

2015 Annual Report



Healthcare for an ecologically sustainable, equitable, and healthy world

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2015 in **numbers**

4 Position papers/Joint statements

5 Reports/Publications

56 Meetings/Conferences attended

2 Conferences/Webinars organised

2015 in numbers

10 Newsletters

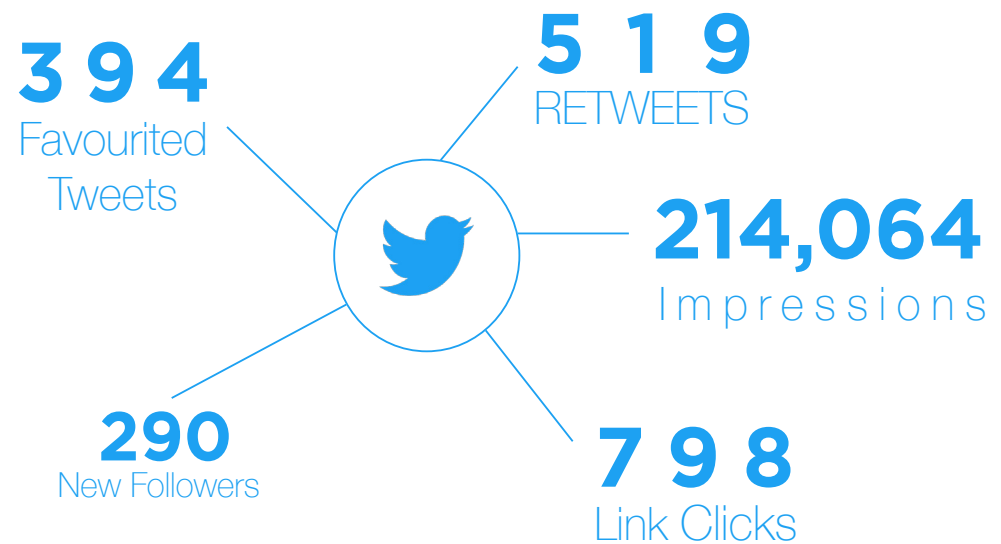
15 Website news items

3 Infographics

10 Press releases

13 Blog posts

1 Podcast



f **391%**
Increase in Likes



21,031 Website visits
Pageviews: **46,339**

Message from the board

2015 was a year of transition for the world and for HCWH Europe. With the signing of the Paris Agreement at COP21 in December, the global community united in recognising that time is running out to tackle one of the most devastating and widespread threats to health and the environment – climate change. This Agreement also gives a unique mandate to health institutions worldwide to step up and become leaders in terms of mitigation, adaptation, and awareness-raising about the impacts and opportunities of climate change. Just as Europe led from the front in the lead up to the negotiations, I hope that the union will once again step up in terms of achieving the targets agreed upon in Paris.



The year was a challenging one for our HCWH Europe office. A reduction in funding led to reduced staff with which the office could carry out its work. Despite this, however, there was significant progress made in terms of linking policy and practice in all of our policy areas: chemicals, pharmaceuticals, climate and health, and sustainable public procurement.

The year was highlighted by a number of key publications, such as the release of our 'How Doctors Can Help Reduce Pharmaceutical Pollution' brochure in January, the 'Sustainable Procurement in European Healthcare' factsheet in March, our 'Non-Toxic Healthcare' report in April, and our 'Reducing the Climate Footprint' report in June.

In September, the HCWH Europe team travelled to Geneva for the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4) for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). At this important international policy event, the team was instrumental in the adoption of 'Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (EPPPs)' as an Emerging Policy Issue in the process – further highlighting the need to tackle pharmaceutical pollution worldwide.

2015 was also a significant year in terms of our work on climate, and this culminated in the hosting of the 'Conference on Climate Change and Health Care', held in parallel with the COP21 negotiations in Paris. A round-table meeting with some of the world's leading health institutions was also held and gives us real hope that there is active leadership starting to emerge from the sector.

There is a lot more work to be done in the coming years but I am confident that our HCWH Europe office can grow once again and rise to the challenge in terms of shifting the European health sector to low carbon, sustainable models of care to protect health and the environment long into the future.

