



Annual Review



**Promoting
environmental policy**
that contributes to health



2010





Annual Review 2010

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About HEAL

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The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) is the leading European not-for-profit organisation addressing how the environment affects health in the European Union. We demonstrate how policy changes can help protect health and enhance people's quality of life.

Our priorities

HEAL's Brussels based secretariat advances the alliance's work and mission by:

- Monitoring policy within EU institutions to identify threats and opportunities for environment and health
- Running advocacy campaigns to bring the voice of the health community to policy makers
- Following policy-relevant research and making it accessible
- Facilitating public and stakeholder participation
- Building capacity through publications, conferences, workshops, and training.

Our policy priorities include: Air and water quality, Hazardous chemicals, Climate change, Electro-magnetic fields, Environmental injustice and social inequalities, Mercury, Noise pollution, Nanotechnology, Pesticides and biocides.

Our Structure

HEAL's governing bodies are the General Assembly of all member organisations and the Executive Committee, which is elected for a two-year mandate.

Independence

HEAL is independent of any political party. It develops its policy positions with the help of its members who represent different specialist areas of civil society and many of whom are themselves large network membership organisations. This means that HEAL can represent the public interest in a significant sector, bringing our policy statements to the discussions of the EU Institutions and to international circles with supporting arguments. HEAL receives funding from the European Union, governments and private foundations as well as through membership contributions. We do not accept funding from commercial interests.



The HEAL Secretariat

The Executive Committee



Marie Christine Dewolf
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Hainaut (Belgium)
HEAL President



Peter van den Hazel
International Network for
Children's Health, Environment
and Safety (the Netherlands)
HEAL Vice-President



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Natural England (UK)
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Alliance (Belgium)



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Environment and health policy

Mobilising for Europe's environment and health action plan

At the beginning of 2010, few in the European environment and health community were optimistic about the prospects for a second Environment and Health Action Plan (EHAP). The first EHAP was due to run out at the end of 2010 and although many were convinced of the need for the coordinating role that EHAP had played, few were clear on specific achievements so far nor on how to articulate requirements for a second EHAP.

HEAL and its members succeeded in keeping EHAP on the agenda despite little political will from the European Commission. First, HEAL published research on the added value and policy perspectives for an action plan. Second, it organised two events to debate priorities, one as part of the EU Open Health Forum, and a second which took place immediately after HEAL's Annual General Meeting in October. The outcome was a HEAL advocacy letter about the need for a second EHAP. As a result of the meeting, many HEAL members and research networks themselves wrote to the EU Commission in support of a second EHAP, and other groups had written to national ministries.

The result: The Conclusions of the December meeting of EU environment ministers called on the EU Commission to come forward with a proposal for a 2nd EHAP as soon as possible.



Belgian EU Presidency study supports new Action Plan

The report, "EU Environment and Health Action Plan (EHAP) – Assessment and Outlook for Future Action" was

commissioned by the Belgian Federal Minister for Environment and written by HEAL. It reviews the EU's first action plan on Environment and Health (EHAP), ranks key policy areas and puts forward policy opportunities and options for a second action plan over the next five years.

The results showed that EHAP had been instrumental in ensuring that the multi-million Euros of the EU health and environment research programme were well targeted to policy needs. The findings also showed that a second EHAP should have a strengthened format and funding and improved mechanisms for the science-policy transfer to take the findings of current research and translate them into existing or new policy. It found widespread agreement for EHAP's added value on for example indoor air quality and for the initial coordinating of the bio-monitoring programme to be continued and linked to REACH.



image David Stone from Natural England, who is HEAL Treasurer, makes a statement at the EU Health Forum. To his right Marie-Christine DeWolf, Hygiène Publique en Hainaut, Belgium, who is HEAL President.



