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INTRODUCTION

A healthy planet for healthy people

As HEAL is celebrating its 15th anniversary in 2018, our vision remains unchanged: we work towards 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.

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

Report: ‘Hidden Price Tags: How ending fossil fuel subsidies would benefit our health’

In July 2017, HEAL launched the Hidden Price Tags report. It provides the first-ever comparison of fossil fuel subsidies and the costs to health associated with air pollution from fossil fuels.

With over 133 articles in 25 countries, Hidden Price Tags was HEAL’s greatest media success in 2017. This media coverage has an advertising value equivalent of 870,000 EUR and an approximated reach of 95,000,000 people. Social media impact has also been high with influencers spreading the report’s 20 quotes/quote cards and infographics widely (Euractiv to 110,000 followers, Rainforest Alliance to 189,000 followers, the Guardian’s Damian Carrington to 38,200 followers).

Europe Beyond Coal campaign

In November 2017, HEAL co-launched the Europe Beyond Coal campaign, which calls for an end to coal power generation in Europe by 2030. HEAL used this opportunity to call with other health, environment and climate groups on the European Union to hasten the move away from coal and other fossil fuels and towards clean renewable energy. To push this claim, Brussels-based groups set the EU five challenges to help Europe become coal-free by 2030. Prior to the official start of the COP23 in December, HEAL, together with German medical students, also joined a climate march organised by a big alliance of environmental NGOs in Bonn, the biggest gathering in Germany to demand the phase out of coal ever.

UN Climate Change Conference (COP23) and Global Climate and Health Summit in Bonn, Germany

HEAL sent a 16 head strong delegation to COP23, to emphasise that measures to bring down CO2 emissions will not only improve the climate but will also bring huge health benefits.

To underline this message, the Global Climate and Health Summit was organised by the Global Climate and Health Alliance, the WHO and HEAL, bringing together health actors from all over the world.

Amongst the speakers were Dr Maria Neira, WHO director of the department of public health and environment department and Nick Watts, executive director of the Lancet Countdown. HEAL organised a World Café afternoon session which highlighted the deep and diverse expertise of the GCHA member organisations.
Healthy Energy Paper, June 2017

Climate Action is all about healthy energy choices – we need to free ourselves from fossil fuels’ addiction and subsidies, and put renewable energy forms and energy savings first.

ANNE STAUFFER
DIRECTOR, CLIMATE AND ENERGY HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ALLIANCE

Quick guide – how to calculate the health impacts and costs from coal, June 2017

available in English, Polish, Czech, German

available in English, German, Macedonian and Serbian
The Unmask My City initiative that was launched on World Asthma Day 2017 is a global initiative by doctors, nurses, public health practitioners, and allied healthcare professionals dedicated to improving air quality and reducing emissions in our cities.

It calls for all cities to meet the World Health Organization’s air quality guidelines and to adopt policies and programmes that will put cities on a path towards meeting this objective.

HEAL is leading the campaign in Europe – so far in these cities: Warsaw (Poland), Adana, Canakkale, Istanbul and Hatay (Turkey), in Belgrade (Serbia), Sofia (Bulgaria), Tuzla (Bosnia & Herzegovina).

HEAL coordinated, together with CAN-E, EEB, WWF and WeMove.EU a European-wide petition to clean up Europe’s toxic air, available in EN, FR, DE, ES, IT, PL. It was signed by more than 126,000 citizens that were then publicly presented in an action staged in front of the European Commission and the Council of the EU in Brussels on 4 April 2017, supported by a press release. For the hand over, HEAL with the coalition of NGOs also produced a Q&A on the new LCP BREF, available in English and Polish.
Event: WHO briefing on climate change and air pollution in Europe

In Brussels, the World Health Organization (WHO) and HEAL called upon policy-makers in the EU and wider European Region to take decisive action to clean up the air for the benefit of citizens, as improving air quality is a huge environmental health opportunity in Europe. HEAL’s Executive Director Genon K. Jensen said: “The health impacts of air pollution are unacceptable, and they are completely preventable. The EU has shown global leadership in setting legally-binding air quality standards and a framework to tackle air pollution from all sources. However, 23 out of the 28 member states are currently breaching these standards, which are for some pollutants already less stringent than what WHO recommends. National governments need to show that they are serious about protecting our health, and initiate transformative measures now. We especially urge health ministers to become more involved in clean air measures.”

