ACTIVITY REPORT 2016
THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ALLIANCE (HEAL)

A healthy planet for healthy people

HEAL’s vision is a world in which today’s and future generations can benefit from a clean environment to enjoy long and healthy lives.

A world that is free of health-harming chemicals, where the air we breathe and food we eat are health promoting; and a future in which we have transitioned to a toxic free, de-carbonised, climate resilient and sustainable economy and way of life.

MISSION 1  We work to ensure that health evidence and health voices are heard by politicians and policy makers in Europe and beyond. The aim is to protect those most harmed by pollution, such as the foetus, children, pregnant women and the elderly, and those with existing health problems or living in especially exposed environments.

MISSION 2  We have strong relationships with our European members and we partner with organisations around the world to raise awareness and share evidence, change laws, and defend and improve people’s health and wellbeing.

MISSION 3  We help shape laws on chemicals, pesticides, air quality, climate change and energy by sharing real life stories on the health harm of pollution, and making the economic case for environments that promote health. We focus particularly on building knowledge about the opportunities for reducing cancer, lung and heart disease, allergies and asthma, diabetes, obesity, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, autism and ADHD, genital birth defects, premature puberty and infertility.
HEAL Strategic Objectives 2020: #PREVENT #UNITE #COMMUNICATE

1. #PREVENT: Target priorities

Integrate health prevention into environment policy and sustainable development by informing people and policy makers about the benefits to health of reducing environmental pollution. Globally, HEAL supports the 17 goals in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including for health, energy, chemicals and climate change.

In Europe, HEAL’s targets include:

- 2020 - A toxic-free future in which chemical production, use and disposal does not harm people and the environment.
- 2020 - Phase out of mercury in products building on the Minamata Convention
- 2030 - Air quality in line with recommendations of the World Health Organization
- 2040 - Phase out of coal-fired power plants in the European region
- 2050 – 100% renewable energy in Europe plus other action to tackle climate change building on the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement.

Our action contributes to ensuring that Europe continues to lead by example. The target areas foster leadership for health promoting environments worldwide and aim to raise awareness and reduce the transboundary nature of pollution.

2. #UNITE: Bridge global and local action

Develop HEAL into a global collaborative network of partners with fully engaged members representing all aspects of public health. Build strong grassroots capacity, create synergies and facilitate links with cutting edge scientific expertise. HEAL’s role as a watchdog on environmental issues affecting health and as a catalyst for all levels of environmental health action in Europe and beyond is achieved by widely sharing scientific, medical, health and economic evidence through effective advocacy.

3. #COMMUNICATE: Mobilise for healthy people and a healthy planet

Inspire action by raising awareness of the health and economic benefits of strong new health friendly and sustainable environmental policies. By communicating the health and economic benefits of global, EU and national policy developments agreements on mercury, chemicals, air quality, energy and climate, our network has become an international hub for health and environmental information, science and policy development. Our messages reach global health experts and practitioners as well as individuals and communities. They stimulate thinking and mobilise action on pollution prevention for public and planetary health.
CLIMATE AND ENERGY

Dark Cloud and Lifting Europe’s Dark Cloud

In July 2016, HEAL published ‘Europe’s Dark Cloud’ (available in EN, DE, PL, TR, LI, RU, NL, FR), in cooperation with CAN Europe, WWF and Sandbag. The report for the first time examined the transboundary pollution effect from coal. It involved dozens of national level NGOs, HEAL member organisations and scientific experts across Europe. The Dark Cloud showed that emissions from coal power generation are responsible for 22,900 premature deaths per year, with health costs for all EU-countries up to a total of 63bn EUR.

As a follow up to ‘Europe’s Dark Cloud’, HEAL, in partnership with four organisations, published ‘Lifting Europe’s Dark Cloud’ (available in EN, DE, PL) in October, to translate the policy process under EU Industrial Emissions Directive (IED-BREF), its consequences and relevance to the public and decision makers – highlighting the policy opportunity to reduce air pollution within five years (2016-2021) by 85%. The report was accompanied by a petition (signed by 100.000 people) and advocacy work.