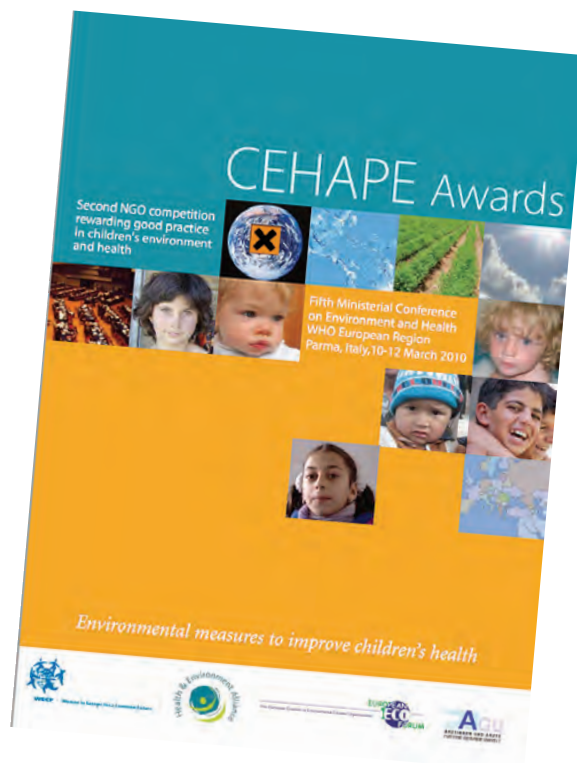
EU Open Health Forum adopts recommendations for next Action Plan

Patients, health professionals and policy makers met during the EU Open Health Forum in June 2010 at a workshop to highlight the contribution of environmental causes in the current burden of ill-health in Europe, and hear the health sector's voice on priorities for greater EU action.

HEAL partnered with European Federation of Allergies and Airway Diseases Patients Associations (EFA) and the European Respiratory Society (ERS) to elaborate workshop recommendations adopted by participants which showed overwhelming support for a second EU action plan.

2010 Eurobarometer poll shows continued public concerned about how environment is harming human health, particularly chemicals, outdoor air and waste.

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CEHAPE Awards 2010: Environmental measures to improve children's health highlights inspiring projects from across the European Region.



Chemicals

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Spreading the word on how chemicals are linked to cancer

Many European policy makers are aware of the different environmental exposures that contribute to cancer. However, opportunities to gain an overview of this theme are rare. In 2010, HEAL organised a series of events, and issued publications, to make more widely known the links between cancer and environmental exposures among politicians, policy makers, our members and partners and the public. Our aim was to increase knowledge and understanding on how environmental causes contribute to cancer within the European health and environment community and beyond. In particular we aimed to provide policy makers with a solid base for action, including the scientific arguments on why reducing exposure through a phase out and substitution of hazardous chemicals was needed.

Activities included the Cancer & Environment week with film screenings, talks and media events; a brochure on endocrine-disrupting chemicals; a sign-on statement from health organisations; and, a continued call for a BPA ban in baby bottles and other consumer goods (for example food contact materials).

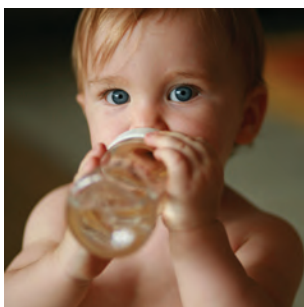


image Following the call from leading scientists and advocacy groups, the European Commission has banned the use of Bisphenol A in baby bottles. © marcelo versiani flickr

22 health organisations sign open letter urging inclusions of environment for primary prevention

The European Parliament recognised the role of environmental factors in cancer prevention in their 2010 report. This support was prompted by a joint letter, prepared by HEAL and signed by 22 leading health organisations. The report now not only defines environmental factors (well beyond the standard tobacco smoke) contributing to cancer, it also calls for research on environmental factors and resources on environmental prevention.



image Visit our Toxic Menu website at <http://www.menutoxiques.fr/> (French only)

Toxic menu investigation focuses on children's meals

Our Toxic Menu report shows that 81 different chemical substances, including 36 different pesticides and 47 suspected carcinogens, are contained in typical meals of a child's daily diet. HEAL worked with member Generations Futures (GF) to investigate how many cancer causing chemicals are found in a typical and balanced diet of a 10 year old. The report and campaign website were launched a high profile media event in France. Results showed just how many chemical residues of substances deemed to be hazardous, were contained in our diet and suggested needed EU and national policy changes to reduce this contamination. Following very strong press and television coverage of the event in France, the "Toxic Menu" findings have featured in the media of countries around the world.



image Viorica Cursaru, European Cancer Patient Coalition, with Dr Sandra Steingraber in European Parliament debate.