The main speaker of the morning, Dr Maria Neira, Director of WHO’s Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health demanded new urgency on air pollution: “Air pollution causes noncommunicable diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer. It also increases the risk for acute respiratory infections. While air pollution knows no borders and puts everyone at risk, those most vulnerable – pregnant women, children, the elderly, those already ill or poor – are particularly affected”.

HEAL’s eight demands for clean air – briefing and infographic

Although air pollution is the largest single environmental health risk, policy-makers delay action for cleaner air. Despite legal requirements and political commitments in the EU-28, including the Ambient Air Quality Directive, measures to clean up the air at national and local level have been inadequate and far off to reach the air quality levels recommended by WHO. HEAL has therefore approached health ministers as well as European Commissioners for the Environment, Climate Action as well as Health with an open letter and key demands in a briefing and infographic. We urge health politicians to make air pollution a greater priority and to work with HEAL and its network in putting health into other policy portfolios affecting air quality, such as environment, energy, transport, housing and agriculture.
CHEMICALS

1. European Citizens Initiative (ECI) on glyphosate, co-founded and organised by HEAL, was the fastest growing ECI in the EU’s history and reached over a million signatures in just 5 months. This resulted in the 5 year only approval instead of a 15 years renewal.

Glyphosate, the world’s most widely used herbicide, remained a priority topic for HEAL. We continued to spread our concerns about the effects of this chemical on health and the environment, and encouraged people to sign the European Citizens’ Initiative (ECI) to stop glyphosate. Having launched this initiative in February 2017 as a co-organiser, HEAL actively helped the ECI to become the fastest growing one in the EU’s history. By June 2017, the ECI had reached 1 million signatures and it was handed over to the Commission with 1.3 million signatures in October 2017.

Unique campaign activities were organised throughout the year, such as a Stop Glyphosate Day of Action during which campaigners across Europe took the streets to collect offline signatures. As member states representatives met to discuss the re-approval of glyphosate, HEAL co-organised a stunt in front of the European Commission, together with other environmental NGOs.

We continued activities to prevent the re-authorisation through the autumn, by advocacy and commenting on a vote in the European Parliament on glyphosate in October, and the next failure of member states to agree a day later. Together with the European Cancer Leagues, HEAL urged EU ministers to reject the proposal on glyphosate to prioritise health and cancer prevention.

HEAL reacted strongly against the reauthorisation of glyphosate for 5 rather than 15 years, and continues to support its members to achieve national bans.

2. Adoption of the EDC criteria – A step in the right direction, but not enough

Endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) also remained an absolute priority throughout the year. HEAL coordinated an online petition together with online platformer SumOfUs and the EDC-Free campaign, to weigh in on what the EU EDC identification criteria mean for the health of citizens, as the European Parliament discussed the European Commission’s proposal. This petition, which was a follow up from a petition targeting EU governments in 2016, was signed by 321,746 European citizens.

A unique call-in tool and frequently asked questions (Q&A) on EDCs and
pesticides was developed to accompany the joint petition. This special tool allowed citizens across Europe to call their MEP cost-free, and was accompanied with a Q&A on EDCs and how to engage with the European Parliament. 1,490 people called their MEPs using the French-language tool, and another 1,283 people used the English-language tool.

Thanks to these efforts, a revised EDC proposal was adopted by EU member states in December 2017. The final criteria consider HEAL’s demands by removing a problematic exemption that would have left numerous endocrine disruptors unaddressed. However, as the burden of proof specified in the criteria is still very high, HEAL continues to actively engage in the discussion to identify and ban harmful EDCs in Europe.

3. Bisphenol A recognised as a substance of very high concern

Progress was made on protecting people’s health and that of most vulnerable groups from hazardous chemicals, through the classification of Bisphenol A (BPA) as a substance of very high concern due to its endocrine disrupting properties for human health (June 2017) and later for the environment (December 2017). BPA is one of the most well-known chemicals and in wide use, which means that measures which can now be introduced following the classification will definitely lead to preventing ill-health. HEAL has long considered endocrine disrupting chemicals such as BPA one of the defining human health challenges of our time, and our views following the classification was featured in major media across the world including the Guardian, Bloomberg BNA and Ansa.

