

March 2021 - March 2022

HEAL Annual Report



About HEAL

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.

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.

HEAL's EU Transparency Register Number: 00723343929-96

Our member organisations

HEAL has over 90 member organisations, representing health professionals, not-for-profit health insurers, doctors, nurses, cancer and asthma groups, citizens, women's groups, youth groups, environmental NGOs, scientists and public health institutes representing over 200 million people across the 25 countries of the European Region. Members include international and Europe-wide organisations, as well as national and local groups.

[Discover our members](#)



HEAL secretariat and HEAL members during the 2022 Annual General Assembly, Brussels.

Our team

Our committed and dynamic team works passionately to create a healthy planet for healthy people.



Genon K. Jensen
Executive Director



Anne Stauffer
Deputy Director,
Strategic Lead



Sara Azcona Zabala
Head of Finance



Stefan Grand-Meyer
Head of Human
Resources



Sophie Perroud
EU Policy Coordinator



Natacha Cingotti
Health and Chemicals
Programme Lead



Angeliki Lyssimachou
Senior Science
Policy Officer



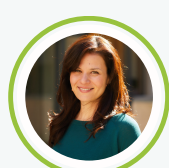
Hannah Donart
Senior Science
Policy Officer



Vlatka Matkovic
Senior Health and
Energy Policy Officer



Vijoleta Gordeljevic
Health and Climate
Change Coordinator



Julianna Angelova
EU Research
Projects Coordinator



Elke Zander
Head of Communications



Ivonne Leenen
Senior Communications
Officer



Dalila Lopes
Communications Assistant



Weronika Michalak
HEAL Poland Director



Jacek Karaczun
Communications
Consultant, Poland



Funda Gacal
Senior Consultant,
Turkey



Berkay Hacimustafa
Consultant, Turkey



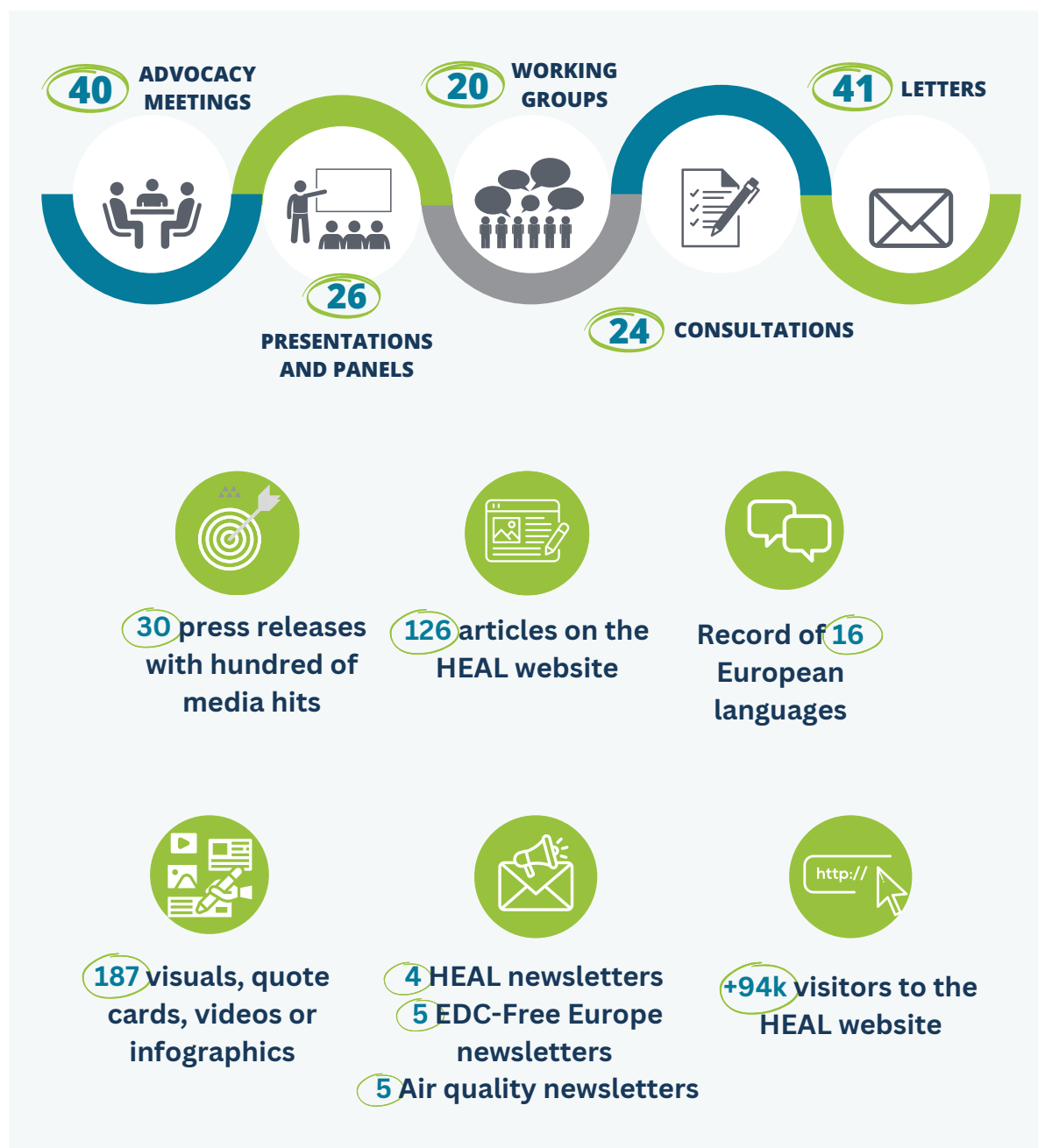
Srdjan Kukolj
Consultant, Balkan region



Sandra Jen
EDC-Free Europe
Coordinator

Our work in numbers

Our team in Brussels, Poland, Turkey and the Western Balkan region works to make our vision - a healthy planet for healthy people - come closer every day. We meet with decision-makers, partner up with others, send letters and press releases, and use our online channels for communication, among many other things.



Three of many highlights

Turning the zero pollution commitment into tangible policy measures to protect especially those most vulnerable



HEAL has worked towards zero pollution for health since its founding, and was pleased to see the commitment enshrined in the EU Green Deal.

We published [four visuals](#) on Beat pollution today, Prevent disease tomorrow. For everyone. They demand to cut pollution at the source, to follow the science, to advocate for zero pollution laws to urgently, and to drastically reduce the magnitude and complexity of environmental stressors on everyone, especially those most vulnerable.

