

HCWH EUROPE

2013 ANNUAL REVIEW

*The campaign for
environmentally
responsible healthcare*





TABLE of CONTENTS

- 04 This was 2013**
- 05 Message from the Board**
- 06 Our Campaigns**
- 08 Safer Medical Devices**
- 09 Pharmaceuticals in the Environment**
- 10 Sustainable Public Procurement**
- 11 Safer Chemicals**
- 12 Communicating our message**
- 14 Highlights of 2013**
- 18 Our Members in 2013**
- 20 Finances**
- 22 About us**

HCWH Europe is the European arm of a global coalition working to transform the health sector worldwide so that it becomes ecologically sustainable and a leading advocate for environmental health and justice.

THIS WAS 2013

10 years in Europe

5 full time staff

4 board members

72 members in 24 countries

8 publications

2 workshops

4 campaigns

22 press releases

MESSAGE *from the BOARD*

A successful year

For the second year running, HCWH Europe secured European funds to extend its work covering all aspects of sustainable healthcare. The EU grant helped to recruit dedicated office staff with a wide range of expertise who have worked hard to make the HCWH vision become a reality in Europe.



Our staff works on strengthening the links within the growing European HCWH network, they organise workshops on a various topics, and they produce interesting and well-made brochures, which I can heartily recommend you read as they not only provide a deeper insight into specific matters, they are also enjoyable because of the fine lay-out and accessible reading.

And these successes pay off: in 2013 the network grew to encompass 72 member organisations from 24 countries in the European region at present. The members represent civil society NGOs, scientific institutions, local councils, and hospital associations. All the members subscribe to the HCWH goals for sustainable healthcare and expect feedback, information and support from the ever-expanding network and from the office in Brussels.

A little more support from the members would greatly enhance the performance of HCWH Europe on the whole. Some small but regular input would suffice: what are we working on right now? What are our projects for next year? Do we need partners, help, and advice? A lively network requires both on a strong office and on active members.

**Dr. Hanns
Moshammer**
(*Medical University
of Vienna*)
*Chair of the Board,
HCWH Europe*

I certainly know it is not easy to keep up even a little extra effort continuously. But I know it is worth it. When visiting the office in Brussels I am always thrilled again by the strong drive of the team. It really deserves any support you members of a strong network can provide. Only with your contribution will we turn another successful year into a permanent success. This is not about running an office or about finalising a project; it is about making our common vision of healthcare without harm a truly European reality.

OUR CAMPAIGNS



Safer Medical Devices

Materials designed to heal should not harm us.

Pharmaceuticals in the Environment

The damaging effects of pharmaceutical residues must be reduced.

Safer Chemicals

Substances should not be harmful to the environment and human health.

Sustainable Public Procurement

Sustainable purchasing can be good for the environment and society.

SAFER MEDICAL DEVICES

Chemicals that are carcinogenic, mutagenic and toxic to reproduction (CMRs) and endocrine disrupting (EDCs) have no place in healthcare. We worked to promote a phase-out of hazardous chemicals from medical devices and raised awareness among healthcare professionals.

Our Declaration on Safer Medical Equipment was co-signed by 18 patients' and healthcare professionals' associations representing more than 16 million health professionals.

Factsheets on Bisphenol A and Phthalates placed scientific evidence and examples of best practice at the forefront of our campaign.

Our EDCs leaflet informed healthcare professionals of the risks posed by endocrine disruptors and how they can minimise exposure.