4. Joined European Human Biomonitoring Initiative (HBM4EU)

Plastics and other chemicals are building up in our body. Human biomonitoring can help identify priorities to reduce our exposure and push for a toxic-free future. With this perspective in mind, in 2017 HEAL joined the European Human Biomonitoring Initiative (HBM4EU) as an official stakeholder and as the official chair of the stakeholder group. HBM4EU is a joint effort of 28 countries, the European Environment Agency and the European Commission, aiming to investigate the harmful effects of exposure to chemicals and identify policy opportunities to reduce them.
HEAL gave input into the HBM4EU stakeholder survey and annual work plan, in addition to sharing information and news about the initiative with its members and partner networks. Catherine Ganzleben, the project manager for environment, health and well-being at the European Environment Agency, shared a guest blog on HBM4EU in the HEAL newsflash in November 2017. HEAL submitted 5 substances for priority human biomonitoring: bisphenols, organophosphorus flame retardants, glyphosate, chlorpyrifos, and mancozeb.

5. Publication of a briefing on a report on toxic substances in European carpets

In March 2018, HEAL, together with its member organization EPHA, published a briefing reflecting the findings of a new report revealing toxic substances in European carpets can be linked to a range of adverse health impacts. The study, which HEAL reviewed, identifies over 59 hazardous substances in carpets sold in the EU.

This launch was supported with a press release, which was translated into English, French and German and which was published online by HEAL, EPHA, DUH, and WECF France. A stand-alone Dutch press release was published by the Recycling Network. A stand-alone blog, with translations into Spanish of parts of the briefing and infographics, was published by Ecologistas en Accion, following contact with HEAL. The launch was covered in 37 media outlets across Belgium, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Armenia and European-wide platforms, and helped set the stage for a further push for a European non-toxic environment and especially a non-toxic circular economy.
GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Attended the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Ostrava in June 2017

To increase citizens’ engagement and speed up action on key areas of environmental health, HEAL travelled to Ostrava in the Czech Republic to participate in the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health organised by the World Health Organization (WHO), which took place from 13-15 June 2017. The HEAL delegation included a mix of health, patient and environmental voices organisations: AIM (Association Internationale de la Mutualite), EFA (European Federation of Allergy & Airways Diseases Patients’ Association), Inter-Environnement Wallonie (IEW) and Hygiène Publique in Hainaut.

The Sixth Ministerial Conference is part of the WHO European Environment and Health Process (EHP) that is working towards implementing selected and relevant environment and health goals and targets of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in the European Region as well as the Health 2020 – the WHO European policy framework for health and well-being. HEAL has been heavily involved in the run up to the conference, being a dedicated member of the European Environment and Health Task Force (EHTF) which is the international body for the implementation and monitoring of the WHO European Environment and Health Process. We will continue to serve on the EHTF and also joined the Bureau who acts as a coordination mechanism to steer the process.

My name is Jessica Carreño and I am here as a HEAL executive committee member.
Work on pollution and health: lancet report + attending the United Nations Environment Assembly

In October 2017, HEAL co-organised the launch of the findings of the Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health, which shows that pollution in the air, water, soil and the workplace is linked to an estimated 9 million deaths per year worldwide, equivalent to 16% of all deaths. HEAL prepared a press release, an EU backgrounder (which led to very successful media coverage including a live interview with BBC World) as well as a Brussels panel discussion to share the Lancet report’s findings and discuss EU policy implications, with Director General for Environment of the European Commission, Daniel Calleja Crespo and the former Commissioner for the Environment, Prof Janez Potocnik and the former President of Mexico Carlos Salinas along with the Global Alliance for Health and Pollution (GAHP), as well as Vijoleta Gordeljevic from HEAL.

HEAL then participated in the 3rd UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya in December 2017, and the global major groups and stakeholders forum prior to the assembly from 27-28 November. HEAL provided expertise input for a resolution on environment and health, tabled by the EU and other resolutions adopted, following the canvassing of HEAL members expertise and views at a special session at our AGA.
NATIONAL OFFICES

Poland

Unmask My City Warsaw

The Unmask My City initiative launched in Warsaw in May 2017, with a two week billboard campaign in public transport in the city, a petition and several events with journalists and health groups. Unmask my city Warsaw videos with health professionals are also available.