Professor Bert Brunekreef, the Environment and Health Committee Chair of The European Respiratory Society was so kind to write a preface for the report, finding clear words calling to action: ‘Introducing and fully enforcing Best Available Techniques standards through the EU’s Industrial Emissions Directive offers a clear means of protecting our health and reducing the level of harmful pollutants and gases in the atmosphere. Applying these standards will also contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions responsible for climate change. The time for action is now. The longer we wait, the bigger the challenge will become.’

The two reports were received by the media with a lot of interest and some 950 articles published - with leading European publications like Euronews, Euractiv, Politico and Ends Europe, agencies like AFP, national outlets such as Le Monde and L’Express (France), Sueddeutsche Zeitung, FAZ and DIE ZEIT (Germany) and Gazeta Wyborcza, Polish Press Agency and WP Finanse (Poland) picking it up. But the reports also made headlines in other parts of the world such as in India and China, Canada and Brazil, the US and New Zealand and was picked up by the leading medical publication The Lancet. The reports also ramped up over 3,000 website and blog mentions, and an impressive social media outreach of over 1.9 million users.
Healthy Energy Paper

The Healthy Energy Paper examines the health impact of each energy choice and compares their effects on human health and sets out overarching HEAL policy goals:

- Governments need to phase-out fossil fuels in energy generation by 2050, and replace them with 100 percent renewable and safe energy sources, as well as to encourage energy savings.
- Countries to eliminate all fossil fuel subsidies by 2025 in a manner that protects the poor and affected communities.

The paper is available in EN, PL and CZ.

COP22: UN climate change negotiations in Marrakech

HEAL attended COP22 with a delegation of 11 people from India, Turkey, Belgium, France and Morocco to put health and healthy energy on the agenda of the climate negotiations by working closely with global and regional organisations from the health and environment community. This was accompanied by successful publication of an article in the Lancet Global Health Blog as well as a presentation at the 1st Health Action Day, talking about doctors as new climate change warriors, a collection of stories from doctors and other health professionals active around climate mitigation by influencing local energy decisions, decreasing air pollution while contributing to the Paris Agreement. The article was shared over 1,000 times on a variety of social media channels.
Launch of Choose Health – End Fossil Fuels Subsidies Campaign

On 6 February 2017, HEAL launched a new campaign to raise awareness on fossil fuels subsidies and their consequences for human health. It aims at mobilising the health and medical community, with communication material and advocacy activities as well as a report on fossil fuels subsidies and the associated health costs in G20, EU countries as well as specific single countries. http://www.healthoverfossilfuels.org/

"The threat to human health from climate change and fossil fuel use has been grossly underestimated. In particular, coal power represents a threat to human health and needs to be rapidly phased out."

PROF. HUGH MONTGOMERY
Lancet Commission Co-Chair and Director of the UCL Institute for Human Health and Performance

Germany

HEAL’s work in Germany focused on highlighting the health impacts of coal, as well as on educating and mobilising health actors to position themselves in favour of a coal phase-out or ambitious climate and energy policies. In 2016, HEAL established a presence in Germany and became an official stakeholder recognised by the Ministry of Environment on environmental health and with regards to the Climate Action Plan, as well as a member of the stakeholder group 2020 climate action (in which HEAL is the only group to represent health). HEAL has since participated actively in the discussion through official consultations, open letters and face-to-face meetings with decision makers as well as publications like the Healthy Energy position paper, educational material on health and environment, workshops, newsletters, regular articles in medical journals as well as presentations at health focused conferences.

