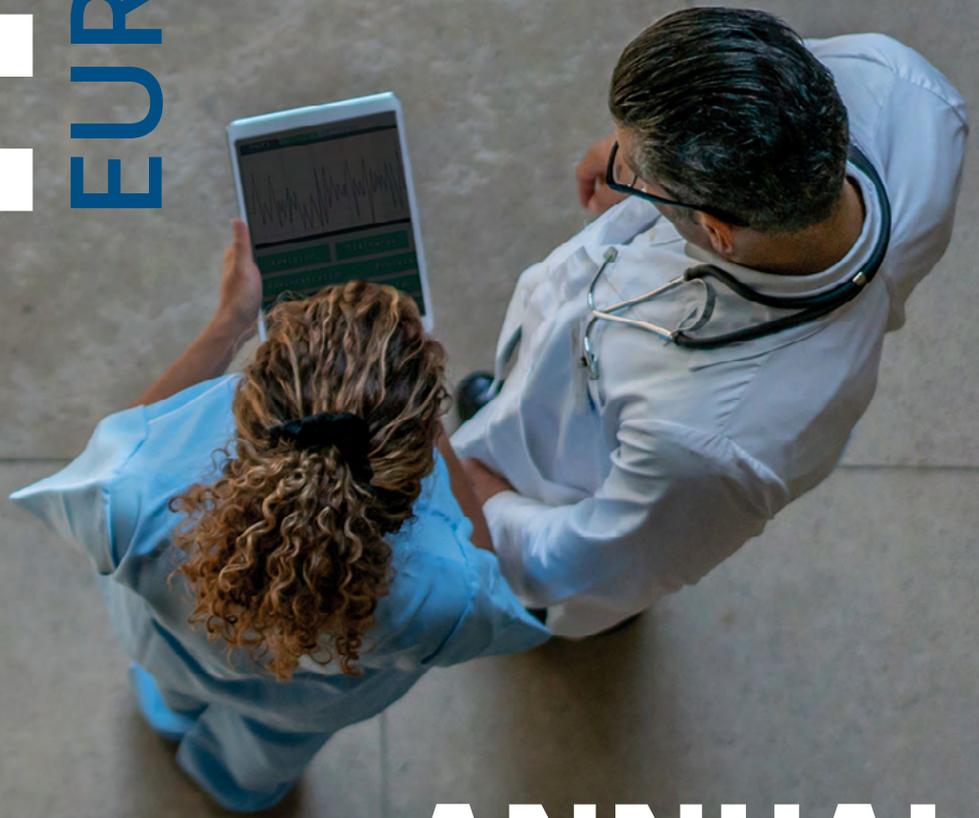


# HCAWH

## EUROPE



# ANNUAL REPORT

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# 2019



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*The HCWH team at the 2019 Health Care Climate Summit in London, UK. See p.14 for more.*

## Message from the Chairperson

It was another busy and transformative year for HCWH Europe in 2019; under Executive Director Will Clark's leadership not only has the team and membership continued to grow, but we have embarked on many exciting new projects, initiatives, and funding opportunities following our new strategic approach to sustainable healthcare in Europe.

As the health impacts of key issues such as the global climate crisis and environmental pollution become clearer, the role of the healthcare sector in driving positive environmental change has never been more important and the need for action becomes increasingly more urgent.

In 2019 we welcomed 17 new members from 11 different countries to the membership including Greece, Portugal, and Finland – previously unrepresented countries. Taking a more practical approach to our work, we have been collaborating even more closely with our members in 2019 - delivering successful webinars and events, including our first annual European Healthcare Climate Summit and multi-stakeholder workshops focusing on circular food systems in healthcare, pharmaceuticals in the environment, and EDC-free healthcare. We also initiated two exciting new projects with members concerning healthcare plastics and low-carbon healthcare that will continue throughout 2020.

We also welcomed new colleagues to the HCWH Europe team in 2019: Jean-Yves and Scott now head our Safer Pharma and Climate-smart Healthcare programmes respectively, and Victoria leads on development and funding. In 2019 the team was also supported by Research Assistant Meri and two student interns – Zoie and Saffiatu, we wish them the best in their future endeavours.