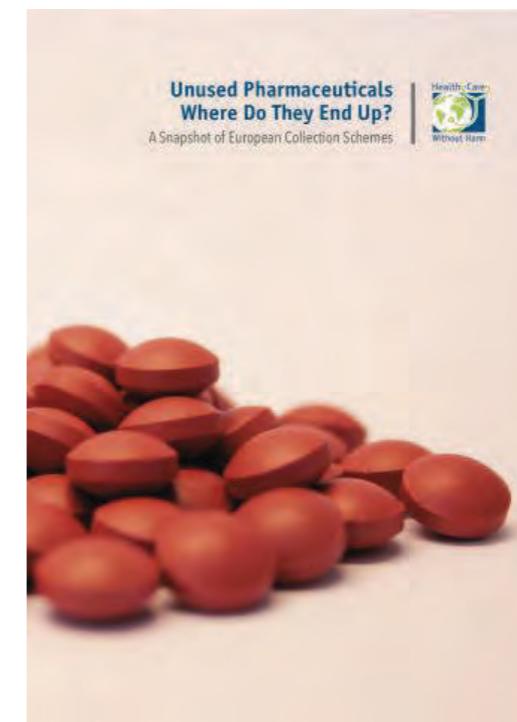


PHARMACEUTICALS *in the ENVIRONMENT*

Hundreds of different active pharmaceutical compounds are being detected in waterways around the world. The harm that these may be causing to both public health and the environment is a serious concern.

We advocated for safe and sustainable production, consumption and disposal of pharmaceuticals. We also raised awareness on the issue of pharmaceutical residues in the environment.

Our report *Unused pharmaceuticals: Where do they end up?* highlighted how upstream measures designed to reduce the impact of pharmaceutical residues and recommended by European law are not being implemented.



**Unused pharmaceuticals:
Where do they end up?**

SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

The healthcare sector uses a significant amount of energy, water, disposable products, building materials, pharmaceuticals, and medical devices, all of which can have a negative impact on the environment or on the health of workers and patients.

In 2013, environmental and social considerations still needed to be introduced into the legal text of the Commission's new Public Procurement Directive.

We promoted sustainable procurement practices among both EU policymakers and healthcare procurers. This included organising a workshop for procurers and policy-makers.

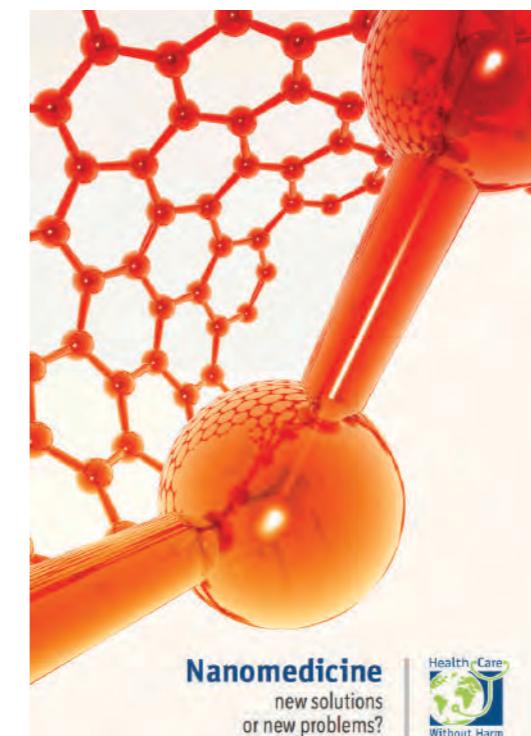
Success: It was agreed that environmental and social considerations could be implemented by Member States, not only as award criteria, but also as exclusion criteria (COM 2011) 896 final).

SAFER CHEMICALS

EU chemicals legislation does not yet recognise that nanomaterials have very different properties from the parent chemicals. A greater understanding of the potential risks associated with the application of nanotechnology in healthcare is needed to ensure the safety of patients and health professionals.

Although the revision of REACH and the development of risk assessment guidelines were delayed in 2013, we worked to inform both health professionals and the wider public about nanomedicine.

Our report *Nanomedicine: New solutions or new problems?* raised awareness of the potential risks associated with this developing technology.