A big focus and success were the ‘Dark Cloud’ and ‘Lifting Europe’s Dark Cloud’ reports that drew significant media attention from major German news outlets and was lent support by the German medical community: “The media has recently drawn public attention to car exhausts but other sources, such as emissions from coal power plants, are also very important. The ‘Dark Cloud’ report makes clear that coal power plants are a considerable source of air pollution. In addition, the report quantifies the adverse health impact and health costs of transboundary emissions from coal power plants for the very first time. This provides a further argument to phase-out coal in the energy mix,” says Dr Joachim Heinrich, LMU, Institute and Outpatient Clinic for Occupational, Social and Environmental Medicine, University Hospital Munich.
AIR QUALITY

Network Meeting on Climate Change and Health

13 health partners from Turkey, Poland, Germany, UK and Serbia met on 19 October 2016 to coordinate cooperation and exchange best practices. The event involved keynote presentations from the World Health Organisation, the Overseas Development Institute & Global Climate and Health Alliance as well as an introduction to the HEAL Choose Health – End Fossil Fuel Subsidies campaign and brainstorm on how to implement the campaign on national level.

Unpaid Health Bill Serbia

After having launched the ‘Unpaid Health Bill’ report for Europe, HEAL followed up with a publication dedicated specifically to highlighting the public health costs of polluted air from existing coal-fired power plants in the Western Balkans at up to 8.5 EUR billion per year. The region is home to seven of the 10 most polluting coal-fired power stations in Europe, producing serious health risks – HEAL advocates for the region to move away from coal to improve health and to tackle climate change.

Poland: educational material and media coverage
HEAL’s activities in Poland focused on producing and distributing educational material and media work, reaching new interest groups for advocating environmental health and cleaner air through cleaner energy choices.

With publications like the Health Energy Briefing, more than 30 articles on the HEAL Polska website (healpolska.pl), regular webinars and newsletters to medical contacts, well increased media coverage (presence in almost 300 articles and broadcasts in printed papers, TV, radio and online media, including medical journals and portals) and open letters HEAL Poland has gone a long way in making new connections with politicians, stakeholders and journalists and successfully bringing health to the forefront of the environmental discussions in Poland.

Turkey: educational material and media coverage

HEAL’s work in Turkey presented a mix of advocacy and media work, educational material and joint campaigns.

For example, in May 2016, HEAL supported a gathering to stress the importance of ending Turkey’s coal rush which brought together over 2,000 people and was part of a worldwide event calling to to break free from our fossil fuel addition.

But HEAL also provided a toolkit for Iskenderun Bay campaign partners, a key focus area in Turkey where overall 80 power plants are in the pipeline and advanced in capacity building with face to face meetings in the area as well as picking up speed in activities around Canakkale, a focus area for 2017.

HEAL’s relentless work for air quality was honoured in March 2017, on National Doctor’s Day for Turkey, when the Bursa Chamber of Medicine awarded its 2017 Environment Prize to HEAL Turkey. The Bursa Chamber of Medicine is the official local branch of the Turkish Medical Association, which has 83,000 members. The award was given to HEAL in Turkey in recognition of its contribution to resisting the planned DOSAB coal power plant with a 49.9 MW capacity in Bursa, an important industrial centre in western Turkey with a population of 2.8 million people.
CHEMICALS

Activities on glyphosate

In 2016, HEAL was an active co-organiser of various awareness raising and advocacy campaigns focusing on glyphosate, the most-used weed killer in Europe.

Our first steps drew on the findings of the International Agency for cancer (IARC) on glyphosate and a consensus statement form a group of fourteen independent scientists. With the support of its membership and partners, HEAL’s position was then presented to the Health Commissioners and members of his cabinet and during many European policy events. Thanks to our trusted partnership with the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL), HEAL was able to organise a joint meeting on glyphosate for “MEPs against Cancer” in April 2016. This meeting resulted in strong support for regulation on glyphosate as a tool in cancer prevention.

HEAL also showcased the science within our networks, on social media and to journalists. During the past year, HEAL has been cited in relation to glyphosate on television and leading national newspapers in Belgium, France, Germany, Malta and Poland as well as in regularly in the Brussels news outlets, including Politico. In all cases, HEAL’s social media activity is a key component in sharing our positions and quotes.