We brought HEAL's zero pollution demands to high level meetings with the Portuguese EU Presidency and Executive Vice-President Timmermans, built our [critique](#) of the zero pollution action plan (May 2021) on them and HEAL's Executive Director Genon K. Jensen then shared our assessment and demands speaking at a [high-level panel on zero pollution](#) as part of Green Week 2021 (June 2021). HEAL also established a firm position as leading voice on zero pollution from the first Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform (December 2021) onwards.

Our [webinar](#) on zero pollution (December 2021) gave a voice to communities and vulnerable groups most affected by pollution, and included testimonies from Moms against PFAS, Italy; an asthma patient from the Netherlands, French farmers affected by pesticides, as well as from the Ella Roberta Family Foundation, UK.

WHY URGENT ACTION ON THE EU'S ZERO POLLUTION AMBITION MATTERS FOR HEALTH

10 DECEMBER 2021, 14:30 - 16.00 CET 

LISTEN TO VOICES FROM COMMUNITIES AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

 DR. LAURA FACCILOLO Mamme No PFAS, Italy	 DR. ANNE LEENDERTSE Longfonds, the Netherlands	 ROSAMUND KISSI-DEBRAH Ella Roberta Family Foundation, the UK
 BASKUT TUNCAK Former UN Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights, and director of the Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI)	 JULIEN GUILLARD Phyto-Victimes, France	REACTION: VERONICA MANFREDI European Commission, DG Environment MODERATOR: TAMSIN ROSE English <-> French interpretation available

Strengthening the science-policy communication and health advocacy on clean air

HEAL's leadership and engagement contributed to the majority of the European Parliament adopting a resolution on the implementation of the EU Ambient Air Quality Directives in March 2021, which includes the call for a full alignment of EU standards with World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations.

We launched a [petition](#) in 10 languages (EN, DE, FR, PL, IT, ES, BG, SL, PT, CZ), which gathered 70,000 signatures in the first week alone.



HEAL led on messaging and framing for the publication of the updated WHO air quality guidelines (September 2021), with a [press release](#), a [Q&A on Health and air quality standards in the European Union](#) (available for environmental, climate NGOs and for health ministers and ministries, in 10 languages) and a [letter](#) to all EU-27 ministers of health.

The [UN International Day for Clean Air and Blue Skies](#), the publication of the updated WHO Air Quality Guidelines and the HEAL petition launch alone led to almost 55k impressions and 1500 engagements on Twitter.

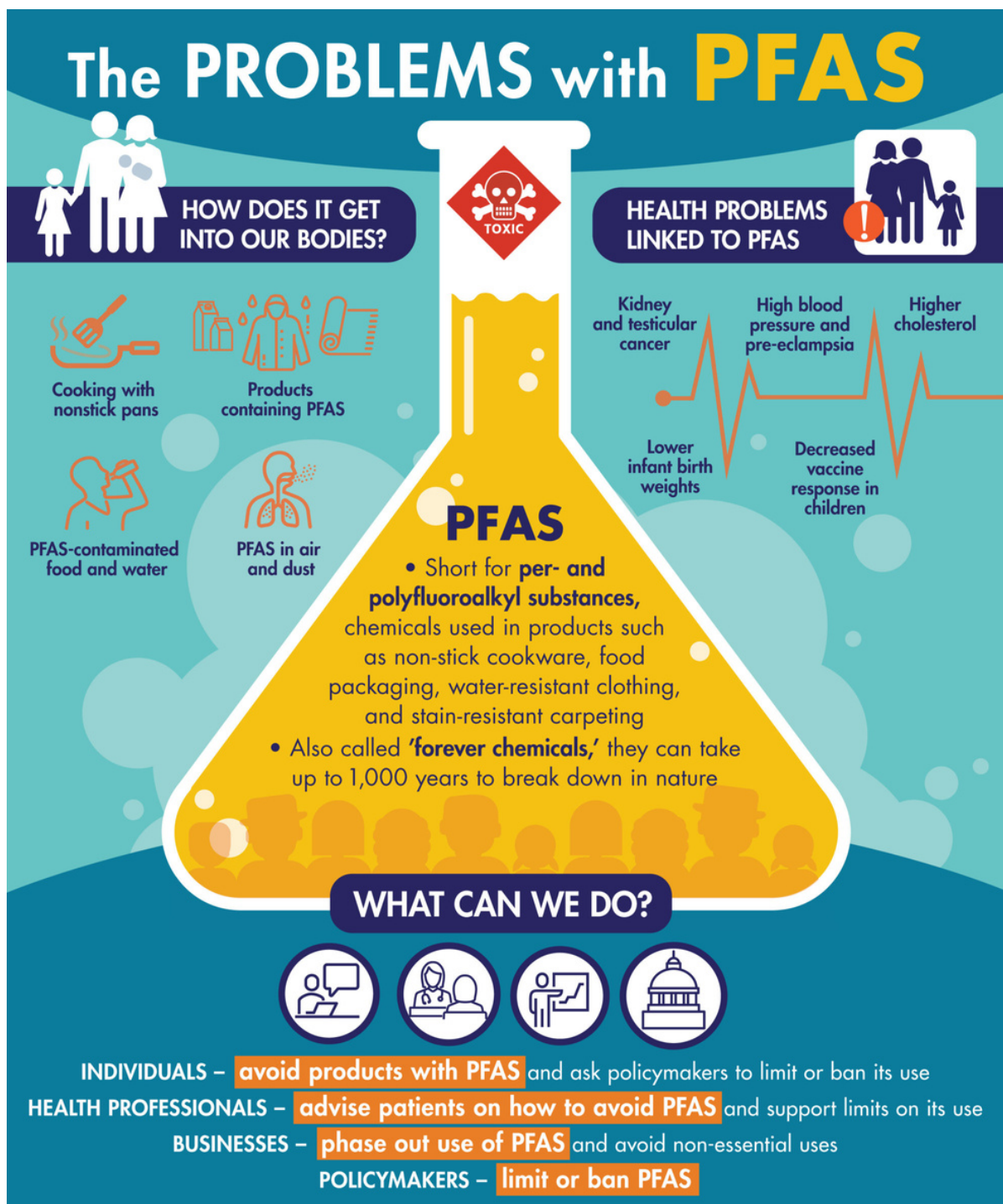
Our position paper "[EU's Clean Air Transition 2025-2030: HEAL 10 demands](#)" is available in 10 languages (EN, FR, DE, IT, PT, CZ, NL, SL, ES, SV, PL), we are publishing a bi-monthly Science for Healthy Air Quality newsletter (English and Polish).

