ANNUAL REVIEW 2013

Promoting public health through a healthy environment in Europe and beyond

HEAL
Promoting environmental policy that contributes to good health



Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)

About HEAL

The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) is a leading European not-for-profit organisation addressing how the environment affects health in the European Union (EU). With the support of more than 65 member organisations, HEAL brings independent expertise and evidence from the health community to different decision-making processes. Our broad alliance represents 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 research institutes. Members include international and Europe-wide organisations, as well as national and local groups.

Annual Review 2013:
Financial year 15 March 2013 – 14 March 2014
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Photo front cover
HEAL focuses its work at EU level in Brussels. The front cover shows the variety of HEAL's activities across different policy areas. Special thanks to EU Commissioner for Environment Janez Potočnik and WHO Regional Director for Europe Zsuzsanna Jakab for giving HEAL permission to use photos in which they appear.
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Design: Lies Verheyen & Leen Pas, www.mazout.nu

HEAL gratefully acknowledges the financial support from the European Union. The responsibility for the content lies with the authors and the views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official views of the EU institutions and funders.

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Published September 2014

Participants at HEAL's General Assembly in September 2013



Content

HEAL celebrates its 10th anniversary 5

Policy highlights

- Environment andhealth 7
- Climate and energy 10
- Air quality 14
- Chemicals 16

Disease prevention and our environment 18

Communications 20

Membership 22

HEAL secretariat 25

HEAL Executive Committee 26

Finances 27



Editorial

It was always going to be a busy year – HEAL planned to celebrate ten years of existence and policy packages were due on the 7th EU Environment Action Programme (EAP), air quality, and endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs).

What was less expected was that two mainstream EU debates would be significantly affected by health evidence.

First, growing public concerns over the US-EU trade talks were hitting the EU and worldwide news services. HEAL helped to put health concerns into the debate by drawing attention to the threat to health-protective EU chemicals legislation and the precautionary principle. As a result, a key rallying point for civil society groups working on trade now includes environmental health associated with exposure to chemicals.

A similar development has occurred in relation to the controversial mining of shale gas, or "fracking". By bringing a flow of latest scientific findings on the risks to health from fracking, mainly from experiences in the United States, HEAL has helped policy makers, medical professionals and the public to become more aware of the harm already caused by this process. The evidence was particularly important for the EU agenda during discussions on revisions of the directive on environmental impact assessment.

Both these developments created an additional workload - but they had hugely beneficial outcomes for the recognition of environmental health as an important aspect of "across-the-board" EU policy.

Concrete policy successes in 2013 included the mention of the need to "minimise exposure to hazardous substances" and the broad measures outlined to tackle both chemical exposure and air pollution in the 7th EU Environment Action Programme (EAP). This programme represents important commitments made by the EU, particularly the EU member states.

Another "win" was the decision of the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to scrap most financing for coal power plants. Working closely with CEE Bankwatch, a leading group in the campaign, HEAL has provided the evidence of health harm that means the campaign cites health and climate change as the two key reasons why financing coal with public funds was indefensible.

While huge advances in irrefutable evidence of the harm to health from air pollution have been made this year, the evidence did not bring the hoped for air quality package. In fact, the package's recommendations would still allow about 260,000 premature deaths in 2030 – a long way from the clean air goal that the EU has set. However, the research advances provide vital material for HEAL to use in policy dialogue and to promote media coverage. It is also appears to be creating a growing willingness among more doctors and scientists to join advocacy efforts.

The crowning jewel of the year was nevertheless HEAL's 10th anniversary celebrations. With standing room only in a packed room at the European Parliament, around 100 participants had a heart-warming and important few hours of reflection on what has been achieved. Those taking part included many of EU's top health policy makers (see next page), renowned scientists, HEAL's secretariat staff and members, partners and journalists.


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In the months since September 2013, HEAL's strength as a network has grown significantly on chemicals, climate and energy. The EDC-Free Europe campaign grew from a small core to more than 50 organisations and last year's coal report (The Unpaid Health Bill) was successfully launched for national audiences in four EU capitals.

These advances contribute to our vision of a world in which rates of chronic diseases such as cancer, obesity and asthma are decreasing, and people and future generations benefit from a clean environment to enjoy long, healthy, and sustainable lives.



Génon K. Jensen,
Executive Director, Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)

HEAL celebrates its 10th year anniversary

European Parliamentarians show support

To celebrate HEAL's creation in 2003, a very special evening reception was held on 25 September 2013 at the European Parliament hosted by MEPs Peter Liese, Jo Leinen, Satu Hassi and Corinne Lepage, representing the cross party political support that HEAL has received over the years.



