

HCWH EUROPE

# 2014 ANNUAL REVIEW

*The Year in Numbers*



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# A message from the Chairperson



## *What does it take to change health systems?*

2014 has been a very busy and successful year for Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe. Receiving a major grant from the European Commission allowed the organisation to continue on a successful path, following four major policy issues: Safer Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals in the Environment, Sustainable Public Procurement and Climate Change and Health.

According to the National Centers for Environmental Information, 2014 was the warmest year since records began in 1880. It is important for the healthcare sector to understand its role in climate change and to take concrete steps to reduce its environmental footprint while providing care. HCWH's Global Green and Healthy Hospitals initiative creates a space for those working in hospitals and healthcare centres to share ideas and learn from best practice, enable organisational understanding of climate and energy issues and give specific support for a

systematic change. Our latest report, 'Reducing the Climate Footprint' gives an overview of EU legislation and how it impacts the health sector.

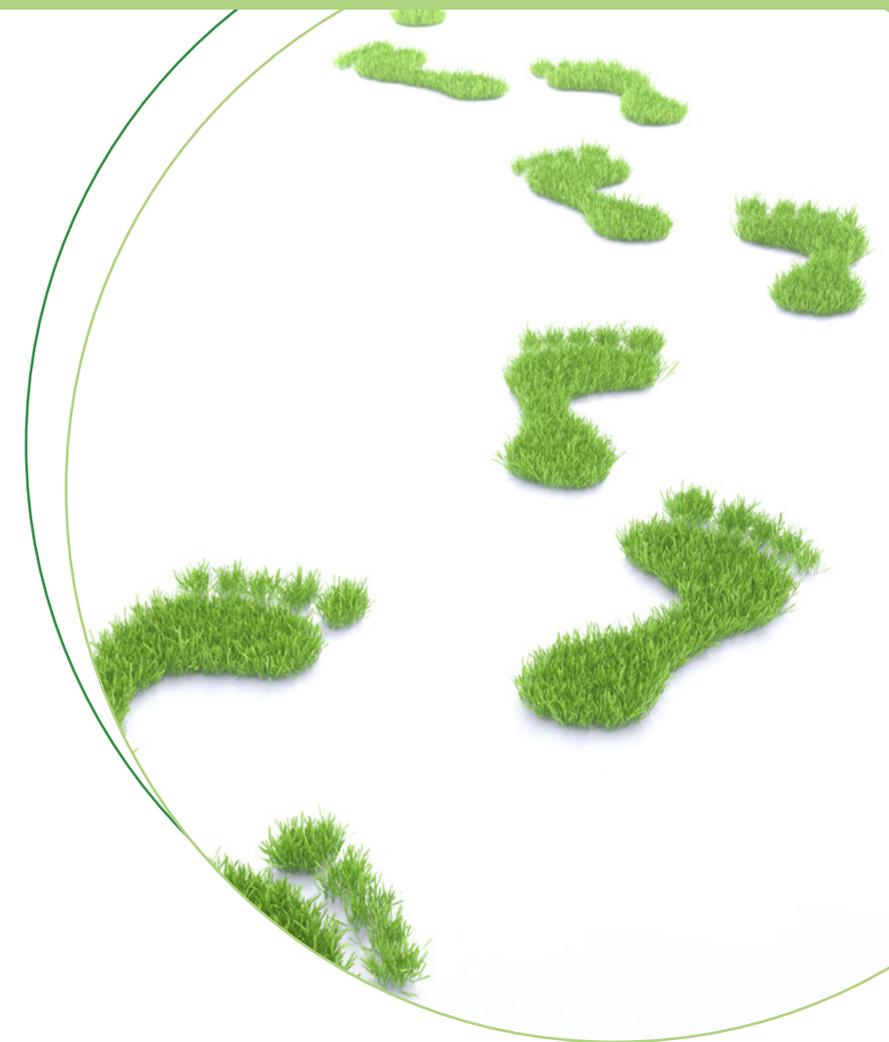
Our non-toxic healthcare report, 'Alternatives to Phthalates and Bisphenol A in Medical Devices', helped to develop the discussion with EU policy makers about the Medical Device Directive. The report provides evidence on alternatives to medical devices containing phthalates and BPA used across Europe. Throughout the year, HCWH Europe and its members advocated for changes to the medical device directive that would lead to the phase-out of harmful chemicals in medical products that patients like premature babies or those on dialyses are exposed to over a prolonged period.