Raising policy and public awareness on the need for action on PFAS, the forever chemicals to protect health

HEAL intensified science communication, advocacy and citizens' testing activities, to increase public and political support for upcoming PFAS restrictions:

With a joint [report](#) ("Throwaway Packaging, Forever Chemicals: European-wide survey of PFAS in disposable food packaging and tableware", May 2021) revealing that these 'forever chemicals' are widespread in disposable food packaging from popular fast-food chains across Europe (available in [CZ](#), [FR](#) and [DE](#)). We reached over 53k people on social media and created significant media coverage.

More follow up was done through letters and meetings, with EU member states representatives and EU Commissioners, and the filing of a parliamentary question to the Commission.



HEAL also published [educational and advocacy materials](#) (available in NL, FR, IT, ES, DE) on how PFAS chemicals affect women, pregnancy and human development, with the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) and the University of California in San Francisco (UCSF). This was complemented by an [infographic](#) on popular myths (published with ZeroWasteEurope, ClientEarth, ChemTrust and BEUC), and [another](#) on harmful chemicals in food packaging.

PFAS also was featured in the CHE EDC Strategies Partnership webinar series, two of which HEAL has planned, moderated and co-organised, on [PFAS and food packaging](#) (Throwaway Packaging, Forever Chemicals: European wide survey of PFAS in disposable food packaging and tableware and efforts to phase it out at top US Grocery and Fast-food Chains), and [PFAS and child health](#) (How prenatal and postnatal exposure to PFAS affect child cardiometabolic health and inflammatory biomarkers – six European cohorts).

One year of HEAL news

This year's Annual Review shares the online HEAL news stories for March 2021-March 2022 along our main policy themes: environmental health, chemicals, pesticides, climate and energy, air quality.

Everyone can subscribe to the HEAL newsletter or tailored, real-time news [here](#).

Environmental health

06/21 [EU's Zero Pollution Action Plan a disappointment](#)

The long-awaited plan to spell out the EU Green Deal's zero pollution ambition contains all the buzzwords, but behind the noise hides zero adequate action. HEAL [assessed](#) the plan with a detailed scorecard and also brought the message on the urgency to act to reduce pollution to the EU Green Week, including in a [high level speech](#) delivered by the Executive Director, Genon K. Jensen.



11/21 [Green 10 statement: EU funds should never harm nature, climate or the environment](#)

HEAL has cosigned a [joint statement](#) with the Green 10 on the 'do no significant harm' principle which should be applied to all policy areas.



12/21 [HEAL presents at WHO European Environment & Health Task Force](#)

As a member of the WHO EFTF and Bureau, HEAL presented a [snapshot](#) of its latest work on the Green Deal and Zero Pollution implementation to representatives from the 53 environment and health ministries in the WHO European region.

12/21 [HEAL event recording: why urgent action on the EU's Zero Pollution ambition matters for health](#)

HEAL hosted a [virtual panel](#) to give space to voices from communities and vulnerable groups, who are rarely heard but most affected, with a reaction from the European Commission, just days ahead of the launch of the EU's zero pollution stakeholder platform.

Research projects



04/21 POLYRISK project launched

HEAL is one of 15 project partners in 7 countries that make up POLYRISK, aimed at understanding human exposure and health hazards of micro- and nanoplastic contaminants in our environment. POLYRISK is part of the CUSP network, a consortium of five research initiatives bringing together 75 organisations from 21 countries to find out what effects micro-and nanoplastics may have on human health.

ATHLETE
The Exposome from Evidence to Translation

What is the ATHLETE project?

ATHLETE is an EU-funded project that aims to better understand how our environment can impact human health from pregnancy to adolescence by studying the Human Exposome.

The project brings together 23 partners from 12 countries, including research institutes, universities, national public and environmental health institutes, and civil society groups.

Follow our journey on social media:
#ATHLETEproject
www.athleteproject.eu

06/21 ATHLETE project: new flyer and video

The ATHLETE project, of which HEAL is a partner, is an exposome research project that aims to better understand and prevent health effects of numerous environmental hazards and their mixtures, starting from the earliest stages of life. Find out more in the [flyer](#) (EN, CZ, DK, NL, FR, GR, IT, LT, NO, ES).

06/21 CUSSH website live

The project on Complex Urban Systems for Sustainability and Health that HEAL is a partner of has just launched its [new website](#).

07/21 First ENBEL newsletter

HEAL is a partner in the ENBEL project on connecting climate change and health research. The project has just published its first [newsletter](#), with a focus on "Heat and the impact on human health", including an infographic on the largely unknown additional health impacts heatwaves cause.

10/21 CUSP website live

HEAL, as a project partner of POLYRISK, works closely with 4 other projects in the European research cluster to understand the health impacts of micro- and nanoplastics, CUSP. Find out more about the cluster on the brand-new [website](#)!



01/22 ATHLETE video available in 8 languages

HEAL is a partner of the ATHLETE research project, which studies how our everyday environment and activities affect health. All this is explained in a [video](#) that is now available in English, Danish, German, Greek, Italian, Lithuanian, Norwegian and Spanish.

03/22 HERA Final Conference: Research for the Green Deal

The Health Environment Research Agenda for Europe (HERA), of which HEAL is a project partner, has held its final [conference](#) on 18 March 2022, to present the [environmental health research agenda priorities for 2030](#).

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Chemicals

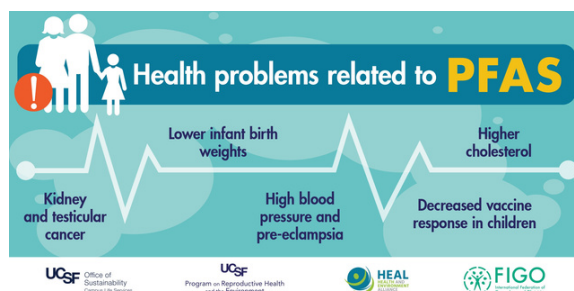
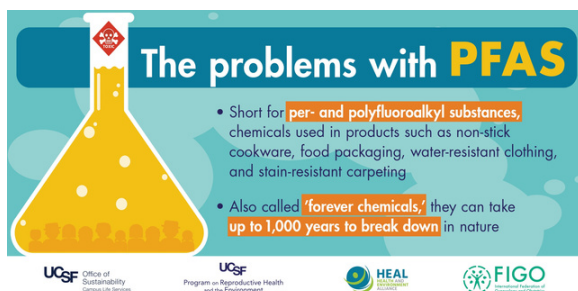


05/21 [New study on forever chemicals in food packaging](#)

Arnika, HEAL, CHEM Trust and 6 other NGOs analysed samples from major fast-food chains and showed persistent and health-harming PFAS chemicals in disposable food packaging and tableware is a widespread practice across Europe. 99 samples of disposable food packaging and tableware made of paper, board and moulded plant fibre were purchased in six different countries including United Kingdom, Denmark, Germany, France, the Netherlands and the Czech Republic.