Dr. Hanns Moshhammer,
Medical University of Vienna,
Chair of the Board, HCWH Europe

HCWH Europe 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 / Sozialmedizinisches Zentrum Otto Wagner-Spital und Pflegezentrum

The Institute for Sustainable Healthcare (INGES) / Institut für Nachhaltigkeit im Gesundheitswesen

Vienna Health Care Institutions Association (KAV) / Wiener Krankenanstaltenverbund KAV

BELARUS

Foundation for Realisation of Ideas / Fond Realizacija Idej

EcoSphere IPA

BELGIUM

Belgian Platform Environment and Health / Vlaams Platform - Milieu en Gezondheid

CZECH REPUBLIC

ARNIKA Association / Sdružení Arnika

DENMARK

Ecological Council / Det Økologiske Råd

Endometriose Foundation / Endometriose Foreningen

Gentofte Hospital / Amtssygehuset i Gentofte

Sønderborg Hospital / Sygehus Sønderjylland, Sønderborg

Sygehus Nord Health Care Institutions - Nykøbing Thisted

The Health Care Institutions Services of Aarhus County / Århus Universitetshospital, Århus Sygehus

FRANCE

Association of independent doctors for the Environment and Public Health / Association des Médecins indépendants Pour l'environnement et la santé publique

C2DS (Committee for Sustainable Development in Healthcare / Comité Pour le Développement Durable en Santé)

Committee for Environmental Health / Comité Santé Environnement (OMESC)

National Centre for Independent Information on Waste (CNIID) / Centre national d'information indépendante sur les déchets

Le Centre Hospitalier de Niort

GERMANY

BUND - Friends of the Earth Germany / Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland e.V.

BUND - Friends of the Earth Berlin / BUND Berlin e.V.

European Institute for Transfer of Technology, Info Management and Communication (ETIK) - Europäisches Institut für Technologietransfer, Informationsmanagement und Kommunikation

Institute for Environmental Medicine and Health Care, Freiburg / Institut für Umweltmedizin und Krankenhaushygiene Freiburg Universität

HUNGARY

Recyclomed

IRELAND

Cork University Hospital

HSE Estates (South)

Irish Doctor's Environmental Association (IDEA)

Organisation for Ecologically Sustainable Waste Management

ITALY

Agenzia Lucchese per l'Energia ed il Recupero della Risorse (ALERR)

NETHERLANDS

Waste and Environment Foundation / Stichting Afval & Milieu

EcoBaby Foundation

Stichting Huize Aarde

Women In Europe for a Common Future (WECF)

MACEDONIA

Macedonian Association of Doctors for the Environment (MADE) / Zdruzenie na Doktori za zivotna sredina MADE – (Former Yugoslavian Republic of) Macedonia.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Cleaner Production and Energy Efficiency Center / Producere Pura si Eficienta Energetica

NORWAY

South-Eastern Regional Health Authority / Helse Sør-Øst RHF

ROMANIA

Life Youth Foundation / Fundatia Life

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Baikal Environmental Wave / Baikalskaya Ekologicheskaya Volna

Kaliningrad Children and Youth Invalids / Mariá NGO

SLOVAKIA

Friends of the Earth Slovakia / Priatelía Zeme (SPZ)

SLOVENIA

Slovenian Clean Production and Right-to-Know Action Club / DEA Klub Ankarán

SPAIN

CARTIF Foundation / Fundación CARTIF

Children's Health Care University Hospital La Fe / Hospital Infantil Universitario La Fe

Pediatric Environmental Health Speciality Unit of the Clinical Hospital University Virgen of Arrixaca

Health Care and Social Services Consortium of Catalonia (CSC) / Consorci de Salut i Social de Catalunya

Andalusian School of Public Health /Escuela Andaluza de Salud Pública

Xàtiva - Ontinyent Department of Healthcare - Generalitat Valenciana, Valencia

Hospital Vall d'Hebron

SWEDEN

Good Point Advisers for Sustainable Growth / Kemi & Miljö

County Council of Sörmland / Landstinget Sörmland

International Chemical Secretariat

Jämtlands County Council (JLL) / Jämtlands Läns Landsting

Jegrelius Institute for Applied Green Chemistry / JEGRELIUS - INSTITUTET FÖR TILLÄMPAD GRÖN KEMI

