused drug take-back schemes in the UK.

**NEW PROJECT**



HCWH Europe expressed the concerns of 33,000 physicians about the health consequences of controversial proposals that would encourage the building of energy-efficient incinerators.

**POLICY BREAKTHROUGH**



HCWH Europe was involved in a consultation process that resulted in a EU commitment to partly revise the Scientific Committee mandates to include more effort to recruit external scientists.



# 2008

**AFTER FIVE SUCCESSFUL YEARS** since officially forming, 2008 had a few changes in store for HCWH Europe. Our Prague office came to a close, the Executive Director Cestmir Hrdinka moved on, followed by Jamie Page and changes in the by-laws were made. Just like 5 years earlier, the future was unknown but the potential and drive behind the organisation was loaded.



## **POLICY BREAKTHROUGH**



HCWH Europe helped defeat an international candle standard, which would have resulted in more environmentally hazardous, brominated flame retardants being unnecessarily added to the casings of electrical devices such as televisions and computers.

## **MILESTONE**



HCWH Europe contributed to the development of the Nordic Swan eco-label criteria for medical devices - the first time an eco-label had been proposed for a medical device. The device had to be PVC-free to qualify for certification.

a year  
of change



# 2003





# 2013



NEW PROJECT +

# A partnership with WHO Euro region to research best practices of the healthcare sector in Europe with regard to energy use.

POLICY BREAKTHROUGH 🔒

In a plenary vote on its Resolution on Climate Change, the European Parliament recognised the need to consider public health, as well as the co-benefits of emission reductions to global health.

NEW PROJECT +

The Luminary Project highlighted the stories of nurses in Spanish speaking countries who are addressing environmental concerns in healthcare.

POLICY BREAKTHROUGH 🔒

The Environment Council of the European Union adopted its political agreement on a new authorisation system for household pesticides and other biocides.

MILESTONE 📍

NEW PROJECT +

A global project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), in association with the UNDP and WHO to demonstrate mercury-free and dioxin-free medicine in eight low income countries.

Our "Prescription for a Healthy Planet", signed by over 100 organisations and many medical professionals and experts, widely publicised key necessities for climate change policy relating to the protection of public health, a transition to clean energy, the reduction of GHG emissions, and funding for global action, particularly in low resource countries.

# partnerships set sail

## REPORT/RESEARCH

HCWH Europe continued to develop its climate and energy programme in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO). One result of this partnership was the release of the joint report: "Healthy Hospitals, Healthy Planet, Healthy People" in May 2009.

## MILESTONE

Development of the Green Health Tracker, which assists hospitals to track and reduce their waste (both medical waste and standard waste), avoid infection from pathological waste and save money.

## EVENT

HCWH Europe together with the EEB organised a conference and produced a report - EU mercury phase out in measuring and control equipment - which brought together policy makers, industry and experts to enable solutions for a mercury free future.

## MILESTONE

A global partnership with the World Health Organization to eliminate mercury from healthcare globally, in association with the United Nations Environment Programme.

## NEW MEMBER

We welcomed to the HCWH Europe network The Centre for Sustainable Healthcare (UK), Waste Watch (UK) and Stiftelsen TEM - Technology, Economy and Environment Foundation (Sweden).



**WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT** of a new office in Brussels, Belgium and the appointment of Anja Leetz as the new Executive Director, HCWH Europe spread its sails and entered into multiple long-term strategic partnerships that would bring about some memorable successes.

# 2009

**REPORT/RESEARCH**

A week ahead of the ICN1 negotiations in June 2010, WHO and HCWH issued a two-year progress report: 'Toward the tipping point' on the global Mercury-Free Health Care Initiative.

**REPORT/RESEARCH**

Our report "Acting now for better health: A 30% target for EU climate policy" provided the first ever estimates of the health savings Member States would receive should the European Union move from the then 20% target to a 30% target on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

**EVENT**

HCWH Europe together with the WHO provided information to 53 national health ministries on greening healthcare at the fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Parma.

A 40% domestic target, would significantly improve people's health in Europe, reduce rising healthcare costs and protect our fragile ecosystems.

