

**Hôpitaux en Transition**

Brussels 19 January 2024

**CleanMed**

Berlin 28 May 2024

**CleanMed**

Europe 3-7 June 2024

**CleanMed**

Lille 26 September 2024

# Impact Report 2024

Accelerating Sustainable Healthcare Together



[www.cleanmedeurope.org](http://www.cleanmedeurope.org)



# Foreword

Building on nearly two decades of success, the 2024 CleanMed Europe conference series reached new levels of impact. To capture this, over these pages, we have collated statistics and highlights from all 2024 CleanMed Europe activities, outlining key session topics, discussion points, and learning objectives. Throughout 2024, four CleanMed Europe events took place which have been summarised in this report:

**CleanMed Europe 2024**, the flagship conference from Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe, brings together healthcare leaders and champions of sustainability from across Europe. The event was delivered online from 3-7 June, reaching an international audience beyond Europe, and allowing attendees to network and enjoy all sessions virtually and on demand.

Alongside CleanMed Europe, we also hosted a series of in-person regional events that highlight specific local challenges and bring together leading professionals from each area.

For each of these events, attendees had the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of strategies and innovation in sustainable healthcare whilst expanding their network by meeting sustainability leaders and selected industry partners from their regions.

**Hôpitaux en Transition**, formally known as CleanMed Brussels, took place in January 2024. The event focused on sustainable developments and best practices from hospitals and healthcare providers across Belgium.

**CleanMed Berlin 2024** took place on 28 May in person in Berlin, Germany. The one-day German-language conference, hosted by Deutsche Allianz Klimawandel und Gesundheit (KLUG), featured best practices in sustainable healthcare in the German healthcare system.

This year, we also launched a new regional iteration as part of the CleanMed family:

**CleanMed Lille** which took place on 26 September in Lille, France. The event was developed and hosted in collaboration with C2DS (The Committee for Sustainable Development in Health) and showcased best practices to progress sustainable healthcare in France.

As 2024 comes to a close, the planning for our 2025 event series has already begun and we are proud to mark an unprecedented year of engagement across our networks and Europe in the movement for sustainable healthcare.

We are extremely grateful to all of our supporters and partners who make these events possible, to all of our inspiring speakers who have lent their voices and experiences to enrich our events, and indeed all of our attendees, who continue to participate and demonstrate that change is possible!

**Keep up the great work, and we look forward to seeing you again next year!**



**Sam Bishop**

Head of Community  
Engagement at HCWH Europe



# Contents

**1.**

**CleanMed Europe  
conferences:  
Impact in figures**

**2.**

**Hôpitaux en  
Transition**

**3.**

**CleanMed  
Europe**

**4.**

**CleanMed  
Berlin**

**5.**

**CleanMed  
Lille**

**6.**

**Looking ahead  
to 2025**



# CleanMed Europe conferences: Impact in figures

**Hôpitaux en  
Transition**  
19 January 2024



**CleanMed**  
Europe 3-7 June 2024



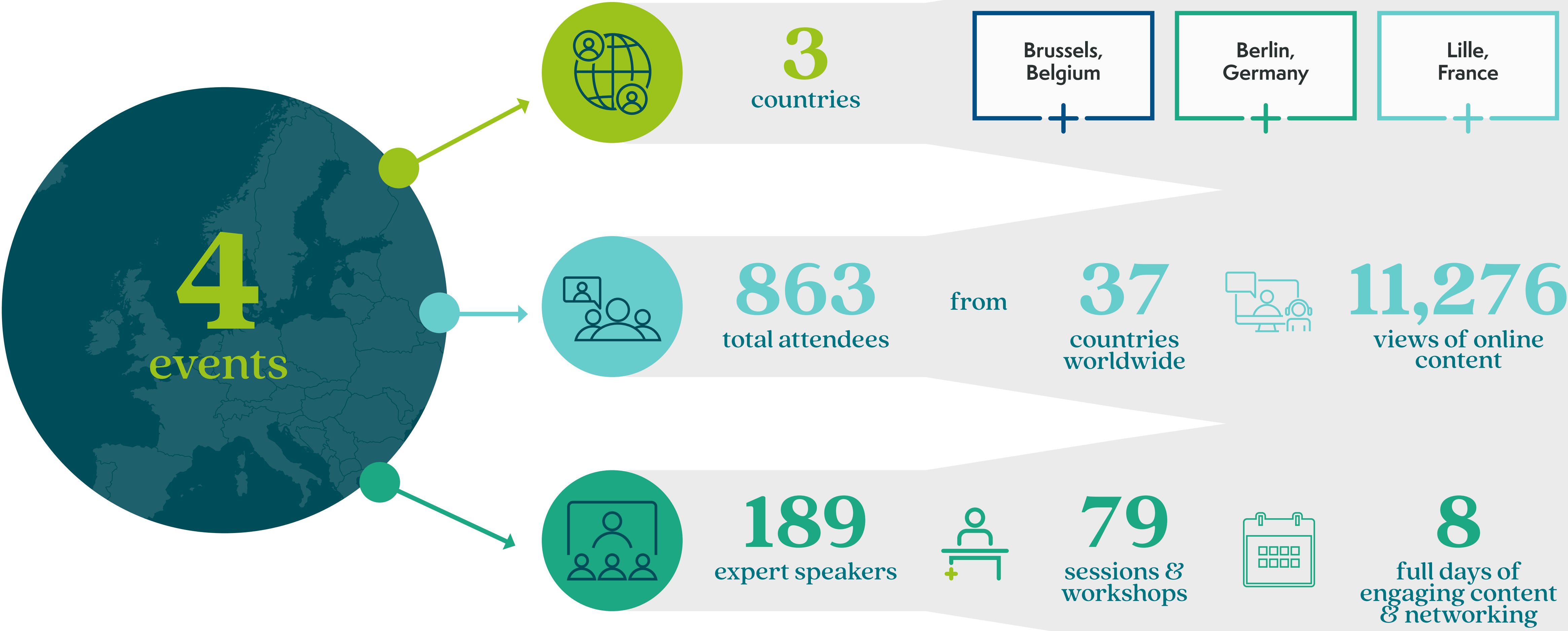
**CleanMed**  
Berlin 28 May 2024



**CleanMed**  
Lille 26 September 2024



# CleanMed Europe conferences: Impact in figures





91% of participants reported a better understanding of sustainable healthcare.




96% rated the conferences as good or excellent.



99% would recommend the CleanMed Europe conferences to others.





# Hôpitaux en Transition

Brussels 19 January 2024

# Hôpitaux en Transition

On 19 January, HCWH Europe co-hosted Hôpitaux en Transition (Hospitals in Transition), a one-day conference dedicated to advancing environmental sustainability within the healthcare sector. It brought together a diverse group of more than 60 professionals, policymakers, and experts from Belgium and France.



The day kicked off with a presentation by Marie Christine Dewolf from Hainaut Analyse, who introduced the AHIMSA project as the co-hosts for this event. Funded by the Brussels Region and Wallonia, AHIMSA aims to integrate environmental health considerations into hospitals and the broader medical sector. She shared insights from a survey conducted across 16 general hospitals, revealing that 11 are already engaged in initiatives related to environmental health, including efforts for improving food quality, addressing climate change, and reducing exposure to harmful chemicals.

Tristan Coubères from HCWH Europe provided an overview of Greening the Brussels Healthcare Sector, an initiative supported by HCWH Europe. This initiative was in its final stages at the time and concluded in March 2024. The project promoted sustainable healthcare practices in Brussels hospitals through knowledge enhancement, capacity building, and the implementation of sustainability plans.



## Innovative actions made by project hospitals:

- The plastic waste audit that was done at the Clinique Universitaire St Luc was the first ever made in a Belgium hospital. It showed that 15 tons of plastic waste per year would be produced by two facility sites, and the majority of it would not be recycled.
- The report to reduce Endocrine-disrupting Chemicals (EDC) in the paediatric and maternity service of CHU St Pierre. Based on the AHIMSA study, the report proposed EDC-free and sustainable alternatives for each product used in the facility.

## Event partners:







# Hôpitaux en Transition

General recommendations and concrete solutions issued by these works were finally shared to the audience, including the HCWH Europe advocacy to follow the [waste hierarchy](#) and [chemical hazards reduction plan](#).

A panel discussion then featured representatives from the partner hospitals of Greening the Brussels Healthcare Sector, sharing their experiences and plans for promoting sustainable healthcare.

Later, the focus shifted to concrete tools and strategies for incorporating environmental health into medical care. Presentations covered topics such as eco-design in healthcare, the importance of eco-responsible procurement, and national campaigns aimed at reducing exposure to endocrine disruptors. The speakers highlighted innovative approaches to minimising the use of plastics and harmful chemicals, particularly during the critical first 1,000 days of life.



Finally, the seminar saw the launch of a joint statement by five Brussels hospitals, calling for greater information sharing from suppliers to better assess the sustainability of their products. As one of the Brussels hospitals recalled, the supply chain is responsible for between [55 to 75% of the carbon footprint of a healthcare facility](#) (The Lancet).

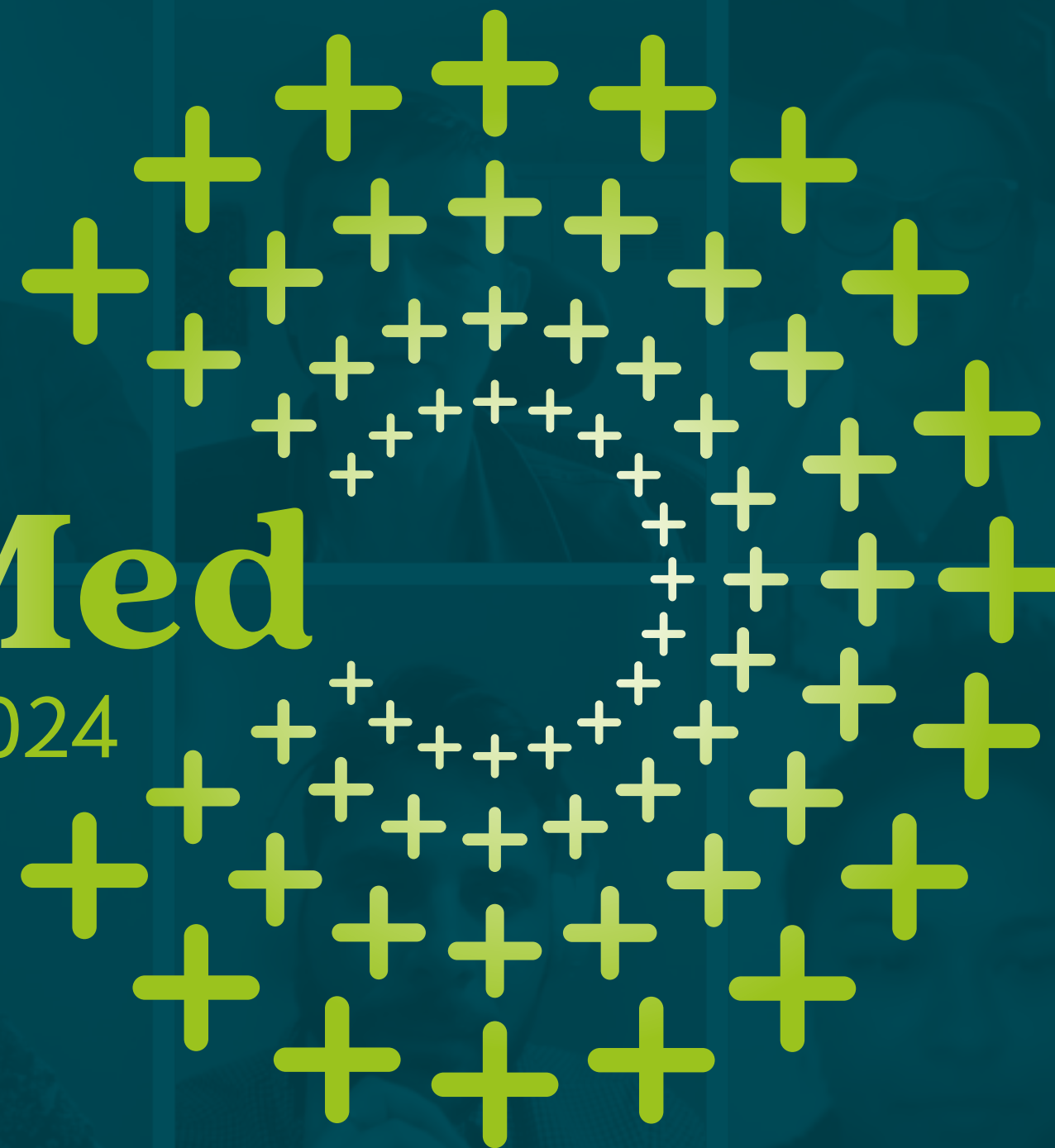


**I have been impressed by the number of projects launched by hospitals to reduce their environmental impact. I consider this issue to be critical and affirm my support for the joint declaration, because without collaboration with industry we will not be able to succeed in this global transition.**