Karolinska University Hospital / Karolinska Universitetssjukhuset

Skåne University Hospital / Skånes Universitetssjukhus Region Skåne

Stockholm County Council / Stockholms läns landsting

Swedish Doctors for the Environment / Läkare för Miljön

Foundation TEM / Stiftelsen TEM vid Lunds Universitet

Uppsala University Departments of Clinical Microbiology and Earth Sciences / Uppsala Universitat

Västra Götalandsregionen / Region Västragötaland

SWITZERLAND

International Council of Nurses

International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE)

Physicians for the Environment Switzerland (AefU) / Ärztinnen und Ärzte für Umweltschutz

Schelker Environmental Consulting / Schelker Umweltberatung

UNITED KINGDOM

British Society for Ecological Medicine

The Centre for Sustainable Healthcare

Communities Against Toxics Scotland

Global Action Plan

Medact - ISDE UK

Royal College of Nursing (RCN)

Soil Association

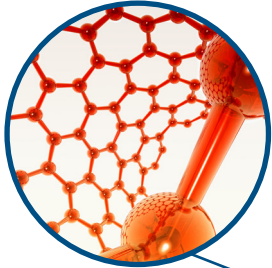
Keep Britain Tidy

UKRAINE

International Society of Doctors for the Environment Ukraine (ISDE Ukraine)

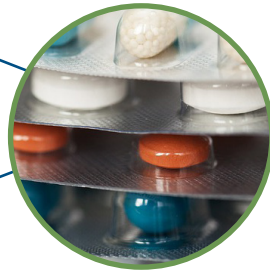
MAMA-86 / Mama 86 Kharkov

2015 Campaigns



Safer Chemicals: Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs), Nanomaterials & Nanomedicine, and Mercury

Harmful EDCs should not be used in medical devices as they have adverse environmental and health effects. We need to take a precautionary approach to the regulation of nanomaterials and nanomedicines and make the public aware of the information available about nanomaterials and the potential risks.



Pharmaceuticals

We need to reduce pharmaceutical pollution in order to protect the environment, our water and soil, and ultimately our health.



Climate & Health

The healthcare sector in Europe can play a major role in mitigating against climate change.



Sustainable Public Procurement

Sustainable purchasing for the healthcare sector has major benefits for the environment and society.

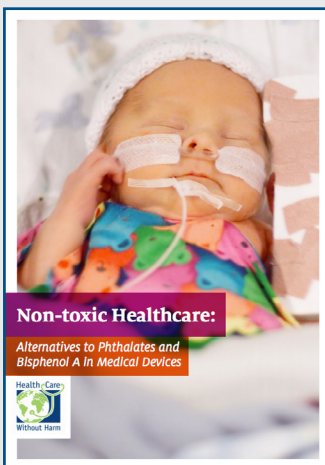
Safer Chemicals: EDCs

THE ISSUE

EDCs have no place in medical devices. They interfere with the endocrine systems of humans and animals and can cause adverse environmental and health effects. In 2015, we worked to inform and educate health professionals about the dangers of EDCs, advocate for policy measures that would ban or at least better control EDCs in medical devices.

OUR WORK

Non-Toxic Healthcare report



In **April**, HCWH Europe released its ***Non-Toxic Healthcare: Alternatives to Phthalates and Bisphenol A in Medical Devices*** report. The report provides evidence of the potential hazards that endocrine disrupting chemicals pose to human health and the environment. It also presents an analysis of safer alternatives available on the market and calls for a phase out of phthalates and bisphenol A (BPA) in medical devices.

PVC-Free Blood Bag webinar

In **October**, HCWH Europe organised a PVC-Free Blood Bag Webinar with the PVC-Free Blood Bag Project about how and why to bring a new, safer blood bag to healthcare. Both the demand and supply side were represented by voices from healthcare and



industry and the presenters were Gustav Eriksson, Head of Environment at Karolinska University Hospital, Jesper Laursen, Business Director and co-owner of MELITEK, and Lena Stigh, Project Manager, PVCfreeBloodBag, Jegrelius Institute for Applied Green Chemistry. The moderator host was Grazia Cioci, Deputy Director, HCWH Europe.