In 2014 we organised workshops (on procurement in Bologna and Budapest and on pharmaceuticals in Brussels), webinars, and joint activities at the European Parliament (EP) around these campaign topics. As a result, there have been important votes from

the EP on the phase-out of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) and carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic (CMR) substances in medical devices. A number of reports, fact sheets and information leaflets have informed the debate and educated both political decision-makers and as well as our key audience: professionals working in healthcare.

This good and continuing work also attracted new members whom I want to welcome heartily to our growing HCWH European family. With challenges to resources and staff, the office now depends even more on your help and cooperation from within our network. There is so much more to be done, especially taking into account the environmental and economic challenges the world faces today. It is only when we act together to address the challenges and search for solutions that have a minimal impact on earth's resources that we will collectively make the shift needed to health systems that truly do provide healthcare without harm.

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



# Policy



**22** Written Submissions  
& Position Papers



**9** Reports  
& Publications



**33** Meetings  
& Conferences Attended



**5** Conferences, Debates  
& Webinars Organised  
by HCWH Europe

**6** Replies to  
Public Consultations



# Communications



# Our Members in 2014

## ARMENIA

Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment (AWHHE)

Women for Green Way for Generations

## AUSTRIA

ETA Environmental Management

Otto Wagner Hospital  
Centre of Social Medicine

The Institute for Sustainable Healthcare (INGES)

Vienna Healthcare Institutions Association (KAV)

## BELARUS

Center of Environmental Solutions

EcoSphere IPA

## BELGIUM

Flemish Platform - Environment and Health

## CZECH REPUBLIC

Arnika Association

## DENMARK

Endometriosis Foundation

Gentofte Hospital

Sønderborg Hospital

Sygehus Nord Hospital - Nykøbing Thisted

Aarhus University Hospital

The Ecological Council

## FRANCE

Association of Independent Doctors for the Environment and Public Health

C2DS - Committee for Sustainable Development in Healthcare

National Centre for Independent Information on Waste (CNIID)

Committee for Environment and Health

## GERMANY

BUND Berlin - Friends of the Earth Berlin

BUND - Friends of the Earth Germany

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

Institute for Environmental Medicine and Healthcare, Freiburg University

## HUNGARY

RECYCLOMED

## IRELAND

Irish Doctor's Environmental Association (IDEA)

Organisation for Ecologically Sustainable Waste Management

Cork University Hospital

South-Eastern Regional Health Authority (HSE)

## ITALY

Agency for Energy and the Recovery of Resources, Lucca

## REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Macedonian Association of Doctors for the Environment MADE

## REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Cleaner Production and Energy Efficiency Centre

## THE NETHERLANDS

Stichting Huize Aarde

Waste and Environment Foundation

EcoBaby Foundation

## NORWAY

South-Eastern Regional Health Authority

## ROMANIA

Life Youth Foundation

## RUSSIA

Baikal Environmental Wave

Kaliningrad Children and Youth Invalids (NGO Maria)

## SLOVAKIA

Friends of the Earth Slovakia

## SLOVENIA

Slovenian Clean Production and Right-to-Know Action Club

## SPAIN

Andalusian School of Public Health

University Hospital of La Fe, Children's Department

University Hospital Virgen of Arrixaca, Children's Department

Cartif Foundation

Health Care and Social Services Consortium of Catalonia (CSC)

Xativa Department of Healthcare in Valencia

## SWEDEN

Region Skåne

Jegrelius Institute for Applied Green Chemistry

Stockholm County Council

Uppsala University, Departments of Clinical Microbiology and Earth Sciences

Swedish Doctors for the Environment

Karolinska University Hospital

Goodpoint - Advisors for Sustainable Growth

International Chemical Secretariat (ChemSec)

County Council of Sörmland

Jämtlands County Council (JLL)

Skåne University Hospital

TEM Foundation

Region Västra Götaland

## SWITZERLAND

International Society of Doctors for the Environment

International Council of Nurses

Physicians for the Environment Switzerland, AefU

Schelker Environmental Consulting

## UNITED KINGDOM

British Society for Ecological Medicine

Communities Against Toxics England

Communities Against Toxics Scotland

Medact - ISDE UK

Royal College of Nursing RCN

The Soil Association

Waste Watch

The Centre for Sustainable Healthcare

## UKRAINE

International Society of Doctors for the Environment Ukraine

MAMA-86-Kharkov



# Selected Member Activities in Europe

## Aarhus University Hospital (AUH), Denmark *Mapping of Toxic Load from Pharmaceuticals Project*

Mapping the toxic load from pharmaceuticals used by AUH has led to new insights regarding disposal of toxic pharmaceuticals in waste water. AUH has mapped the use and disposal of 36 drugs that are used in large quantities by the hospital compared to private homes. Despite this, the project found that almost all of the environmental impact from the disposal of these pharmaceuticals (96%) comes from private homes. This is due to the fact that a significant share of all treatments given in AUH are ambulant.