Across our five work programmes we are formulating a long-term vision for how the healthcare sector can respond to environmental challenges and protect public health, with objectives outlining the role HCWH Europe can play. This is reflected in the **2019 manifesto** we released for the European elections, which prioritises 15 policy initiatives for the next five years.

In 2020, we look forward to hosting another edition of Europe's leading conference on sustainable healthcare - **CleanMed Europe**. Our team and membership will continue to grow, expanding and developing our expertise and collaborative opportunities for a more sustainable healthcare system in Europe that truly does no harm.



**Anders Bolmstedt**  
Region Västra Götaland  
Chair of the Board, HCWH Europe

## About us

Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe is a non-profit European network of hospitals, healthcare systems, healthcare professionals, local authorities, research/academic institutions and environmental and health organisations. The organisation currently has 146 members in 29 countries.

Our vision is that healthcare mobilises its ethical, economic and political influence to create an ecologically sustainable, equitable, and healthy world.

Working across five programme areas - Safer Chemicals, Climate-smart Healthcare, Safer Pharma, Sustainable Food, and Sustainable Procurement - our mission is to transform the European healthcare sector 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.

We do this by working with members, partners, and other stakeholders to pilot and innovate sustainable healthcare solutions which we can then be scaled up across Europe and beyond. At the same time, we work to influence key environmental and health policies at an EU and national level, ensuring that the

voice of the healthcare sector is brought to bear in key policy debates.

To leverage and scale up its work, HCWH Europe is also a member of many different environmental and health networks, partners with international agencies, and participates in a number of international processes. The organisation is a recognised stakeholder at the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), as well as the European Medicines Agency (EMA), and participates in a number of European Commission working groups.

In addition, HCWH Europe is a member of ECOS (The European Environmental Citizens Organisation for Standardisation), an associate member of CAN (Climate Action Network) Europe, and a member of the EDC-free Europe coalition.

The organisation also participates in the WHO Euro region and other UN processes, such as SAICM (Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management), the Minamata Convention on mercury, and the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).



**Safer  
Chemicals**



**Safer  
Pharma**



**Sustainable  
Food**



**Climate-smart  
Healthcare**



**Sustainable  
Procurement**

# Members

Membership is based on an organisational commitment to HCWH's mission and goals, a commitment to at least two of the 10 Global Green & Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) Sustainability Goals, and a desire to participate fully in helping to achieve them. Our members are using innovation, ingenuity, and investment to transform the health sector and create a healthy future for people and the planet.

Membership is completely free and members enjoy benefits such as: access to exclusive tools, resources, and content, as well as participation in member-only events and opportunities to participate in pilot and research projects. Members can also access expert advice on sustainability from within our network and a wide range of other benefits.

In 2019, HCWH Europe merged its membership with the Global Green & Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) network in Europe; eligible HCWH Europe members joined a worldwide community of more than 1,200 members in 60 countries, and now benefit from access to a range of exclusive tools and resources. In return, European members of GGHH joined HCWH Europe's membership, giving them a say in how HCWH Europe is run and governed.

Going forward, we will further streamline and simplify this membership structure, and in 2020 we will establish new structures allowing us to better collaborate and communicate with the diverse range of stakeholders in our network.

A Network Development Plan will be published in 2020, aligned with the organisation's overall strategic plan, which will set out some high-level strategic objectives, as well as growth and engagement targets for key regions and member types.

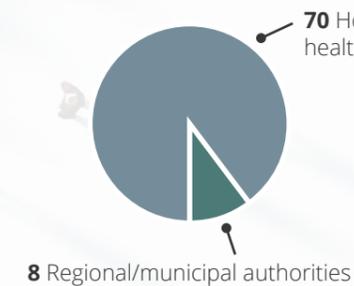


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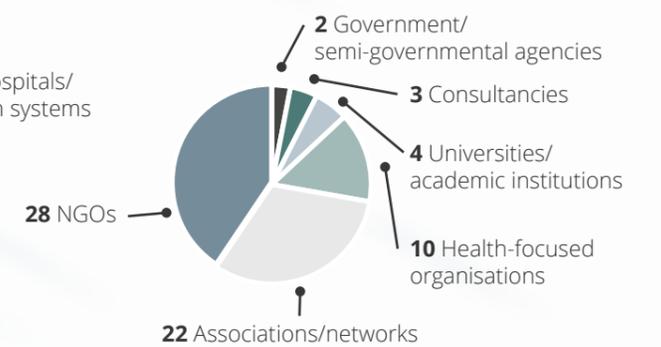
## OUR MEMBERS AT A GLANCE