European film premiere: Living Downstream – a personal exploration of cancer and our environment

Dr Sandra Steingraber, scientist, biologist and cancer survivor, spent a week with HEAL and shared her visionary, poetic and scientific views on how environmental policy changes can and should contribute to cancer prevention. She spoke to Parliamentary members, cancer groups and a wide range of policy makers and media about her work and her new film, based on her well known book, Living Downstream, which shows how the state of the environment is inextricably linked to our own health. Her film was shown at a public screening and to the EU Commission cancer support group.

"I can't stop the toxic trespass of these chemicals so that's where governments are tasked to take action - in protecting citizens from dangers that they can't protect themselves from. We need to divorce our economy from those chemicals."

"Cancer is a human rights issue, and the growing evidence that environment is playing a much larger role in the story of cancer than had been previously appreciated gives us a moral responsibility to take a look at these chemicals and remove them from food and water."

Dr Sandra Steingraber told the European Parliament

Mobilising cancer patient groups to address the "missing link" in fight against cancer

Our 'Environment and Cancer testimonies' provide a snapshot of priorities for action and demonstrate that cancer patients are increasingly concerned about chemicals in our environment. They were jointly produced by HEAL, the European Forum Against Cancer and European Cancer Patient Coalition.

"In some forms of cancer, the link between the environment and cancer is absolutely proven. In other types of cancer, it is suggested. But, there is sufficient medical and scientific documentation that show the carcinogenicity of many chemical products. My own disease Multiple Myeloma is much more frequent in people who have been exposed to pesticides (eg. people who lived next in rural areas with major agriculture activity) and in people who have been exposed to radiation (nuclear workers, radiologists)."

EuropeanMyeloma Platform, Belgium



Our Chemical Cocktails brochure aims to increase awareness of the risks associated with everyday exposure to endocrine disrupting hormones and needed policy action. Jointly produced by HEAL, WWF Europe and CHEM Trust.



Pesticides

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National action mobilised to promote pesticide-free health!

In 2010, HEAL continued to build up and expand its Sick of Pesticides campaign to ensure that the new pesticides laws in Europe were implemented as quickly as possible. With the help of members and national partner organisations, we aimed to put pressure on governments to encourage each of them to set up an ambitious National Action Plan for Pesticide Reduction by 2012 in accordance with EU legislation. Specifically, HEAL supports the creation of pesticide-free public areas which should eliminate exposure in parks and open spaces. We also want to see plans to reduce pesticide exposure featured in national health care strategies and national cancer plans.

Biocides: the household toxics

HEAL followed carefully the revision of the EU biocides law, which will be completed at the end of 2011. We shared developments with the health community and gathered their perspectives so that these could be brought to the European Parliament, the Council and the EU Commission. The priorities of the health community focused on protecting citizens, particularly vulnerable groups, from exposure and ensuring strict and stringent regulations to protect health. Thanks to HEAL's and our partners' provision of scientific evidence and advocacy work, stronger health and environment provisions were gained in the draft law, but many challenges remain.