Two public petitions on glyphosate also helped to ensure that the issue of its safety remained high on the agenda. The first petition, which had 174,000 signatories, helped stop the European Commission from re-authorising glyphosate and instead going back to the drawing board. HEAL then was an integral part of setting up the European Citizens’ Initiative ‘Stop Glyphosate’ demanding a total ban on glyphosate in the European Union (which has become the fastest ever growing ECI, reaching 1.3 million signatures (October 2017).

EU chemicals safety – REACH implementation – slow progress but some wins for health

Throughout the year, HEAL continued its role as an official stakeholder to various EU Chemicals Agency Fora, represented by HEAL’s Dr Lisette van Vliet and by her successor, Natacha Cingotti. The focus of 2016’s work was to provide health expertise for chemicals that were under assessment for being placed on REACH’s candidate list, meaning that they would be subject to future restrictions.
**Success stories for health – BPA and phthalates**

In February the decision to classify Bisphenol A (BPA) as “a presumed human reproductive toxicant” was announced. Building on this development, HEAL’s advocacy and communications activities led to a better understanding among policymakers in regards to the links between chemicals and human diseases.

Another success story resulted from HEAL’s continued advocacy work on banning phthalates. Thanks to strategic joint communications and advocacy work, Europe finally recognised four phthalates (DEHP, DBP, BBP, DIBP) as endocrine disruptors.

**Continued focus on Endocrine Disrupting chemicals**

Endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) remained an absolute priority, as the EU Commission finally released its proposal for criteria to identify these chemicals. HEAL’s concerns and policy demands for better criteria were heard at the highest level with the European Commission, the European Presidency and Member States. This is due to HEAL exploring all possible advocacy opportunities, including an event organised with our member WEMOS and significant communication and media outreach to citizens and agencies across Europe.

In June 2016, HEAL and WEMOS organised an event on the subject of the EDC criteria hosted by WHO Europe, bringing together national health and environment attaches and ministry officials and resulting in reinforced relations with national officials, ministries and support for stronger criteria.

HEAL also continued its activities as the acting secretariat for EDC-Free Europe, a coalition of public interest groups representing more than 70 environmental, health, women’s and consumer groups across Europe. As soon as the EU Commission had issued its proposals for EDC criteria, HEAL in its role as the EDC-Free secretariat continued to focus on advocacy and rallying support as well as targeted communications such as created sample response text for two public consultations that 154 organisations and individuals submitted. Other activities included the organisation of actions in front of the European Commission and the European Parliament, the creation of new visuals, and the continued promotion of a joint petition targeted at the Commission.
EDC Free Europe is a coalition of more than 70 environmental, health, women’s and consumer groups across Europe who share a concern about endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) and their impact on our health and wildlife. The coalition aims to raise awareness and urge faster governmental action on these chemicals.

Over 1,100 individuals support the campaign, communicating in seven European languages.

More information about the coalition and our campaign partners at www.edc-free-europe.org
COMMUNICATIONS

Communications work 2016

2016 continued to be another impactful year for HEAL’s communications activities, where we strengthened in particular our visibility in both digital and social media.

Highlights of HEAL’s communications work in 2016 include:

- The launch of multiple petitions including on the LCP BREF air pollution standards (over 126,000 signatures), and on glyphosate (over 174,000 signatures). The latter was succeeded by the launch of a European Citizens’ Initiative (ECI) together with other health and environmental groups all over Europe, which has reached over 1.3 million signatures and is currently in the process of being handed over to the European Commission.

- The launch of new reports (‘Europe’s Dark Cloud – How coal-burning countries are making their neighbours sick’ and ‘Lifting Europe’s Dark Cloud – How cutting coal saves lives’) and a new campaign on fossil fuels subsidies, reiterating the health argument in the environmental debate.

- Contributing to HEAL’s global leadership on mercury and health, by successfully participating in a global NGO coalition to phase out dental amalgam for pregnant and breastfeeding women and children from 1 July 2018.

HEAL once again excelled in its role as knowledge broker, showcasing new science for key EU environmental areas such as chemicals and air quality. A key for that is providing information material in different languages, particularly for outreach in Poland, Germany, Serbia and Turkey.