## CARTIF Foundation, Spain *LIFE+ Smart Hospital Project*

In September 2014 the CARTIF Technology Centre launched the project LIFE+ Smart Hospital project. The project is lead by CARTIF, together with its partners (the Regional Health Service of Castilla y León, ITENE and COINGES) and the main goal of the project is to increase the resilience of hospitals to climate change by developing action plans dealing with energy, water and waste. This approach will be demonstrated at the Hospital Universitario Rio Hortega (HURH), in Valladolid, Spain. More information about this project is available on their website [www.lifesmarthospital.eu](http://www.lifesmarthospital.eu).

## Region Skåne, Sweden *Fossil Fuel-Free, Climate-Neutral & Climate Friendly Project*

In 2010, Region Skåne set a goal to be free of fossil fuels in energy consumption, public transport and vehicle use by 2020. By then, thermal energy, district cooling and electricity for all of the properties owned, rented or used by the region's administrations will come from energy sources that are free of fossil fuels.

In 2014, Region Skåne was proud to announce that it had already achieved 72 % fossil fuel-free energy use in buildings, transport and public transport for the year.

To achieve these goals, Region Skåne has procured six wind turbines which are operated by the region and which will deliver around 40% of the electricity needs of the region.

The region has also entered declarations of intent with their eight energy suppliers, which will result in energy solutions for the Region Skåne's properties and vehicles that are fossil fuel-free and climate neutral by 2020. This will contribute to growth, sustainable development and increased cost efficiency in the region.

## BUND (Friends of the Earth), Berlin *Energy Saving Hospital, KLIK & VDI Projects*

In 2014 the 'Energy Saving Hospital' project run by BUND (Friends of the Earth) Berlin held their 10th symposium and celebrated this with 80 guests.

As well as this, BUND started the project 'KLIK - Climate Manager for Hospitals', which is funded by the Federal Environment Ministry and is carried out together with the Foundation Viamedica. 50 hospitals in Germany will work together on this project with the goal to save 30,000 tonnes of CO2 by the year 2016.

Finally, BUND helped to define a new standard for the Association of German Engineers (the VDI) - Directive 5800: 'Sustainability in the Construction and Operation of Hospitals'.



*BUND Symposium*

# Our Campaigns in 2014



## **Safer Chemicals:** *Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) and Nanomaterials & Nanomedicine*

Harmful EDCs should not be contained in medical devices as exposure of patients and workers to these chemicals may cause adverse health effects. We also 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. Pages 9 - 11

## **Pharmaceuticals**

We need to reduce the amount of pharmaceutical residues in the environment as they pose a major environmental and health risk. Pages 12-13

## **Climate Change & Health**

The healthcare sector in Europe can play a major role in mitigating climate change. Pages 14-15

## **Sustainable Public Procurement**

Sustainable purchasing for the healthcare sector has major benefits for the environment and society. Pages 16-17

# Safer Chemicals: *In numbers*

**3**  
*Reports  
& Publications*



**10** Written Submissions  
& Position Papers

Press  
Releases

**9**

**7** *Items of  
Press Coverage*

**1** Webinar



**10** Website News  
Updates



**13** Meetings  
Attended



**5** Replies  
to Public Consultations



# Safer Chemicals: Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs):

## THE ISSUE

EDCs have no place in health-care. They interfere with the endocrine system of humans and animals and can cause adverse health and environmental effects. In 2014, we worked to inform and educate health professionals and policy makers about the harm caused by EDCs, advocate for policy measures that would phase out or at least better control EDCs contained in medical devices and continued building our Safer Medical Devices database.



## OUR WORK

In December HCWH Europe published a report, 'Non-Toxic Healthcare: An Alternative to Phthalates and Bisphenol A in Medical Devices', which was about safer alternatives to these chemicals contained in medical devices, showcasing best practices of healthcare facilities in Europe that have phased out phthalates or BPA in their neonatology units and other departments.

