



# Activity report 2019

Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)

March 2019 – March 2020

# About HEAL

over 90 organisations in 28 countries

- Doctors associations
- Patient groups
- Nurses associations
- Public health institutes
- Research institutes
- Not-for-profit health insurers
- Women's groups
- Youth groups
- Environmental groups



*Working for better health through  
a healthier environment*

# Governance - Executive Committee



**Peter van den Hazel**

HEAL President.  
[International Network for  
Children's Health,  
Environment and Safety  
\(INCHES\)](#) (Netherlands)



**Marie-Christine Dewolf**

HEAL Vice-President.  
[Hygiène Publique en  
Hainaut](#) (Belgium)



**Dave Stone**

HEAL Treasurer. [Natural  
England](#) (United Kingdom)



**Isabel Proaño Gómez**

[European Federation of  
Allergy & Airways Diseases  
Patients' Association \(EFA\)](#)  
(Belgium)



**Jessica Carreño Louro**

[International Association  
of Mutual Benefit  
Societies AIM](#) (Belgium)



**Christian Horemans**

[National Federation of  
Independent Health  
Insurance Funds](#) (Belgium)



**Denitsa Ivanova**

[Association Air for Health](#)  
(Bulgaria)

## **Génon K. Jensen - Executive Director**

Sara Azcona Zabala - Finance and Office Manager

Nienke Broekstra - until October 2019

Healthy Buildings and Energy Poverty Policy Officer

Natacha Cingotti - Senior Policy Officer, Health and Chemicals

Funda Gacal - Consultant on Energy and Health, Turkey

Berkay Hacimustafa - Consultant, Turkey

Sandra Jen - EDC-Free Europe Coordinator

Jacek Karaczun - Communications Assistant Poland

Srdjan Kukolj - Health and Energy Advisor for the Balkan region

Ivonne Leenen - Communications Officer

Vlatka Matkovic - Senior Health and Energy Policy Officer

Weronika Michalak - HEAL Poland Director

Miriam Pérez - until February 2020

Finance and Office Assistant

Sophie Perroud - Policy Coordinator

Anne Stauffer - Director for Strategy and Campaigns

Aishwarya Sudhir - Coordinator Healthy Air Coalition, Bengaluru  
/ Air Quality and Health Programme Lead - India (Bengaluru)

Yannick Vicaire - until January 2020

Chemicals and Health Policy Campaigner

Oliver Wendenkamp - until April 2020

Project Coordinator Health and Transport

Elke Zander - Communications and Media Coordinator

# Financial management, evaluation, reporting

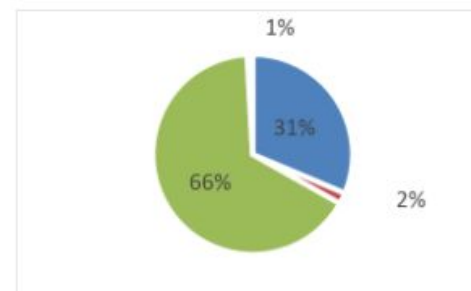
HEAL is independent of any political party or commercial interest. The alliance receives funding from the European Union, governments and private foundations as well as through membership contributions. We do not accept funding from sources with commercial interests.

HEAL's financial year runs from 15 March 2019 to 14 March 2020. The audit was carried out by an independent auditor's company.

## Income

● E.C. grant (Operating grant)	€ 379,699.00
● E.C. grants (Action grants)	€ 22,041.44
● Other grants (governments, private foundations)	€ 799,313.77
● Membership fees	€ 10,650.00

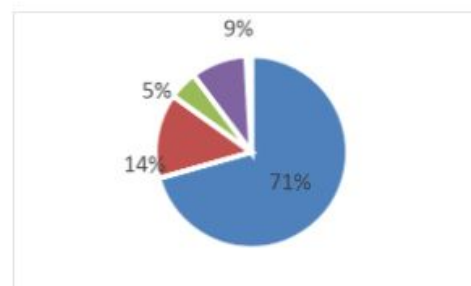
**Total Income** € 1,211,704.21



## Expenditure

● Personnel costs	€ 855,598.44
● Activity costs including subcontractors	€ 173,041.03
● Travel and subsistence costs	€ 58,491.11
● Administration, IT & office costs	€ 113,923.63
● Provisions for social regulations	€ 10,650.00

