EUROPEAN HEALTHCARE CLIMATE SUMMIT 2020

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

This year, Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe held its second European Healthcare Climate Summit. Building on the success of last year's event, these sessions brought together a wide range of stakeholders working on the nexus between climate and health, to support HCWH Europe in developing its project work.

In 2019, the European Healthcare Climate Summit had two key aims. The first was to launch *Health Care's Climate Footprint*. Developed in partnership with Arup, this report presents the most comprehensive estimate of global healthcare emissions to date. The second was to call on the sector's expertise to support HCWH Europe in its plans to develop a roadmap for the decarbonisation of European healthcare.

Since then, our roadmap plans have evolved considerably into the more ambitious and more impactful project, Operation Zero, with this year's Summit continuing the consultative theme to support its development. Operation Zero will have a significant impact on all levels within the healthcare sector - ensuring its success requires engagement with actors at all levels of the sector, from health ministries to individual employees.

This year's Summit, therefore, comprised two unique events:

- **Event #1: Organised by HCWH Europe, and supported by the European Healthcare Climate Council, this event was held virtually on 10 November 2020. Here, we engaged with sustainability practitioners, hospital leaders, healthcare professionals, and academia. We presented a series of consultation questions to collate the sector's feedback on Operation Zero, which are discussed in more detail within this report.**

- **Event #2: HCWH Europe was invited by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Europe to present Operation Zero at the 8th annual meeting of the Working Group on Health in Climate Change on 9 December 2020. This offered a unique opportunity to present directly to ministry level experts on climate and health and to issue a formal Call for Partners.**

Overall, we consulted over 150 sectoral experts across both events. The feedback gathered has directly supported the development of Operation Zero. It also played a critical role in spreading our message and building relationships with key actors in the sector.

EVENT #1: HCWH EUROPE

Organised by HCWH Europe, the first event of the European Healthcare Climate Summit 2020 was held virtually on 10 November 2020. The event was attended by 50 individuals working across the European healthcare sector, including sustainability practitioners, hospital management, health professionals, academics, and private consultants.

The aim of this event was to present attendees with HCWH Europe's Operation Zero project and gain their feedback to assist in its development. The event opened with a round of presentations to walk participants through our plans, before breaking off into separate groups to discuss the project in more detail.

AGENDA

EUROPEAN HEALTHCARE CLIMATE SUMMIT 2020
Towards a roadmap for Climate-smart Healthcare in Europe

Tuesday, 10 November 2020 | 10:00 - 12:00 (CET)

Online - **Register here**

AGENDA:	
10:00	**Welcome and objectives**
10:10	**What is a Roadmap?**
10:20	**Building climate-smart healthcare** • Part 1: A global perspective
10:30	**Building climate-smart healthcare** • Part 2: Operation Zero: An introduction
10:40	**Creating a European Technical Analysis**
10:50	**Breakout discussion**
11:05	**Creating a framework for the development of national Roadmaps for the decarbonisation of healthcare**
11:15	**Breakout discussion**
11:45	**Feedback session**
12:00	**CLOSE**

PRESENTATIONS

What is a Roadmap?

Kristian Steele, Associate, Climate Change at Arup, outlined what we mean by a 'roadmap'. He defined a roadmap as a quantified emissions reduction profile that supports evidence-based policymaking. A decarbonisation roadmap can be established at different scales, including organisational, system, sectoral, and city-wide.

With a particular focus on the healthcare sector, Kristian went on to describe the six steps adopted by Arup when creating a roadmap:

1. **Healthcare sector emissions inventory**: Develop a health sector emissions baseline
2. **National emissions budgets**: Derive or access gross national emission budgets; based on a chosen warming scenario, i.e. 1.5 °C, to 2050
3. **National health sector trajectories**: Determine what the healthcare sector's emission allocation should be within national budgets
4. **Apply underlying sectoral decarbonisation pathways**: Apply a series of national emission reduction pathways to decarbonise specific energy and industrial systems in selected areas i.e. electricity, vehicles, space heating, etc. based on third party models
5. **Focus assessments**: Identify and account for further reduction potential in key target areas of healthcare service provision
6. **Roadmap**: Based on a chosen scenario of underlying decarbonisation pathways (4) and level of decarbonisation from focused interventions (5) propose a pathway for global healthcare emissions reduction that meets the 1.5 °C warming budget (if plausible).