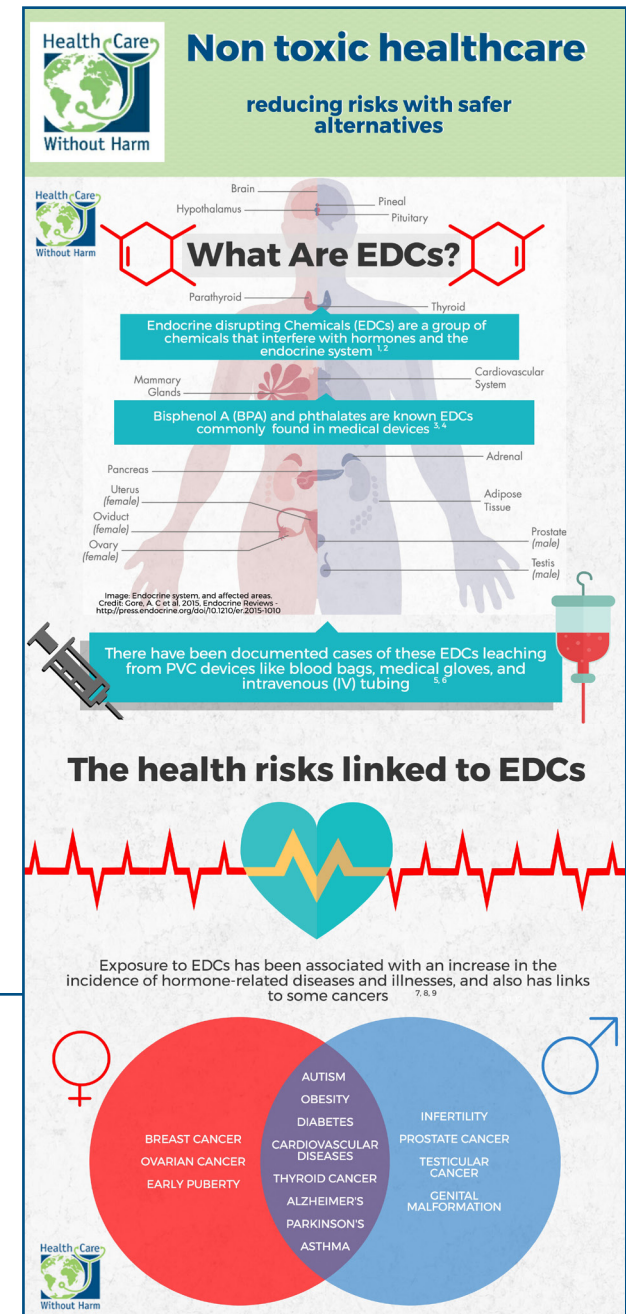
Safer Chemicals: EDCs

EDC-Free Coalition letter

18 international environmental and health organisations came together in **November**, under the guidance of HCWH Europe, to co-sign a letter to Glenis Wilmott, seeking her support for the European Parliament's amendment to the European Commission (EC) Regulation Proposal on Medical Devices in the upcoming triologue negotiations between the European Parliament (EP), the Luxembourg and Dutch Presidencies of the European Council, and the European Commission.



Coinciding with this letter, HCWH Europe also released an **Non-Toxic Healthcare Infographic**, looking at EDCs in healthcare, the diseases associated with exposure to EDCs, and the opportunities for the European healthcare sector.



Safer Chemicals: Mercury

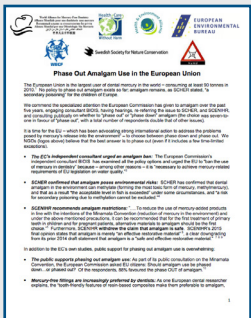
THE ISSUE

Although phased out in many healthcare settings, mercury-based thermometers and sphygmomanometers can still be found. The cumulative usage, spills, breakages, and disposal of mercury-containing products has led the World Health Organisation to identify the healthcare sector as a significant contributor of mercury pollution.

Mercury is a metal which is toxic for humans and wildlife. High doses can be fatal; even low doses of mercury compounds can have serious neurodevelopmental effects, damaging the cardiovascular, immune, and reproductive systems. Recent research indicates that, for some parts of the population, there is no such thing as a safe exposure level for mercury.