*Alain Maron, Minister of Environment & Health of the Brussels-Capital Region*

# CleanMed

Europe 3-7 June 2024

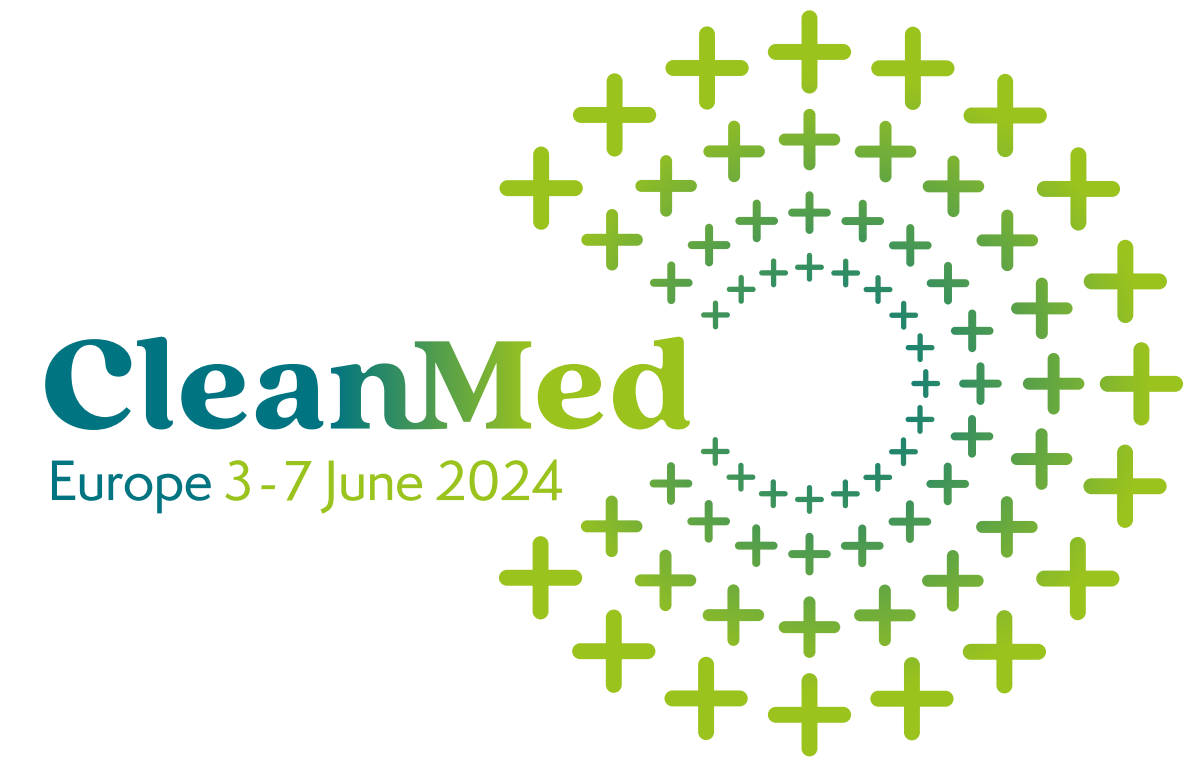
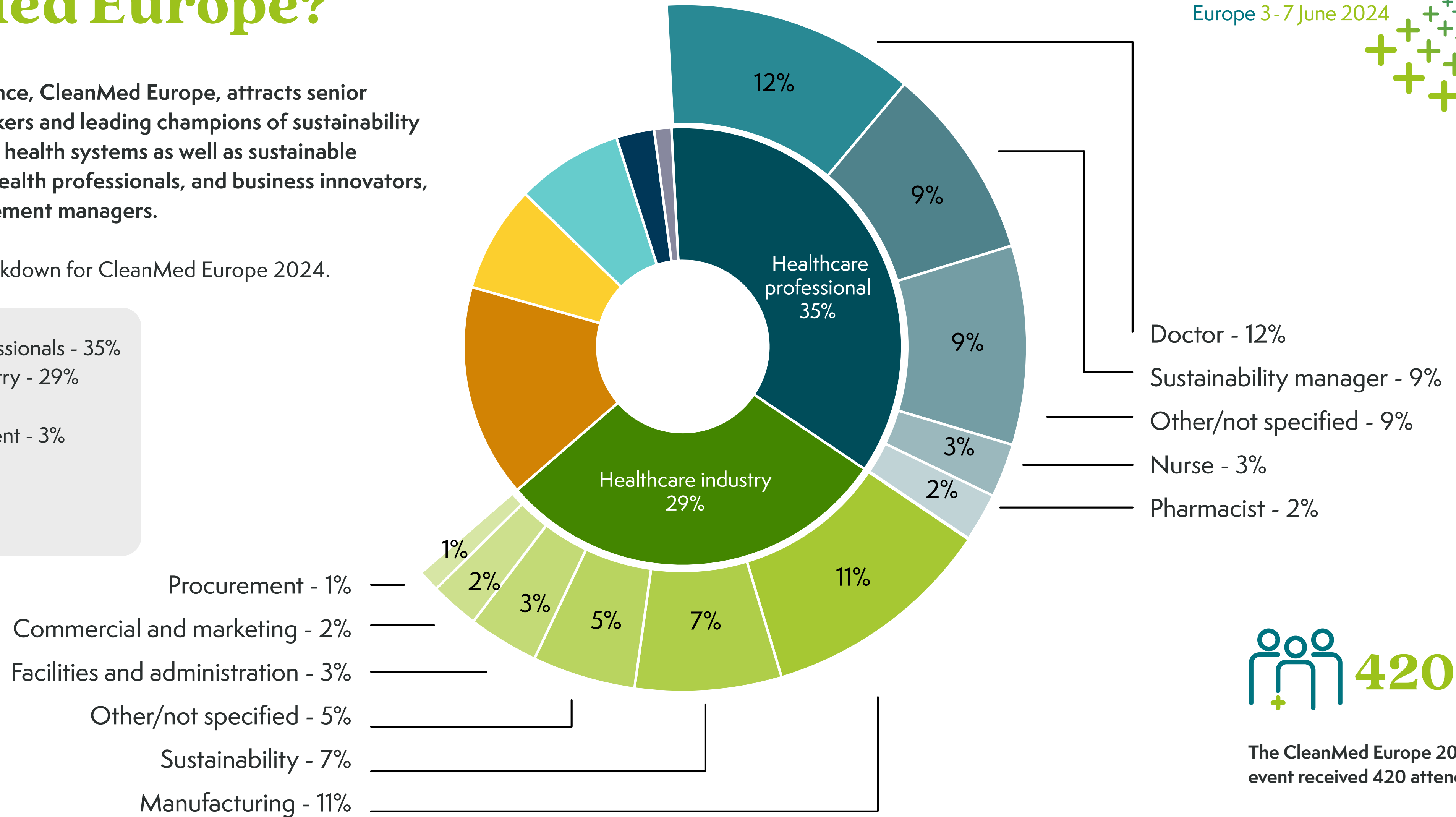


# Who attends CleanMed Europe?

Our flagship conference, CleanMed Europe, attracts senior leaders, decision-makers and leading champions of sustainability from major European health systems as well as sustainable healthcare experts, health professionals, and business innovators, suppliers and procurement managers.

See the audience breakdown for CleanMed Europe 2024.

- Healthcare professionals - 35%
- Healthcare industry - 29%
- NGO - 16%
- Policy/Government - 3%
- Consulting - 1%
- Academia - 8%
- Other - 8%



The CleanMed Europe 2024 event received 420 attendees.



**Julia Giannini**

Group Head of  
Environment and  
Climate Action at BUPA



**Will Clark**

Executive Director at  
HCWH Europe

## Keynote and opening plenary: Julia Giannini and Will Clark

CleanMed Europe 2024 began with inspiring addresses from two leaders in healthcare sustainability, to launch into day one's focus on greening clinical environments.

**Julia Giannini**, BUPA's Group Head of Environment and Climate Action, delivered a compelling keynote stressing the urgent need for sustainable practices in healthcare for long-term resilience. She argued that healthcare, with its mission to save lives, is naturally suited to lead the shift to a low-carbon economy and emphasised that the responsibility for sustainable choices should rest with healthcare providers, not patients.

Concluding her keynote with a powerful call to action, Giannini stated, "We need to be the last building standing and stay resilient. [...] Collaboration is needed because we will need the best innovators to drive the action that we need at the pace that we need. It's going to be tough and tricky but that's why we do what we do. We will thrive in this complexity because we deserve a healthy future."

**Will Clark**, HCWH Europe's outgoing Executive Director, echoed these sentiments in the opening plenary, where he reflected on his tenure. He has witnessed sustainability become a crucial aspect of healthcare, which now more than ever requires coordinated efforts. He highlighted the importance of collaboration through HCWH's Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network, declaring: "Sustainable healthcare is now THE big thing."

“

**We need to be the last building standing and stay resilient. [...] Collaboration is needed because we will need the best innovators to drive the action that we need at the pace that we need. It's going to be tough and tricky but that's why we do what we do. We will thrive in this complexity because we deserve a healthy future.**

*Julia Giannini, Group Head of Environment and Climate Action at BUPA*

## Born Green Generation: Delivering Toxic-free Healthcare

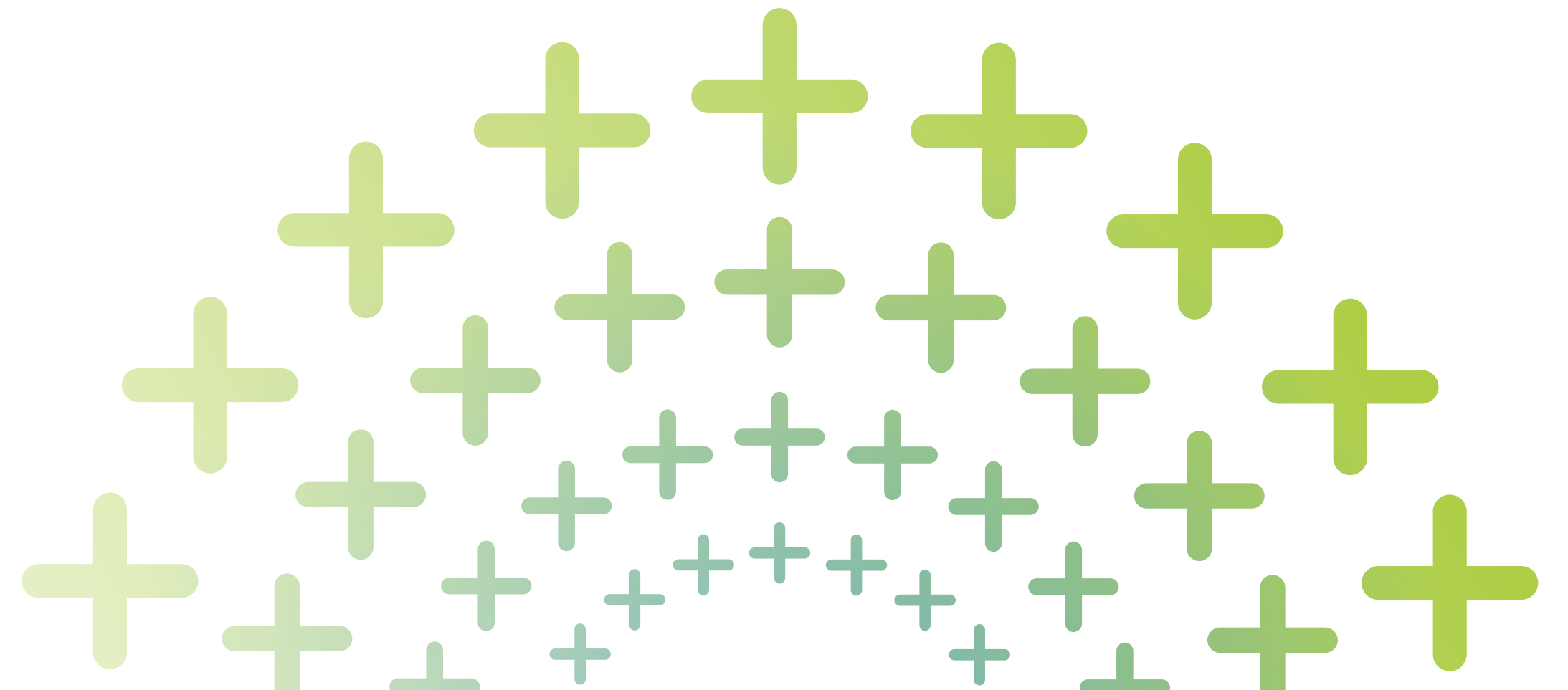
The [Born Green Generation](#) initiative aims to create environmentally conscious maternity, neonatal, and paediatric units across European hospitals, protecting future generations from harmful plastics and chemicals while reducing waste. In this session, three experts illustrated inspiring sustainable healthcare practices and the crucial role of frontline staff.