To close, Kristian provided a graphic representation of a decarbonisation pathway, before highlighting some of the specific data sources and indicators to be included in HCWH's Global Roadmap for the Decarbonisation of Healthcare (see next section for more on this roadmap).

[↓] **Kristian Steele's presentation**

Building climate-smart healthcare, Part 1: A global perspective

Sonia Roschnik, International Climate Policy Director at HCWH Global, presented HCWH Global's current work in developing a global-level decarbonisation roadmap for healthcare.

Drawing on the *Health Care's Climate Footprint* report, Sonia presented the sector's considerable impact on our climate and the importance of addressing this. HCWH has partnered with Arup to produce a Global Roadmap for the Decarbonisation of Healthcare that aims to "create a north star to guide the health sector to decarbonise in alignment with the ambition of the Paris Agreement and a 1.5 °C world".

The Roadmap will utilise various data sources, including the World Input-Output Database, to generate emissions reduction pathways for at least 43 different countries, which will be aggregated and presented under specific typologies. Datasheets will be presented for each country, providing examples of national decarbonisation pathways and highlighting actions that can be taken to support these.

The Roadmap is expected to be published in April 2021. HCWH will then engage the sector, holding dialogues with various countries and regions on implementing the Roadmap, in the run up to COP 26 and beyond.

Sonia Roschnik's presentation

Building climate-smart healthcare, Part 2: Operation Zero, an introduction

In this section, Scott Brady, Climate Programme Manager at HCWH Europe, presented Operation Zero. As HCWH Europe's flagship climate project, it aims to build on the Global Roadmap and put the European healthcare sector on the trajectory to net zero emissions in line with European and international climate commitments.

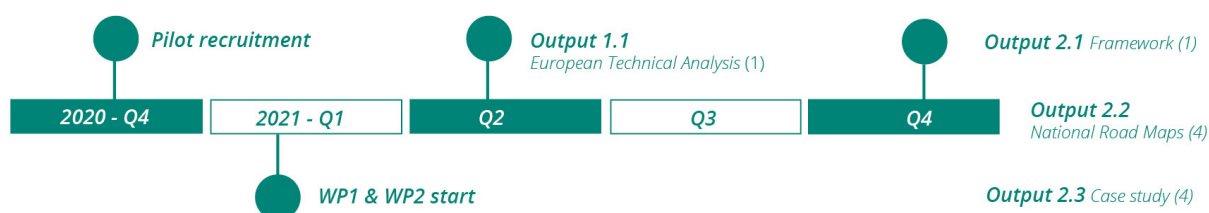Scott noted the example being set by the National Health Service in England, in being the first health system in the world to set a truly net zero target. He went on to explain HCWH's vision i.e. that every European country develops a national decarbonisation plan for its healthcare sector, that charts a 'Paris compatible' course to net zero emissions.

To achieve this, HCWH Europe has launched its Operation Zero project. Split into two work packages (WPs), this aims to establish:

- **A European Technical Analysis** (Work Package (WP) 1), providing a comprehensive overview of the European healthcare sector's carbon footprint to date, highlighting priority carbon hotspots and common opportunities for reduction across the sector.
- A new **Framework** (Work Package (WP) 2) that can be applied by any national healthcare system to support the production of national decarbonisation roadmaps to net zero emissions for healthcare, piloted in four European countries.

Scott went on to state that HCWH Europe will partner with four national health ministries/ health systems to pilot this new Framework (WP2), supporting participants to generate their own detailed climate footprint analysis and decarbonisation roadmaps. Through these pilots, we will gain valuable feedback into the practicalities and limitations of developing national and/or subnational decarbonisation roadmaps, and plans that will help to build a more robust framework and ultimately drive action both in Europe and beyond.

HCWH Europe is currently in the project development phase, focusing on pilot country recruitment. The delivery phase of the project will start in quarter one of 2021. The European Technical Analysis (WP1) is expected to be published in quarter two of 2021, and the Framework (WP2) published at the end of 2021.