With 41 press releases targeted at over 2,000 journalists in the HEAL database as well as high-class reports, briefings and other advocacy material, HEAL ensured continuous high media coverage of 1,099 (quoted in newspapers, TV features, etc.; an increase of 634 articles compared to 2015) and HEAL representatives appearing on mainstream TV shows reaching millions in France, Netherlands, and Poland).

Newsflash

Exchange and communication with members and partner networks is crucial for HEAL – but also the wide dissemination of information on how members are active on EU policies. Nine editions of the newsletter were sent to 7,312 subscribers, with a total of 78 members articles included.

The HEAL newsletter is a key information resource not only for European and national decision-makers, but also for the environment and health community regarding policy developments and the latest science on air quality, climate and energy and chemicals. In 2016-2017, the newsletter featured a total of 107 articles across HEAL’s six different areas of work in the reporting period.
Further ramping up the social media outreach

2016 has been an incredibly impactful year with increasing social and traditional media outreach, particularly on reaching EU policy-makers on Twitter (over 1,434 tweets from three accounts, HEAL main account, HEAL Poland account, and EDC-Free account); the promotion of a Twitter Thunderclap with an outreach of almost 225,534; an increase in Twitter followers of the HEAL main account to over 6,800 including key MEPs as well as Facebook Likes by 506. Main reasons for the good receipt of HEAL material on social media has been the development of innovative visuals such as infographics and quote cards to underline HEAL positions, and the continued collaboration on social media with HEAL members.
HEAL is made up of its Secretariat Team based in Brussels, Belgium (with offices in Germany, Poland and Turkey), the Executive Committee, and its members.

Executive Committee

The organisation has two governing bodies – the Executive Committee and the General Assembly. The General Assembly is comprised of all member organisations and generally meets once a year in Brussels. HEAL’s Executive Committee is made up of elected representatives of the membership, who meet more frequently. It is elected for a two-year mandate. The current members were elected on 20 October 2016.

HEAL warmly thanks our Executive Committee members for their technical expertise, strategic input and commitment and contribution to our network and our vision during the course of this year. We also extend our thanks to all our member organisations and partners. Many individuals and non-member organisations have also supported us.
HEAL Secretariat

Génon K. Jensen
Executive Director

Anne Stauffer
Director for Strategy and Campaigns

Julia Gogolewska
Senior Policy Officer, Energy and Health

Natacha Cingotti
Health and Chemicals Policy Officer

Weronika Michalak
Health and Energy Programme Manager, Poland

Vlatka Matkovic Puljic
Health and Energy Officer, Balkans region

Violeta Gordeljevic
Health and Climate Change Coordinator

Srđan Kukolj
Health and Energy Advisor, Balkan Region

Marlena Kropidłowska
Air Quality Consultant, Poland

Agnieszka Muras
Coal and Health Specialist, Poland

Funda Gacal
Consultant on Energy and Health, Turkey

Sara Azcona Zabala
Finance and Administrative Officer

Elke Zander
Communications and Media Coordinator

Ivonne Leenen
Communications and Digital Media Officer

Eva Takaria
Climate, Energy and Health Campaign Assistant

Nienke Broekstra
Communications and Office Assistant
We were sorry to say good-bye to:

Lisetate van Vliet, Senior Policy Officer, Chemicals and Health
Diana G. Smith, Communications and Media Adviser
Lucy Mathieson, Communications Manager
Roberta Savli, Interim Deputy Director

We have recently welcomed:

Agnieszka Muras, Coal and Health Specialist
Natacha Cingotti, Health and Chemicals Policy Officer
Elke Zander, Communications and Media Coordinator
Srdjan Kukolj, Health and Energy Advisor, Balkan Region
Nienke Broekstra, Communications and Office Assistant
HEAL is funded through our membership fees and grants from the European Commission, governments and international organisations, such as the World Health Organisation, and by private foundations. HEAL is independent of any political party or commercial interest. We do not accept funding from sources with commercial interests.

HEAL’s financial year ran from 15 March 2016 to 14 March 2017. The audit was carried out by an independent auditor’s company.