Watch this session

### Speakers

- Elena Codina Sampera, Head of the Pediatric Environmental Health Unit, Hospital Sant Joan de Déu, Spain
- Charlotte Adams, Sustainability Delivery Manager, Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, UK
- Josephine Frame, Practice Development Midwife, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust, UK

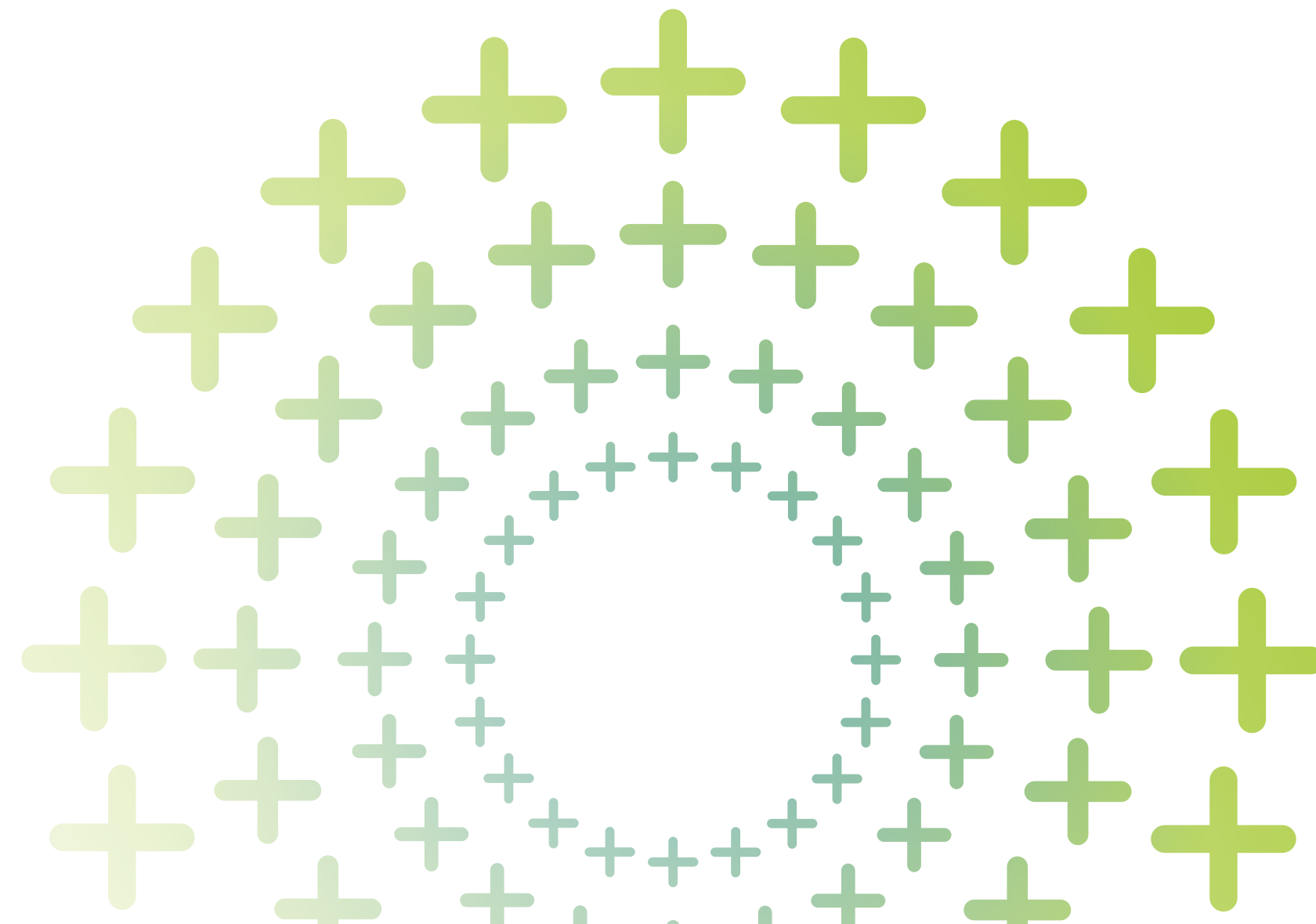


### The Power of Strategic Procurement in Greening Healthcare

Procurement professionals wield power to transform hospitals into bastions of environmental responsibility. This session showcased innovative approaches to fostering sustainability in healthcare through strategic procurement practices.

**Marcin Kautsch**, shared the success story of the EcoQUIP project at [Sucha Beskidzka Hospital](#) in Poland. This initiative aimed to improve thermal comfort and energy efficiency by installing photovoltaic panels to manage excessive sunlight. The project not only reduced energy consumption but also generated renewable energy equivalent to 5% of the hospital's needs, demonstrating significant economic savings and innovation in healthcare sustainability.

**Danny Havenith** highlighted the [Mercurhosp project](#), which focuses on integrating sustainability criteria into public tenders following EU law. He emphasised the importance of transparent supplier dialogues and the adoption of sustainable practices across procurement processes. Addressing the growing challenges in hospital waste management post-pandemic, he advocated innovative solutions like electric decontamination. Throughout the session, the speakers underscored the critical role of strategic procurement in driving sustainable healthcare practices.



### Learning objectives

- Gain an understanding of the critical role strategic procurement plays in driving sustainability efforts within the healthcare sector.
- Acquire practical strategies and best practices for effectively implementing sustainable procurement processes in healthcare organisations.

### Speakers

- **Marcin Kautsch**, Project Consultant, Poland
- **Danny Havenith**, CEO at MercurHosp, Belgium

### Greening Operating Theatres

In a thought-provoking session on greening operating theatres, three experts shared critical insights into sustainable healthcare practices in surgery and anaesthesia. **Elisabetta Mezzalira** highlighted the resource-intensive nature of surgical activities, which generate 20-30% of hospital waste. She illustrated the environmental impact of anaesthetic gases, noting that one bottle of desflurane produces CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent to a round trip from London to Naples by car.

**Dr Louise Sanderson** emphasised the multifaceted benefits of sustainable practices, such as using reusable named hats, which not only reduce waste but also improve staff engagement and economic efficiency.

Finally, **Virginia Ledda** addressed the debate between single-use and reusable drapes and gowns, pointing out the lack of robust evidence while suggesting that single-use items likely have higher financial and carbon costs.

The speakers advocated the involvement of frontline staff in sustainability initiatives, emphasising education, collaboration, and empowerment. As Mezzalira noted, "Nurses can be at the forefront of the action and lead the way toward sustainable healthcare." This session demonstrated that innovative approaches to greening operating theatres, when implemented collaboratively and with frontline involvement, not only reduce environmental impact but also enhance staff engagement and potentially lead to economic benefits.



**Nurses can be at the forefront of the action and lead the way toward sustainable healthcare.**

**Elisabetta Mezzalira**, *Research Project Manager at Department of Paediatric Onco-Haematology of the University of Padua, Italy*

### Learning objectives

- Inspire healthcare staff to take action in the operating theatre.
- Identify impactful actions for reducing emissions in the operating theatre.

### Speakers

- **Dr Louise Sanderson**, Consultant Anaesthetist at Newcastle Foundation Trust, UK
- **Virginia Ledda**, PhD Student, NIHR Global Surgery unit at the University of Birmingham, UK
- **Elisabetta Mezzalira**, Research Project Manager at Department of Paediatric Onco-Haematology of the University of Padua, Italy



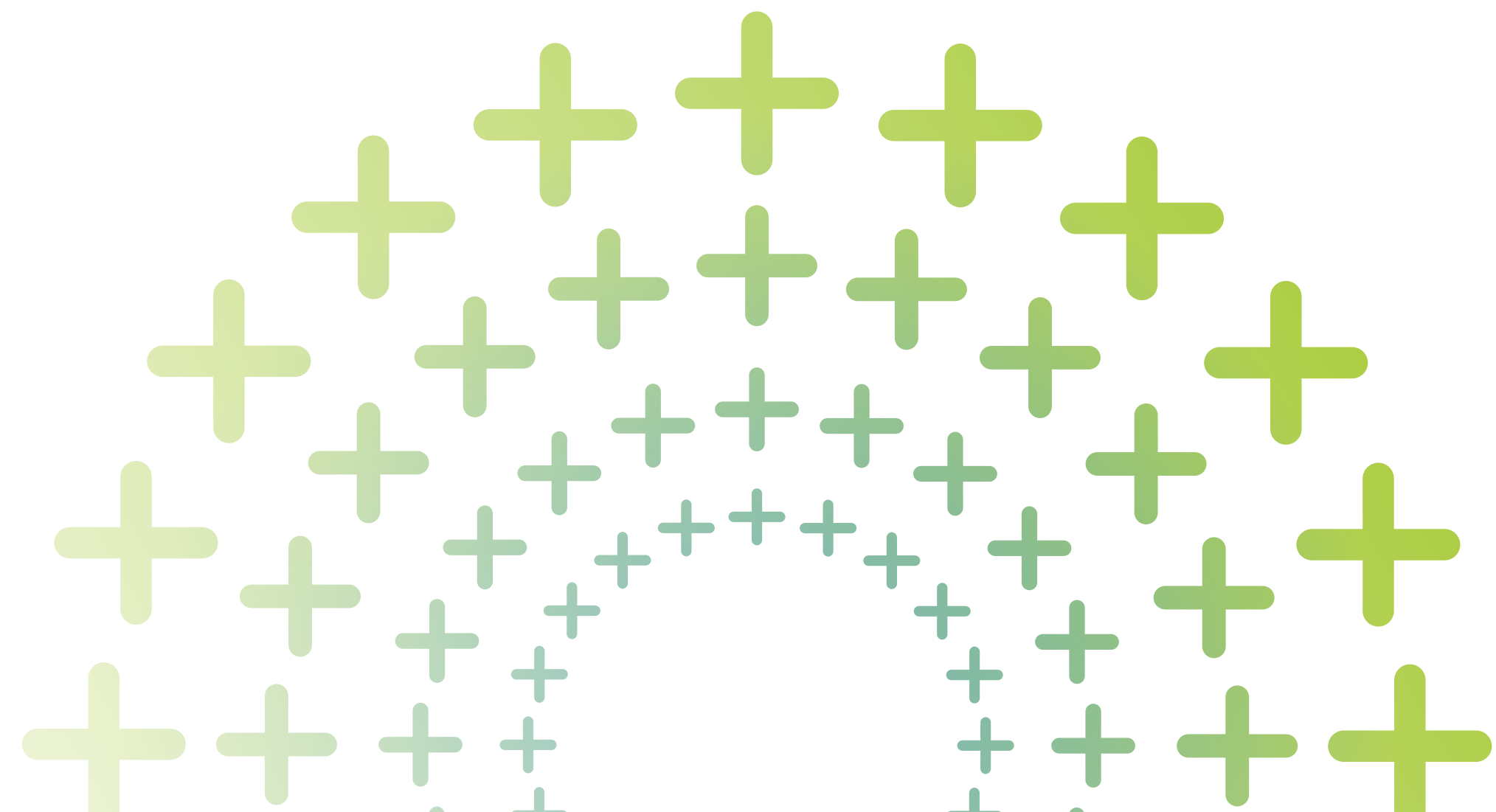


**Dr Toseef Din**  
CEO of M.P. Shah  
Hospital

## Keynote: Toseef Din

On day two, **Dr Toseef Din** opened with a keynote speech focused on the critical need for collaboration in addressing climate change and healthcare sustainability. Dr Din is CEO of M.P. Shah Hospital in Kenya. She highlighted how floods disproportionately affect women and children, exacerbating gender inequalities. Din presented six collaborative initiatives undertaken by Shah Hospital, including global sustainability to demonstrate the power of collaboration in driving sustainable healthcare practices, even in resource-constrained settings.

Din called for collective action, emphasizing that leadership and advocacy are crucial for accelerating sustainable healthcare. She urged attendees to identify potential collaborators and take action, regardless of scale.