146 members in 29 countries

78 Organisations providing healthcare services



68 Other





# 2019

in numbers

## IN 2019, HCWH EUROPE PRODUCED:

new publications	news stories	webinars
7	40	7
press releases	newsletters and bulletins	blogs
5	56	9

**SIGN UP TO HCWH EUROPE'S NEWSLETTERS TODAY AND RECEIVE UPDATES ON SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE MOVEMENT IN EUROPE.**



HCWH Europe's social media following increased by **18%** with a significant **761%** boost in engagement.

**+15%** | **+20%**

Compared to 2018, the HCWH Europe website received **86%** more visitors with a nearly **90%** increase in visits to the website overall.

# 2019 Work programme



## SAFER CHEMICALS



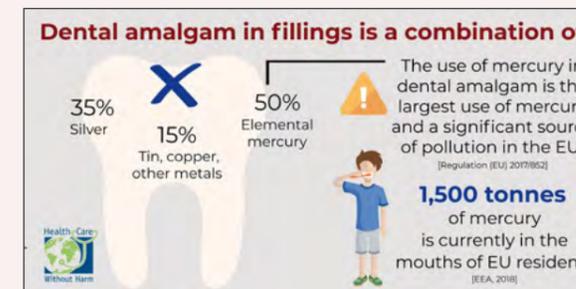
A key part of HCWH Europe's Safer Chemicals programme in 2019 was to continue raising awareness of the substitution potential in the Medical Devices Regulation. Towards the end of the year we hosted a workshop *Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals in healthcare: Reducing exposures for patients*, which brought together policy makers, healthcare providers, academics, and medical device manufacturers to discuss the current state of play regarding endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) in medical devices as well as the opportunities for and challenges to their substitution. Well-attended by several key stakeholders, we also launched the second edition of our *Non-toxic Healthcare report* (first published in 2014) at this workshop. This updated edition of the report contains new evidence of the hazards posed by DEHP and BPA to human health (and exposure to those EDCs through medical devices), an update on the European legal framework for hazardous chemicals in medical devices, and a new chapter on the health impact of plastics in healthcare. Updating the report at this crucial stage – as the MDR moves close to a deadline for full enforcement (26 May 2020) – was an important advocacy, communications, and awareness-raising opportunity.

Mercury in healthcare remains another focus of our Safer Chemicals programme, and in November 2019, we shared a new **infographic on mercury-free dentistry**, raising awareness amongst European dentists and practices about the environmental impacts of the use of mercury (referencing both the UN's Minamata Convention and the EU's Mercury Regulation), and the phase down of mercury use in dentistry in the EU.

Chemicals in medical textiles, particularly PFOA and related compounds, were identified as an emerging issue in 2019, **receiving significant media attention**, and will be further explored in 2020.



Non-toxic Healthcare report



Towards mercury-free dentistry in Europe infographic

## CLIMATE-SMART HEALTHCARE



It was a busy year for the climate movement in 2019 - not least for the HCWH network and Climate-smart Healthcare; in 2019 we hosted the first ever **European Healthcare Climate Summit** at Guy's & St. Thomas' Hospital in London. Bringing together over 120 sustainable healthcare leaders (including members) from 15 different countries, we gathered health professionals and policy makers to share their experiences of tackling climate change in the European healthcare sector and learn about Climate-smart Healthcare in Europe. Attendees also provided the first valuable input to the development of our *Climate-smart Healthcare Roadmap for 2030*. Based on the success of this event, we will continue to host future Healthcare Climate Summits and create opportunities to contribute to the roadmap each year. **Learn more about the summit in our report.**

The summit also formed part of the European release of HCWH's landmark report *Health care's climate footprint: How the health sector contributes to the global climate crisis and opportunities for action* - learn more about this report on p.23



The **Healthcare Climate Challenge** continued to grow in Europe (learn on p. 22), supported by closer collaboration between the GGHH secretariat and HCWH Europe. In March 2019, we hosted a webinar about the challenge: *Setting and achieving measurable sustainability goals*, featuring members who have already signed up to the challenge. The webinar presented the concept of the challenge, its aims and requirements to join, and presenters encouraged more healthcare providers to take part and submit their emissions data. Participants also learned about challenges and opportunities for the healthcare sector in the face of climate change, and heard examples of best practice in Climate-smart Healthcare from around Europe.