Report: Hidden Price Tags in Polish

„Ukryte koszty. Jak wycofanie dotacji do paliw kopalnych poprawi zdrowie publiczne“ (Printed edition) - October 2017

Materials on air quality, climate and health

In 2017, HEAL has provided health expertise to 7 Polish cities and issued 16 publications and briefings, and 14 infographics. HEAL gave presentations at 6 events, organized 4 events and shared 12 newsletters with our health and medical network in Poland. We also organised information tables at key health and medical conferences, a webinar to build the capacity of health and medical experts on health impact assessment in April 2017, and several other publications.

Air quality – infringement case and conference on children’s health and air pollution

Air pollution in Poland and the governments (in)action on improving air quality remained the priority of HEAL’s work in the country in 2017, with the highlight being a conference on the effects of air pollution on children’s health, on 20 November to emphasise the importance of engaging the medical community in the discussion on the adverse health effects of smog.

Then on 23 February 2018, HEAL widely shared and commented on the decision of the EU Court of Justice that Poland had infringed EU law on ambient air quality. HEAL considers the ruling a wake up all, and urged the government to abandon its legal challenge against the new LCP BREF standards.
IED briefing – Boosting health by improving air quality in the Balkans

In December 2017, HEAL published a briefing on coal power, air quality and health in the Balkans, providing an assessment of the health benefits and saved costs that will be achieved when new air pollution control are in place for coal and lignite power stations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia in the Western Balkans, and demonstrating that quick and comprehensive action to drive down emissions will boost the benefits.

Unmask My City Belgrade in May 2017, Tuzla and Lukavac in February 2018

In May 2017, the Unmask My City initiative launched in Belgrade, Serbia, supported by the Serbian ministry of health and in February 2018 in Tuzla and Lukavac, Bosnia & Herzegovina. The country has the second highest mortality rate (per 100,000 population) from air pollution in the world, after North Korea.
The Unmask My City initiative launched in Turkey in May 2017, as part of a global call by doctors, nurses, public health practitioners, and allied healthcare professionals dedicated to improving air quality and reducing emissions in our cities.

COP23 – panel discussion in the Turkish Country Pavilion

For the first time at a COP gathering, the health impacts of energy policies in Turkey were discussed. HEAL’s Funda Gacal and Vijoleta Gordeljevic spoke together with Prof Dr Kayihan Pala, Assoc.Prof. Dr Gamze Varol Saracoglu and Arif Cem Gündogan from Ecology Collective, highlighting the health harm that especially coal is causing in Turkey and presenting findings from HEAL’s report “Hidden Price Tags”.

Report: Hidden Price Tags in Turkish

“Gizli Maliyet” - 31 October 2017
Germany

Fostering German climate and health alliance
HEAL was the initiator to the alliance’s founding meeting on 13 October in Berlin, with 15 representatives from major health organisations and networks participating and was involved in several follow up capacity building meetings for German health professionals, medical students and individual health experts, to exchange on climate policies and health in Germany, and the EU, and the implications for COP.

Advocacy for a German coal phase out
In Germany, HEAL contributed to the public discussions on climate ambition and coal phase out, as part of the negotiations for a new government in autumn 2017. At the end of October 2017, together with the 100 organisations strong Klimaallianz and dozens over other NGOs, HEAL put forward a call to the government to take immediate measures to reach Germany’s 2020 climate ambition, with a climate action plan 2020. In November, HEAL then issued a letter to coalition government negotiators calling for a coal phase out and end of subsidies. For both activities we were also active on twitter, and encouraged NGOs in the Beyond coal campaign to be active as well.

Report: Hidden Price Tags (Germany chapter) in German

“Unsichtbare Kosten`: Wie Subventionen für fossile Brennstoffe unserer Gesundheit schaden” – July 2017, launch was accompanied by an interview Interview with Prof. Rainer Sauerborn in Tagesspiegel https://background.tagesspiegel.de/medien-berichten-kaum-darueber/

Event on air quality and health with Deutsche Umwelthilfe (DUH)
Capacity building with German health experts on climate and air quality was further honed with a joint HEAL/DUH conference on 22 November in Berlin, where the participants discussed the latest findings on health impacts of climate change and air quality. HEAL’s Julia Gogolewska was the moderator of the event.