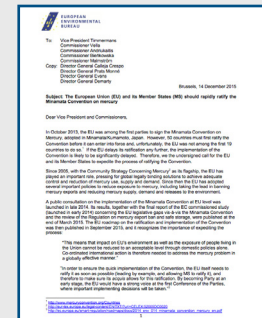
OUR WORK

Joint letter: Dental amalgam



In **October**, HCWH Europe joined with other NGOs to release a joint statement calling for the phase out of dental amalgam in the European Union. Although the EU is the largest user of dental mercury in the world, there is currently no policy to phase out amalgam in Europe.

Joint letter: Minamata Convention



In **December**, 82 organisations (including HCWH Europe) sent a letter to EU Commissioners requesting the ratification of the Minamata Convention on mercury.

Pharmaceuticals

THE ISSUE

Pharmaceutical residues can be found in soil and ground and surface water throughout the world and pose an environmental and health risk that is likely to worsen in the future.

One of the major problems to arise from this is that of antimicrobial resistance. In 2015, we aimed to raise awareness of pharmaceuticals in the environment amongst EU Parliamentarians, contribute to policy debates and high-level working groups, and educate healthcare professionals and the public about these issues.

OUR WORK

Guide for doctors

In January HCWH Europe released a guide, *How Doctors Can Help Reduce Pharmaceutical Pollution*. The guide details the environmental problems posed by improper disposal of pharmaceuticals and the excretion of pharmaceutical residues. It also provides simple practices that doctors can use to help reduce unnecessary pharmaceutical emissions from entering the environment.

The guide is also available in German.

Health Care Without Harm

HOW DOCTORS CAN HELP reduce pharmaceutical pollution

HOW ARE HUMANS EXPOSED TO PHARMACEUTICALS IN THE ENVIRONMENT?

Pharmaceutical residues that re-enter the water supply and spread to surface waters and agricultural lands can ultimately end up in drinking water and accumulate in vegetables and fish. Humans can be unintentionally exposed by consuming contaminated water and food. Low concentrations of pharmaceuticals in the environment can have adverse effects on animals and other organisms, which raises questions about how humans can be affected by continuous, long term exposure to low concentrations of pharmaceuticals.

Drinking water can contain pharmaceuticals

- Up to 25 different pharmaceuticals and their metabolites have been detected in drinking water around the world (4).
- Lipid-lowering and analgesic drugs have been found in drinking water in Germany (5).
- Anti-epileptic and anti-hypertensive drugs have been found in drinking water in Italy (6).
- Antibiotic, antiepileptic and beta-blocking drugs have been found in drinking water in the Netherlands (7).

But isn't water filtered?

- **80%** Sewage treatment plants generally remove only 80% of pharmaceuticals and their metabolites (8).
- **10%** Even using the most advanced treatment methods, 10% of pharmaceuticals remain after water has been treated (8).
- **600+** More than 600 pharmaceuticals have been detected in sewage treatment effluents, sludge, groundwater, surface waters and biota across the globe (9).

Vegetables can take up pharmaceuticals from water and sludge

- Some countries in Europe use wastewater for irrigation and wastewater sludge to fertilise agricultural land (10).
- Carrots and lettuce have shown the ability to take up quinolones from soil treated with manure (11).
- Carbamazepine has been shown to concentrate in root tissues and translocate to above-ground parts in soybeans irrigated with reclaimed water (12).

Fish can bio-accumulate pharmaceuticals

- Fluoxetine, sertraline and other metabolites have been found to bio-accumulate in fish (13).

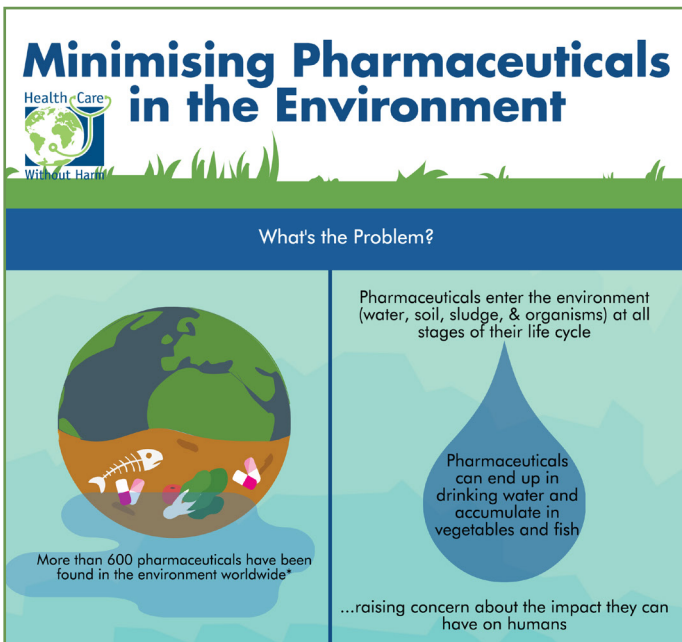
Pharmaceuticals

SAICM ICCM4

In **September**, Health Care Without Harm attended the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4) for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) in Geneva.