**Total Expenditure** € 1,211,704.21



# Financial management, evaluation, reporting

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

- European Commission (DG Environment / DG CLIMATE – EU LIFE+ Programme)
- European Commission (DG Research & Innovation) - European Commission (European Union, Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance)
- European Climate Foundation (ECF)
- Global Greengrants Fund
- Oak Foundation
- Wellcome Foundation
- Global Climate and Health Alliance (GCHA)
- Global Strategic Communications Council (GSCC)
- Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und nukleare Sicherheit / Umweltbundesamt (BMU/UBA)

# HEALTH & DISEASES



# EU institutions advocacy

## Boosting the environmental health narrative at the European Parliament elections and with the new EU institutions

- Vote for a healthy planet for healthy people campaign
  - 10 visuals
  - 10 days
  - 9 languages



- Advocacy work with new institutions, targeting
  - the Commissioner-designate hearings in the European Parliament
  - the development of EU Green Deal
  - Commissioners at work through letters and personal meetings
  - a dedicated European Parliament assistants briefing in the HEAL offices



## Boosting the environmental health narrative at the European Parliament elections and with the new EU institutions

Frans Timmermans, Virginijus Sinkevičius and Stella Kyriakides together committed to

1. Adapting the EU clean air legislation framework to the latest WHO recommendations
2. A ban on endocrine-disruptors from toys, cosmetics and food-contact materials
3. The end of coal
4. Reducing Europe's dependence on pesticides
5. Further plastics packaging ban
6. A Zero-Pollution Strategy based encompassing a clean air action plan for all and a non-toxic environment strategy (chemicals)
7. Zero-tolerance policy on non-compliance with the current air quality standards, tougher infringement procedures on non compliant Member States
8. Nontoxic material cycles and safe products for the new Circular Economy Action Plan, focusing on sustainable products
9. Cleaner transport, less energy-hungry buildings (renovations)
10. More research on the cocktail effects of chemicals that we are being exposed to



# High level advocacy in coalition work

- EU 2019 elections: Green 10 manifesto in 14 languages ([EN](#), [FR](#), [DE](#), [SP](#), [PT](#), [FI](#), [CZ](#), [PL](#), [GR](#), [SK](#) online and IT, NL, RO, HG version on demand).
- HEAL was part of the G10 delegation for 7 high level meetings at key policy junctures, with high-level policy makers such as Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans, Commissioner Sinkevicius, Commissioner Kyriakides.
- HEAL wrote a letter to VP Timmermans calling for zero pollution and health protection to be the centre of the EU Green Deal, to ensure it delivers on climate change, on clean air and on health protection from hazardous chemicals, including endocrine disrupting chemicals.
- On 10 February, HEAL's Executive Director chaired the very first meeting of the Green 10 with the new Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides.



# EU Green Deal, zero pollution

- HEAL's outreach to EU capitals and EU presidency holders paid off in June 2019, when environment ministers agreed **council conclusions on chemicals**.
  - Instrumental in securing the commitment of new EU Commission President von der Leyen towards a “Zero Pollution” ambition and the subsequent presentation of the **EU Green Deal** (December) including a **EU chemicals strategy for sustainability**.
- **‘Vote for a toxic free environment’** key message in HEAL's 10-day European elections campaign.
- **HEAL's communications work:** 2 periodicals and 7 press releases. 8 quote cards from HEAL staff and 46 social media posts tagged with the hashtag #HealthNotToxics, the hashtag used by HEAL to brand our messaging on the NTE and chemicals in general.



# TOXIC CHEMICALS

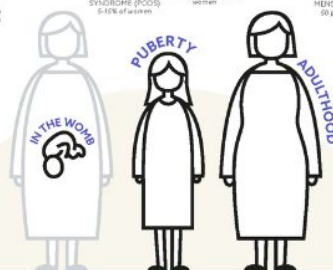


# Some of our chemicals visualisations



## HOW CAN EDCs AFFECT FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH?

Reproductive health issues in women are often related to hormonal disturbance. In addition to risk factors such as obesity or smoking, EDCs can affect reproductive health. EDCs can disrupt hormones at any life stage, from conception to adulthood, which can lead to a range of health problems.