Scott Brady's presentation

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

The event then moved into the breakout portion. Two breakout sessions were held, focusing on the WPs of Operation Zero. After a brief presentation providing more detail on these elements, participants were divided into breakout groups where they were presented with two specific consultation questions. Breakout groups were moderated by HCWH staff and representatives of the European Healthcare Climate Council.

Session A: Creating a European Technical Analysis

Scott opened the first breakout session with a reminder of the European Technical Analysis's purpose, describing it as a policy-level analysis that aims to give an overview of healthcare emissions in Europe, highlight potential hotspots to prioritise at a Europe-wide level, and provide some common actions that can be taken to reduce emissions.

He went on to note some specific details on what the analysis might contain:

1. A breakdown of emissions by country in both the baseline year (2014) and over time to 2050
2. A breakdown of direct and indirect emissions, including those arising from the supply chain
3. A breakdown of emissions by primary and secondary care, and presented through supply and demand perspectives
4. An emissions reduction profile for countries, and European healthcare providers as a whole, to become net zero (to comply with the Paris Agreement)
5. The timing and scale of interventions that should be taken across the sector to reduce emissions to net zero
6. A datasheet for each European country, providing information and graphical presentation of the trajectory to net zero and the country-specific interventions that should be taken to reduce emissions

Finally, Scott presented the consultation questions to be considered by attendees during this session. Attendees then moved into their breakout groups to discuss these.

Feedback summary

A summary of the feedback received from attendees against each consultation question is provided below.

Unsurprisingly, the COVID-19 pandemic featured heavily in attendees' responses. Attendees felt there were valuable lessons to be learnt from the European response that could be factored into Operation Zero to support a green recovery.

A1. What is missing from the outputs?

The granularity of the European Technical Analysis was queried by attendees. For instance, whether it would include a breakdown of travel/transport emissions or whether it would break the supply chain into its constituent parts. Providing a good level of detail will support countries and the sector in developing appropriate policies that target emissions and address tensions.

Attendees felt it was important to pay particular attention to emissions from the pharmaceutical industry, given its considerable contribution to healthcare's emissions and its power within the sector. The European Technical Analysis should address this through, for example, calculating the emissions associated with pharmaceuticals and making specific recommendations to reduce these.

Primary and secondary care are specifically noted in the outputs listed above. Attendees felt that tertiary and social care should also be included.

A2. What can we include that will help awaken national health ministries/systems to take action?

The purpose of the European Technical Analysis is to support policymakers in creating a net zero healthcare system in a timescale that is compatible with the Paris Agreement. As well as setting that final target date, attendees felt it would be useful to set some waypoints - they felt this would help focus attention and highlight a more tangible route to net zero.

Attendees also felt it would be useful to compare the business as usual emissions trajectory with different levels of intervention e.g. statutory only, light, medium, or heavy interventions. An example of how this might be graphically represented is included in Kristian Steele's presentation.

To help awaken national health ministries/systems, attendees felt it vital to highlight the health benefits associated with reduced emissions. To add further weight, attendees also believed it was necessary to demonstrate the economic benefits of becoming net zero, not just in terms of direct costs, but also in terms of the reduced health burden.

A3. What support do healthcare providers need from the top?

It was noted that support for decarbonisation requires buy-in at all levels, and therefore needs to be incentivised. No specific examples were given but this might include financial, procedural, or training mechanisms.

It was also noted that a lot of work in healthcare, particularly that carried out by clinical staff, is steered by protocols. Building carbon/climate impact assessments into these protocols is therefore vital.

Attendees also noted the importance of policies to provide a vision for low carbon healthcare and allow staff and hospitals to have a direct impact on decision making.

A4. What can we include that might help remove barriers at the facility level?

Attendees felt it would be useful to see and learn from live examples/case studies. They also felt access to appropriate training was critical.

A5. What costs should be included?

Responses to this question were less clear. Some felt that the inclusion of costs might be confusing, whilst others thought it would be useful to include a shadow cost of carbon, as well as research and development, procurement, transportation, patient care in and out of hospital, waste disposal and recycling, and so on.