05/21 [Health actors call for urgent action to phase out PFAS chemicals](#)

The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), HEAL and the University of California (UCSF) point out the health threat from forever chemicals, and call for immediate action with an [infographic and a factsheet](#) in EN, NL, FR, DE, IT, ES, SB.



06/21 [New infographic: food contact materials](#)

HEAL, Zero Waste Europe, the European Consumer Organisation BEUC, CHEM Trust and ClientEarth have joined hands to bust some of the most popular myths surrounding chemicals used in food contact materials, with a new [infographic](#) and social media cards that illustrate how the chemicals used in the production, processing, preparation and packaging of food may put our health at risk.



06/21 [HEAL's input on the CLP revision roadmap consultation](#)

HEAL has [commented](#) on the inception impact assessment for the revision of the EU legislation on hazard classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals (CLP), calling for more transparency in the hazard assessment procedure and expressing support for a future system where the toxicity studies of a substance or mixture are not provided by the companies any longer but are commissioned by an independent institution (e.g. ECHA or a public authority) and are carried out in independent laboratories.



07/21 [Under the Label: Chemicals in cosmetics](#)

Cosmetics and personal care products can contain harmful endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) and other substances of concern, but their labels can be hard to read. A new [infographic \(EN, FR, NL\)](#) from HEAL and Tegengif/Erase All Toxins guides readers through the story behind chemicals in cosmetics and offers a checklist of chemicals to avoid when shopping for personal care products.



09/21 [EDC-Free Europe campaign urges EU Commission to ban the use of endocrine disruptors in cosmetics](#)

Coalition members [ask the EU](#) to take swift and ambitious actions to ban hormone disrupting chemicals (EDCs) in cosmetics and personal care products without delay.

09/21 [Letter calling on EU governments to identify Resorcinol as a substance of very high concern](#)

HEAL and seven other civil society groups are [calling](#) on European governments to identify Resorcinol, a chemical with varied industrial and consumer uses, as a substance of very high concern for its endocrine disrupting properties for health.

09/21 [Infographic: Harmful chemicals in food packaging hamper the circular economy](#)

HEAL, Zero Waste Europe, CHEM Trust and ClientEarth have published an [infographic](#) and four social media cards illustrating how harmful chemicals in food packaging can hamper the circular economy and put our health at risk. It highlights that more preventive EU regulation is needed to ensure food contact materials are safe to use, reuse and recycle, in order to achieve a toxic-free circular economy.



ClientEarth®



11/21 [PFAS contamination in Antwerp, Belgium](#)

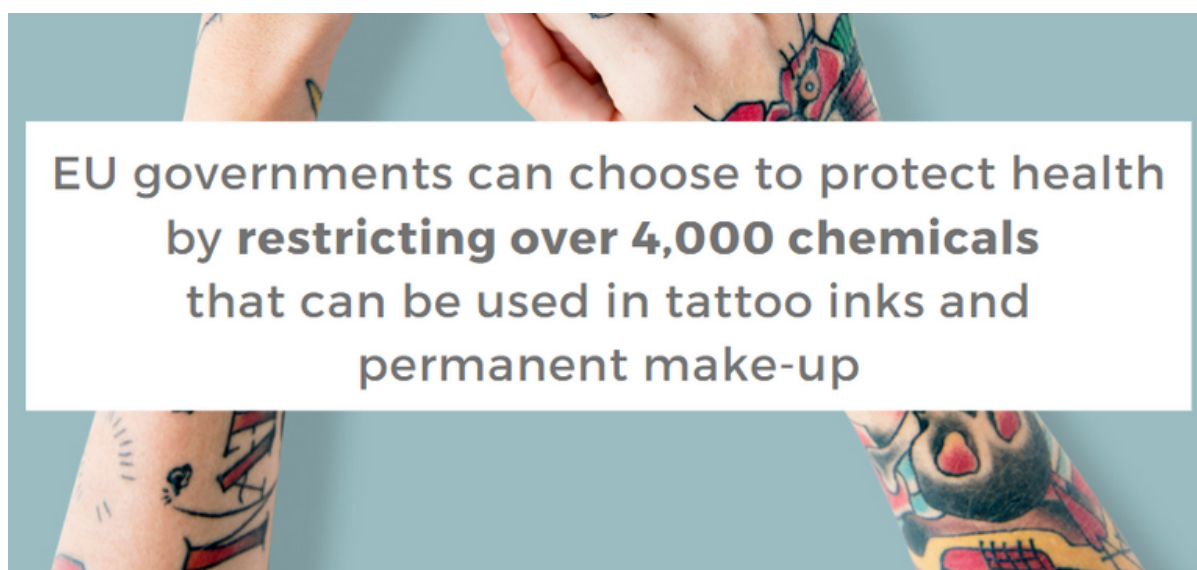
HEAL and [Grondrecht](#), a collective of concerned citizens that formed in response to large-scale PFAS pollution by a 3M factory near Antwerp, have [called](#) on the Belgian federal government to guarantee action to clean up and remediate the PFAS pollution, monitor consequences, and guarantee accountability.

12/21 [Joint civil society comments on the revision of the EU POPs regulation](#)

The European Commission is proposing to adopt new limit values for persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in waste. Arnika, IPEN, HEAL and other health and environmental groups [urge](#) the European Parliament and Member States to support stronger limit values for POPs in waste than the current proposal, whose weak limits undermine the Stockholm Convention and contribute to POPs recycling that is incompatible with the European Green Deal.

[12/21 Restriction on harmful chemicals in single-use diapers: an opportunity to protect children's health that Europe is on the verge of missing](#)

Single-use diapers can contain a range of chemicals that can harm human health. Through a proposed restriction on the presence of such chemicals, Europe has an opportunity to significantly increase children's health across the continent. Yet, this restriction might never see the light of day - read HEAL's [analysis](#).



[01/22 Chemicals in tattoo inks & permanent make-up: EU-wide restriction covering over 4,000 substances enters into force](#)

HEAL [welcomes](#) the new EU restriction built to protect citizens against the use of harmful substances in the production of coloured tattoo inks and permanent make-up. It covers some 4,000 substances and aims to ensure citizens across the EU are equally protected from hazardous chemicals that may cause allergies and serious health impacts like cancer.