How to go "pesticide-free"

HEAL's publication "Six steps to pesticides reduction" provides the network and other NGOs and individuals with a tool kit on reducing local pesticide use. This eight-page publication, and an extensive resource page, is available on our website at www.env-health.org

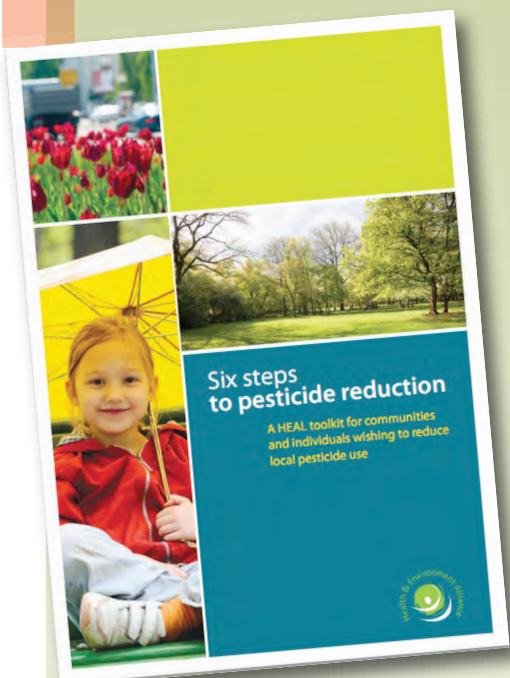


image Sick of Pesticides Campaign

The "Phyto-victimes" network being filmed during their first official meeting in Ruffec, France in 2010.

Sick of Pesticides campaign

Set up in 2008, the Sick of Pesticides network's objective is to raise awareness of the links between pesticides and ill-health, and to mobilise collective action for change. It began in two countries: France and the UK.

In 2010, HEAL extended the Sick of Pesticides network to three more countries – the Netherlands, Belgium and Hungary. The first European network meeting allowed participating groups to share information on their own activities, which is also reflected in a multi-language campaign website. The meeting agreed to send a joint letter to health commissioner John Dalli, a development that was reported in the chemicals' industry media.

Country highlights

NETHERLANDS: In addition to organising a national capacity building workshop, country partner Leefmilieu worked with HEAL to launch a postcard campaign in the Netherlands. They also sent a letter to all Dutch municipalities about the need for pesticide-free public spaces to raise awareness on pesticides and health.

BELGIUM: Inter Environnement Wallonie are working to extend the number of cities in Belgium beyond the current five that have already banned pesticide use in streets, parks and cemeteries (Grobbendonk, Hasselt, Ghent, Eupen and Rochefort).

FRANCE: MDRGF (now renamed "Généralions Futures") are supporting a network of farmers and agricultural workers whose health is affected as a result of exposure to pesticides at work.

HUNGARY: Clean Air Action Group (CAAG) in Hungary met with the Budapest authorities to persuade them of the need for pesticide-free parks. HEAL and CAAG produced a 12-page Sick of Pesticides booklet in Hungarian for awareness raising on pesticides and health and organised a conference with national authorities and stakeholders on how to reduce pesticide dependency.



Climate change

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EU Parliament and Commission take up our health "co-benefit" report

The findings of HEAL's ground-breaking report quantifying the public health benefits of stronger EU action on climate change in 2010 have not only pushed health firmly into European policy thinking on climate change, they have also helped the public to understand the benefits of strong climate change for cleaner air and their own health.

On the international front, HEAL worked with climate partners across the globe in preparation for the international climate talks negotiations in Cancun, which included coordinating an international Climate and Health statement, providing a health resource both for climate negotiators and other health partners, and stimulating extensive new social media work with health leaders.

European Parliament resolution draws on health arguments for more ambitious climate targets



image Genon Jensen, HEAL Executive Director, tells the European Parliamentary hearing why more ambitious climate targets would produce significant public health benefits.



Respiratory, cardiovascular diseases set to benefit from strong climate targets

Launched in September 2010, HEAL's report, "Acting NOW for Better Health, A 30% reduction target for EU climate policy" produced a monetary evaluation of potential health savings that would accrue as a side effect of stronger climate change policy targets. The new findings from HEAL caused a stir because they went beyond previous official estimates, and showed anticipated health savings estimated at up to 30.5 billion Euros per year by 2020 if the EU set its sights on a 30% target.

HEAL's new report provided much higher figures on health co-benefits from stronger climate policy than previous Commission documents because they included morbidity cost savings as well as those resulting from deaths. The report also provided, for the first time, figures that were both for the EU overall and for different target EU member states. It was probably these two key elements that made the report findings an important new departure for national ministers and policy makers while the accessibility of the report to journalists continues to take the findings into the national media of our target countries.