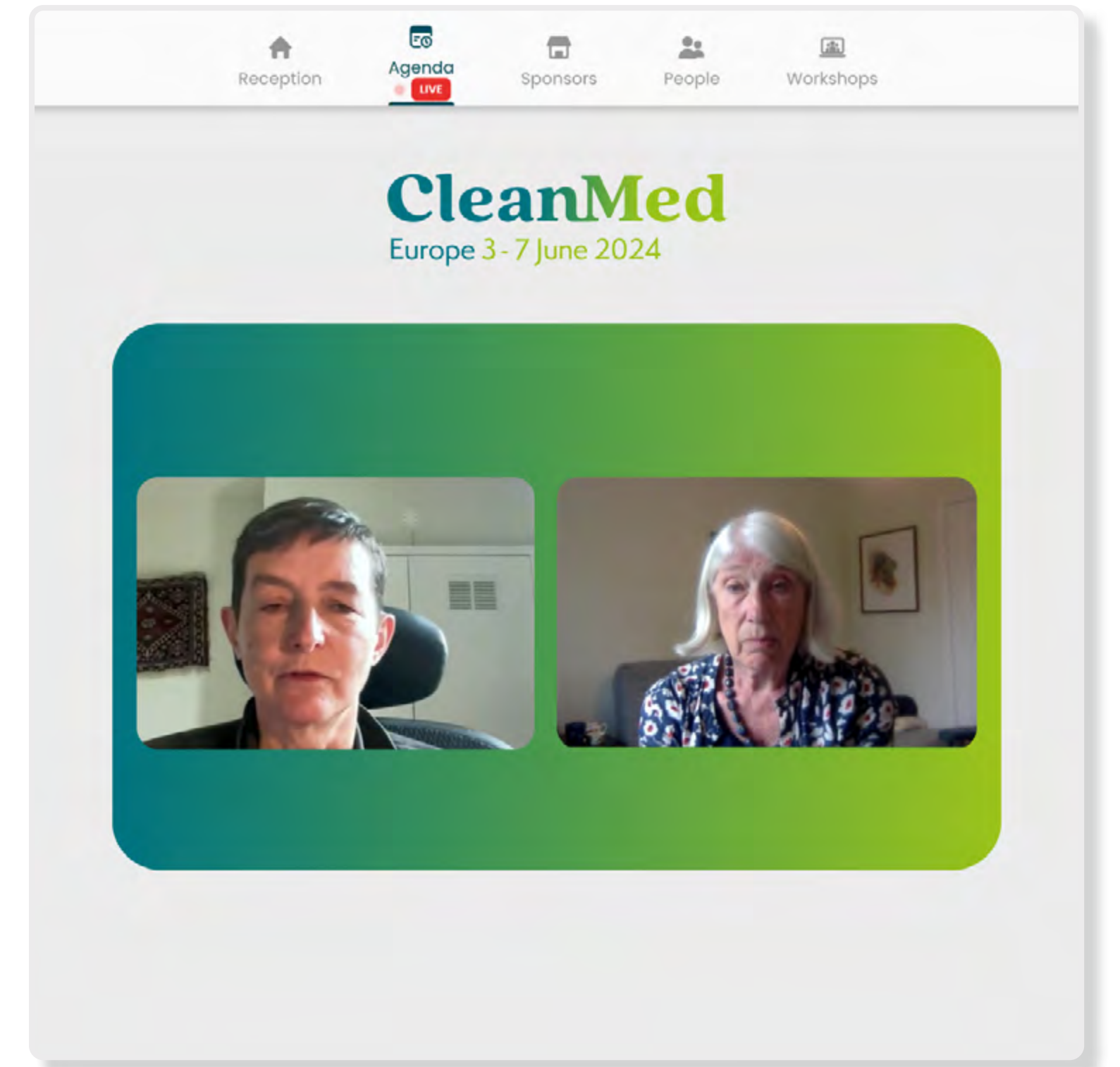
## Eco-anxiety and Climate Distress at Work: How Can We Look After Ourselves and Each Other

Many of us working in sustainability experience climate distress or “eco-anxiety”. This year, CleanMed Europe was thrilled to welcome **Judith Anderson** and **Rebecca Nestor** of the [Climate Psychology Alliance](#) to talk openly about the psychological impacts of climate change and how to manage them. In this session, attendees learned how to connect safely with our climate feelings, and heard how we can see practices that support and normalise climate emotions at work.

They recommended engaging in “climate cafes”, or listening circles, that can serve as a community where we break climate silence, connect with nature, and even grieve collectively. Overall, the session highlighted the need for emotional support and open dialogue in addressing climate distress, particularly in professional settings where the burden of sustainability work can lead to burnout.

### Speakers

- **Dr Judith Anderson**, Climate Psychology Alliance, UK
- **Dr Rebecca Nestor**, Climate Psychology Alliance, UK



## How Can Sustainability Impact Hospital Business Objectives

In this session, **Katherina Martin Abello** explored how to treat sustainability as a core business imperative with a programmatic approach, joined by **Aki Haukilahti** and **Joana Lamego**.

“For me, sustainable healthcare means being able to provide healthcare services that really address the healthcare needs of today’s population in a way that doesn’t compromise the health of future generations”, said Joana Lamego. She explained how strategic partnerships with other actors, such as Philips, have allowed Champalimaud Foundation to be more ambitious in their sustainability targets. For instance, they aim to reduce their imaging department’s carbon footprint by 50%. She also stressed the importance of external auditors to prevent greenwashing and gain the community’s trust.

Aki Haukilahti provided an example from his hospital that implemented digital follow-ups reducing both economic costs and emissions while making the service more accessible to patients. “We started sustainability reporting by ourselves two years ago, and now we are on track to fulfil all the requirements set by the European Union’s Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive”, he said. He concluded by stating the importance of collaboration, especially when it comes to supply-chain emissions: in this case, connecting with supplier companies and other hospitals is crucial.



**We started sustainability reporting by ourselves two years ago, and now we are on track to fulfil all the requirements set by the European Union’s Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive.**

*Aki Haukilahti, Vice President and CEO at TAYS Heart Hospital and SK Hankintapalvelut, Finland*

### Speakers

- **Katherina Martin**, Abello Global Marketing Excellence CoE Leader at Philips, Netherlands
- **Aki Haukilahti**, Vice President and CEO at TAYS Heart Hospital and SK Hankintapalvelut, Finland
- **Joana Lamego**, Head of Strategic Research Development at Champalimaud Foundation, Portugal

Session sponsor:

**PHILIPS**

## What Does a Sustainability Lead Do?

In this session, a panel of sustainability professionals explored what an average day looks like for them, what initiatives they drive, and what challenges they face.

The panel explored many existing initiatives, from data-based projects that bring financial gains and reduce emissions and waste, to minimising the use of gloves, to transitioning to renewable energy. They identified how crucial their roles were in supporting the busy healthcare workers in their organisations to drive change.

The panellists reflected that leading sustainability efforts alone can sometimes feel isolating. **Anna Fuster** shared her experience: "For me, it was really helpful to have Health Care Without Harm and the Global Green Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) network because I was alone. They provided the chance to work with others

in the same position as me, with the same interests and challenges." Further, working with the GGHH network and HCWH Europe has been extremely beneficial for her, as it has provided the opportunity to rely on the knowledge and experience of others in the network.

### Speakers

- **Jannis Michael**, Sustainability Manager at Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin
- **Clare Topping**, Head of Sustainability at Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust, UK
- **Anna Fuster**, Sustainability Manager at Consorci Hospitalari de Vic, Spain

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**For me, it was really helpful to have Health Care Without Harm and the Global Green Healthy Hospitals network because I was alone. They provided the chance to work with others in the same position as me, with the same interests and challenges.**

*Anna Fuster, Sustainability Manager at Consorci Hospitalari de Vic, Spain*

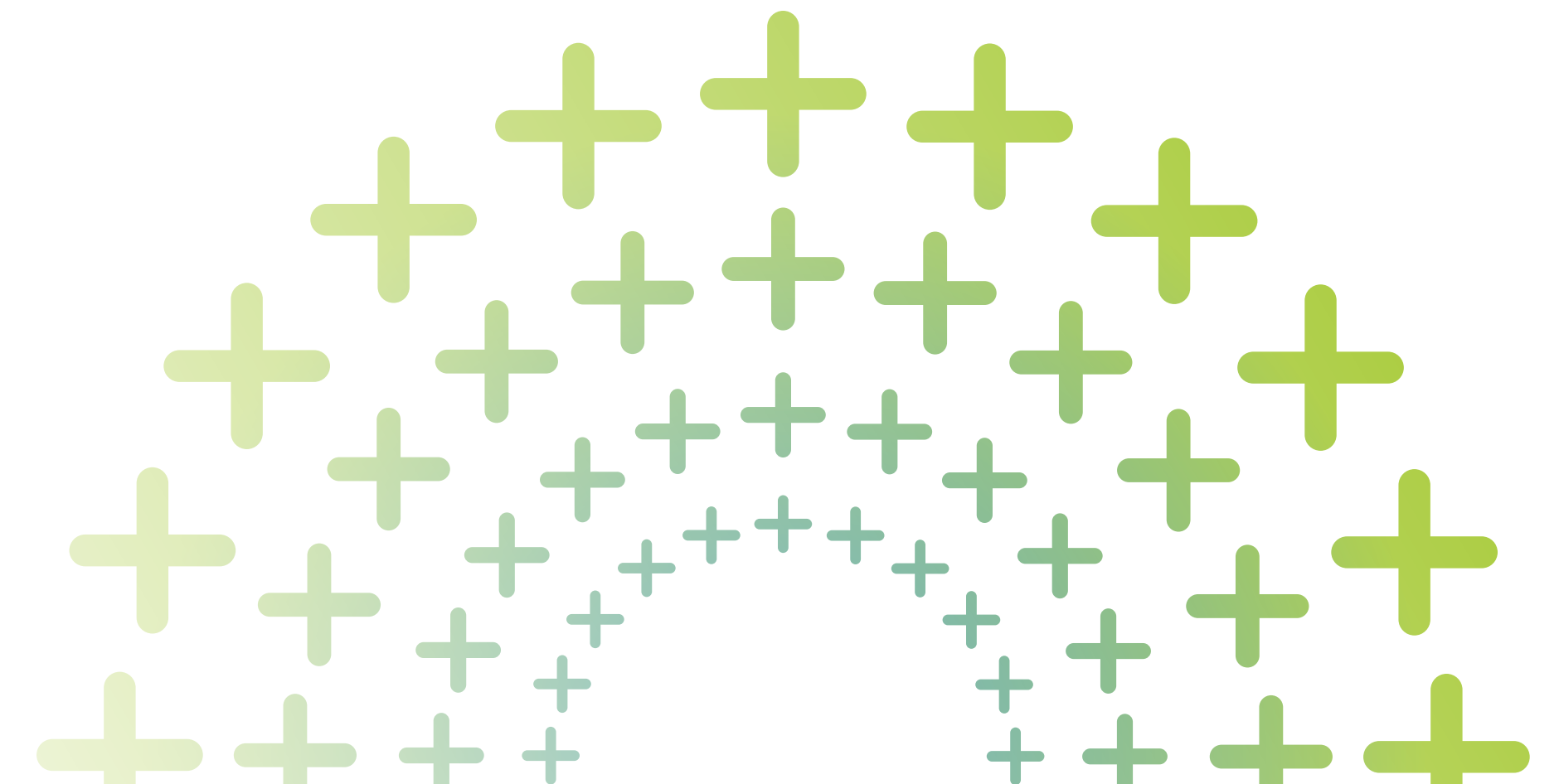


**Peter van den Hazel**  
President of the Health  
and Environment  
Alliance (HEAL)

## Keynote: Peter van den Hazel

In a compelling keynote address, **Dr Peter van den Hazel**, President of the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), painted a stark picture of the global health landscape, where environmental challenges and human wellbeing are inextricably linked. With the sobering revelation that millions of children perish annually due to environmental exposures, Dr van den Hazel set the stage for a call to action. While acknowledging progress in health outcomes, he emphasised that climate change continues to be a formidable adversary, pushing healthcare systems worldwide to their limits.

Dr van den Hazel championed an approach to healthcare that does not just treat symptoms but addresses root causes, confronting the health threats presented by biodiversity loss, pollution, and unsustainable consumption. At the heart of his vision lies the concept of resilience, urging healthcare systems to adapt amidst the rising threat of climate-related shocks. He called for environmental and climate policies in healthcare to stem the rising tide of non-communicable diseases and safeguard our collective future, setting the tone for the third day of CleanMed Europe and its focus on protecting our environment to protect health.