### Income
- E.U. grant: €379,699.00
- Other grants (governments, private foundations): €520,032.56
- Membership fees: €10,270.00

**Total Income**: €910,001.56

### Expenditure
- Personnel costs: €546,459.75
- Activity costs including subcontractors: €221,192.20
- Travel and subsistence costs: €55,714.89
- Administration, IT and office costs: €76,364.72
- Provisions for social regulations: €10,270.00

**Total Expenditure**: €910,001.56
HEAL would like to thank its donors for their great support throughout this financial year:

- European Commission (LIFE+ Programme)
- European Climate Foundation (ECF)
- Fair Trade Foundation
- Global Green Grants Fund
- Dutch Ministry of Environment

- Oak Foundation
- Global Call for Climate Action (GCCA)
- European Respiratory Society (ERS)
- KR Foundation
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<th>HEAL MEMBERS</th>
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<td>Action for Breast Cancer Foundation (ABCF)</td>
<td>Green Doctors - ISDE UKRAINE</td>
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<td>AKUT</td>
<td>Greens of Montenegro</td>
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<td>ALHem – Safer Chemicals Alternative</td>
<td>Health and Environmental Care Technical Organisation (HECTOR)</td>
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<td>Alliance for Cancer Prevention</td>
<td>Hygiène Publique en Hainaut</td>
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<td>Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment</td>
<td>Initiativ Liewensufank, IBFAN Luxembourg</td>
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<td>ÄrztInnen für eine gesunde Umwelt [ISDE Austria (ÄGU)]</td>
<td>Inter-Environnement Wallonie</td>
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<td>Association for Research and Treatments Against Cancer (ARTAC)</td>
<td>International Network on Children's Health, Environment &amp; Safety (INCHES)</td>
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<td>Association Internationale de la Mutualité (AIM)</td>
<td>International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE)</td>
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<td>Associazione Culturale Pediatri- ACP</td>
<td>Israel Union for Environmental Defense</td>
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<td>Breast Cancer UK</td>
<td>Klapeida University</td>
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<td>c2ds - Comité pour le Développement Durable en Santé</td>
<td>Kom op tegen Kanker (Flemish Cancer League)</td>
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<td>Caisse Auxiliaire d'Assurance Maladie - Invalidité (CAAMI) / Hulpkas voor Ziekte- en Invaliditeitsverzekering (HZIV)</td>
<td>Landsbond van Liberale Mutualiteiten (LLM)</td>
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<td>Cancer Prevention and Education Society (CPES)</td>
<td>Lansbond der Christelijke Mutualiteiten</td>
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<td>Center for Reproductive Health and Environment &quot;Perzent&quot;</td>
<td>Leefmilieu</td>
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<td>Centre for Sustainable Healthcare</td>
<td>London School of Hygiene &amp; Tropical Medicine</td>
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<td>Centre Local de Promotion de la Santé du Brabant Wallon (CLPS-BW)</td>
<td>Macedonian Association of Doctors for the Environment (MADE)</td>
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<td>CEPRO-MED - Health Development Promotional and Educational Center</td>
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<td>Chartered Institute of Environmental Health</td>
<td>Mouvement Générations Cobayes (former Appel de la jeunesse, Collectif (A2J))</td>
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<td>Clean Air Action Group / Levegő Munkacsoport Országos Környezetvédő Szövetség</td>
<td>My right to know foundation</td>
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<td>Coalition of Associations in Healthcare (CAH)</td>
<td>Natural England</td>
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<td>North of England EU Health Partnership</td>
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<td>Croatian Nurses Association</td>
<td>On Crossroad Foundation / Válaszúton Alapítvány</td>
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The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) is a leading European not-for-profit organization addressing how the environment affects health in the European Union. With the support of its over 70 member organizations, which represent health professionals, not-for-profit health insurers, patients, citizens, women, youth, and environmental experts, HEAL brings independent expertise and evidence from the health community to different decision-making processes. Members include international and Europe-wide organisations as well as national and local groups.

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Promoting environmental policy that contributes to good health