In September, we hosted a **webinar** aimed at educating healthcare professionals about the dangers of EDCs, with presentations from Dr. Thomas Zoeller and Dr. Gavin TenTusscher. The webinar was attended by more than 50 participants and raised awareness about hazardous exposure to EDCs in healthcare as well as the then-upcoming public consultation on EDCs, encouraging all participants to get involved.

In November, HCWH Europe participated in the EDC-Free Coalition **joint letter** to EU Commission president Juncker to take action on EDCs to protect public health.

Finally, our 'Endocrine Disruptors in the Healthcare Sector' information leaflet was also translated into 5 additional European languages (French, German, Hungarian, Italian and Spanish).



Non-toxic Healthcare Report

Disruptores endocrinos en el sector de la salud

¿Hay razones para preocuparse?



Endokrin diszruptorok az egészségügyben:

Van-e okunk az aggodalomra?



Perturbatori endocrini nel sistema sanitario

Esistono motivi di preoccupazione?



Endokrine Disruptoren im Gesundheitswesen

Besteht Anlass zur Besorgnis?



Perturbateurs endocriniens dans le secteur de la santé

doit-on s'en inquiéter?



EDCs in the Healthcare Sector Information Leaflet

# Safer Chemicals: Nanomaterials & Nanomedicines:

## THE ISSUE

Nanotechnology is being positioned as the 'next industrial revolution'. In the healthcare sector, nanotechnology is already in use for the diagnosis, monitoring, prevention and treatment of clinical conditions. However, very little is known about the environmental and health impacts of nanomaterials and concerns have already been raised about certain nanomaterials and their potential detrimental effects on human health and the environment. In 2014, we worked to play a major role in the European nanomaterials debate by lobbying European Commissioners for a moratorium on nanomaterials and a declaration of their inclusion in health products and medicine.

**HEALTH CARE WITHOUT HARM EUROPE**  
 Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) is an international coalition of hospitals, healthcare systems, medical professionals, community groups and academic and research institutions. HCWH's mission is to transform the healthcare sector so that it becomes ecologically sustainable and a leading advocate for environmental health and justice. To that end, we are working to implement ecologically sound and healthy alternatives to health care practices that pollute the environment and contribute to disease.

On 5 August 2015, the European Commission concluded its public consultation on the impact assessment on possible measures to increase transparency on nanomaterials on the market. The assessment was meant to identify and develop the most adequate means to increase transparency and ensure regulatory oversight on nanomaterials, as part of the Communication of the Second Regulatory Review on Nanomaterials (1). Below is a selection of HCWH Europe's responses to the impact assessment.

Due to nanomaterials' potential risk to human health and the environment, HCWH Europe supports the creation of a European level nanomaterials registry, with registration by use for all actors along the supply chain. A comprehensive registry will best enable decision makers to create appropriate, effective, and efficient responses to the health and environmental risks posed by nanomaterials.

**On the current legislative framework:**

The current legislative framework does not provide decision makers and consumers with adequate information on nanomaterials. For example, REACH does not specifically address nanomaterials, and nanomaterials are often not distinguished from chemically identical bulk substances in REACH registration dossiers. (Though non-binding ECHA guidance recommends separate registration, REACH does not require it). Many products that contain nanomaterials are not registered under REACH as they fall below the 1 tonne/year/manufacturer or importer threshold.

While some sector specific legislation provides for labelling of products containing nanomaterials, such as the biocidal products regulation and the cosmetics regulation, there are no systematic labelling requirements upon which consumers can rely. Inconsistency between regulatory frameworks creates confusion. Consumers cannot know whether the products they buy contain nanomaterials, and may become suspicious to discover on their own that such products contain nanomaterials. A registry would create transparency and ensure consumer trust in the products they buy, enabling them to make informed decisions and decide for themselves whether to be exposed to the potential health and environmental risks.

Health Care Without Harm Europe is an Association (Dutch law number: 27328951) registered with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce, Research, Netherlands.

### Position Paper on Nano-Registry

## OUR WORK

In August, we produced, based on public consultation, a **position paper on the Nano-Registry**, offering comments on possible measures to increase transparency on nanomaterials on the market.

In January, we sent a letter to three European Commissioners to inform them about the about our then-recently published HCWH Europe nanomedicine report (**'Nanomedicine: New solutions or new problems?'**) and call for the European Commission to apply the precautionary principle in the field of nanomaterials and nanomedicine.