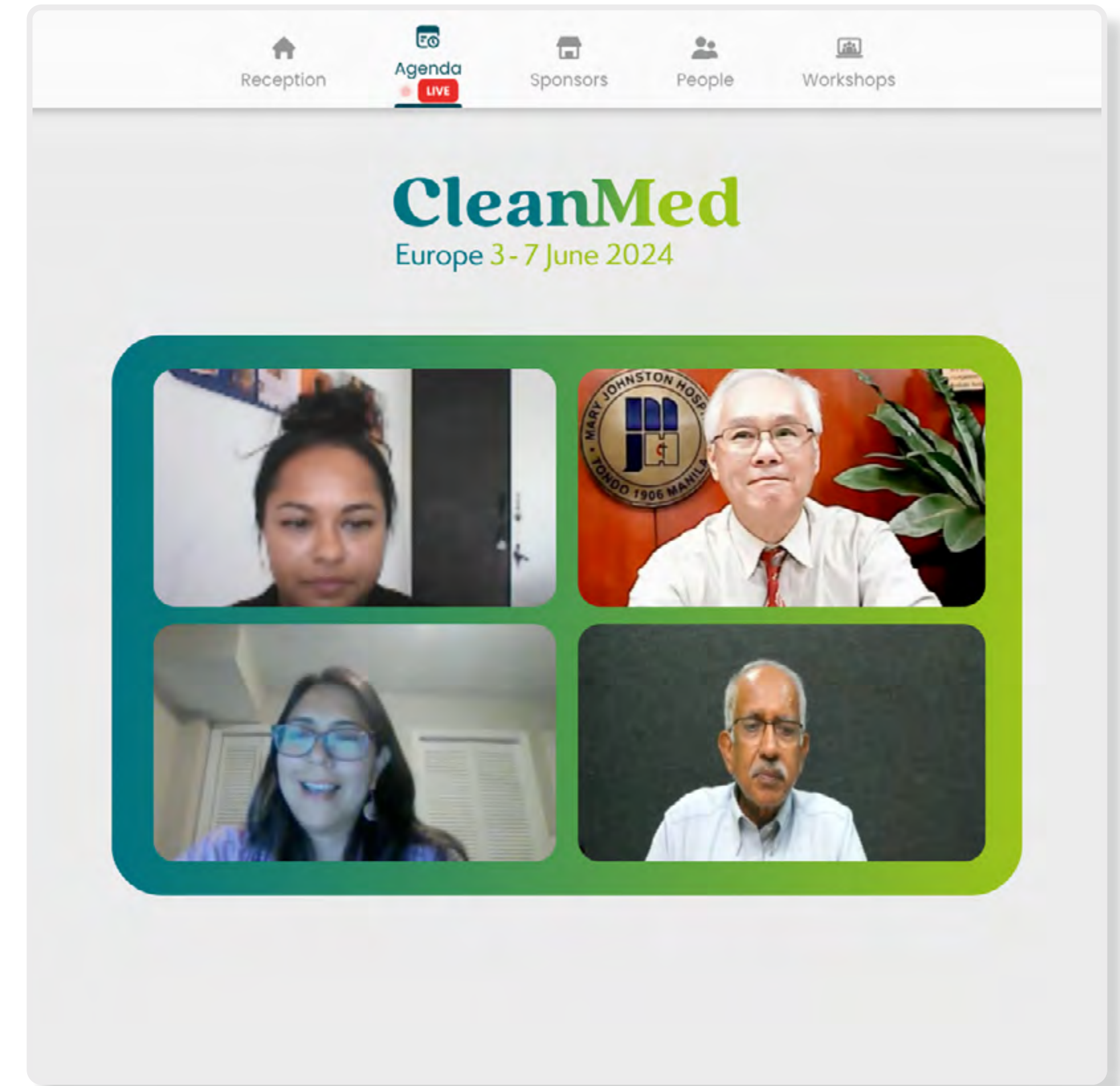




### Sustainable Solutions from the Global South

Amidst the global climate crisis, the Global South not only bears the brunt of climate change impacts, but also holds innovative healthcare solutions vital for addressing these challenges worldwide. This session underscored the importance of learning from and scaling up these sustainable practices to achieve global health and environmental goals.

[Watch this session](#)



### Speakers

- **Azeeza Rangunwala**, Senior Campaign Manager at GroundWork, South Africa
- **Thulasiraj Ravilla**, Director of Operations at Aravind Eye Care System, India
- **Glenn Roy Paraso**, Executive Director at Mary Johnston Hospital, Philippines

### Prescribing for the Environment

In this session, three experts discussed strategies for reducing the ecological impact of prescribing practices. The speakers unanimously advocated for policy action and collaboration among healthcare professionals to promote sustainability.

HCWH Europe's **Erik Ruiz** highlighted the significant threat posed by pharmaceuticals excreted into the environment. These substances alter biogeochemical processes, contribute to antimicrobial resistance, and cause hormonal disruptions, endangering both ecosystems and human health. He emphasised the need for a multi-faceted approach to reduce pharmaceutical pollution and develop sustainable alternatives, stating: "We are caught in a vicious cycle: a human need arises, we discover a medicine, overuse it, and its interaction with the environment creates new problems that harm our health."

**Bent Windelborg Nielsen** discussed the benefits of using narrow-spectrum antibiotics, like penicillin, in paediatric care. This approach effectively reduces antibiotic resistance and lessens the environmental burden of

pharmaceutical pollution. He advocated switching from intravenous to oral antibiotics when feasible, noting "We can achieve the same clinical outcome with less medication, effectively reducing antibiotic resistance and the environmental burden of pharmaceutical pollution."

**Sharon Pflieger** explored the entire pharmaceutical lifecycle, from design to disposal, and highlighted opportunities to reduce carbon emissions and pharmaceutical pollution. She pointed out that only 3% of medicines are currently recovered for reuse, underscoring the need for improved circularity within the pharmaceutical industry.



**Let sustainability be that golden thread in your practice. Climate change is a public health issue... Every intervention affects not just the patient but the entire community.**

*Sharon Pflieger, Consultant in Pharmaceutical Public Health at NHS Highland, UK*

### Learning objectives

- Encourage prescribers to analyse their behaviours and provide them with tools to change their prescription habits.
- Raise awareness of healthcare professionals on their role in addressing AMR
- Promote the training offered by the AMR EDUCare project.

### Speakers

- **Sharon Pflieger**, consultant in Pharmaceutical Public Health at NHS Highland, UK
- **Bent Windelborg Nielsen**, Leading Clinician at Regional Hospital Randers, Denmark
- **Erik Ruiz**, Safer Pharma Programme Manager, HCWH Europe, Spain

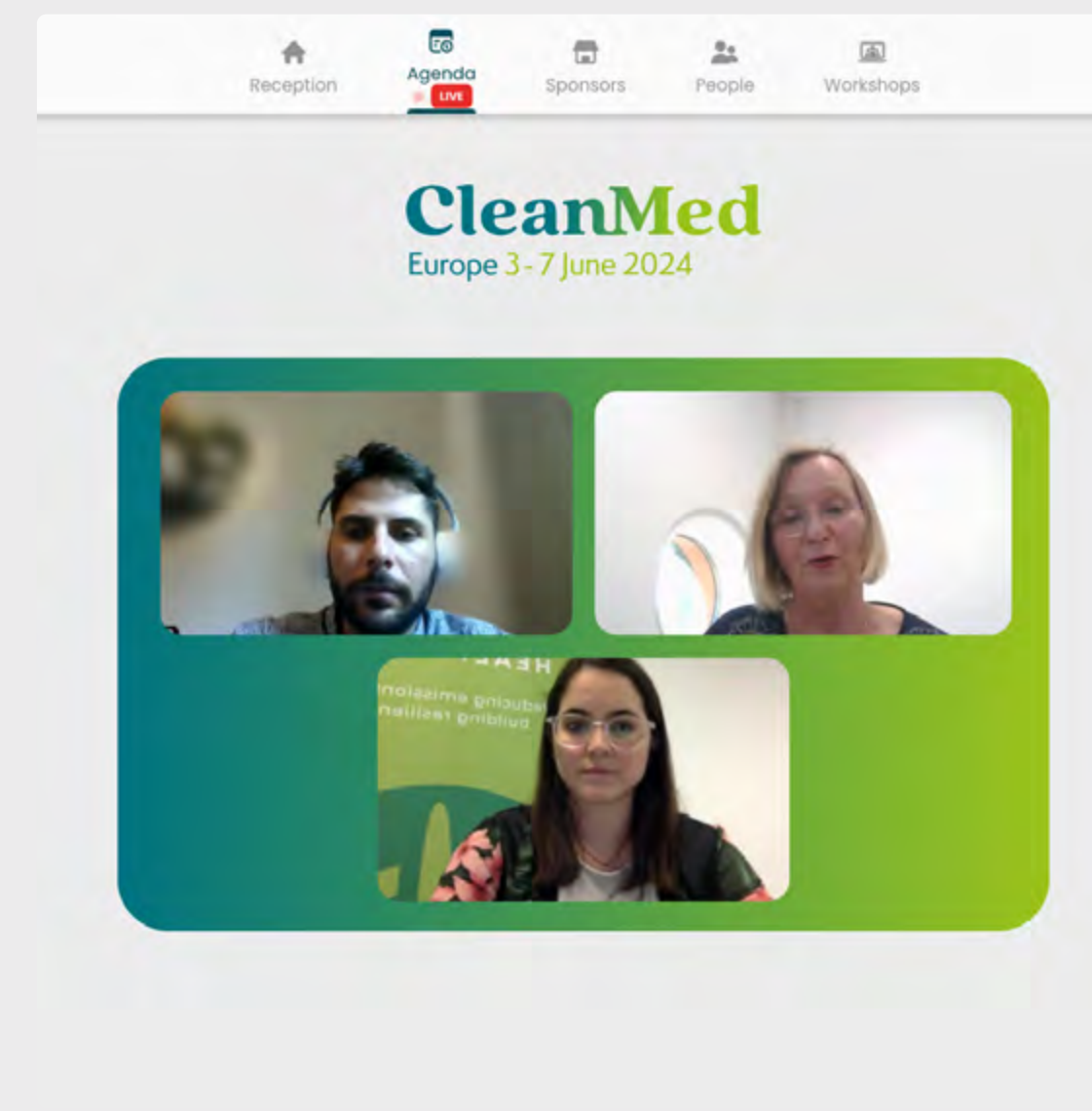
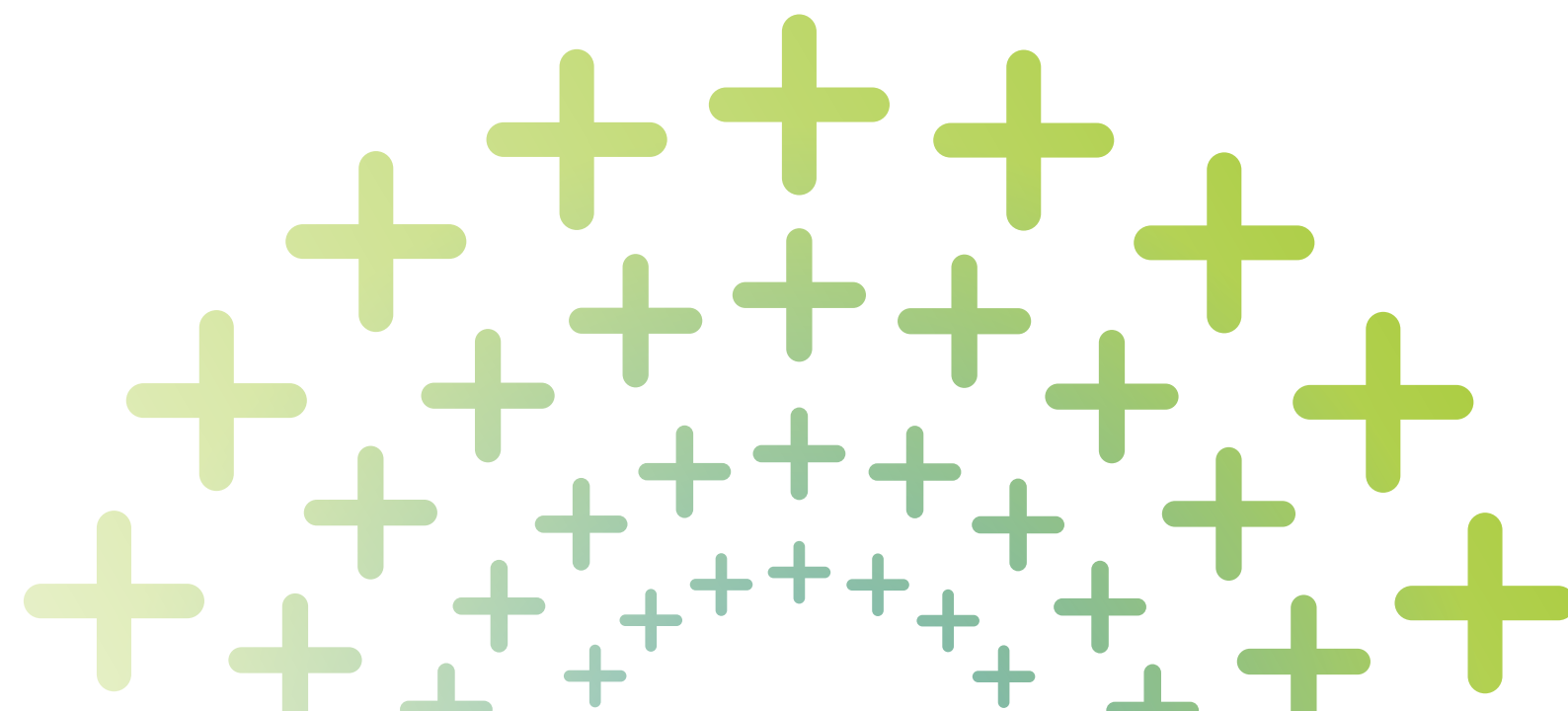
### Building Healthcare Climate Resilience

Climate change is putting significant pressure on already overstretched healthcare systems. Featuring a diverse group of experts, this session explored strategies for healthcare institutions to address and prepare for climate change impacts — an urgent need.