The **European Healthcare Climate Council** went from strength to strength in 2019 and continues to grow. The Council was instrumental in contributing

to the European Healthcare Climate Summit and convened a special face to face meeting at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust in London alongside the summit.



European Healthcare Climate Summit 2019



Webinar about the Health Care Climate Challenge

## MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Members **Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust** (UK) and **Stockholm County Council** (Sweden) contributed to the webinar, *The Health Care Climate Challenge: Setting and achieving measurable sustainability goals*, sharing their experiences of participating in the Challenge and explaining why others should sign up.





A key milestone in 2019 was the long delayed publication of the European Commission's *Strategic Approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment*, after years of advocacy by HCWH Europe and our partners. In response to the substantial shortcomings of the strategy, HCWH Europe **published an open letter** to the European Commission recommending follow-up measures, which received significant media coverage. As a result, the HCWH Europe team was invited to present our recommendations to key European Commission officials from both DG Health and Food Safety and DG Environment. HCWH Europe also provided knowledge and expertise on how to reduce the presence of pharmaceuticals in the water environment at a workshop co-organised by the European Commission and the World Health Organization.

In November 2019, HCWH Europe organised the workshop *A multi-stakeholder approach to pharmaceuticals in the environment: Working together towards effective solutions* to develop a shared understanding of the policy challenges to addressing pharmaceuticals in the environment and identify priorities for action in the framework of the European Green Deal's zero-pollution ambition. The event brought together key representatives from EU and international institutions, national ministries, the healthcare sector, industry, civil society, and academia from across Europe.

Earlier in the year, we also published a **database providing an overview of initiatives and projects** at all levels to tackle pharmaceuticals in the environment and pharmaceutical waste.

As well as pharmaceuticals in the environment, another closely-related issue that forms a core part of HCWH Europe's Safer Pharma programme is antimicrobial resistance (AMR). In 2019 we released a new report *Tackling AMR in Europe's healthcare facilities* to inform stakeholders about hospital initiatives to address AMR. Based on a survey of our members, the report provides recommendations for hospitals and health systems in five key areas; **the report was presented in a webinar** to raise awareness about the contribution of Europe's healthcare sector to the emergence of AMR and to discuss room for action to help keep antibiotics effective in the treatment of bacterial infections.

Once again HCWH Europe played an active role in World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW) - we organised a **special online press briefing** with expert guests to bring increased media attention and an-

swer journalists' question on the AMR threat that is increasingly impacting both healthcare and the global economy. We also produced an **AMR press kit for journalists** with the necessary tools and information to better understand this issue and help them inform their audiences, highlighting the environmental component of AMR in the framework of a 'One Health' approach, as well as a useful infographic to present the facts.

In 2019, HCWH Europe also released a second animated video for the Safer Pharma campaign, this time focusing specifically on the **impact of pharmaceutical manufacturing pollution** and how European pharmaceutical manufacturers are outsourcing their environmental responsibility outside of Europe.



Tackling AMR in Europe's healthcare facilities report



Animated video on the impact of pharmaceutical manufacturing pollution



## MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

For more than ten years, the **Vienna Hospital Association** (Austria) has participated in various pilot projects focused on food in the healthcare system, learn more in the report *Strategic procurement in European healthcare*.



## SUSTAINABLE FOOD



Sustainable food in healthcare is an area that has seen continued growing interest amongst our members and partners in 2019, with several members' case studies forming an integral part of publications and webinars this year - including our publication *Procuring vending machine in healthcare: Guidelines to promote healthier and sustainable choices* and our webinar *Sustainable food is healthy food: Strategies in healthcare*.

In 2019 HCWH Europe called upon EU policy-makers to implement **greener agricultural and food policies** and responded to European Commission consultations on the food waste methodology and the evaluation of the Food Contact Materials legislative framework.