[01/22 Letter: Health and environment groups urge EU Commissioners to support French proposal for EU restriction on harmful substances in single-use diapers](#)

34 civil society groups in a [joint letter](#) urged the European Commission to support a proposal put forward by French authorities to restrict a group of extremely hazardous substances from single-use babies' diapers.

[02/22 Belgium set to launch its first-ever national action plan to increase health and environment protection from endocrine disrupting chemicals](#)

Health groups have [welcomed](#) Belgium's first-ever draft national action plan on endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) as an important step towards better identification of and health protection against the risks associated with exposure to such harmful substances.

[02/22 Letter: Civil society concerns and demands regarding the European Commission's definition of "nanomaterial"](#)

Civil society organisations [wrote](#) to the Commission regarding the process of revising the recommendation on the definition of the term "nanomaterial" and their shared concern about the revision's process and potential consequences.

[04/22 Delivering a toxic-free environment under REACH: Eight key NGO demands](#)

HEAL has joined the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and 19 other health and environmental groups to share [eight key demands to improve the REACH Regulation](#).

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Pesticides

[04/21 HEAL response to public consultation on Sustainable Use of Pesticides \(SUD\) Directive and position](#)

In its [response](#), HEAL supports the gradual transition towards a pesticide-free agricultural model, where the methods used in pest-management do not jeopardise the health of farmers, residents of pesticide-treated areas or consumers and promote, rather than destroy, biodiversity.

[06/21 Glyphosate conclusions concerning: 4 member states suggest no risk to human health](#)

A new statement published by EU member states concluded that glyphosate does not pose risks for human health. HEAL is [concerned](#) at such a conclusion, which contradicts scientific evidence of the association between exposure to the popular pesticide and the development of cancer.

[06/21 HEAL webinar: global glyphosate study \(recording\)](#)

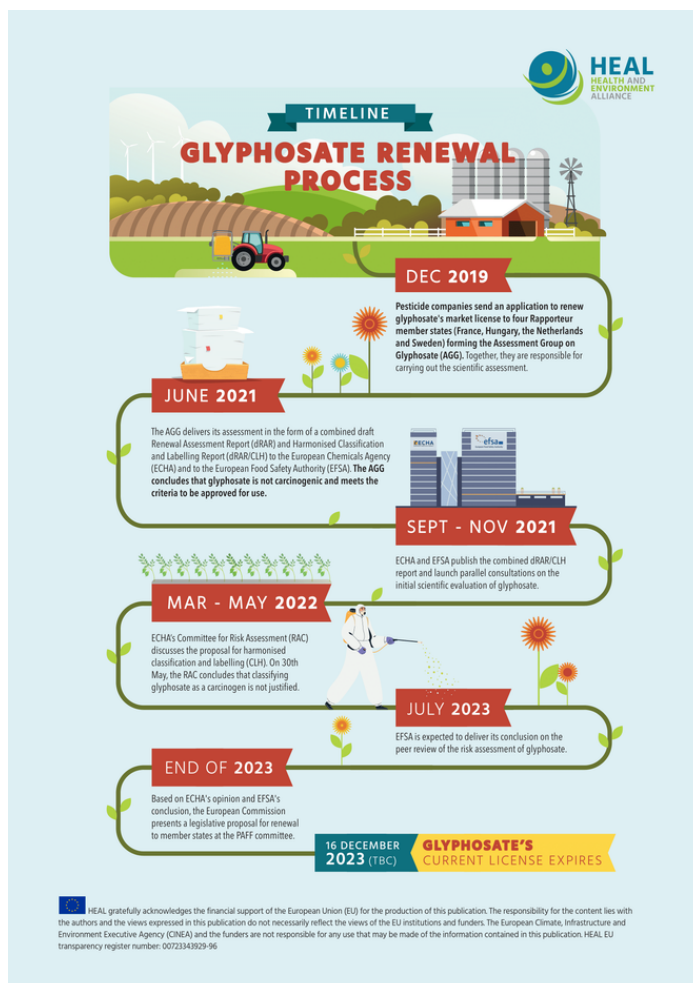
Revisit the recording of our special [webinar](#) (EN, ES) organised in collaboration with the Ramazzini Institute, where lead scientists presented the ongoing Global Glyphosate Study, the largest and most comprehensive toxicological study ever undertaken on a pesticide.

[07/21 EU Glyphosate assessment was based on flawed science](#)

A new scientific [analysis](#) concludes that the European Food Safety Authority's claim that glyphosate is not genotoxic cannot be justified on the basis of manufacturers' studies. Of the 53 industry-funded studies used for the EU's authorisation of glyphosate, 34 were identified as "not reliable".

[07/21 HEAL experts look back on one decade of Europe's \(unkept\) promises to address endocrine disrupting pesticides](#)

Pesticides with endocrine disrupting properties should not be allowed on the EU market, according to EU law. Why then is it taking this long to get harmful substances banned? In this [long feature](#), HEAL's Natacha Cingotti and Angeliki Lyssimachou take a deep dive into this tale of disruption.



[08/21 New HEAL campaign page on glyphosate](#)

Glyphosate is the most widely-used pesticide in the world, which is of concern since its negative impacts on human health and the environment are well documented. The HEAL website now features an [information hub](#) on all aspects of HEAL's work on glyphosate, including a timeline, press releases, studies and other useful materials to take a deep-dive into the issue at hand.

10/21 [Glyphosate: 41 CSOs urge Health Commissioner to stop using unreliable industry studies](#)

The health and environment groups urge the Health Commissioner to guarantee that the ongoing assessment of glyphosate is based on updated independent scientific evidence and remains free from vested interests, with an [open letter](#).

10/21 [New video explains why Europe needs to stop health-harming pesticide trade](#)

Harmful pesticides that are banned in the EU are still being produced and exported to other parts of the world, while residues of banned pesticides are still being imported in food. A new [video](#) (EN, FR) published by Corporate Europe Observatory, with support from HEAL, PAN Europe, PAN Germany, Public Eye, Global 2000 and foodwatch explains how.

10/21 [Letter on glyphosate by health and cancer groups to French government](#)

HEAL, European Cancer League and La Ligue contre le Cancer [urge](#) the French government to publicly clarify its position regarding the health risks posed by world's top-selling herbicide glyphosate, as the country, along with 3 other rapporteur member states leading on the evaluation process in Europe released preliminary conclusions stating it meets the approval criteria for human health.

02/22 [Joint statement: The EU Commission must do better to transition away from synthetic pesticides](#)

70+ organisations [express](#) their deep concern about the lack of ambition of the Commission's draft proposal for a Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products Regulation and highlight 10 demands to reach an ambitious regulation.