***Nanomedicine:
New solutions
or new problems?***

COMMUNICATING our MESSAGE

We launched three new websites in 2013.

www.noharm-europe.org

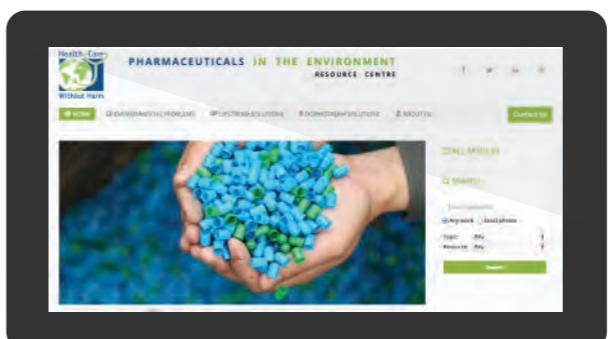
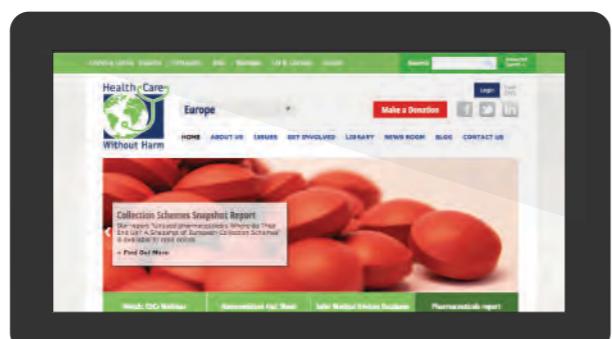
HCWH's new website was custom built to meet our needs. It is a place for us to share news, present publications and provide the latest information on all of our campaigns. (*bottom left*)

www.pharmaenvironment.org

The Pharmaceuticals in the Environment Resource Centre is an open-access, online database with scientific papers, reports, videos and more. It is an unparalleled resource for both researchers and policy-makers. (*bottom middle*)

www.safermedicaldevices.org

The Safer Medical Devices Database provides information on PVC and phthalate-free alternatives for use in medical devices. Information is provided by manufacturers for the use of procurers who aim to phase out hazardous chemicals. (*bottom right*)



HIGHLIGHTS of 2013

CleanMed Europe – Oxford 2013

We co-organised CleanMed Europe 2013 in Oxford with our member The Centre for Sustainable Healthcare. Once again, Europe's only conference on sustainability within the healthcare sector was a huge success, attracting over 300 participants from international organisations, NGOs, health systems, government agencies, academic and research institutes.



Photo Caption: Pg. 15 - Rachel Stancliffe (The Centre for Sustainable Healthcare);
Gary Cohen (HCWH US); Anja Leetz (HCWH Europe); Daniel Eriksson (TEM)

© John Cairns Photography | www.johncairns.co.uk



"I valued the fact that so many delegates were actually working on sustainable issues rather than working in Industry. This is becoming an advocate group and we have to speak with one voice." – Attendee from an academic institute

"A place to think outside the traditional prescription for healthcare." – Healthcare professional

"A must for anyone working with sustainable healthcare." – Representative from a government agency

HIGHLIGHTS of 2013

Global Climate and Health Summit 2013

We co-organised the second Global Climate and Health Summit in Warsaw, in collaboration with other Global Climate and Health Association (GCHA) members and the World Health Organization (WHO). This attracted over 200 delegates and coincided with the COP19 negotiations. Our Policy Director Grazia Cioci was a speaker at the session on 'Mitigating and adapting to climate change within the health sector.'

The event highlighted the growing importance of climate and health as a two-fold issue and re-launched our climate policy work.



"The Climate and Health Summit was an opportunity for health professionals around the world to come together and prepare a road-map towards 2015."

- Nick Watts, Convenor, GCHA

"The success of the GCHA Summit kicked off our climate work for 2014"

- Anja Leetz, Executive Director, HCWH Europe

Workshop: Safer medical devices

We held a lunch seminar at the European Parliament, with the aim of influencing the debate on the proposal for a Regulation on medical devices. The event was hosted by MEP Corinne Lepage and was attended by policy makers, healthcare professionals, academics, NGOs and industry professionals. The parliamentary setting proved to be an excellent location to spread our message about moving towards a non-toxic European healthcare system.