In August, using information from our 2013 report, we produced a nanomedicine factsheet, **'The Era of Nanomedicine'**, which explores how innovations in healthcare research can lead to uncertainties in public health.



**How innovations in healthcare research can lead to uncertainties in public health**

**The era of nanomedicine**

Nanomedicine offers innovative solutions for the diagnosis, monitoring, prevention and treatment of clinical conditions. However, the new properties of nanomaterial products, while desirable from a strictly clinical perspective, can create new risks for human health and the environment. As the European Union chemicals legislation does not yet recognise that such materials have very different properties from the parent chemicals, it does not provide a framework for the monitoring of bio-accumulation and persistence of nanomaterials in the environment or for their toxicity to human health and the environment. Precautionary action should therefore be taken and a regulatory framework put in place in order for nanomedicine to deliver on its promises without introducing new risks for patients, workers and the environment.

**What is nanomedicine?**

Nanomedicine is an application of nanotechnology. Nanotechnology refers to materials or manufactured materials with one, two or three dimensions measured in nanometres, which are engineered to have unique medical effects based on their size and structure. Nanoscale materials present novel properties, such as increased surface area, that cause them to have greater chemical reactivity, biological activity and catalytic behaviour. They also have better penetration of biological membranes and better access to cells, tissues and organs of living organisms<sup>1</sup>. Although such attributes can be highly desirable for therapeutic purposes, they may result in greater toxicity if unintentional exposure occurs<sup>2</sup>. Nanomedicine has the potential to revolutionise healthcare.

**Nanomedicine products are already on the market**

Nanomedicine products are already on the market, reaching €27.4 billion in 2011 and forecast to double by 2016<sup>3</sup>. A 2010 international review yielded 100 commercially available products and 147 products in various stages of clinical study<sup>4</sup>. These products are mainly anaesthetics and treatments for various disorders such as cardiac and vascular, immune, and degenerative disorders<sup>5</sup> as well as cancer.

### Era of Nanomedicine Factsheet

# Pharmaceuticals

4

Items of Press Coverage



4

Press Releases

6

Written Submissions & Position Papers

2

Reports / Publications



1 Blog Post

1

Website News Item



Meetings Attended

2

1

Reply to Public Consultations



1

Debate Organised



# Pharmaceuticals

## THE ISSUE

Pharmaceutical residues can be found in soil and ground and surface water throughout the world and pose a major environmental and health risk that is likely to worsen in the future. Two of the major problems to arise from this are antimicrobial resistance and the feminisation of fish leading to the possible extinction of species. In 2014, we aimed to raise awareness of pharmaceuticals in the environment amongst MEPs, contribute to policy debates and high-level working groups and educate healthcare professionals and the public about the problem of pharmaceutical pollution in the environment.

## OUR WORK

In October, we hosted, together with the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA), a **Pharmaceuticals in the Environment debate**. This was our initiative and it proved to be very successful in terms of bringing this emerging environmental and health issue to the attention of EU policy makers and other stakeholders.

In December, we produced a **guide for healthcare professionals** called **'How Doctors Can Help Reduce Pharmaceutical Pollution'**, which details the environmental problems posed by improper disposal of pharmaceuticals and the excretion of pharmaceutical residues. This guide was also translated into German.



*Pharmaceuticals in the Environment Debate*



*Pharmaceutical Pollution Guide for Doctors*

# Climate Change & Health

6

Written Submissions & Position Papers



5 Press Releases

4

Items of Press Coverage

7

Website News Items



1

Webinar



1

Reports/Publications

7

Blog Posts

12 Meetings Attended



# Climate Change & Health

## THE ISSUE

Climate change is one of the key challenges facing the planet today. It has a major effect on public health and the environment and the healthcare sector has a huge opportunity to mitigate its effects. In 2014, 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

In December, we also published a report, **'Reducing the Climate Footprint: The EU's Legislative Framework and the Healthcare Sector'**, thanks to the legal expertise of ClientEarth, which provided a legal analysis of the EU legislative framework on climate change and the impact for the healthcare sector in Europe in relation to opportunities and challenges.

In December, we hosted a **webinar on Clean Energy Strategies for Hospitals** to educate the healthcare sector on how to reduce its carbon footprint and implement leaner and cleaner energy strategies in hospitals.