There was no discussion amongst attendees about the cost of reaching a net zero health system.

A6. How can we present this work to have maximum impact?

Attendees felt that a breakdown of scope 3 (indirect) emissions would be useful, particularly in reference to the supply chain, given its significance in healthcare's climate footprint.

The link to health was noted as a key component. Ensuring the European Technical Analysis recognises the health benefits of moving to net zero will have a significant influence on its uptake.

Attendees noted that any recommendations should be easily implementable. Attendees felt that publishing the analysis in additional languages would be helpful.

A7. How can we use this work to encourage good collaboration between national, regional, and facility actors?

Attendees felt that the European Technical Analysis would help in developing capacity within the health sector, create a shared logic, and develop common procedures amongst the various actors.

It was noted that not all countries have suitable sustainability/climate forums through with which we could engage. It is important therefore to consider how we might encourage collaboration through existing platforms.

Attendees noted that it would be helpful to engage both the European Commission and the health ministries of individual countries. One idea noted was to host a conference aimed specifically at European health ministries.

Case studies were again noted as a useful resource, to demonstrate successes and build capacity.

Session B: Creating a framework for the development of national Roadmaps for the decarbonisation of healthcare

Scott opened the second breakout session with a reminder of the purpose of the proposed Framework i.e. to guide/support any national government/health system, or other relevant organisation, in developing a roadmap for the decarbonisation of its own healthcare system.

He went on to note some specific details on what the Framework might contain:

1. How to undertake health system carbon footprinting, including top-down economic datasets in input-output models
2. How to align healthcare activities, spend, and procurement with emissions factors and reporting categories
3. How to establish an emissions budget aligned with the Paris Agreement, and set targets over time that, as a minimum, meet this budget
4. How to conduct relevant analysis to identify carbon hotspots and interventions to mitigate emissions
5. How to ensure good governance and responsibility within healthcare systems for emissions reduction
6. How to work with stakeholders and partners to drive low carbon outcomes
7. How to monitor, track, and report progress

Scott then presented the consultation questions to be considered by attendees during this session. Attendees then moved into breakout groups to discuss these.

Feedback summary

A summary of the feedback received from attendees against each consultation question is provided below.

B1. What is missing from the topics listed?

Attendees highlighted the need for a flexible framework that could not only be applied in different countries, but also within different structures. Examples cited were considerations for primary, secondary, tertiary, and social care, as well as applicability in countries where healthcare is controlled at the regional/municipal level.

Furthermore, the Framework should consider the control and spend for healthcare in a national context. For example, by considering the alignment/relationship between the ministry and the system.

Attendees felt it would also be useful to include direction on how to augment economic level data with consumption level data. This would allow healthcare ministries/systems to develop a more accurate and robust roadmap using a hybrid approach.

B2. What are the barriers to uptake?

Attendees noted that the huge variance in health system approach (e.g. public/private, national/regional), might create barriers if not appropriately addressed. Additionally, there is a risk that any plan produced using this framework may be seen as "just another plan".

It is also important to consider where any given health ministry/system might be on their decarbonisation journey. The Framework must cater for all.

Finally, attendees felt the public/private split may also act as a barrier, where the necessary funding and/or legislation is not implemented to facilitate uptake.

B3. What will make this Framework attractive?

Attendees listed a number of features that might make this Framework attractive to health ministries/systems. Some of these focused on connecting health system challenges with co-benefits:

- Health benefits
- Financial wins/cost reductions
- Identifying best practice

Other features focused on how the Framework might be communicated/marketed:

- Developing a supporting communications package for health ministries/systems
- Provide assistance in publicising published roadmaps
- Support health ministries/systems on initiatives they are already working on
- Provide examples of best practice (case studies)

Other more general suggestions included:

- Tailoring the Framework for different audiences
- Guidance on how to fit with existing targets and goals
- Guidance on establishing national coordination

B4. What barriers do you face that might be addressed through this Framework?

Attendees felt that the top-down decarbonisation plans developed through this Framework would help drive cultural change, by giving healthcare providers 'permission' to take action.