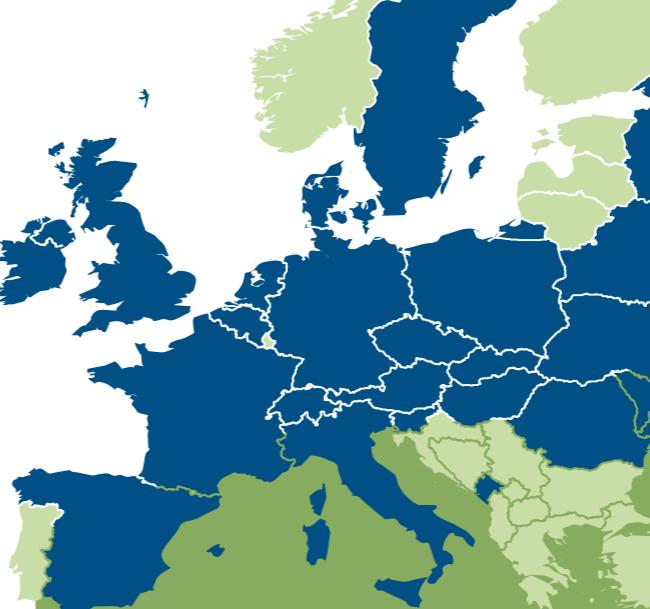
Workshop: Sustainable Public Procurement in European Healthcare

Our public procurement workshop brought together EU policy makers and public procurers to discuss how the EU's new public procurement directive allows public authorities in Europe to make sustainable choices and showcase best practices in the health sector. By addressing both the regulatory approach and the practical application, it was clear that European public authorities have the potential to implement environmental, social and ethical criteria within the healthcare sector.



Photo Caption: Speakers: Robert Kaukewitsch (DG Environment, European Commission); Marion Jaros (City of Vienna); Prof. Dr. Andreas Lischka (former Head of Kinderklinik Glanzing); Sonia Roschnik (NHS Sustainable Development Unit); Charlotta Brask (Stockholm County Council)

OUR MEMBERS in 2013



Armenia

- Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment (AWHHE)
- Women for Green Way for Generations

Austria

- ETA Umweltmanagement GmbH
- Otto Wagner Hospital Centre of Social Medicine
- The Institute for Sustainable Healthcare (INGES)
- Vienna Health Care Institutions Association (KAU)

Belarus

- Foundation for Realisation of Ideas
- EcoSphere IPA

Belgium

- Belgian Platform Environment and Health

Czech Republic

- ARNIKA Association

Denmark

- Ecological Council
- Endometriose Foundation
- Gentofte Hospital
- Sønderborg Hospital Sønderjylland, Sønderborg
- Sygehus Nord Health Care Institutions - Nykobing Thisted
- The Health Care Institutions Services of Aarhus County

France

- Association of independent doctors for the Environment and Public Health
- C2DS (Committee for Sustainable Development in Healthcare)
- Committee for Environmental Health (OMESC)
- National Centre for Independent Information on Waste (CNIID)

Germany

- BUND - Friends of the Earth Germany
- BUND - Friends of the Earth Berlin
- European Institute for Transfer of Technology, Info Management and Communication (ETIK)
- Institute for Environmental Medicine and Health Care, Freiburg

Hungary

- Recyclomed

Ireland

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

Italy

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

The Netherlands

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

**Macedonia
(Former Yugoslav Republic of)**

- Macedonian Association of Doctors for the Environment (MADE)

Poland

- Waste Prevention Association 3R

Republic of Moldova

- Cleaner Production and Energy Efficiency Center

Romania

- Life Youth Foundation

Russian Federation

- Baikal Environmental Wave
- Kaliningrad Children and Youth Invalids / Maria NGO