Throughout the year, we sent various **letters to leading EU policy-makers and Heads of State** (including President Barroso) to advocate for much more ambitious and binding targets for 2030.



*Reducing the Climate Footprint Report*



# Sustainable Public Procurement

2

Press  
Releases



2 Reports/  
Publications



4 Website News  
Items



2 Workshops  
Organised

6

Meetings  
Attended





# Highlights of 2014

# 14

## Pharmaceuticals in the Environment Debate

- Organised with EFPIA (European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries & Associations) on 24<sup>th</sup> October.
- Europe is now planning to draft new policy/legislation to tackle pharmaceutical pollution.



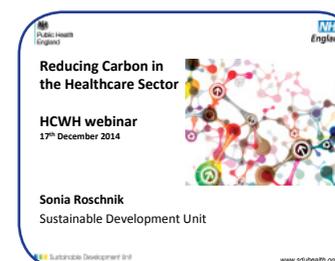
*Pharmaceuticals in the Environment Debate*

## Public Procurement Workshops

- Two workshops with partner organisations – Italy on 7<sup>th</sup> November with Emilia-Romagna Region & Hungary on 25<sup>th</sup> November with The University of Budapest.
- Information on how Public Procurement Directive should be implemented in member states.
- Showcasing best practices in green and social procurement.
- Focus on chemicals, energy efficiency & social public procurement.

## Webinars for Health Professionals

- Webinar on EDCs on 24<sup>th</sup> September
  - More than 50 participants (including many medical and pharmacy students)
- Webinar on reducing the climate footprint of healthcare
  - Attended by healthcare professionals & hospital managers
  - How to implement leaner & cleaner energy strategies in hospitals