## TACKLING THE ISSUES OF EDCs

It is important for FREIA to share our scientific findings and inform society about the potential health risks of EDCs.



**ADVANCING EDC TESTING FOR MORE PROTECTIVE CHEMICALS REGULATIONS**



**BETTER INFORMATION ABOUT EDCs FOR HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE CHOICES**

Find out more at [WWW.FREIAPROJECT.EU](http://WWW.FREIAPROJECT.EU)

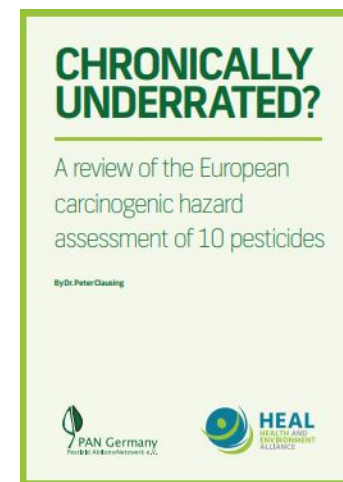


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# EDC criteria in pesticides/biocides legislation

- **HEAL continues to be at forefront of collective push for better identification of endocrine disruptors in the EU:**
  - Representation at the ECHA ED EG group
  - Participation in ECHA Biocidal Products Committee
  - Critical response to consultation on proposed upgrade of EDC information requirements in the BPR.
  - We presented our position on the EDC identification criteria in 28 meetings with EU officials, MEPs and national ministries.
- **HEAL & Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Germany launch: Chronically Underrated? A review of the European carcinogenic hazard assessment of 10 pesticides.**
  - Report shows 40% of EU carcinogenicity assessments are not carried out in compliance with existing guidelines, leading to possible continued exposure to cancer-causing pesticides.
  - Executive summary made available in [EN](#), [DE](#), [FR](#), [ES](#)



# Health engagement prompts historic ban of the insecticide chlorpyrifos

Our 2-year campaign #BanChlorpyrifos secured a historic victory with a European-wide ban on the neurotoxic pesticides chlorpyrifos and chlorpyrifos-methyl

- May 2019: [HEAL webinar series on chlorpyrifos](#), zooming in on most recent scientific evidence supporting the neurodevelopmental effects of this substance.
- June 2019: [HEAL & PAN Europe briefing on residues of chlorpyrifos in fruit sold in the EU](#).
- Summer 2019: Joint [campaign video](#) with SumOfUs, available in EN, ES, FR, DE launched to reactivate the [joint petition](#) on chlorpyrifos (> 80k new signatures during summer 2019)
- Summer 2019: HEAL infographic and 5 fact cards, available in [EN](#), [FR](#), [ES](#)



# HEAL's work on REACH

**HEAL contributed to the identification of 2 highly toxic and widely used PFAS as substances of very high concern (SVHCs) under REACH (GenX and PFBS). This helped foster the European debate on PFAS as an entire group of substances.**

HEAL participated in several ECHA expert groups and committees:

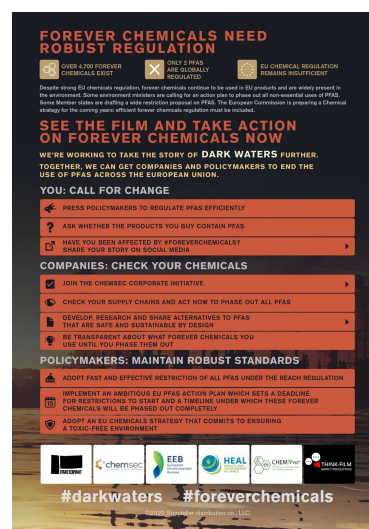
- Contribution to the Joint NGO representative at the ECHA Management Board
- 4 meetings of the CARACAL expert group
- 1 meeting of the Member State Committee meeting (MSC)
- 1 meeting of the ECHA MSC meeting
- 2 meetings with ECHA Executive Director Bjorn Hansen

HEAL contributed to advances on the chemicals conclusions, the successful identifications of several substances of very high concern, phthalates, titanium dioxide, and the development of a harmonised restriction on tattoo inks.