Building the health movement in climate talks: COP 16 in Cancun

Since our participation in the historic Copenhagen Climate summit in 2009, HEAL has played a leadership role in building up health sector capacity. We had an effective presence at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations in Cancun, Mexico in December 2010 working collaboratively with the leading international health networks to provide strategic policy opportunities and new ways of promoting health within this agenda.

The "Cancun Climate and Health Statement" launched during Health Day at COP 16 in Mexico calls on negotiators to consider the "real costs" of climate change and the benefits of strong action by taking the human health dimension into account. Initiated by HEAL and two partners: the Climate and Health Council and Health Care Without Harm, the Declaration is signed by some of the world's largest medical, nursing and health organizations and calls on world leaders to take bold action to address climate change.



Health Professionals Say: Don't Forget the Health Dividend of climate policies

HEAL's delegation to Cancun included leading climate specialists from the European and international medical community. Our representatives achieved significant public education around climate change and health appearing on broadcasts and creating several podcasts and blogs which targetted the medical and health sector specialists.

"Overwhelming evidence exists that reducing greenhouse gases benefits not just health but countries' economies. These "co-benefits" provide all those attending Cancun with a powerful and unifying new narrative - reducing greenhouse gases is good for your health, and for your budget."

Dr Michael Wilks, Climate Adviser and Immediate Past President of the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME).

"Strong data show that low-carbon living brings with it enormous benefits to health (less cancer, heart and respiratory disease, dementia, diabetes, depressive illness) and with that comes huge savings in healthcare costs. These health gains could substantially offset the costs of mitigation and urgently need to be factored in..."

Professor Hugh Montgomery, University College London, was one of the lead authors involved in The Lancet Series, Health and Climate Change, November 2009.

Air Quality

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Strong and conclusive evidence widely promoted

The scientific evidence that improving air quality would save hundreds of thousands of lives each year is solid. Yet, progress towards legislative improvements on air quality laws has been painfully slow this year.

HEAL's priority for 2010 on air quality lay on demanding an immediate revision of the EU National Emissions Ceilings Directive (NEC Directive). This law is a cornerstone of EU air quality policy, and has been an important instrument in reducing air pollution emissions.

Our activities focused on providing the health evidence through meetings, open letters and media work to Environment Commissioner Janez Poto nik on the urgent need to revision the National Emissions Ceilings Directive. This included partnering with the EU-funded APHEKOM research study in promoting its new findings to the media and sharing them with national and EU policy makers. The finding showed that if the EU complied with WHO's annual air-quality guideline on PM2.5 fine particles in 25 large European cities up to 22 months of additional life expectancy for persons 30 years of age and older could be gained, and 31.5 billion euros saved in monetary health benefits every year.

Throughout our policy monitoring, advocacy and communication activities, HEAL has worked particularly closely with its members, European Respiratory Society (Environment and Health Committee) and European Federation of Asthma and Allergies Patient's Associations (EFA).



HEAL team run for clean air on Global Climate Action Day in EU capital!



image Ahead of a crucial air quality debate due in the European Commission, HEAL joined forces with the green group European Environmental Bureau (EEB) to reiterate calls for an urgent upgrade of key air legislation. We made our support visible by joining the Brussels marathon 'Run for Clean Air! Everywhere'. Photo by EEB

Indoor air quality: a rising concern

EU research and action on indoor air quality was identified by policy makers and stakeholders alike as one of the major successes of the first EU Environment and Health Action Plan. HEAL sits on the EU Indoor Air Quality Expert Group to advocate, together with its partners, for more ambitious Community action. Indoor air policies could effectively address the growing challenge of ill health across Europe associated with exposure to indoor air pollution.

Communications - Spreading the word

HEAL is now a recognised voice in EU and international discussions on environment and health. 2010 saw some exciting developments which led to an increased visibility of HEAL and our priority themes.