The lack of transparency in the pharmaceutical industry was cited as a potential barrier. Attendees noted that this Framework would go some way to better understanding its true impact.
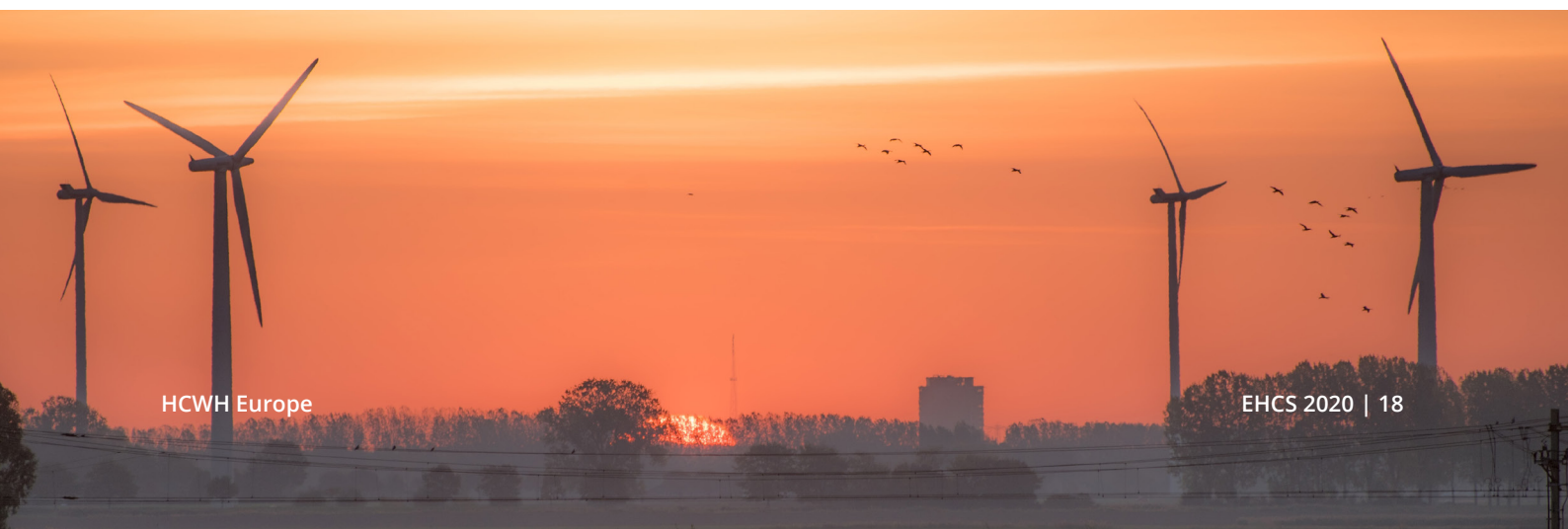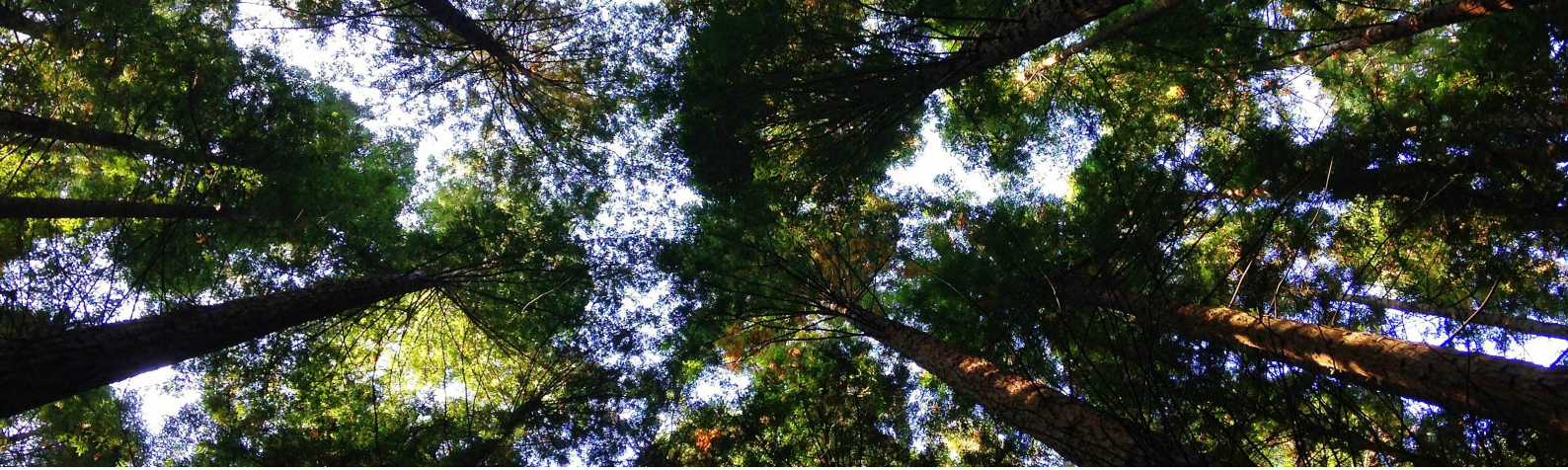
B5. What costs should we include?