# The “forever chemicals” harming our health: PFAS

- HEAL contributed to the **identification of 2 highly toxic and widely used PFAS as substances of very high concern (SVHCs) under REACH (GenX and PFBS)**. This helped foster the European debate on PFAS as an entire group of substances.
- HEAL joins **screening of “Dark Waters”**: the true story about one of the largest cover-ups in American history.
- Bringing the story of **Italy’s Veneto region** to the Brussels stadium, by working with local communities.
- HEAL **co-launches briefing** explaining the problem of PFAS in Europe.



# A spotlight on...



## Spotlight on tattoo inks restriction:

- HEAL contributed to the development of the tattoo inks' restriction (the widest ever agreed ECHA restriction, covering over 4,000 substances).
- September 2019: HEAL prepared [a detailed analysis](#) of the final proposal for a restriction for the European Commission and the REACH committee members as input to REACH committee discussion taking place in the fall 2019.
- Letter to REACH Committee members, endorsed by 17 other NGOs.
- Strong social media awareness campaign, with tweets, [a quote card](#) and an [original visual](#).

## Spotlight on better protection against titanium dioxide:

- May 2019: HEAL together with other European and French groups [called](#) on the European Commission to support French authorities' decision to suspend use of titanium dioxide in food.
- Communication efforts: [12 social media posts](#) on the topic, reaching a total of 38.561 people; [one press release](#).
- Efforts paid off! -> EU classifies powdered form of titanium dioxide as potentially carcinogenic in February 2020.



# EEHI and EDC-Free Europe

## EDC-Free Europe briefing for Members of European Parliament, organised 6 November 2019.

- Large delegation of civil society groups exchanged with MEPs on consumers' concerns over widespread exposure to endocrine disruptors & policy priorities to address key gaps in EU policies.
- Hosted by MEP Christel Schaldemose (S&D) & MEP Martin Hojsik (RE). Attended by Bjorn Hansen, director of ECHA.



# Focus on food contact materials

Launch of [HEAL infographic and 9 fact cards](#) to illustrate how chemicals in food wrappings impact people's health (October 2019 - available in EN, FR, ES, DE)



HEAL and members as partners to first ever Plastic Health Summit (October 2019)



# Factsheet & infographic by the FREIA project & HEAL

- New factsheet & infographic showcase what is currently known about endocrine disruptors and their impact on women's reproductive health.
- Factsheet available in [English](#) and [Dutch](#).
- Infographic available in [English](#), [Dutch](#), [French](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Italian](#).



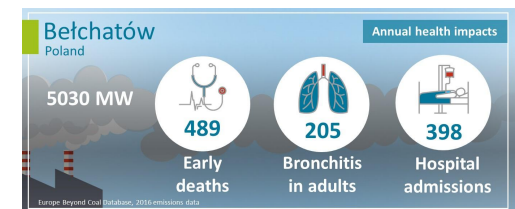
# CLIMATE & ENERGY



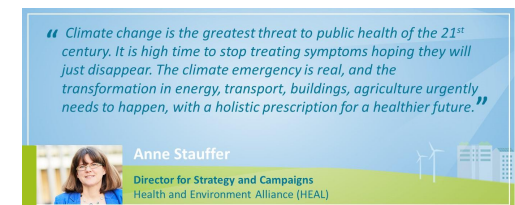
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# Prescription for a healthy energy future

- Initiative for increasing health engagement on a coal phase out within the Europe Beyond Coal campaign
- Focus on 20 of the most polluting plants in the EU and the European region (Poland, Germany, Netherlands, Italy, Western Balkans, Turkey)
- Support from health professionals with 20 quote cards from health professionals such as Dr Maria Neira, Director on Environmental Determinants, WHO, Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), paediatrician Christian Doering (Germany), public health specialist Dr Tadeusz Jędrzejczyk (Poland), Dr Peter van den Hazel (Netherlands) and many others, as well as fact cards under #HealthyEnergy
- Rolled out at EU and country level (see chapter on country offices)