A highly successful innovation introduced this year was the creation of a HEAL week on "Cancer and Environment" in Brussels and a "Cancun Health Day" at the global climate talks in Mexico. Both attracted large audiences and media coverage which helped to raise awareness of our issues as well as HEAL's profile.

Our flagship report, "Acting NOW for better health: A 30% reduction target for EU climate policy" launched in September 2010, published jointly with Health Care Without Harm, produced our greatest media success. Articles about the report appeared in more than 50 news outlets and in at least nine EU languages. A New York Times Green Blog report prompted other bloggers to cover the report's findings.

Throughout the year, we featured HEAL's key issues in many of the 33 press releases producing a steady stream of coverage. Different members of the HEAL team gave television, radio, national newspaper and magazine interviews, and our communications also continued to benefit from the stimulus of our social networking, especially our Twitter account (HEAL more than doubled the twitter followers in one year to now 730 people subscribing to our regular updates). Thousands of decision-makers and stakeholders get informed through the monthly HEAL electronic Newsflash about the latest policy developments in Environment and Health and new science on health impacts. Our work with partners, especially via the Sick of Pesticides network, also helped raise our profile in national media.

We continued to provide our regular HEAL newsletter and policy updates, and in addition published reports, position papers, policy letters, resource tools and brochures, some of which are listed below:

Reports

- Acting NOW for Better Health, A 30% reduction target for EU climate policy" (September 2010)
- Health and fiscal co-benefits of emissions reductions: a summary for negotiators (Joint briefing, December 2010)
- The EU Environment and Health Action Plan (EHAP) – Assessment and Outlook for Future Action (June 2010)

Policy statements

- Reducing cancer through environmental policy change (HEAL briefing paper, March 2011)
- Cancun Climate and Health Statement (International Policy statement, English, French and Spanish, December 2010)
- EU Health Forum Workshop: Policy Recommendations Integrating Environment and Health policy towards better health outcomes (June 2010)
- Sixtieth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe (NGO Position paper, September 2010)

Resource tools

- Questions on cancer and the environment (Written testimonies from national members of the European Cancer Patient Coalition, November 2010)
- Pesticides and Cancer: multi-language, multi-country website to inform on pesticides and health impact, what is happening on National Action Plans and an extensive resource page

Brochures/leaflets

- CEHAPE Awards 2010: Environmental measures to improve children's health (Brochure, April 2010)
- Chemical Cocktails: harmful mixtures upset our hormones (Brochure, July 2010)
- Resources on cancer and the environment - compiled by HEAL (November 2010)
- Six steps to pesticide reduction: a HEAL toolkit for communities and individuals wishing to reduce local pesticide use (December 2010)



Finances

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HEAL is funded through our membership fees and grants from the European Commission, governments and international organisations, such as the World Health Organization, and by private foundations.

HEAL's financial year runs from 15 March 2010 to 14 March 2011. The audit was carried out by an independent auditor's company, Clybouw, Reviseurs d'Enterprise, in June 2011.

Income

EU Commission	€356,537.00
Other grants (governments, private foundations)	€234,286.40
Membership fees	€9,670.00
Other income	€3,516.80
Total Income	€604,010.20

Expenditure

Subcontractors	€170,186.76
Personnel costs	€333,757.10
Activity costs	€15,055.12
Travel and subsistence costs	€21,586.62
Office costs	€47,781.50
Other costs	€6,273.10
Total Expenditure	€594,640.20

Social Risk Reserves of the year

€9,370.00

HEAL team



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Admin and Finance Officer



Diana Smith
Communications and Media consultant

HEAL warmly thanks

Henriette Christensen (PAN Europe) and Tamara Steger (CEU Center for Environmental Policy and Law) for their technical expertise, strategic input and commitment to our network and vision, as they step down from HEAL's Executive Committee.

We also extend our thanks to all our member organisations and partners. Many individuals also supported us. We greatly appreciate your generosity and commitment.

HEAL gratefully acknowledges the financial support from the European Commission for this publication. The sole responsibility for the content of this document lies with HEAL. This publication reflects the authors' views and does not commit the donors.