HCWH Europe were well represented at the conference and presented the whole organisation's voice and those of other environmental NGOs in terms of developing environmentally friendly chemicals management policies.

In particular, HCWH Europe was instrumental in the adoption of Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (EPPPs) as an emerging policy issue in the process.



Coinciding with the SAICM conference, HCWH Europe released its *Pharmaceuticals in the Environment Infographic*, position paper, and issued a press release about chemicals and pharmaceuticals in healthcare.

The organisation also produced its **first ever podcast**, about the SAICM process, which was released in **November**.

Pharmaceuticals



Pharmaceutical pollution event

HCWH Europe teamed up with the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) in **December** to host an event at the European Parliament, titled ***Pharma Pollution: An Ignored Cause of Antimicrobial Resistance***. At the event, evidence was presented on antibiotic pollution during the production process and subsequent market authorisation, in the area of human prescription and animal husbandry. Shortly after the event, HCWH Europe issued a joint press release with EPHA about the issue of pharmaceutical pollution.



Climate & health

THE ISSUE

Climate change is one of the key challenges facing the planet today: it has a huge effect on public health and the environment and the healthcare sector has a huge opportunity to mitigate its effects.

In 2015, we worked to inform the European healthcare sector about the role it could play in mitigating climate change and advocated for ambitious greenhouse gas reduction, energy saving, and renewable energy targets at an EU level.

OUR WORK

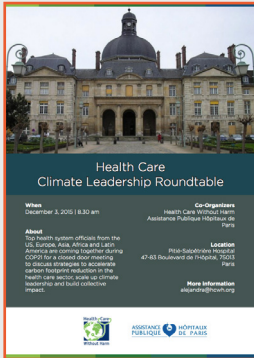
Climate Footprint report

In June, HCWH Europe published its climate change report, *Reducing the Climate Footprint: The EU's Legislative Framework and the Healthcare Sector*, which presents an overview of the EU legislative framework on climate change and the opportunities for the European healthcare sector to reduce its carbon footprint.

The report was launched with a press release, marking the start of the EU Sustainable Energy Week in Brussels.



Climate & health: COP21



Health Care Climate Leadership Roundtable

Health Care Without Harm played a prominent role in bringing the worldwide healthcare sector's voice to the COP21 negotiations in Paris in December. **December 3rd** saw the first Health Care Climate Leadership Roundtable, co-organised by HCWH and AP-HP (The Paris Hospitals Association). This event brought together top health system officials from around the world to discuss strategies for accelerating carbon footprint reduction in the healthcare sector, scaling up climate leadership, and building collective impact.

Conference on Climate Change and Health Care

On **December 4th**, HCWH co-organised a day-long conference on Climate Change and Health Care with FHF (The French Hospitals Federation), which featured a rich series of panels with speakers from a diversity of regions sharing in-depth experiences of how to foster low-carbon healthcare, including renewable energy, purchasing, economics, and policy.



Sustainable public procurement

THE ISSUE

Sustainable Public Procurement is the gradual and on-going process by which public authorities continually refine and expand the scope of their efforts to select environmentally sound, socially responsible, and safe products and services. Healthcare facilities use huge amounts of standard products and materials — everything from electronic devices, to paper, hospital gowns, packaging materials, paper towels, etc.

In 2015, we worked to raise awareness amongst procurers for hospitals and healthcare facilities of the many positive impacts of adopting sustainable public procurement practices as well as ensuring that EU public procurement legislation is implemented at national level.