02/22 [HEAL's response to the public consultations on the EU's initial assessment of glyphosate](#)

HEAL's [review of the EU toxicity assessment report](#) on the popular pesticide glyphosate, which was published in the framework of two EU public consultations, confirms that the evaluation is still mostly based on industry studies and fails to endorse scientific evidence reporting that glyphosate may cause cancer.

03/22 [Delay to EU pesticide reduction exposes citizens to increased health risks](#)

HEAL [voiced its concerns](#) over the delay of the much needed and overdue revision of the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products Regulations (SUR), following the European Commission's deferral of discussions in March.

03/22 [Infographic: Europe needs to ban glyphosate to protect farmers, our health and the environment](#)

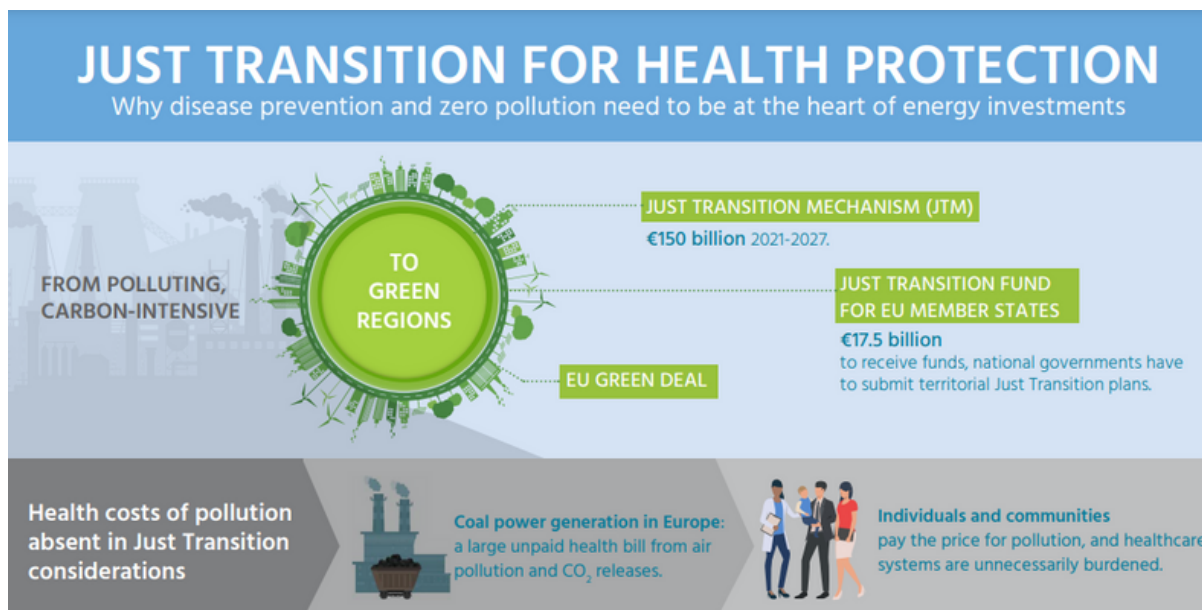
The [new infographic and social media assets](#) (EN, FR, IT, DE, ES) illustrate why the European Commission and governments must ban the harmful pesticide glyphosate to protect farmers, our health and the environment.



Climate and energy

06/21 [New infographic on Just Transition and health](#)

Following a HEAL briefing on just transition for health protection in 2020, an [infographic](#) was developed, to show why disease prevention and zero pollution need to be at the heart of energy investments.

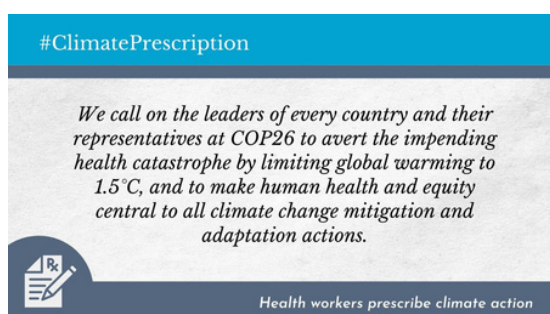


09/21 [HEAL tool to assess health protection in just transition plans](#)

HEAL has produced a new tool to assess health protection in just transition plans, which was distributed to the 4th Forum of Mayors on Just Transition along with an [open letter](#).

09/21 [NGOs to refuse invitations to speak at fossil-fuel sponsored media events](#)

Sixteen leading European civil society organisations, one of them HEAL, have [announced](#) they will no longer accept invitations to speak at media events on EU policy sponsored by fossil fuel companies, in an open letter addressed to the editors of three European news organisations.



10/21 [Global health sector call for urgent climate action](#)

HEAL joined over 450 organisations representing over 45 million health workers to sign the [appeal](#) calling for urgent climate action and a fossil fuel phase out.

Available in EN, FR, ES, RU, ZH, PT, AR.

10/21 [EU Commission must live up to Green Deal promise and stop subsidies to fossil fuel companies](#)

European climate, environmental and health NGOs have sent an open [letter](#) underlining that bloc-wide guidelines on energy subsidies should not allow taxpayers' money to be used for bailing out fossil fuel operators.

03/22 [G10 letter on Taxonomy Complementary Delegated Act](#)

In March, the Green 10 have sent a joint [letter](#) to EC President Von der Leyen, asking her to withdraw the Taxonomy Complementary Delegated Act which included fossil gas and nuclear energy, in stark contrast with science, independent expert advice, existing EU legislation, investor demands and global practice on green bonds.

Climate and energy - Poland

05/21 [Infographic: Polish doctors' call for climate action](#)

Polish health and medical experts have issued the 'Doctors for Climate' appeal, a reminder that accelerating climate change already impacts people's health in Poland and beyond.

The appeal has also been turned into an [infographic](#), available in English and Polish.



06/21 [Poland: Encouraging developments on healthy energy](#)

A 2030 coal phase out and Just Transition are of particular importance for Poland, a country where the majority of electricity is still generated by burning coal. HEAL in Poland [welcomed the first announcement date for the EU's most health-harming coal plant closure, Belchatow](#). Further health engagement is needed to ensure that the greening of coal-intensive regions will not only be just, but also lead to the prevention of disease.

12/21 [HEAL Poland at senate hearing on climate and health](#)

HEAL's Weronika Michalak [spoke on climate change and health at a hearing in the Senate](#), Poland's upper chamber, at a meeting that explored the direction in which Polish climate policy should go in the coming years, following COP26.