The MECAHF (*Modèle d'Economie Circulaire Alimentaire pour les Hôpitaux Français*) project, in collaboration with the Hospital Centre of Niort, began its second year in 2019 with a webinar - *How to prevent food waste in hospitals* [FR] - to present initial project results and to share experiences in adopting strategies to prevent and reduce food waste. This



Sustainable food is healthy food webinar



Food waste and nutrition in healthcare facilities workshop in Niort

was further expanded upon later in the year with our workshop *Food waste and nutrition in healthcare facilities: Developing a circular economy* [FR] which brought together over 60 healthcare, nutrition, and catering professionals to the Hospital Centre of Niort to learn about the project and its results.



### PROCURING VENDING MACHINES IN HEALTHCARE:

Guidelines to promote healthier and sustainable choices



Procuring vending machines in healthcare guidelines

## SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT



Established in 2018 as a new programme, Sustainable Procurement in healthcare continued to grow in 2019 for the HCWH Europe network as we engaged with national and European stakeholders and worked with members on capacity building. Early in the year we released a new briefing document during a special webinar - *Setting sustainability criteria in healthcare tenders*; we discussed strategies that contracting authorities can use to implement strategic and sustainable procurement. Our members Aarhus University Hospital (Denmark) and Landspítali, The National University Hospital of Iceland also presented their experiences of sustainable and innovative procurement.

HCWH Europe's safer disinfectants project, *SAICM 2.0*, continued throughout 2019, with over 80 hospitals providing data on their disinfectant use through a survey. In July 2019, we presented the preliminary results of the survey and **outlined the next phase of the project in a webinar** to raise awareness about the potential hazards of disinfectants in healthcare settings, as well as the need for chemical substitution and harmonised sustainable public procurement criteria.

Following the publication of the European Strategy on Plastics in a Circular Economy (released by the European Commission in 2018) and the Single Use Plastics Directive entering into force in July 2019, HCWH Europe identified plastics as an emerging issue for the healthcare sector, which could take a leading role in the transition to a new plastics economy in Europe - this work will continue with members in a new project *Towards plastic-free healthcare in Europe*, to be implemented in 2020.



Strategic procurement in European healthcare report [Spanish version here]



Setting sustainability criteria in healthcare tenders briefing document

## MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Members from across Europe provided valuable case studies for our 2019 report *Strategic procurement in European healthcare*, covering a variety of areas, such as plastics, mobility, and food.



# HCWH around the world

## GLOBAL GREEN AND HEALTHY HOSPITALS



It was another year of continued growth and development for the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) network; in 2019, we welcomed over 135 new members, ranging from small healthcare facilities to large health systems. Expanding into 10 new countries; from India, to Iraq, to Ireland and points in between, healthcare institutions are committed to creating sustainable, Climate-smart Healthcare.



In 2019 the Health Care Climate Challenge reached several important milestones that demonstrate the commitment of the healthcare sector to playing a key role in addressing climate change and advocating for a healthy planet.

In September, the Climate Challenge reached its 200<sup>th</sup> participant with the signing of the pledge by three healthcare institutions from Europe: CHU Grenoble Alpes in France, as well as Manchester University NHS Trust and the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in the UK. The 200 healthcare institutions participating in the challenge come from over 30 countries and represent more than 18,000 individual hospitals and health centres. Participating institutions are as diverse as they are numerous, ranging from small, rural health services to large urban health systems.

By 2019 Challenge participants had reported:

- Collective commitments to reduce their carbon emissions by more than 34 million metric tons - the equivalent of a year of carbon emissions from nine coal fired power plants
- Saving an estimated USD\$3.2 billion in health costs related to air pollution
- Saving USD\$394 million through energy efficiency and renewable energy generation

Find out more and sign up for the challenge here: [www.healthcareclimatechallenge.org](http://www.healthcareclimatechallenge.org)