OUR WORK

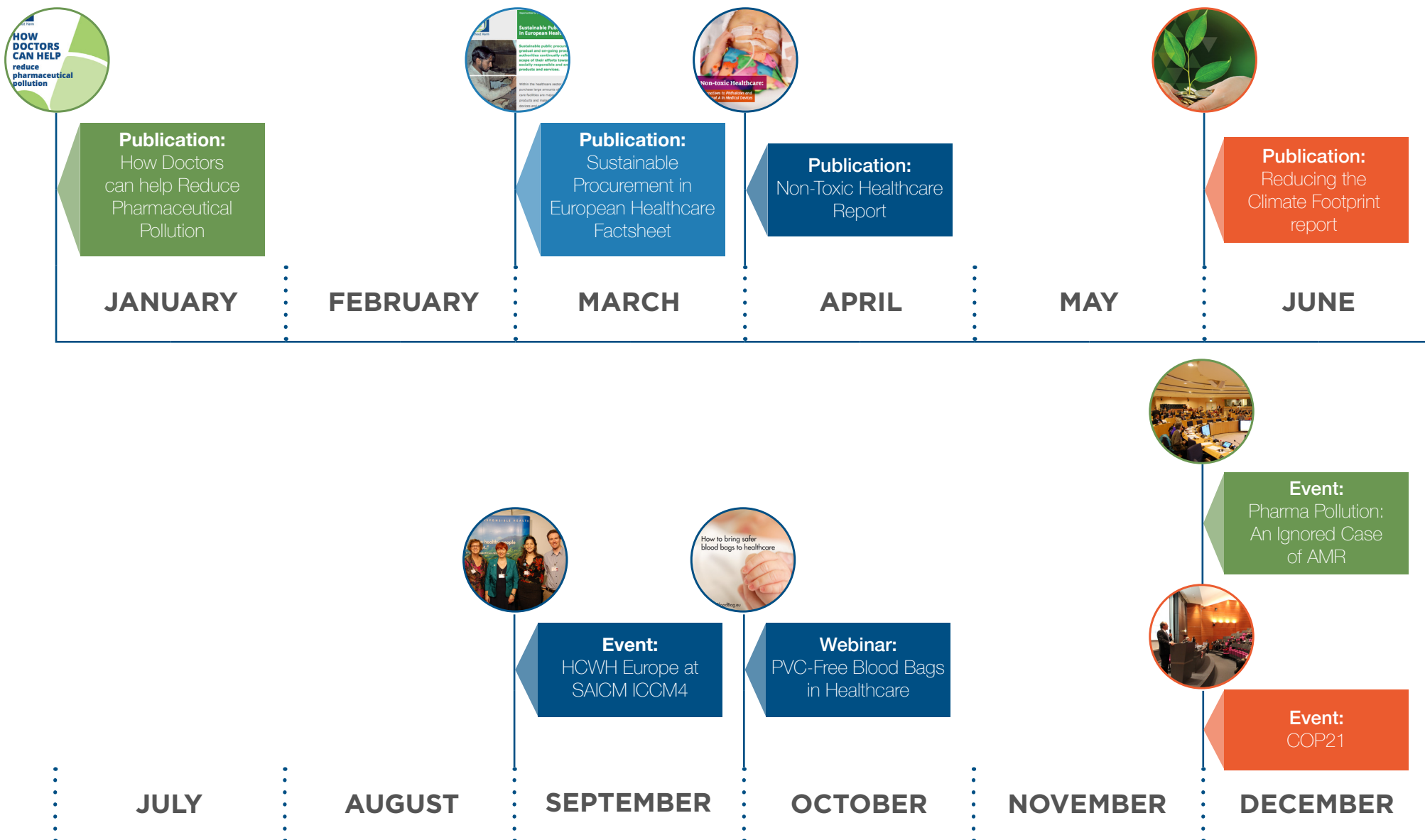
Sustainable procurement factsheet

In **March**, HCWH Europe published a factsheet, titled ***Sustainable Procurement in European Healthcare***, which examined the opportunities under the new EU legislation on public procurement.

The factsheet provides a detailed legal analysis of the new Public Procurement Directive, as well as examples of best practices in ethical and environmental public procurement in European healthcare.