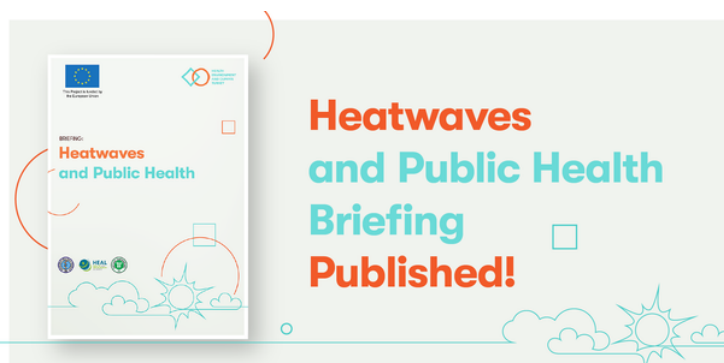
Climate and energy - Turkey

05/21 [Increased environment and climate capacity in the Turkish health sector](#)

The "Health Collaboration on Climate Change and Environment Project" (ÇİSİP) project, funded by the EU, [has made great progress in the last year](#). With HEAL's partners HASUDER – the Association Of Public Health Specialists and Kocaeli University, Department of Public Health, we have organised a series of webinars to build capacity on climate and health and published a briefing on One Health. The webinar recordings are available for everyone to watch.

09/21 [Turkey: Briefing on heatwaves](#)

A new [briefing](#) produced as part of the EU-funded CISIP project in Turkey underlines that heatwaves are a major threat to health in the country and beyond.

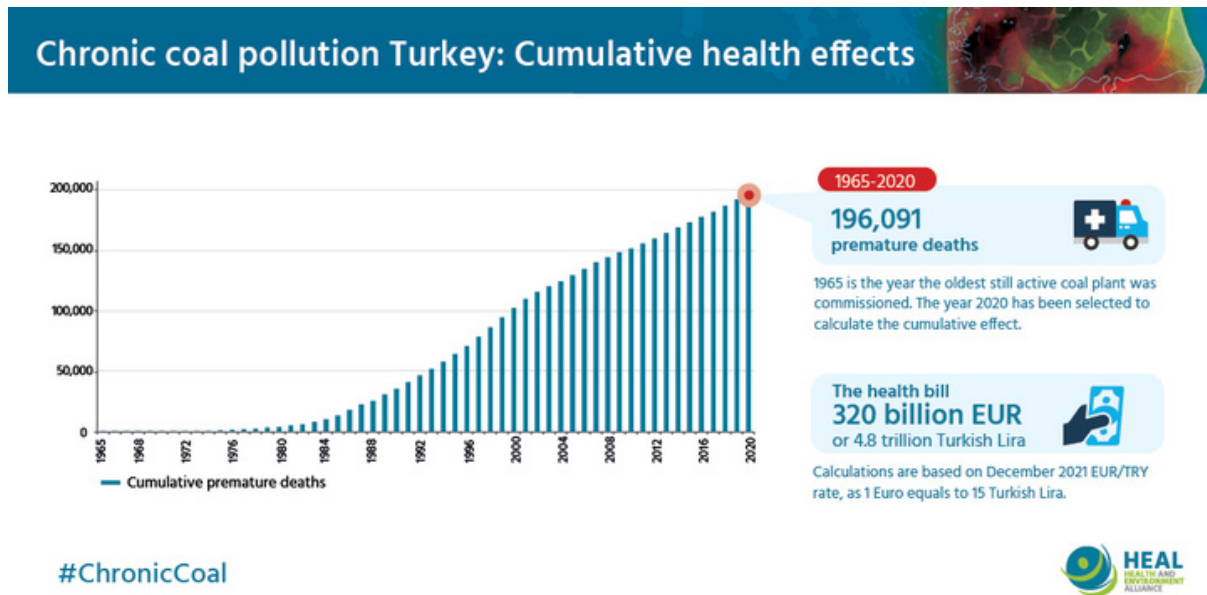


09/21 [Opportunities for health protection through a Green Deal in Turkey](#)

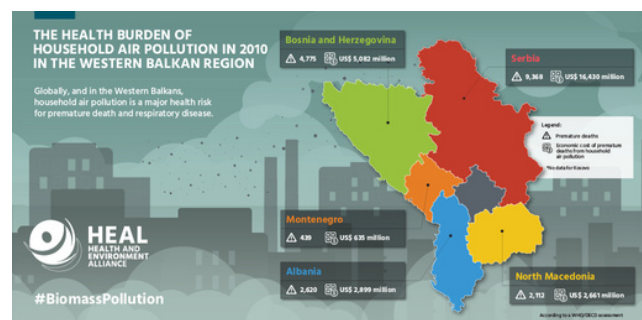
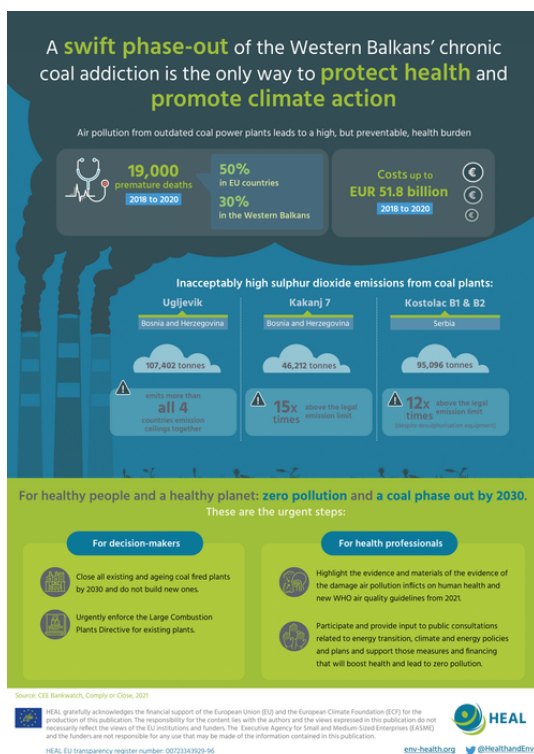
As part of the HASUDER annual congress, HEAL organised and chaired a panel on A Green Deal for Turkey to tackle Climate Change and its Health Impacts, to present the Green Deal approach, the EU's zero pollution objective and action plan and discuss the opportunities for preventing disease. The webinar was organised as part of the EU-funded CISIP project ([EN](#) and [TR](#)).

01/22 [Decades of chronic coal pollution in Turkey have led to a large, unacceptable health burden](#)

HEAL's [analysis](#) (in EN and TR) shows that the country's decades-long coal dependency has led to unacceptably high health impacts and costs: almost 200,000 premature deaths, sixty-two million lost working days, eleven million hospital admissions and other health impacts, with a cost of up to 320 billion EUR.