GGHH members receiving Health Care Climate Challenge awards in 2019

# HEALTH CARE CLIMATE FOOTPRINT REPORT

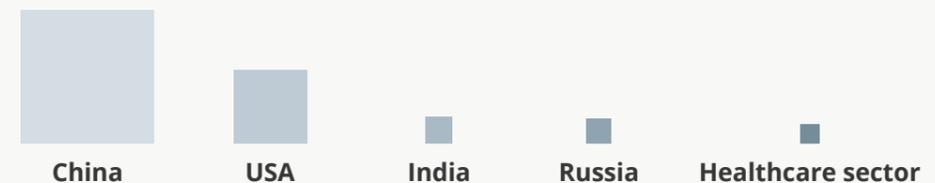
In 2019 Health Care Without Harm, in collaboration with Arup released a new report, *Health care's climate footprint: How the health sector contributes to the global climate crisis and opportunities for action*. It is the most comprehensive global analysis of healthcare's contribution to climate change to date. Specifically, the report:

1. Provides a global estimate of healthcare's greenhouse gas emissions, as well as individual estimates for 43 countries broken down by scopes 1, 2, and 3.
2. Examines how energy, food, anaesthetic gases, and transportation contribute to healthcare's global climate footprint.
3. Identifies opportunities for further research and methodological development that would support the sector in its efforts to understand and address its climate footprint.
4. Outlines a series of international, national and subnational policy recommendations for healthcare climate action.

The report makes the case for a transformation of the healthcare sector aligned with the Paris Agreement goal of limiting climate change to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

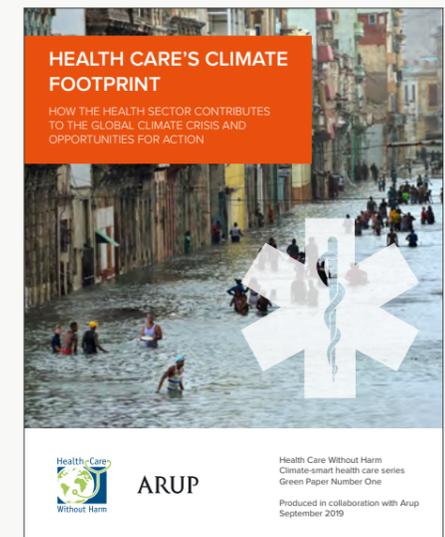
Amongst the report's key findings are:

- Healthcare's climate footprint is equivalent to 4.4% of global net emissions
- If the healthcare sector were a country, it would be the fifth largest emitter in the world