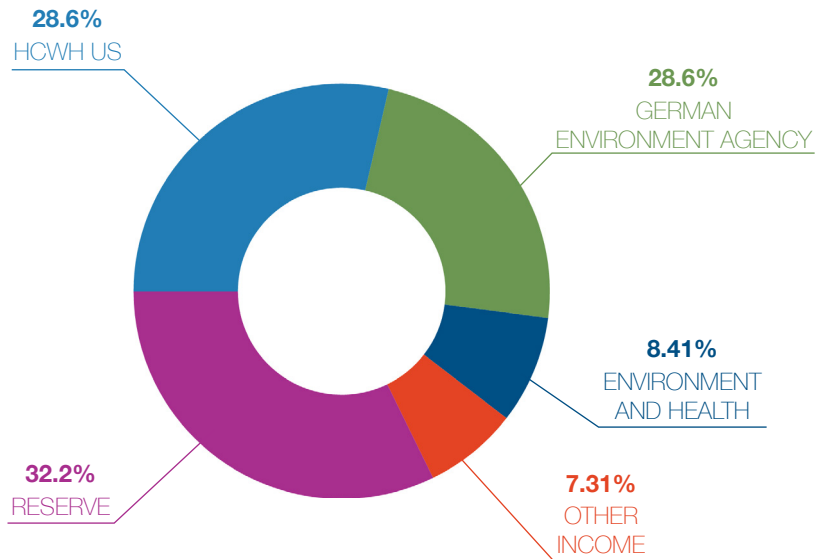


Highlights of 2015



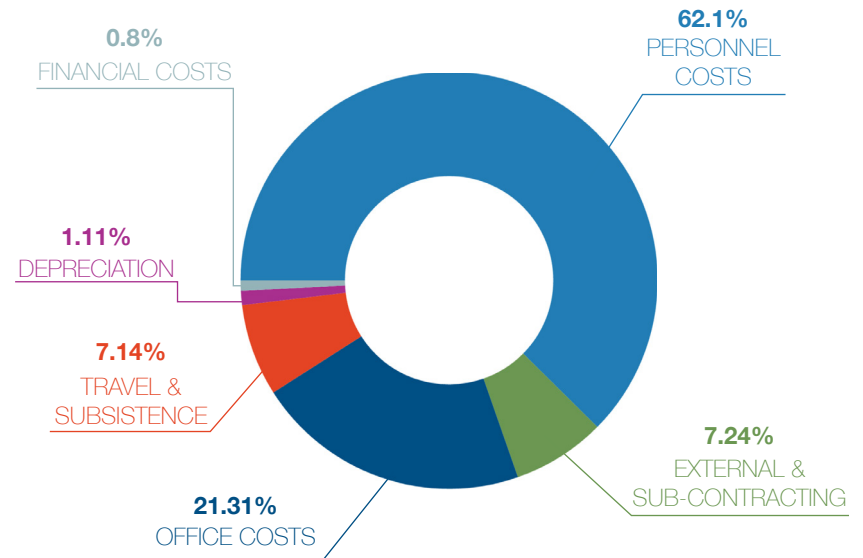
Finances

2015 Income



HCWH US:	€84,769.10
German Environment Agency:	€69,390.00
Environment and Health Initiative:	€25,000.00
Other income:	€21,732.93
Reserve:	€95,321.78
Total:	€296,321.78

2015 Expenditure



Personnel costs:	€184,108.02
External & sub-contracting:	€22,743.03
Office costs:	€62,911.45
Travel & subsistence costs:	€21,145.59
Depreciation:	€3,160.96
Financial costs:	€2,252.74
Total:	€296,321.78

About HCWH Europe

Health Care Without Harm Europe is a non-profit European coalition of hospitals, healthcare systems, healthcare professionals, local authorities, research/academic institutions and environmental and health organisations.

We bring the voice of healthcare professionals to the European policy debate about key issues - chemicals, climate change and health, green building, sustainable procurement, pharmaceuticals, sustainable food and waste management.

We also educate the healthcare sector to understand the importance of the environment and press healthcare leaders and professionals to advocate for broader societal policies and changes.

We provide European policy makers with guidance documents, briefings and best practices from leaders in sustainable healthcare and we open the debate by demonstrating that change is indeed possible and alternative solutions already exist.

All our funds are used for educational and information purposes targeted to our key audiences: the health sector, health professionals, policy makers and the general public. We do not receive any fees or dues from our members or from private companies.



HCWH Europe team in 2015 (from left to right): Grazia Cioci, Ana-Christina Gaeta, Anja Leetz, Aidan Long, Dunja Drmac



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