Climate and energy - Western Balkans



01/22 [Health experts demand more attention and action on the public health threat of wood burning in the Western Balkans](#)

HEAL's [briefing](#) (EN, SB, ALB) explores the public health threat of wood-burning in the Western Balkans, as a major contributor to air pollution in the region and presents evidence-based arguments on wood burning and scientific data to support decision-making, as we shift to a carbon-neutral and healthy future.

11/21 [Infographic on Western Balkan's chronic coal and health](#)

HEAL's new [infographic](#) shows that a swift phase-out of the region's chronic coal addiction is the only way to protect health and promote climate action.

12/21 [Air pollution and health in Western Balkan cities](#)

A new [series of HEAL briefings](#) (EN, BG, SB, BH) zooms in on Belgrade, Pristina, Sofia and Tuzla to showcase the sources of air pollution in the region, and highlights why a phase out of coal power generation and fossil fuels in general would be beneficial especially for city residents.

Air quality

09/21 [Health groups call for EU air quality standards to be fully aligned with new WHO recommendations](#)

After the WHO has published updated, much stricter guidelines for air pollutants, [health groups are intensifying advocacy on ambitious revised EU air quality standards](#).

09/21 [HEAL position paper on clean air for health](#)

For the ongoing legislative review on air quality standards, HEAL has developed a [position paper](#) (EN, FR, DE, IT, PT, CZ, NL, SL, ES, SV, PL) with ten demands for the EU's clean air for health transition 2021-2030.



09/21 [New Q&A on air quality](#)

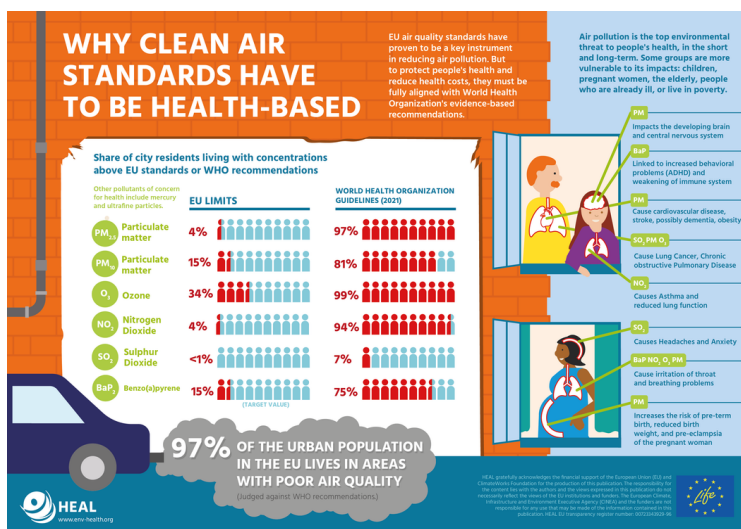
HEAL has put together a short and informative [Q&A](#) (EN, BG, NL, IT, ES, PT, PL, SL, CZ, SV, PL) on clean air for health, explaining the importance of tighter standards, the role of the WHO, different pollutants and much more.

10/21 [Letter to EU health ministers on clean air ambition](#)

HEAL has sent an [open letter](#) (EN, BG, NL, IT, ES, PT, PL, SL, CZ, SV, PL) to health ministers, calling on them to get engaged on clean air and support evidence-based air quality standards.

11/21 [EU air quality rules revision: HEAL response to the public consultation](#)

HEAL's [message](#) on EU air quality standards is very clear: they have to be fully aligned with the science-based guidelines the World Health Organization (WHO) has just updated.



12/21 [Updated infographic: Why clean air standards have to be health-based](#)

Following the reviewed WHO air quality guidelines from September 2021, HEAL has updated an [infographic](#) on the relevance of adjusting European air quality standards with the latest science.

03/22 [Letter: Civil society call to save lives, protect nature from air pollution with science-based revised EU air quality standards](#)

HEAL and 35+ other organisations have sent a [letter](#) to EC Executive Vice-President Timmermans, Commissioners Sinkevičius and Kyriakides, calling on them to come forward with a proposal to introduce binding EU clean air standards to fully meet WHO air quality recommendations by 2030 at the latest.

Air quality - National and regional focus

05/21 Op-ed: Air quality action in Serbia

Our Srdjan Kukolj [writes](#) about how the initiative on the first ever national Air protection Program in Serbia with an Action Plan is a unique opportunity to bring down high rates of disease, and why health sector involvement for its finalisation is crucial.

05/21 Report: Impact of transport pollution on children's health (Poland)

The [report](#) (PL), co-published by HEAL and the Polish Ecological Club, provides an overview of the science on health impacts of polluted air on children and their development, and consequences much later in life. The report also includes recommendations on achieving clean air, especially in cities.

07/21 New webinar series on health and transport in Poland

HEAL's [webinar series](#) invites participants from the health sector, non-governmental organisations and anyone concerned to consider the linkages between transport, physical and mental health and lifestyle diseases, especially in cities.

07/21 Invitation for greater interministerial cooperation on clean air in Serbia

HEAL has sent a [letter](#) to the Serbian Ministry of Environmental Protection to encourage greater synergies and cooperation with the Ministry of Health in the development of the Programme of Air Protection of the Republic of Serbia with an Action plan.

11/21 HEAL comments on the draft programme of air protection of the Republic of Serbia

HEAL highlighted in the [comments](#) on the programme for the period 2022-2030 that the setting of strict air quality standards and a swift coal phase out are essential for cleaning up the air that people breathe.

12/21 New briefing on urban transport pollution and health in Poland

The [publication](#) for the Polish health sector provides a summary of the health evidence on how transport in cities threatens health and makes the case that transport is a key sector to be considered in clean air efforts in the country.

03/22 CISIP Turkey project: letter on clean air

Parallel to the review of air quality standards in the EU, health NGOs in Turkey who are part of HEAL's CISIP project [called](#) on decision makers to adopt WHO's updated guidelines, with a letter that was accompanied by a short briefing.



Financial management, evaluation and 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 2021 to 14 March 2022.

Income

• EU grant (Operating grant)	€ 379,699.00
• EU grants (Action grants)	€ 155,587.86
• Other grants (private foundations, governments)	€ 857,257.20
• Membership fees	€ 8,300.00

Total Income € 1,400,844.06

Expenditure

• Personnel costs	€ 884,235.69
• Activity costs including subcontractors	€ 331,823.80
• Travel and subsistence costs	€ 5,923.63
• Administration, IT & office costs	€ 170,560.94
• Provisions for social regulations	€ 8,300.00

Total Expenditure € 1,400,844.06

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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 90 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.



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