Dr. Pendo Maro

Former HCWH Europe Senior Climate and Energy Advisor

**QUOTE**



# 2010

ALTHOUGH 2009 WAS RATHER DISAPPOINTING in terms of achieving a global political agreement on climate change, HCWH Europe nevertheless achieved very significant gains in terms of raising public awareness and engaging the health community and others in the climate debate. We took this success and harnessed it in 2010.



## POLICY BREAKTHROUGH



Initiated by HCWH Europe and signed by 10 major health associations, the Cancun Climate and Health Statement called on the COP16 negotiators to “take into account the significant human health dimensions of the climate crisis along with the health benefits of climate change mitigation and adaptation policies.”

## QUOTE



“The solution for better waste management lays in the challenge of addressing hospital procurement, improved segregation of non-medical waste and avoidance of incineration. We have many doctors and nurses who are questioning current practices and working towards healthier alternatives. HCWH Europe is there to be part of this process.”

Anja Leetz – Executive Director

## QUOTE



“The figures show that acting now would mean 140,000 fewer consultations for asthma and upper respiratory conditions per year by 2020 and thousands of fewer hospital admissions for cardiac and respiratory problems.”

Anja Leetz – Executive Director

climate change  
threatens public health

**REPORT/RESEARCH** 📄

10 myths about Sustainable Procurement and other papers were created by the Network for Sustainable Development in Public Procurement (NSDPP) which HCWH joined in 2011 to contribute to the revision of the European Public Procurement law.

**QUOTE** 🗣️

“This vote (the Environment Committee vote in support of a 30% EU reduction target in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020) paves the way for strong climate policies in the EU that will protect public health.”

Dr. Pendo Maro  
Former HCWH Europe Senior Climate  
and Energy Advisor

The production of the Durban Declaration on Climate and Health was a breakthrough in terms of highlighting the health impacts of Climate Change.

The Irish Doctors Environmental Association (IDEA)

**QUOTE** 🗣️



# the climate change debate heats up

## NEW PROJECT +

HCWH released a training video for hospitals aiming to eliminate mercury and safely manage and store mercury waste while governments search for a more permanent solution.

## EVENT 5

HCWH organised the Global Climate and Health Summit in parallel with the COP17 climate change negotiations in Durban, South Africa. At the Summit, which brought together over 250 participants from more than 40 countries, the Durban Climate and Health Declaration and a Call to Action were adopted.

## MILESTONE

The Global Green and Healthy Hospital Agenda was launched. The Agenda is a framework for hospitals and health systems to reduce their ecological footprint and play a leading role in addressing major environmental health challenges.

## NEW PROJECT +

With the aim to enable hospitals to procure according to green criteria, HCWH Europe joined Haus der Zukunft, a project for sustainable development in healthcare building.

# 2011

**AS TEMPERATURES SOAR**, sea levels rise and the global populace become more informed, climate change cannot be denied any longer. Nor can the potentially devastating impacts climate change will have on public health. In 2011, HCWH Europe continued to advocate for stronger action from all stakeholders to reduce their climate footprint and to increase their mitigation and adaptation efforts.



#### MILESTONE

Following on from the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Agenda, the GGHH network was launched. The network consists of hospitals, health systems and organisations seeking to implement and evolve the Agenda by charting progress in achieving measurable outputs, while sharing best practices and finding solutions to the challenges they share.

#### EVENT

Partnering with the Region Skane and TEM, the 3rd CleanMed Europe took place in Malmö, Sweden. Over 350 participants from 34 countries and 5 continents and 22 exhibitors took part.

#### POLICY BREAKTHROUGH

France passed a law that for the first time banned the use of tubes containing di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) in paediatrics, neonatology and maternity wards in hospitals.

#### REPORT/RESEARCH

HCWH Europe launched their "Healthy & Sustainable Flooring, choosing resilient flooring for the European healthcare sector" report – available in 5 languages (EN, FR, DE, ES, PT).

The mercury column sphygmomanometer will soon become an historical relic in Europe.

Anja Leetz

HCWH Europe Executive Director

#### QUOTE



# 2012

**HAVING BUILT UP AN ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY** to tackle different issues at the same time, HCWH Europe imparted their focus and expertise onto a variety of healthcare projects in 2012. With some great outcomes, HCWH Europe is fast becoming the authority on environmental health issues in Europe.



## **POLICY BREAKTHROUGH**



The EU decided to remove mercury sphygmomanometers and other measuring devices for industrial and professional use from the market.