**Dr Kazmierczak**, who coordinates the European Climate and Health Observatory, emphasised that 11% of European hospitals are in potential riverine flood-prone areas, while 46% of urban hospitals are exposed to urban heat islands. In terms of European policy preparedness, she highlighted a range of directives, regulations and guidelines available, such as the [Directive on the Resilience of Critical Entities](#), providing guidance on climate proofing critical infrastructure.

**Dr Karozis** stressed the importance of vulnerability assessments, adaptation planning, and cost-benefit analyses for healthcare facilities. He introduced the [LIFE RESYSTAL project](#), which is working to provide such tools and resources to help European health facilities strengthen their climate resilience.

**Riitta-Maija Hämäläinen** proposed incorporating corporate responsibility at regional levels to reduce social, economic, and ecological impacts of health services. She introduced the concept of Planetary Healthcare, which aims to reduce demand for health services, match supply to demand, and decrease emissions from service provision. Hämäläinen also shared a success story of digital clinics, citing an app launched in her region with 52,000 users out of 200,000 inhabitants, significantly reducing transport-related emissions.



### Learning objectives

Attendees were encouraged to explore resources from the European Climate and Health Observatory and join the Scaling Network of LIFE RESYSTAL for further support in building healthcare climate resilience through accessing cutting-edge tools.

### Speakers

- **Dr Aleksandra Kazmierczak**, European Environment Agency, Denmark
- **Dr Stelios Karozis**, Researcher at the National Centre for Scientific Research, Greece
- **Riitta-Maija Hämäläinen**, the Head of Sustainable Development, Päijät-Häme Regional Joint Authority for Health and Social Welfare, Finland

### Farming's Impact on Antibiotic Efficacy: The Role of Healthcare

The session addressed the urgent need to address antibiotic use in animal farming which is responsible for approximately 70% of global antibiotic consumption. With antimicrobial resistance (AMR) projected to surpass cancer and diabetes as a leading cause of human mortality by 2050, reducing antibiotic use in farming is essential for safeguarding both human and animal health.

**Cóilín Nunan** presented alarming statistics, revealing that 62% of antibiotic use in the EU is attributed to farm animals, with higher rates globally. He underscored extensive scientific evidence linking farm antibiotic use to the development of antibiotic resistance, emphasising the urgent need for sustainable alternatives such as good animal husbandry practices seen in organic farming.

**Viviana Muñoz Tellez** expanded on the multifaceted nature of AMR, highlighting its origins beyond human antibiotic use to include agriculture and environmental contamination. She stressed the importance of preventive measures like improved hygiene and animal husbandry practices, alongside strong regulations and surveillance, to effectively manage antibiotic use across sectors.

#### Speakers

- **Cóilín Nunan**, Policy and Science Manager at Alliance to Save Our Antibiotics, UK
- **Viviana Muñoz Tellez**, Coordinator of the Health Programme at South Centre, Switzerland

“

**We need to push to have adequate policies... In addition to government, stakeholders need to have policies, consumers play [a] role in demand to better safe food through labelling, for example, ensure adequate policies from receiving sources.**

*Viviana Muñoz Tellez, Coordinator of the Health Programme at South Centre, Switzerland*





**Robert Metzke**  
Global Head of  
Sustainability at Philips

## Keynote: Robert Metzke

Robert Metzke, Global Head of Sustainability at Philips, kicked off the fourth day of the conference, highlighting the day's theme, Focus on the Future. Understanding our current healthcare landscape is key to shaping a sustainable future. While healthcare access has improved and lifespans have lengthened, today's healthcare delivery remains unsustainable, highly polluting, and inequitable. Accessible to only half of humanity, the healthcare sector emits more CO<sub>2</sub> than all airlines combined, with climate change projected to cause an additional 250,000 deaths annually worldwide.

Metzke highlighted that everyone has a role in creating a sustainable and resilient healthcare system. The shift to sustainable healthcare is complex, requiring both technological advancements and stricter reporting standards. Metzke urged the sector to make sustainability a core principle, noting that "The future already exists, but it is not evenly distributed."



**The future already exists, but it is not evenly distributed.**

*Robert Metzke, Global Head of Sustainability at Philips*



## Plastic Alternatives for a Safer Future

By reducing plastic healthcare facilities can improve patient safety and limit exposure to toxic chemicals and harmful microplastics. The sector can also save costs by reducing waste management expenses and promoting more sustainable practices. This session brought together experts who shared innovative approaches and impactful initiatives aimed at reducing plastic use in healthcare settings, from strategic environmental plans to life cycle assessments of packaging materials.

**Anna Fuster** shared her institution's strategic environmental plan for 2021-2026, focusing on circularity initiatives like reusable bottles and gowns, and replacing plastic with textile solutions. These efforts led to substantial reductions of 2,624 kg of plastic and 47 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually.

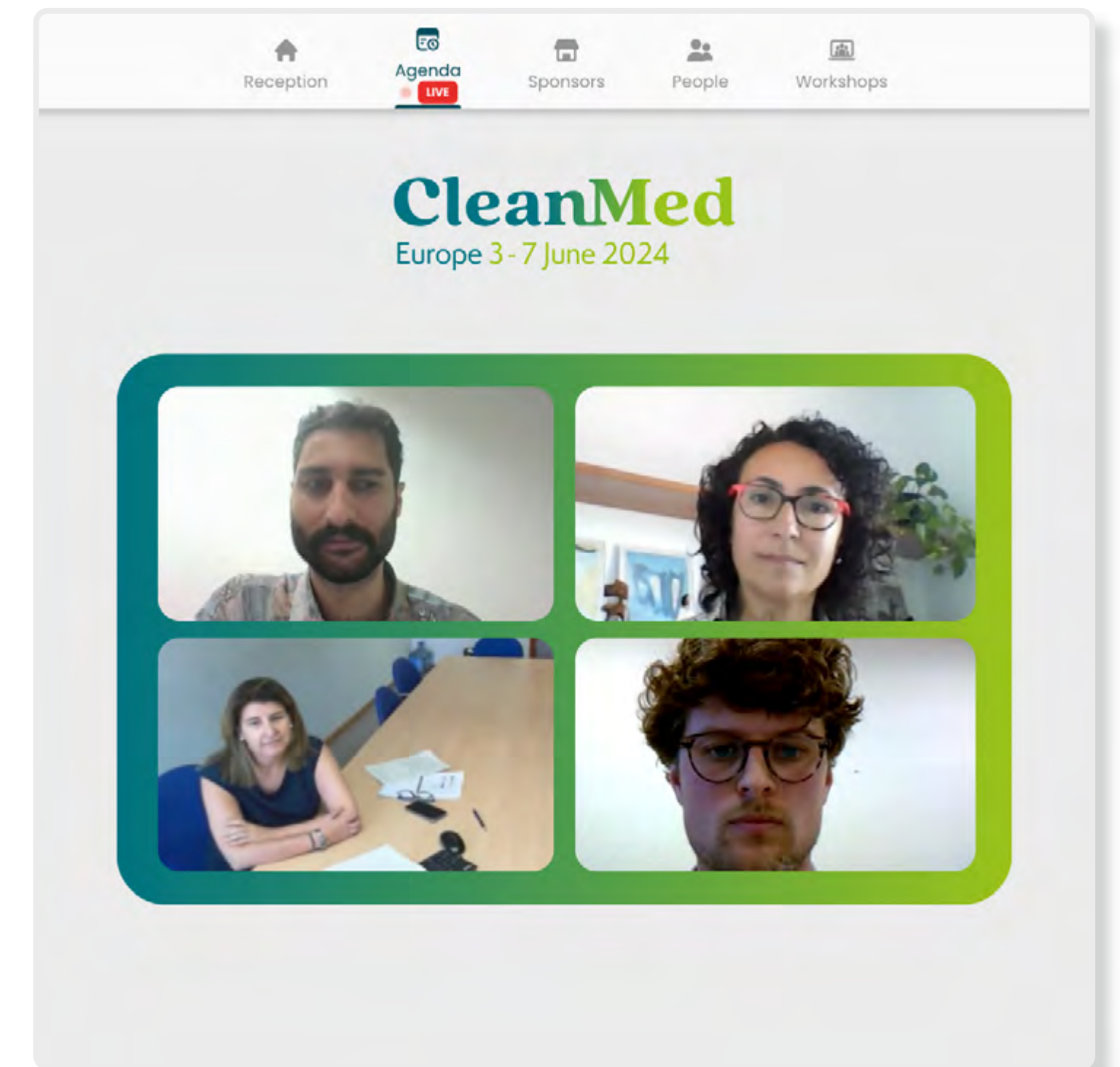
**Teresa Arnau Plaza** shared initiatives such as reusable containers for organic waste and eliminating plastic bags. The challenges mentioned included managing diverse types of plastics and spatial constraints.

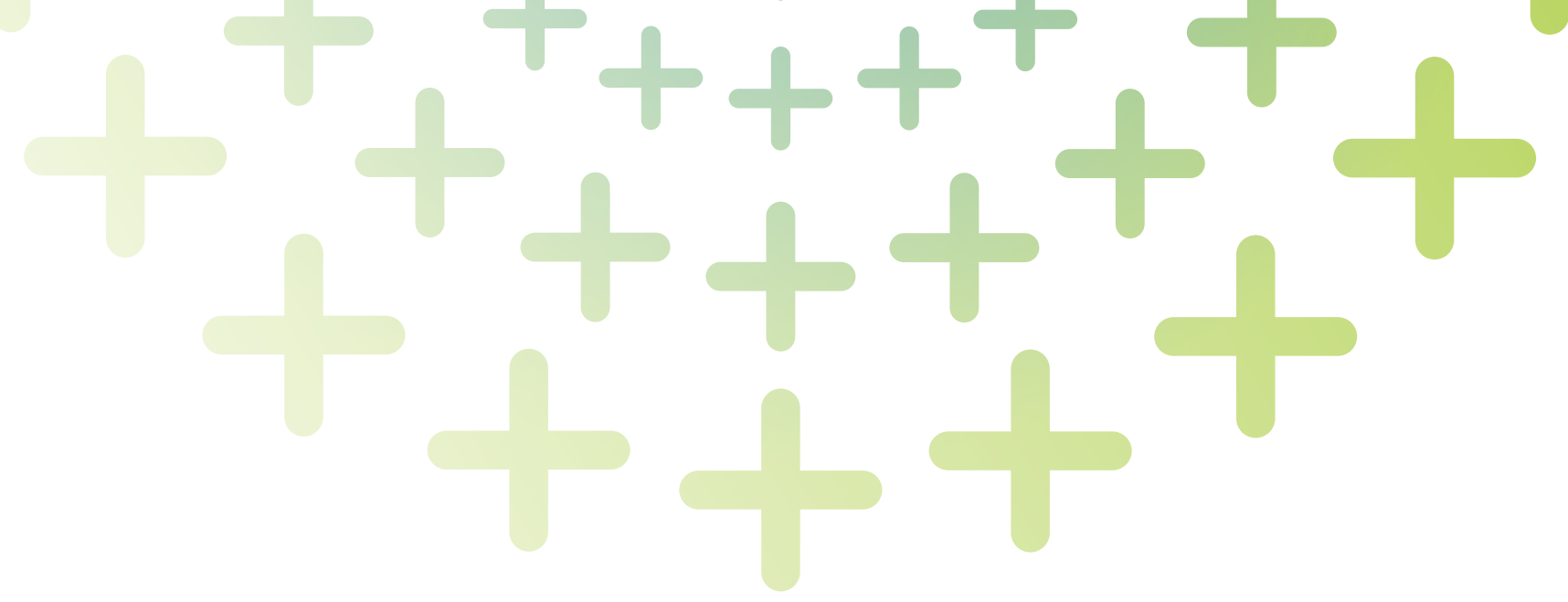
**Cas Van Egmond** presented a comprehensive life cycle assessment comparing rigid sterilisation containers (RSC) to single-use blue wrap, demonstrating RSC's lower environmental impact.