Toolkit on method to assess health costs from coal
HEAL’s hands-on visual guide on how to calculate the health impacts and costs from coal takes the reader through the steps for calculating exposure and health impacts and putting a price tag on it, also available in German.
2017 continued to be another impactful year for HEAL’s communications and social media work, with highlights including new campaigns, successful petitions, and nearly 600 features in global and European press.

HEAL firmed up its position on social media further, particularly on reaching EU policy-makers on Twitter (over 1,992) tweets, averaging 41 tweets a week. Social platforms like Twitter and Facebook were used to communicate HEAL’s positions and developments on key EU environmental focus areas in a fast and targeted manner. Social media was also used to reach out to new target audiences in Poland, Turkey and the Balkans.

In addition, HEAL shared a record number of 183 visuals and quote cards by members and partners on social media. We were also able to provide more information material in different languages, with materials in 12 language versions from across the European region.

With a total of 49 articles for the specialised press on new science and policy developments, we were featured 594 times in newspapers, TV and radio. While media coverage wasn’t as high as in 2016-17, HEAL still managed to reach key news outlets at EU and national level including the Times of Malta, the Times of India, Le Monde and The Telegraph, and was retweeted on social media by influential journalists, such as Damian Carrington from the Guardian.
ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

HEAL is made up of its Secretariat Team based in Brussels, Belgium (with offices in Germany, Poland, Serbia 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 four-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.

Peter van den Hazel
HEAL President
International Network for Children’s Health, Environment, and Safety

Marie-Christine Dewolf
HEAL Vice-President
Hygiène Publique en Hainaut

Lynn Ladbrook
HEAL Treasurer
Breast Cancer UK

Isabel Proaño Gómez
European Federation of Allergy & Airways Diseases Patients’ Association

Valérie Xhonneux
Fédération Inter-Environnement Wallonie

Ruth Echeverría
Fundación Alborada

Jessica Carreño Louro
International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies AIM
HEAL is independent of any political party or commercial interest. The alliance receives funding from the European Union, governments and private foundations as well as through membership contributions. We do not accept funding from sources with commercial interests.

HEAL’s financial year runs from 15 March 2017 to 14 March 2018. The audit was carried out by an independent auditor.

### Income

- **E.U. grant** €379,699.00
- **Other grants (governments, private foundations)** €620,390.71
- **Membership fees** €10,500.00

**Total Income** €1,010,589.71

### Expenditure

- **Personnel costs** €638,394.80
- **Activity costs including subcontractors** €206,936.84
- **Travel and subsistence costs** €68,779.60
- **Administration, IT & office costs** €85,978.47
- **Provisions for social regulations** €10,500.00

**Total Expenditure** €1,010,589.71

HEAL would like to thank its donors for their great support throughout this financial year:

- European Union, LIFE+ Programme
- European Climate Foundation (ECF)
- Global Greengrants Fund
- Oak Foundation
- Wellcome Foundation
- Global Call for Climate Action (GCCA)
- KR Foundation
- Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, Netherlands
- Changing Markets Foundation
- Heinrich-Boell Foundation
- TEMA Foundation
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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>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>Inter-Environnement Wallonie</td>
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<td>Breast Cancer UK</td>
<td>Klaipeda 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>London School of Hygiene &amp; Tropical Medicine</td>
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<td>On Crossroad Foundation / Válaszúton Alapítvány</td>
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<td>Department of Earth Sciences and Clinical Microbiology</td>
<td>One Health Sweden (former Infection Ecology and Epidemiology Network (IEE))</td>
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The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) is the leading not-for-profit organisation addressing how the environment affects human health in the European Union (EU) and beyond. HEAL works to shape laws and policies that promote planetary and human health and protect those most affected by pollution, and raise awareness on the benefits of environmental action for health.

HEAL’s over 70 member organisations include international, European, national and local groups of health professionals, not-for-profit health insurers, patients, citizens, women, youth, and environmental experts representing over 200 million people across the 53 countries of the WHO European Region.

As an alliance, HEAL brings independent and expert evidence from the health community to EU and global decision-making processes to inspire disease prevention and to promote a toxic-free, low-carbon, fair and healthy future.