#BeyondCoal Prescription for a healthy energy future  

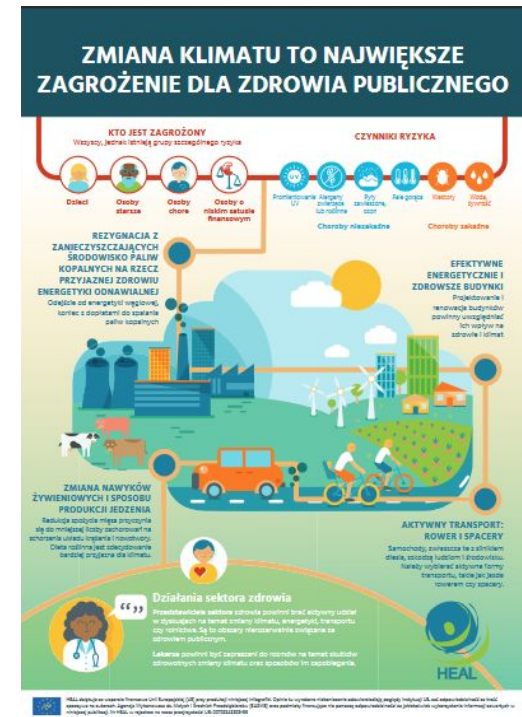
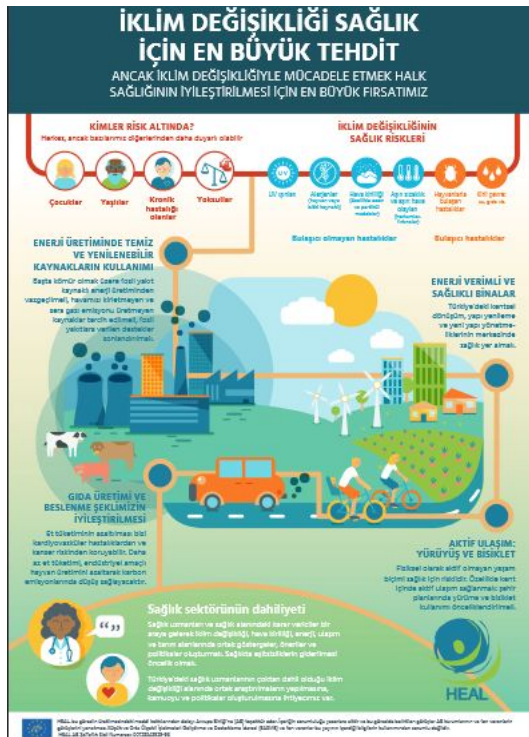


#BeyondCoal Prescription for a healthy energy future 



# Climate change and health infographic

HEAL's handy infographic showcases how climate action will protect health – available in [English](#), [German](#), [Polish](#), [Italian](#) and [Turkish](#)!



# AIR QUALITY





# Healthy air, healthier children



## Main findings using citizen science



**Varied concentrations of PM**, at times higher than what the World Health Organization



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www.heal-deutschland.org  
healthandenvironmentalliance  @HEALDeutsch



**HEAL**  
DEUTSCHLAND  
VORFAHRT GESUNDHEIT

# Advocacy for stronger air standards

- Major win: EU Green Deal foresees ‘aligning EU air quality standards more closely with WHO’. This has been demand of HEAL and our members EPHA, ERS, EFA, ELF etc. for a decade.
- Second positive development in EU Green Deal: 2021 proposal for a zero pollution action plan
- Air quality standards - fitness check: with HEAL advocacy and media work the fitness check document underlined that the EU directives were needed and also pointed out to the regulatory gaps, and led to HEAL being quote in Le Monde.
- Continuous work in coalitions ClientEarth, AirClim and others.
- Major new actor joining HEAL-led health coalition work, with the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), bringing together all national medical associations (representing all doctors in a country) [adopting a position](#) on clean air in November



@HealthandEnv



# Healthy air, healthier children

## Highlighting the need for clean air in and around schools

- Reaching out to and working with teachers, parents and policy-makers
- 6 cities (Warsaw, Berlin, Paris, Madrid, London and Sofia), 50 schools
- 1 EU report, 5 special city reports, with dedicated press work
- High level media attention, over 50 features (The Times (UK), BBC Radio London (UK), El Pais (Spain), RBB Abendschau (Germany), Bulgarian Telegraph Agency (national press agency, Bulgaria), four TV and national radio interviews (Bulgaria), Radio Classique and Le Monde (France))
- The report was one of the best performing social media activities, with 130.163 impressions generated from HEAL posts alone, and with tweets from the Spanish Prime Minister and Ministry of Environment reaching 1.7 million people