Concluding with actionable recommendations, Teresa Arnau Plaza called for sustainable packaging solutions from manufacturers, while Cas Van Egmond stressed the benefits of transitioning to reusable containers in healthcare operations.

### Speakers

- **Teresa Arnau Plaza**, Sustainability Manager at Hospital Universitario de La Ribera, Spain
- **Cas van Egmond**, Medical doctor and General practitioner in training, UK
- **Anna Fuster**, Sustainability Manager at CHV and CSC, Spain





## Designing the Green Hospital of the Future

This session sought to answer the question: How can we construct a hospital that prioritises patients' well-being without compromising the health of the planet? CleanMed Europe welcomed a panel of experts from Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) Global Health Initiative's project to develop three state-of-the-art new hospitals in Greece, emphasising sustainable design, the therapeutic role of nature, and zero-carbon readiness.

SNF's **Konstantin Kastrissianakis** highlighted the Foundation's commitment to sustainability, emphasising its integration into every design step. **Moritz Spellenberg**, explained the decision to rebuild rather than retrofit, noting that it was ultimately the most sustainable choice.

Landscape architect **Helli Pangalou** described the concept of "healing landscapes," explaining how immersing hospitals in nature provides cognitive, physical, emotional, social, and spiritual benefits. She noted, "For centuries, we [have known] how nature helps humans recover better."

This specialist session highlighted the importance of engaging all relevant stakeholders in hospital design as well as incorporating nature into healthcare facilities. This forward-thinking approach promises to reshape the future of hospital design, creating spaces that heal both patients and the planet.

### Learning objectives

To challenge attendees to imagine green hospitals in the most holistic way: integrating climate resilience, patient-centred care, and sustainable architecture.

### Speakers

- **Konstantin Kastrissianakis**, Technical Officer at Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Greece
- **Olaf de Nooyer**, Architect at Renzo Piano Building Workshop, Italy
- **Moritz Spellenberg**, Associate Director at Llewelyn Davies, UK
- **Helli Pangalou**, Landscape Architect at H. Pangalou and Associates, Greece



**Maria Gaden**

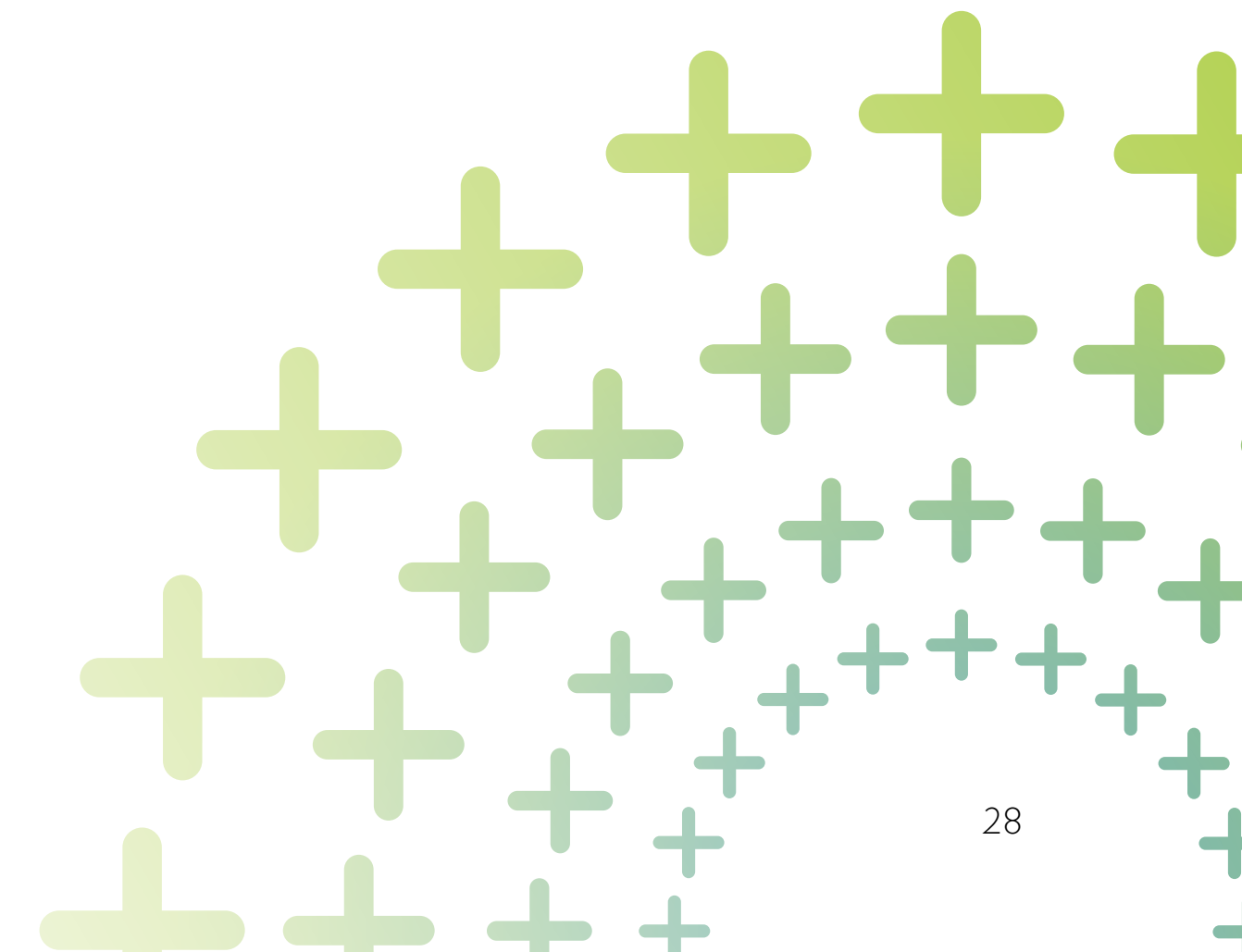
Head of Department  
for the Center for  
Sustainable Hospitals

## Keynote: Maria Gaden

On the final day of CleanMed Europe 2024, **Maria Gaden**, Head of Department for the Center for Sustainable Hospitals (CfSH) in Denmark gave a keynote highlighting the urgency of addressing climate change and its interconnection with health. Despite the Paris Agreement, she reminded us that CO<sub>2</sub> levels continue to rise, coinciding with significant losses in biodiversity. Gaden pointed out that the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated our ability to change behaviour when motivated.

The speech underscored the direct link between climate change and human health, urging action based on the value of a healthy life for all. Gaden addressed challenges in healthcare, advocating for a shift from monetisation to valuing healthy lives as a driver for sustainable healthcare.

As the conference came to a close, Gaden called for systemic change, mainstreaming sustainability in all healthcare operations, and called for a renewed focus on prevention as a way to improve the sustainability of healthcare. Gaden stressed the need for sustainable business models and encouraged cross-sector collaboration. Her key message was to view sustainability not just as a set of practices, but as a framework for reimagining the entire health sector.



### Sustainability is Not a Hobby

During this session, experts emphasised the importance of integrating sustainability into healthcare practices. **Lynn Elsey** highlighted the financial burden that results from poor inhaler techniques and non-adherence in asthma treatment, underscoring that “the best inhaler for any asthma patient is the one they can use correctly, understand why they have to take it, and want to take it.”

**Ana Rakovac** shared insights from Ireland’s 2021 climate adaptation plan, which aims to decarbonise the public system by 2050. She initiated a green lab to educate the healthcare sector about climate change and sustainability, enhancing the significance of dialogue and organised efforts in driving effective sustainable healthcare transitions.

**Emma Pascale Blakey** linked sustainability with nursing, and emphasised clinical leadership, quality improvement, and listening authentically to foster a culture of sustainability in healthcare.

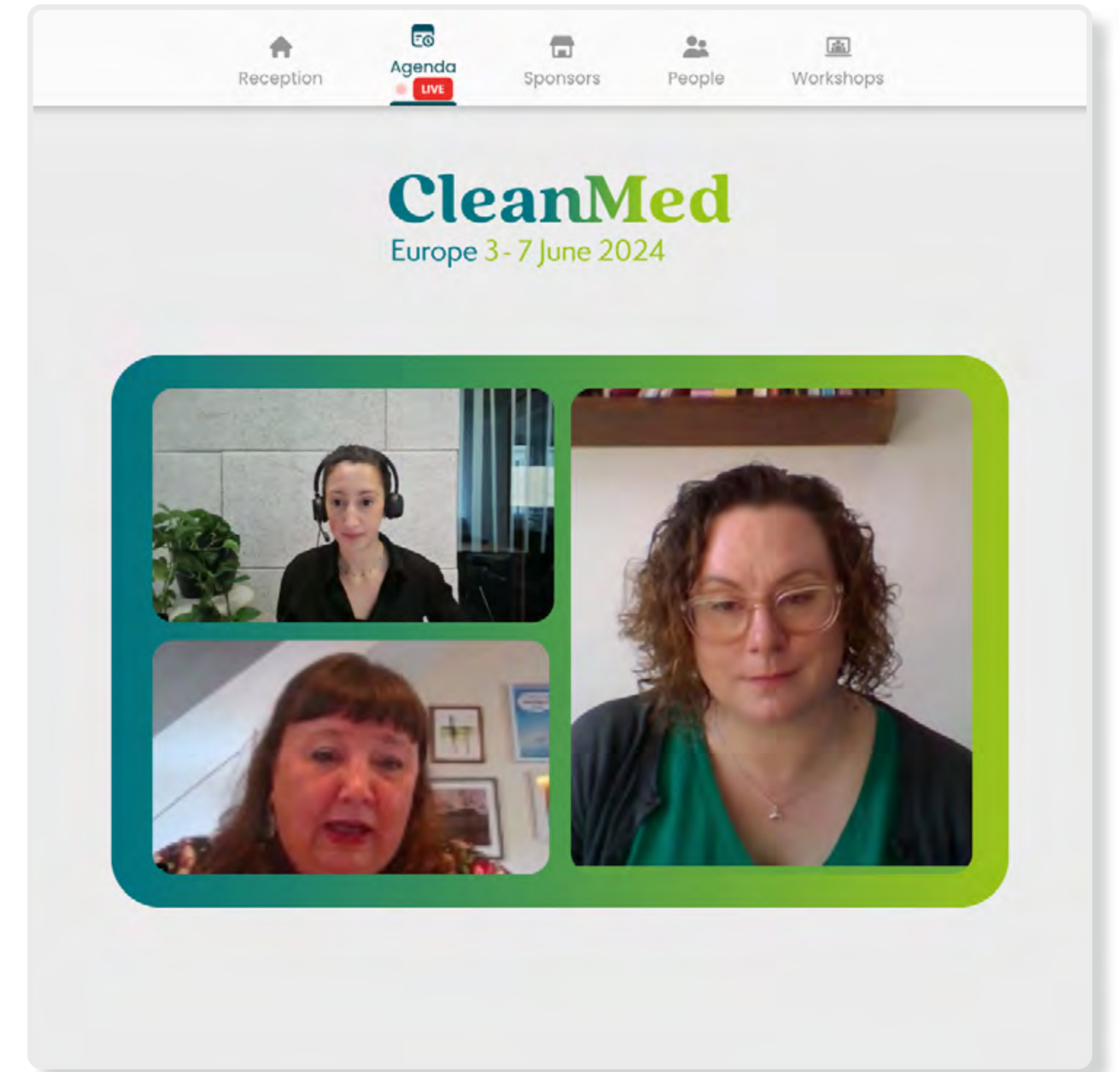
#### Speakers

- **Emma Pascale Blakey**, Lead Nurse, UK
- **Lynn Elsey**, Consultant Respiratory Pharmacist, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, UK
- **Ana Rakovac**, Consultant Chemical Pathologist, Tallaght University Hospital, Ireland



**The best inhaler for any asthma patient is the one they can use correctly, understand why they have to take it, and want to take it.**

**Lynn Elsey**, Consultant Respiratory Pharmacist, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, UK



# CleanMed

Europe 3-7 June 2024

## Day 5: Celebrating Sustainability Champions

### European Sustainable Healthcare Awards

On the final day of CleanMed Europe, HCWH Europe recognised the winners of the 2024 European Sustainable Healthcare Awards at a live-streamed ceremony held in Brussels. Now in their second year, these awards honour groundbreaking projects and individuals that address the urgent need for sustainability in European healthcare, helping to create a climate-smart and toxic-free future for the healthcare sector.