Our work was supported by:

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Alison Cohen
US-EU Fulbright scholar, Chemicals Health Monitor Project



HEAL member organisations

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- Action for Breast Cancer Foundation (ABCF) Malta
 AKUT Luxembourg
 Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment Armenia
 Association for Environmental Health Hungary
 Association for Research and Treatments Against Cancer France
 Breast Cancer UK United Kingdom
 Cancer Prevention and Education Society United Kingdom
 Center for Reproductive Health and Environment "Perzent" Uzbekistan
 Centre Local de Promotion de la Santé du Brabant Wallon (CLPS-BW) Belgium
 CEPRO-MED - Health Development Promotional and Educational Center, Serbia
 Clean Air Action Group Hungary
 Committee pour le developpement durable en santé C2DS France
 Chartered Institute of Environmental Health United Kingdom
 Croatian Nurses Association Croatia
 Department of Earth Sciences and Clinical Microbiology Sweden
 Dutch Monitoring Network for Health and Environment Netherlands
 Dutch Platform Health Environment Netherlands
 ECHO, ecology, cultural understanding, health org Slovenia
 Eco-Accord Russia
 Eco-sense Macedonia
 EcoTox Armenia
 European Academy for Environmental Medicine Germany
 European Child Safety Alliance Netherlands
 European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Association (EFA) Belgium
 European Lung Foundation United Kingdom
 European Public Health Alliance Belgium
 European Respiratory Society Belgium
 Green Doctors - ISDE UKRAINE Ukraine
 Greens for Montenegro Montenegro
 Health and Environmental Care Technical Organisation Belgium
 Health Care Without Harm Europe Belgium
 Health Development Promotional and Educational Centre Serbia
 Hygiène Publique en Hainaut Belgium
 Initiativ Liewensufank (IBFAN Luxembourg) Luxembourg
 Institute for Ecological Modernisation Bulgaria
 Inter-Environnement Wallonie Belgium
 International Network on Children's Health, Environment & Safety (INCHES) Netherlands
 International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE) Switzerland
 Irish Doctors' Environmental Association (IDEA) Ireland
 International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE) Austria Austria
 Leefmilieu Netherlands
 London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine United Kingdom
 Macedonian Association of Doctors for the Environment Macedonia
 Mouvement pour les Droits des Générations Futures (MDRGF) France
 My right to know foundation Bulgaria
 Natural England United Kingdom
 Network Children's Health and Environment Germany
 North West Health Brussels Office Brussels
 On Crossroads Foundation / Válaszúton Alapítvány Hungary
 Pediatric Cultural Association Italy
 Pesticides Action Network Europe United Kingdom
 PIN Partnership-Information-Networking for Health Croatia
 Public Fund Maternity and child protection Kyrgyz Republic
 Réseau Environnement Santé (RES) France
 Stichting Ecobaby Netherlands
 The Union of Ecologists Eco-Protection Macedonia
 The Women's Environmental Network United Kingdom
 University of Medicine Department of Environmental Health Romania
 Women and Mothers against Violence Bulgaria
 Women for Green Way for Generations Armenia
 Women in Europe for a Common Future Germany/Netherlands



Our Membership

HEAL's membership includes national organisations in 30 countries both within the EU member states and the wider European region, as defined by the World Health Organization, as well as international networks.

Member organisations represent a wide range of health professionals, patients, citizens, women, youth and environmental experts, help to bring independent expertise and evidence from the health community to different decision-making processes.

All member organisations are not-for-profit and most are non-governmental, public interest organisations that have joined HEAL as full members. Associate members include health professionals' associations, expert institutes and regional public health authorities.





HEAL is the leading European not-for-profit organisation addressing how the environment affects health in the European Union. We demonstrate how policy changes can help protect health and enhance people's quality of life. Our diverse network includes over 65 international and national not-for-profit organisations of citizens, patients, and health professionals, plus environmental groups and public health institutes, working at international, national and local levels.

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