## **QUOTE**



“We do need to reduce the exposure to harmful chemicals and a good flooring choice could be part of this. This report will enable hospitals to make better choices, in the interest of their staff, patients and the environment.”

Anja Leetz - HCWH Europe Executive Director

## **EVENT**



HCWH Europe co-sponsored the German conference called The Hospital Building of the Next Generation.

## **NEW PROJECT**



HCWH Europe is a member of the EcoQUIP project, which aims to improve the efficiency, quality and sustainability of healthcare through innovation procurement.

HCWH Europe  
gathers momentum



# The European Parliament voted for the phase out of hazardous chemicals – CMRs and EDCs – in medical devices.

**EVENT**



Within the debate around the new Directive on Public Procurement HCWH Europe organised a workshop in Brussels on Sustainable Public Procurement in European Healthcare.

**EVENT**



HCWH Europe highlights the risks of exposure from hazardous chemicals, like endocrine disruptors, contained in medical devices in a workshop organised at the European Parliament.

**POLICY BREAKTHROUGH**



The new Directive on Public Procurement was agreed by the EU Institutions introducing environmental and social consideration into the procurement process.

**EVENT**



The 4th CleanMed Europe conference took place in Oxford, United Kingdom. Hosted by the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare, the event witnessed record numbers and an inspiring atmosphere to collaboratively make the healthcare sector more sustainable.

**MILESTONE**



HCWH Europe launched their highly anticipated new website. In addition to such new features as a resource library and donation platform, it provides health professionals and the public alike to better navigate the world of Health Care Without Harm Europe and to become and stay informed about sustainability in the healthcare sector.

**NEW MEMBER**



We welcomed three new members in 2013: CARTIF Foundation (Spain), Recyclomed (Hungary) and Region Västergötaland (Sweden).



**IN 2013, HCWH EUROPE GREW** to a size never before seen in its history. With a formidable team in the engine room, their work output made a significant impact on the European environmental health sector. After 10 years, HCWH Europe has never looked in better shape and it is a great way to welcome its 10<sup>th</sup> year of implementing ecologically sound and healthy alternatives to healthcare practices that pollute the environment and contribute to disease.

## HCWH Europe flexes its muscles

### EVENT



HCWH Europe is a member of The Global Climate & Health Alliance. The GCHA organised the second Global Climate and Health Summit coinciding with the UNFCCC's COP19 climate negotiations in Warsaw, Poland.

### MILESTONE



HCWH Europe has developed an educational mobile application on EDCs, an online database for phthalate-free medical devices and a pharmaceutical resource centre.

### MILESTONE



HCWH Europe has been driving the growth of the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network in Europe. The network now consists of 21 active hospitals located throughout Europe.

### QUOTE



"As there is an evident continuing need for the 'greening' of healthcare at all levels, we hope and trust that HCWH Europe will continue to thrive."

The Irish Doctors Environmental Association (IDEA)

# 2013

# Environmental health is an understood concept among policy makers

● HCWH Europe is the authority NGO in Europe for environmental health issues

● A policy department for each HCWH Europe goal

..... Hazardous chemicals in medical devices are substituted for safer alternatives

..... Hospitals phase out the use of PVC

..... Proposal for a EU environmental classification of pharmaceuticals

● 200 hospital members

..... GGHH is a well-known tool in Europe and used daily

..... Vibrant online learning health communities supported by HCWH Europe

● CleanMed Europe continues to grow and provides a stimulating setting for sustainable healthcare

..... HCWH Europe strengthens its presence at an international level

..... Ambassador programmes are established

● Hospital rating portal is created

● Sustainable food policies implemented in the majority of European Hospitals

# 10 years young!

Strong public sphere presence - Volunteer activities

Criteria for social public procurement are implemented across the EU healthcare sector

Pharmaceuticals are safely collected in Europe and doctors' prescription behaviour is optimised

Nanomaterials and Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) adequately addressed in REACH and other new legislation

HCWH Europe's phthalate-free database widely used and endorsed



## HCWH EUROPE: THE CAMPAIGN HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN!

As much as HCWH Europe has cause to celebrate the past and the present, we can also celebrate the future. One can only imagine what the original founding members envisioned 10 years ago when they were establishing HCWH Europe. And what they think now seeing how the organisation has grown and what it has achieved since. Let's take this sentiment and carry it with us into the next 10 years. By doing so we will improve our capacity to develop a stronger and more effective campaign for environmentally responsible healthcare.

