Table of Contents

3 A message from the Chairperson
4 Policy
5 Communications
6 Our Members in 2014
7 Selected Member Activities in Europe
8 Our Campaigns in 2014
   Safer Chemicals: In numbers
   Safer Chemicals: Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs)
   Safer Chemicals: Nanomaterials & Nanomedicines
   Pharmaceuticals
   Climate Change & Health
   Sustainable Public Procurement
18 Highlights of 2014
19 Finances
20 About Us
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 Moshammer
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

- 11 Newsletters
- 9 Blog Posts
- 23 New Items on our Website
- 19 Items of Press Coverage
- 3,000 Newsletters Subscribers
- 38,303 Website Page Views
- 61% New Website Users
- 400% Engagement Increase
- 20 Press Releases
- 6 Translations of Existing Materials

Followers increased by over 100%
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 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 Virgin 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
Upplands 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.

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.

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 (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’.
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
- 1 Webinar
- 9 Press Releases
- 10 Written Submissions & Position Papers
- 7 Items of Press Coverage
- 10 Website News Updates
- 13 Meetings Attended
- 5 Replies to Public Consultations
THE ISSUE

EDCs have no place in healthcare. 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 Junker 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: Alternatives to Phthalates and Bisphenol A in Medical Devices

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.

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.
Pharmaceuticals

- 4 Items of Press Coverage
- 4 Press Releases
- 6 Written Submissions & Position Papers
- 2 Reports/Publications
- 1 Blog Post
- 1 Website News Item
- 2 Meetings Attended
- 1 Debate Organised
- 1 Reply to Public Consultations

HCWH EUROPE ANNUAL REVIEW 2014 / 12
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.
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.
Sustainable Public Procurement

- 2 Press Releases
- 2 Reports/Publications
- 4 Website News Items
- 2 Workshops Organised
- 6 Meetings Attended
Sustainable Public Procurement

THE ISSUE

Sustainable Public Procurement is the gradual and on-going process by which public authorities continually refine and expand the scope of their efforts to select environmentally sound, socially responsible and safe products and services. Healthcare facilities use huge amounts of standard products and materials—everything from electronic devices, to paper, hospital gowns, packaging materials, paper towels, etc. In 2014, we worked to raise awareness amongst procurers for hospitals and healthcare facilities of the many positive impacts of adopting sustainable public procurement practices as well as to ensure that EU public procurement legislation is transposed into national law.

OUR WORK

In November 2014, we hosted two workshops on public procurement at a national level: one in Italy on 7th November and one in Hungary on 25th November, with the help of our partners (the Emilia-Romagna region in Italy and the University of Budapest in Hungary). The aim of the workshops was to discuss how the new Public Procurement Directive should be interpreted and implemented in Member States, providing a legal analysis of the directive in terms of environmental and social/ethical criteria. The workshops also showcased best practices in green and social procurement in the healthcare sector with a thematic focus on chemicals, energy efficiency and pharmaceuticals.

In August, HCWH Europe worked with the City of Vienna, Austria, to launch the WIDES (the Vienna Database of Disinfectants) project in English and produce a leaflet about the use of the database. WIDES is a vital tool for hospitals and other institutions that provides the information to take occupational safety, environmental impact and efficacy into consideration when procuring disinfectants.

We produced a factsheet on public procurement titled Sustainable Procurement in European Healthcare: Opportunities Under the New EU Legislation on Public Procurement, which contained a legal analysis of the new PUBLIC PROCUREMENT DIRECTIVE in terms of green and social procurement. The factsheet also contains four examples of green and social/ethical public procurement in the healthcare sector in Sweden, Norway, Austria and Italy.

In August, HCWH Europe worked with the City of Vienna, Austria, to launch the WIDES (the Vienna Database of Disinfectants) project in English and produce a leaflet about the use of the database. WIDES is a vital tool for hospitals and other institutions that provides the information to take occupational safety, environmental impact and efficacy into consideration when procuring disinfectants.
Highlights of 2014

**Pharmaceuticals in the Environment Debate**
- Organised with EFPIA (European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries & Associations) on 24th October.
- Europe is now planning to draft new policy/legislation to tackle pharmaceutical pollution.

**Public Procurement Workshops**
- Two workshops with partner organisations – Italy on 7th November with Emilia-Romagna Region & Hungary on 25th 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 24th 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
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, healthcare systems, healthcare professionals, local authorities, research/academic institutions and environmental and health organisations.

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

We also educate the healthcare sector to understand the importance of the environment and encourage healthcare 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 healthcare and we open the debate by demonstrating that change is indeed possible and alternative solutions already exist.

All our funds are used for educational and information purposes targeted to our key audiences: the health sector, health professionals, policy makers and the general public. We do not receive any fees or dues from our members or from private companies, but welcome donations to our work. Please contact us if you want to be part of the movement for sustainable healthcare.

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