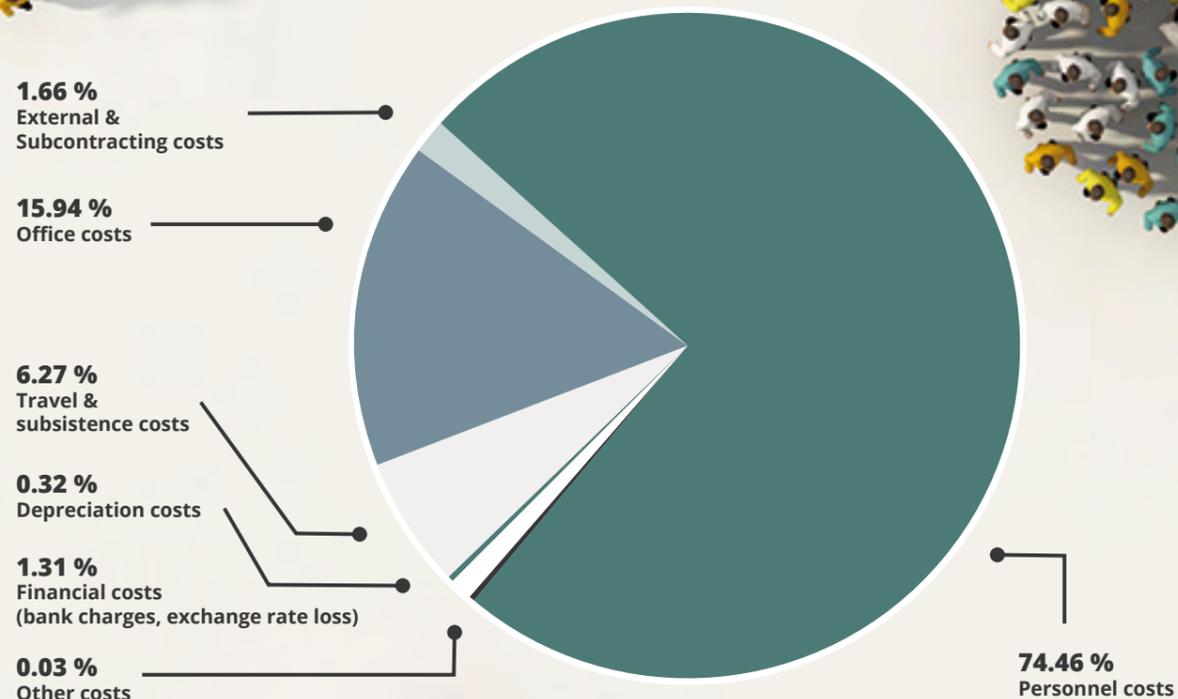
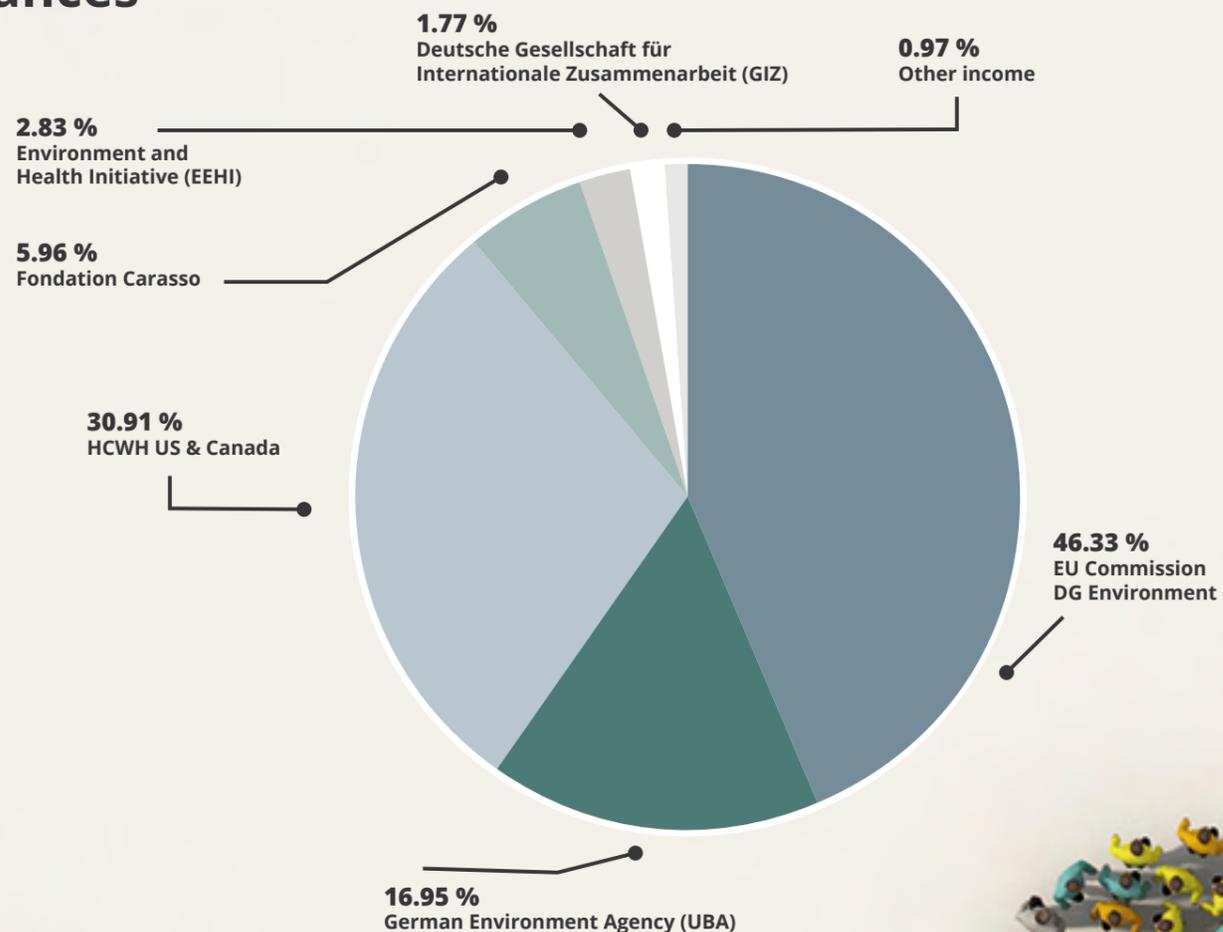
Emissions from the healthcare sector, compared to countries