# 2023

# who we are

## STAFF

### Anja Leetz

Executive Director

### Grazia Cioci

Policy and Development Director

### Maria José Amaral, PhD

Chemicals and Nanomaterials Policy Officer

### Josh Edwards

Press and Communications Officer

### Kornelia Bagi

Membership and Administration Officer

### Joana Jacomé

Intern

### Luca Fop

Research Intern

## BOARD

### Hanns M. Moshhammer MD (Austria)

Associate Professor | Institute for Environmental Health, Medical University Vienna

### Davide Sgarzi (Italy)

Chemist | Emilia-Romagna Government, Italy

### Polyxeni Nicolopoulou-Stamati MD, PhD (Greece)

Associate Professor | Medical School of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA)

### Michael Wilks MB, BS, FFLM (UK)

Forensic Medical Examiner | Metropolitan Police



## MEMBERS

### Armenia

Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment (AWHHE)

Women for Green Way for Generations

### Austria

ETA Umweltmanagement GmbH

Otto Wagner Hospital Centre of Social Medicine

The Institute for Sustainable Healthcare (INGES)

Vienna Health Care Institutions Association (KAV)

### Belarus

Foundation for Realisation of Ideas

EcoSphere IPA

### Belgium

Belgian Platform Environment and Health

### Czech Republic

ARNIKA Association

### Denmark

Ecological Council

Endometriose Foundation

Gentofte Hospital

Sønderborg Hospital

Sygehus Nord Health Care Institutions

# our membership

The Health Care Institutions Services of Aarhus County

### France

Association of Independent Doctors for the Environment and Public Health

C2DS (Committee for Sustainable Development in Healthcare)

National Centre for Independent Information on Waste (CNIID)

### Germany

BUND - Friends of the Earth Germany

BUND - Friends of the Earth Berlin

European Institute for Transfer of Technology, Info Management and Communication (ETIK)

Institute for Environmental Medicine and Health Care, Freiburg



**Hungary**

Recyclomed

**Ireland**

Irish Doctor's Environmental Association (IDEA)  
Organisation for Ecologically Sustainable Waste Management

**The Netherlands**

Waste and Environment Foundation  
EcoBaby Foundation  
Stichting Huize Aarde  
Women In Europe for a Common Future (WECF)

**Poland**

Waste Prevention Association 3R

**(Former Yugoslavian Republic of) Macedonia**

Macedonian Association of Doctors for the Environment (MADE)

**Republic of Moldova**

Cleaner Production and Energy Efficiency Centre

**Romania**

Life Youth Foundation

**Russian Federation**

Baikal Environmental Wave  
Kaliningrad Children and Youth Invalids

**Slovakia**

Friends of the Earth Slovakia

**Slovenia**

Slovenian Clean Production and Right-to-Know Action Club

**Spain**

CARTIF Foundation  
Children's Health Care University Hospital La Fe  
Pediatric Environmental Health Speciality Unit of the Clinical Hospital University Virgen of Arrixaca  
Health Care and Social Services Consortium of Catalonia (CSC)  
Andalusian School of Public Health

**Sweden**

Advisers for Sustainable Growth  
County Council of Sörmland  
International Chemical Secretariat  
Jamtlands County Council (JLL)  
Jegrelius Institute for Applied Green Chemistry  
Karolinska University Hospital  
Skåne University Hospital  
Region Skåne  
Region Västergötaland  
Stockholm County Council  
Swedish Doctors for the Environment  
Foundation TEM  
Uppsala University Departments of Clinical Microbiology and Earth Sciences

**Switzerland**

International Council of Nurses  
International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE)  
Physicians for the Environment Switzerland (AefU)  
Schelker Environmental Consulting

**United Kingdom**

British Society for Ecological Medicine  
The Centre for Sustainable Healthcare  
Communities Against Toxics  
Communities Against Toxics Scotland  
Medact – ISDE UK  
Royal College of Nursing (RCN)  
Soil Association  
Waste Watch

**Ukraine**

International Society of Doctors for the Environment Ukraine (ISDE Ukraine)  
MAMA-86

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