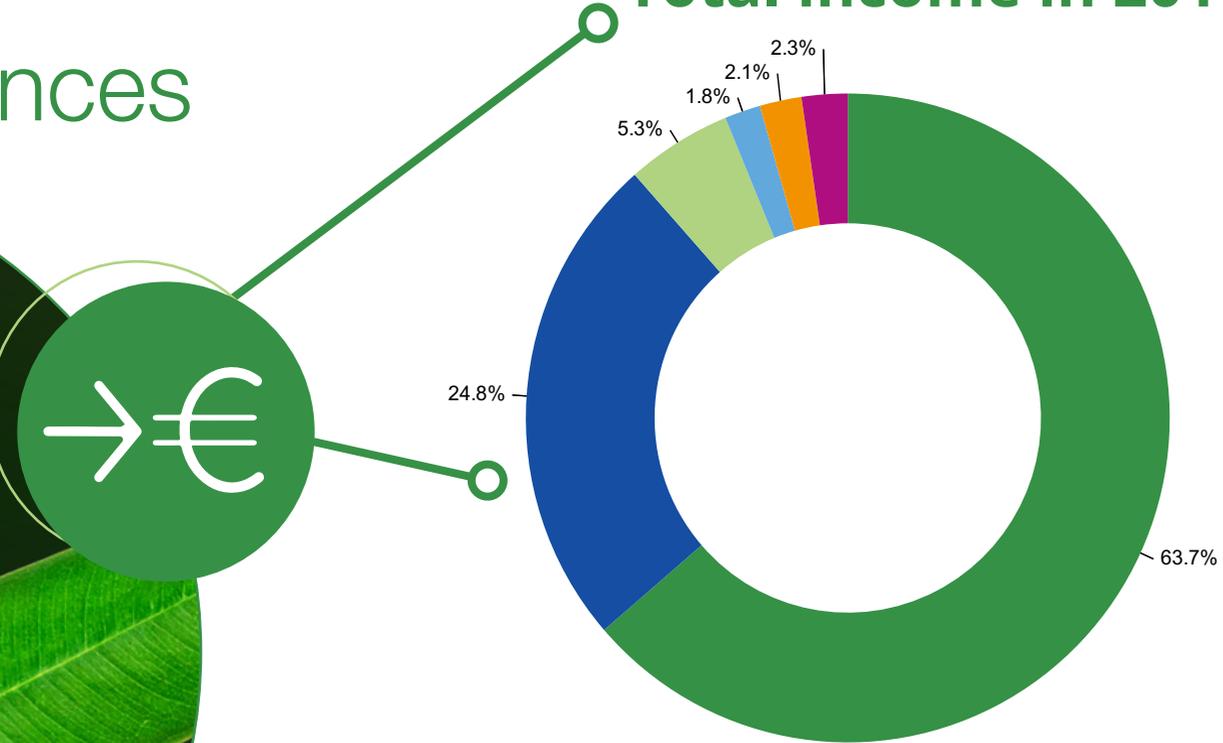


*EDCs Webinar for Health Professionals*

# Finances

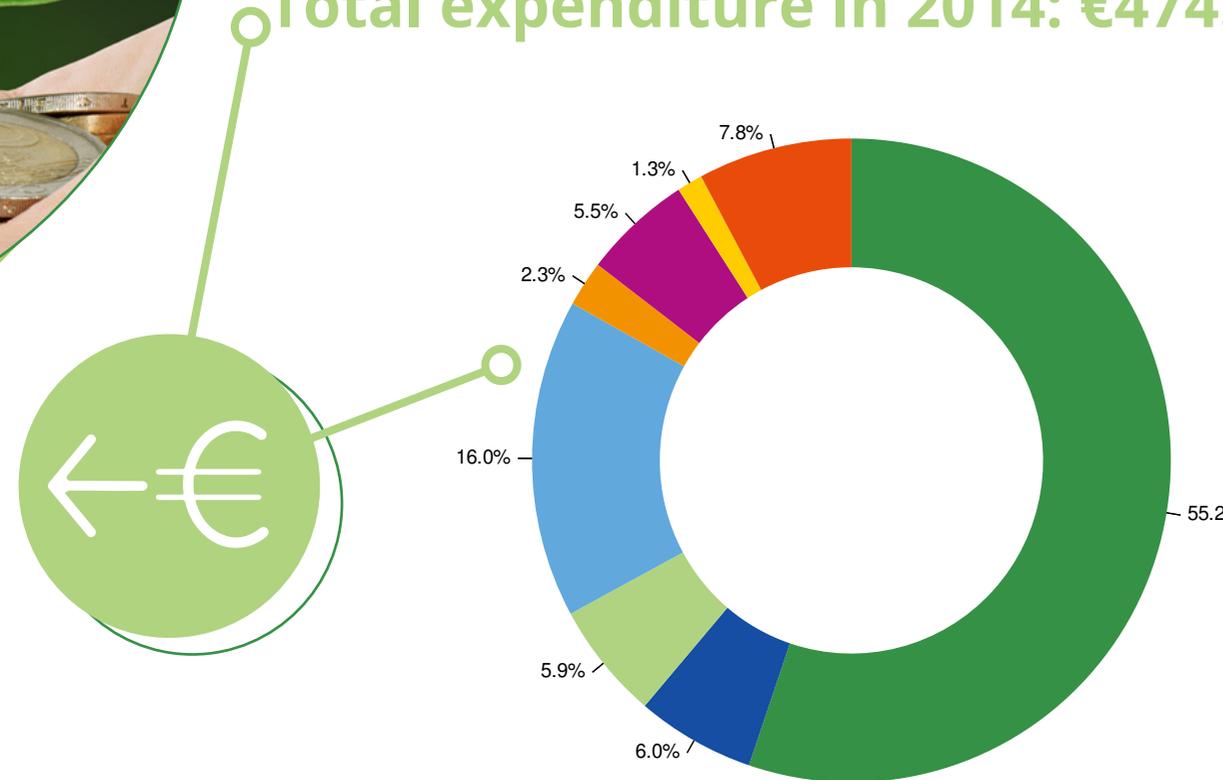


## Total income in 2014: €474.063



- European Commission: **€301.669**
- HCWH US: **€117.637**
- European Environmental and Health Initiative: **€25.000**
- Patagonia: **€8.755**
- EC EcoQUIP project: **€10.036**
- Patagonia: **€10.966**

## Total expenditure in 2014: €474.063



- Personnel: **€261.754**
- Travel & Subsistence: **€28.516**
- Equipment and depreciation: **€27.883**
- External assistance: **€75.933**
- Other direct costs: **€10.879**
- Overheads / general admin: **€25.992**
- EC EcoQUIP project: **€6.300**
- Liabilities 2013: **€36.807**

# About Us

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

We bring the voice of health-care 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 health-care sector to understand the importance of the environment and encourage health-care leaders and professionals to advocate for broader societal policies and changes.

We provide European policy makers with guidance documents, briefing papers and examples of best practice from leaders in sustainable health-care 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, but welcome donations to our work. Please contact us if you want to be part of the movement for sustainable health-care.

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