- The EU healthcare sector accounts for 12% of the global healthcare climate footprint
- Decarbonising healthcare's supply chain is critical – 71% of the sector's emissions come from Scope 3



Healthcare's climate footprint report

# Finances



## INCOME 2019

EU Commission DG Environment	€ 408,693.00
HCWH US & Canada	€ 272,675.96
German Environment Agency (UBA)	€ 149,527.74
Fondation Carasso	€ 52,618.00
Environment and Health Initiative (EEHI)	€ 25,000.00
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	€ 15,645.00
Other income	€ 8,544.27
Reserve 2019	-€ 50,578.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 882,125.29</b>

## EXPENDITURE 2019

Personnel costs	€ 656,840.74
Office costs	€ 140,639.28
Travel & subsistence costs	€ 55,282.66
External & Subcontracting costs	€ 14,668.00
Financial costs (bank charges, exchange rate loss)	€ 11,585.10
Depreciation costs	€ 2,849.51
Other costs	€ 260.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 882,125.29</b>

HCWH Europe would like to thank all our funders and supporters who have given generously to help make our work possible in 2019:

The EU Commission's LIFE grant programme, Swedish International Development Agency, HCWH US & Canada, The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU), the German Environment Agency (UBA), the Carasso Foundation, the Environment and Health Initiative (EEHI), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the WHO.

If you want to find out how to support our work visit [www.noharm-europe.org/content/europe/get-involved](http://www.noharm-europe.org/content/europe/get-involved), or alternatively contact us: [europe@hcwh.org](mailto:europe@hcwh.org)

## 2020 - A year of opportunity

As we reflect on the achievements and progress made during 2019, this is also an opportunity to highlight the many new and exciting things HCWH Europe has to look forward to in 2020.

At the beginning of 2019 I said that it would be a transitional year for HCWH Europe – the organisation was under new leadership, the team was being reshaped and strengthened, and the foundations were being laid for the development of a new strategic plan. At the same time the European political landscape was undergoing transition, with a newly elected European Parliament and new European Commission President set to bring a fresh policy agenda at the EU level that would shape our work in the coming years.

President Ursula von der Leyen's announcement of a flagship "European Green Deal", to be enacted within her first 100 days, is cause for optimism. This would set the European Union on a course to become climate-neutral 2050 - a world first. Though this goal falls short of the **level of ambition we and our partners have been pushing for**, it is certainly

a step in the right direction and gives us something to build on in the forthcoming parliamentary term.

After securing another two years of our core European Commission LIFE grant we are entering a new funding cycle in 2020, with an innovative work programme, refined goals, and a host of exciting grassroots projects with new funders. These include our Low Carbon Healthcare in the Mediterranean and Towards Plastic-free Healthcare in Europe projects, which will see us providing hands-on support to 13 hospitals from 8 different countries.

Our new strategic plan will be finalised during the first quarter of 2020 and will set the organisation's blueprint for action for the next five years, giving our Board, members, partners and the HCWH Europe team direction and inspiration to continue to drive our work forward in Europe. A key component of this plan will be the creation of a new membership and engagement model, supporting our ambition to become more responsive to the practical sustainability challenges that European hospitals and healthcare providers face. At the same time, we aim to ex-

pand our membership and partner networks across Europe and develop new ways of working with key stakeholders in order to maximise our impact at every level; the strategic plan will be presented to the Board and our members next summer.

Good governance and effective leadership lie at the heart of all successful organisations. In April we will be holding Board elections and will conclude work started this year to update our constitution.

Later in 2020 we will be hosting our biannual conference **CleanMed Europe** - the largest specialist sustainable healthcare conference in Europe. This will be combined with our second European Healthcare Climate Summit. Together these events will attract over 300 sustainable healthcare leaders from across Europe, who will come together to share best practice, learn from each other, and support us in achieving our mission and goals.

Overall 2020 is set to be another busy, transformational year – another significant step forward for our unique and growing organisation.



**Will Clark**  
Executive Director -  
HCWH Europe





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