Healthy Air, Healthier Children



Healthy Air, Healthier Children



Healthy Air, Healthier Children



# NATIONAL WORK



- Responded to the increased interest in the health and medical sector on climate change and health, through presentations and panel discussions at major high profile conferences (e.g. Polish Cardiology conference)
- Publication of infographic series and a report on climate change health impacts in Warsaw, the first of its kind for a Polish city, together with the Polish Climate Coalition.
- Intense advocacy for a coal phase out to prevent new coal plants, e.g. by highlighting the health harm of Europe's largest lignite plant, Belchatow (HEAL lignite briefing published March 2019)
- Events in Rybnik and Kozienice, to raise awareness about air pollution and run spirometry test
- Health expertise provided to other NGOs such as ClientEarth, teamed up with initiatives to prevent the new coal plants in Ostrołęka, Rybnik and Kozienice
- Major policy win: the Polish Environment Minister responded to our demand on better air quality information by setting lower alert thresholds for PM10 at 100ug/m3 for an “information level” and 150 ug/m3 for an “alarm level”.

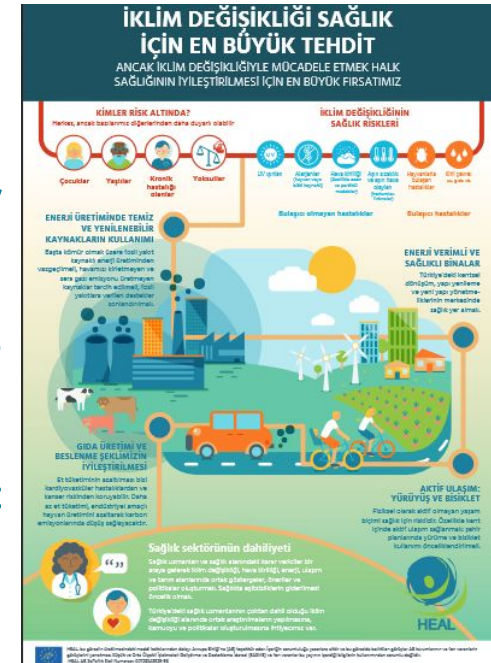


# Western Balkans

- Impact: Increased awareness of the public and policy-makers on chronic coal pollution in the region through high profile media coverage
- Report: Lifting the Smog: Tuzla health impacts and air pollution, which was covered by the The Washington Post, The New York Times, Associated Press and many more.
- Making the case for a healthy energy future in the Western Balkans with EU Commissioners, national ministers, the EU Delegation to Serbia (at 8 events), on national TV etc.



- Joint press work with other civil society organisations such as WWF-Turkey, TEMA Foundation and the Right to Clean Air Platform, on coal energy, climate change and air pollution
- An expert report on a coal plant in Çanakkale city and a briefing on health impact assessment, to build capacity of the Turkish health sector and contribute to policy debates (February 2020)
- Publication of the HEAL climate change infographic in Turkish
- Social media activities around the Prescription for a Healthy Energy Future, including quote cards and a video
- Four presentations at conferences including the World Clean Air Congress



# Germany

- Engaging the German health sector on climate, air pollution and healthy mobility
- Capacity Building workshop together with German Society on Hygiene, Environmental health and KLUG

## Vorfahrt für Gesundheit

- HEAL materials on transport, including [briefing on healthy mobility](#), poster and postcard. In addition, specific city briefings for Cologne and Berlin were published.
- Capacity building events and videos to discuss measures in target cities.
- Webinar series on healthy transport, which was opened by Prof. Dr. Tobias Welte, then President of the European Respiratory Society. The series is available on YouTube [here](#).
- [Video Vorfahrt für Gesundheit - Köln](#)

[www.heal-deutschland.org/](http://www.heal-deutschland.org/)



# Unmask My City India

- Launch of the Healthy Air Coalition in April 2019, with major partners: St. John's Research Institute (Dr. Prashanth), Shishuka Children's Hospital (Dr. Reddy), Dr. Paramesh, Dr. Patil
- A website: [healthyaircoalition.org](http://healthyaircoalition.org), and call to action
- Set up network of 30 monitors across the city to monitor air quality in places frequented by vulnerable groups
- Factsheet on air pollution in Bengaluru, 5 stories, quote cards



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HEAL EU transparency register number: 00723343929-96





**Thank you for your attention!**  
**And do get in touch...**

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