Attendees noted that guidance on developing new financial models to aid the transition to net zero would be helpful, along with guidance on developing new care models that benefit both health and the environment.

B6. How do we use the Framework and developed roadmaps to enable action?

Attendees welcomed the inclusion of four countries to develop and pilot the Framework. They suggested that building a broader coalition of countries to observe the project would help to generate interest and build the next generation of adopters. Again, linking health and climate benefits was cited.

Attendees also note the importance of grounding the Framework in broader sustainability frameworks and the Sustainable Development Goals, to reduce any negative unintended consequences.

EVENT #2: WORKING GROUP ON HEALTH IN CLIMATE CHANGE

The Working Group on Health and Climate Change (HIC) brings together health and environment ministry officials from across the WHO Europe region. It aims to facilitate dialogue and cooperation between member states, and advocates for the integration of health and climate issues.

HCWH Europe was invited by the WHO to attend the 8th annual meeting of the Working Group on Health in Climate Change to present Operation Zero. This presented a unique opportunity to raise awareness of the project amongst its target audience, and to issue an official Call for Partners to support the development of WP2.

Ahead of this presentation, HCWH Europe prepared a briefing pack for HIC attendees, which was shared with them on the first day of the event (8 December). On 9 December, Sonia Roschnik and Scott Brady from HCWH presented Operation Zero, culminating in a formal Call for Partners. Scott invited countries to submit an initial Expression of Interest by 23 December 2020, noting HCWH's particular interest in hearing from Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, and Poland.

Feedback received from attendees was positive. The need for such an approach was noted, as were the benefits of such hands-on support. A representative from the Netherlands was particularly supportive.

The HIC meeting was attended by more than 100 officials from 35 member states and partner organisations.

NEXT STEPS

The feedback gathered from this year's European Healthcare Climate Summit will play a critical role in developing Operation Zero and generating more robust and impactful outcomes. HCWH Europe will use this feedback to develop a full specification for the European Technical Analysis and Framework that will guide us and our technical partners through the delivery phase.

GET INVOLVED!

Subscribe

If you would like to be kept up to date with the latest developments from our Climate-smart Healthcare programme, you can subscribe to our newsletter here.

Join the Network

If you are interested in reducing the environmental footprint of your hospital/ health centre, or the impact of your day-to-day work in healthcare, there are a number of ways you can join our network:

- Organisational membership of Global Green & Healthy Hospitals (hospitals/ health systems/health centres only) - giving your institution free access to a range of exclusive tools and resources
- Doctors for Greener Healthcare - bringing together doctors from across Europe to collaborate, share best practice, and advocate for a healthy future by reducing the environmental impact of healthcare.
- Nurses Climate Challenge Europe - empowering nurses across Europe to take action against the health impacts of climate change.

Health Care Without Harm

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Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe is the European arm of a global not for profit NGO whose mission is to transform healthcare worldwide so that it reduces its environmental footprint, becomes a community anchor for sustainability and a leader in the global movement for environmental health and justice. HCWH's vision is that healthcare mobilises its ethical, economical, and political influence to create an ecologically sustainable, equitable, and healthy world.