Slovakia

- Friends of the Earth Slovakia

Slovenia

- Slovenian Clean Production and Right-to-Know Action Club

Spain

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

Sweden

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

Switzerland

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

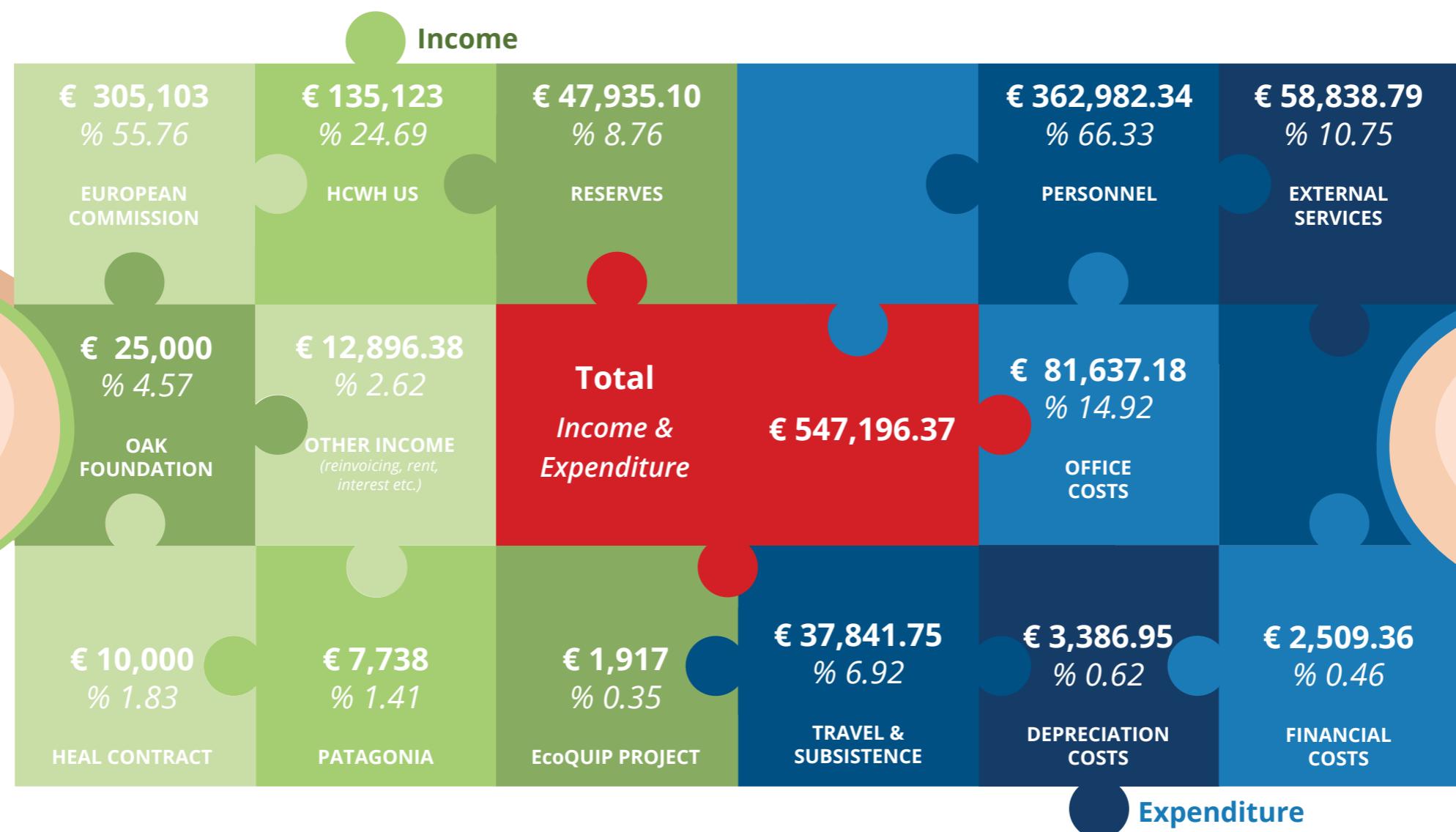
UK

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

Ukraine

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

FINANCES



ABOUT US

Health Care Without Harm Europe is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation registered with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce, Rijswijk and the Belgium Chamber of Commerce in Brussels.

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.

If you would like to support our work, please contact us:
europe@hcwh.org.

You can also make a donation online via our website:
www.noaharm-europe.org.





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