The Bolmstedt Innovation Award was presented to Austria's **KABEG LKH Villach** for their project *Climate Awareness: The Hospital as a Promoter Towards Patients and Staff*. This project showcases a variety of creative solutions to create an ecosystem of sustainability in healthcare through awareness and changing processes. The Healthy Futures Award was awarded to **Fundació Sanitària Mollet** in Barcelona for their efforts in making their Mollet University Hospital a net zero centre in direct emissions, putting the healthcare sector on the path to zero emissions.



Finally, the Rising Star Award recognised **Lynn Elsey**, Consultant Respiratory Pharmacist at Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, for her exceptional work in improving respiratory care through sustainable inhaler management.

The winners were selected from 28 entries based on criteria including impact, collaboration, and innovation. The judging panel comprised experts in sustainable healthcare from various countries in Europe.



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**At Philips, we believe that care means the world. This means creating the best possible solutions to help you care for patients and the planet with the same attention and urgency. Thanks to the vision of Health Care Without Harm Europe and the Award participants who bring their incredible intent and work to make a difference, we will collectively continue to make the vision a reality.**

*Olesya Struk, Senior Director of Sustainability at Philips*

Herzlich willkommen zur  
CleanMed Berlin 2024!

# CleanMed

Berlin 28 May 2024



# CleanMed

Berlin 28 May 2024



**262**  
attendees



**51**  
speakers



**19**  
sessions &  
workshops



# CleanMed

Berlin 28 May 2024



**CleanMed Berlin 2024, now in its second year, successfully brought together 262 healthcare professionals, policymakers, and sustainability experts from across Germany on 28 May to tackle the pressing issue of sustainability in healthcare.**

Hosted by [Deutsche Allianz Klimawandel und Gesundheit \(KLUG\)](#), the conference focused on practical solutions across 15 sessions and welcomed 51 expert speakers. The sessions were based around three thematic tracks: *Framework and Finances*, *Technology and Construction*, and *Good Food - Good Climate*.

Key highlights included the opening session on incorporating sustainability into structural reforms, which featured high-level representatives from government and healthcare associations. Additionally, the event offered an international perspective on sustainable healthcare practices and showcased global best practices.

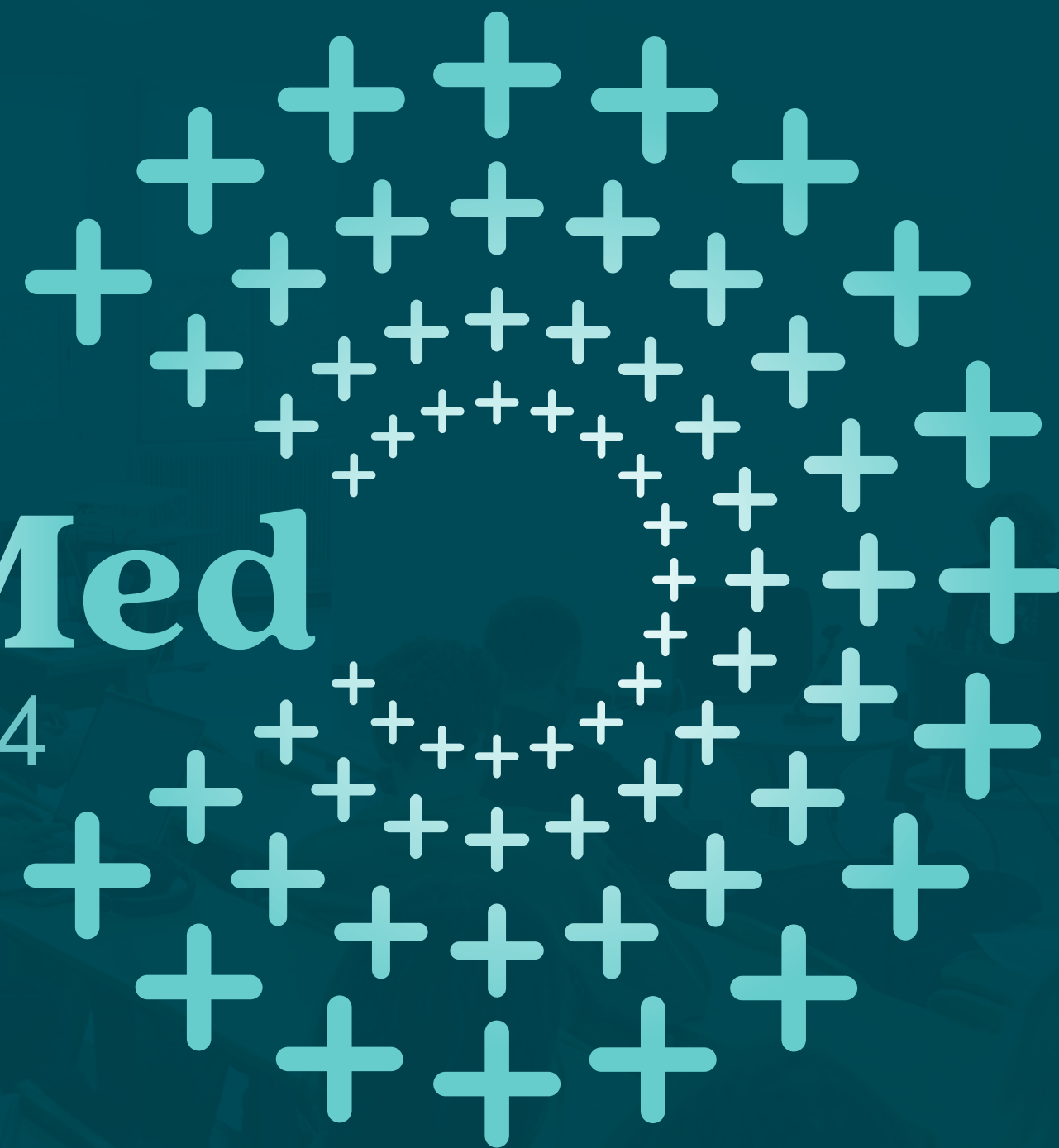
This year's event emphasised the importance of cross-sector collaboration in addressing climate change, and reinforced that sustainability is not just an environmental necessity but also essential for maintaining high-quality care, financial stability, and staff well-being in a changing climate.



Photo: © Ben Mangelsdorf

# CleanMed

Lille 26 Sept 2024



# CleanMed

Lille 26 September 2024



**120**  
attendees



**28**  
speakers



**10**  
sessions &  
workshops

# CleanMed

Lille 26 September 2024



On 26 September, we brought together over 110 professionals and experts from across Europe to participate in CleanMed Lille 2024, a one-day conference hosted at [Lille University Hospital \(CHU Lille\)](#) in partnership with the [Committee for Sustainable Development in Healthcare \(C2DS\)](#).

Key discussions covered energy efficiency, sustainable practices in maternity wards, circular economy strategies, and reducing the environmental footprint of anesthesiology. International perspectives from Finland highlighted energy challenges during long winters, while Switzerland showcased progress in reducing hospital energy use and promoting sustainable transport for staff.

CleanMed Lille 2024 successfully spotlighted the critical importance of sustainability in healthcare, bringing together diverse perspectives and sharing concrete strategies. The event fostered a collective commitment in the French healthcare community, demonstrating the growing momentum towards sustainable healthcare across Europe. In a statement that captured the event's spirit, **Frédéric Boiron**, General Director of Lille University Hospital remarked, "Sustainable development is a fundamental mission for us, as it ensures the long-term well-being of humanity. Healthcare must consider not only healing but also the preservation of the planet. This commitment to sustainability must permeate every action we take, from the ground level to the highest ranks."

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**Healthcare must consider not only healing but also the preservation of the planet. This commitment to sustainability must permeate every action we take, from the ground level to the highest ranks.**

*Frédéric Boiron, General Director of Lille University Hospital, France*



The background image shows a large audience seated in a lecture hall, facing a stage where a panel of speakers is seated at a long table. The room has large windows and a high ceiling. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent teal and green gradient.

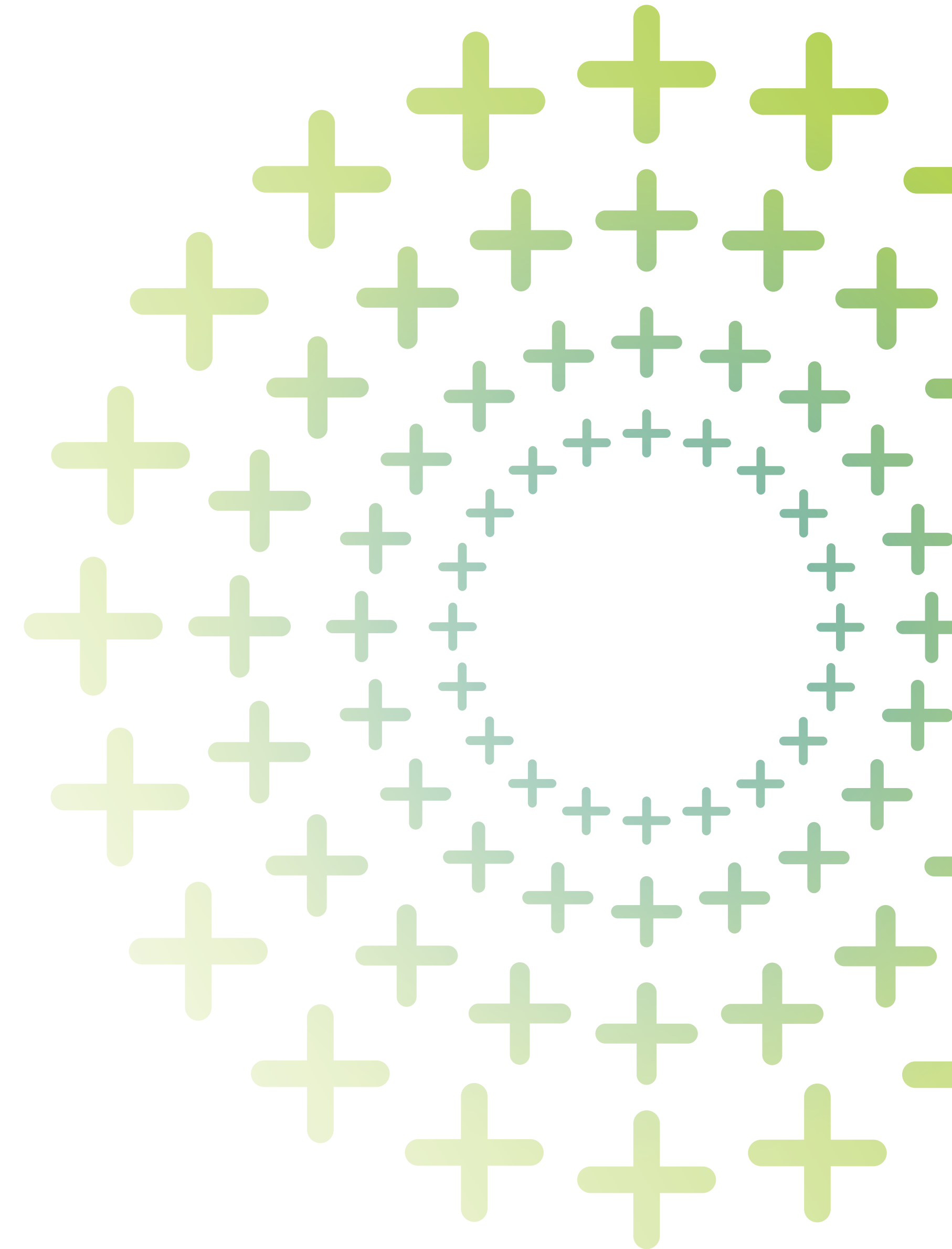
# Looking ahead to 2025

# Looking ahead to 2025

As we look to the future, we aspire to expand the CleanMed Europe mission to new regions, amplifying our impact and accelerating the transition to sustainable healthcare globally. The challenges we face are significant, but so too is the collective potential for positive change in the healthcare sector.

We invite you to join this vital movement by becoming part of Health Care Without Harm's [Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network](#) or [healthcare professional networks](#). You can also subscribe to the [CleanMed Europe newsletter](#) to receive the latest conference news. Together, we can transform healthcare to heal both people and the planet.

Keep up the great work, and we look forward to seeing you again next year!





CleanMed Europe is presented by:  
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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, economic, and political influence to create an ecologically sustainable, equitable, and healthy world.

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