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Video messages from three Commissioners



Janez Potočnik,
EU Commissioners for Environment



Connie Hedegaard,
EU Commissioner for Climate Action



Tonio Borg,
EU Commissioner for Health

© European Union 2013



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Formal remarks were presented by HEAL's president, Dr Peter van den Hazel (far left). Keynote speakers included Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Director for Europe, and Philippe Grandjean, Harvard School of Public Health and University of Southern Denmark.

In her remarks, Ms Jakab said,
"Iamnot a fortune teller, butevidencetells us that airquality, climate change, the safe managementof chemicals, and sufficient, reliable and safe sources of water, foodand energy are the great public health challenges of today and tomorrow in a world marked by population growth, urbanization, longevityand economic growth and prosperity. ... We also need the full and meaningful engagement of everyone. This is where HEAL and organizationslikeyours play a central role."

Professor Philippe Grandjean (above right) said, *"HEAL is acting like the caring physician, in this casewith the environment as the patient. I admire everybody who is part of this highly qualified, well argued, and socially responsible effort."*



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The online gallery of HEAL's environmental health champions – made up of the individuals who have made a difference in securing more protective health policies in Europe and beyond - was unveiled by Génon K. Jensen, HEAL's Executive Director.

Potočnik cuts the cake

The following day, HEAL had the pleasure of welcoming the EU Commissioner for Environment Janez Potočnik to address the Annual General Assembly on his health priorities. Here he is seen cutting a slice of a specially designed cake with HEAL's President Peter van den Hazel and Executive Director Génon K. Jensen.









'Our health depends on the environment, just as much as the health of the environment depends on us. This is why we cannot tackle environment-related challenges to health from a purely environmental or health perspective. Our approach needs to be more comprehensive, integrated and long-term'.





HEAL's President Peter van den Hazel presents Commissioner Potočnik with his new book on children's health and the environment







From left to right: Yannick Vicaire, HEAL Vice- President, Roberta Savli and Irina Rodriguez de la Flor, HEAL Executive Board Members highlighted their priorities on hormone disrupting chemicals, air quality, and mercury and electromagnetic fields.

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Environment and health

Highlights includea new roadmap for environmental protection that prioritises health; opportunities emerging from trade discussions and from the threat on fracking; and the risk of harmful chemical exposures explained by a celebrity at the Paris film festival.

Strengthening EU's new environmental programme

The new 7th EU Environment Action Programme (EAP) is a clear step forward. The legally-binding programme sets the strategy and goals for environmental action to the year 2020. HEAL helped achieve a stronger focus on chemicals, including a mention of EDCs, and earlier deadlines on targets. Other welcome elements were the "Toxics Free Strategy", recognition of indoor air pollution as a problem to be tackled, and support promised for EU human biomonitoring.

How was this achieved?

HEAL and its members have provided regular expert input over the past two to three years. In April 2013, HEAL published a position paper (below) with public health priorities, which was widely promoted. Next, voting recommendations were sent to MEPs ahead of the vote in the Environment Committee. HEAL also encouraged members to contact their national environment ministers. Prior to important deliberations and votes, HEAL sent a template letter to members for national environment ministers as well as targeted advocacy action with MEPs as part of a lunch discussion in March 2013.


ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH

The 7th EU Environment Action Programme: Preventing disease, increasing wellbeing and quality of life through environmental measures

HEAL

In preparation for the trilogue negotiations with the Irish EU presidency, the Parliament and the EU Commission, HEAL had an opportunity to provide expertise to hone in on the Programme's health chapter specifically.


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Deputy Director Anne Stauffer (right), who led HEAL's advocacy efforts, says the 7th EAP shows the commitment of the EU, particularly of Member States, to protecting our health from environmental threats. It will be an important driver for the policy proposals in the coming years.

Engaging with WHO

HEAL's Executive Director, Génon K. Jensen represents around 600 health NGOs in the WHO's Environment and Health Process. She took part in several task force and preparatory meetings during the course of the year and contributed to the midterm (between ministerial conferences) assessment report in preparation for the next major meeting. Joint NGO recommendations include:

- Better use of latest science for precautionary policies
- Better calculation of the costs of inaction on environmental health problems
- Setting up national stakeholder consultations
- The addition of new topics, such as energy and health.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Europe's environmental news and information service, ENDS Europe (21 June 2013) described the important achievements of this final round:

"The negotiators strengthened the European Commission's initial text regarding actions on chemicals. For example, they called for the development of "harmonised hazard-based criteria" for the identification of endocrine disrupters. There was no mention of such criteria in the original version." (21 June 2013)


A healthy environment for a good quality of life
Green 10

An open letter, published in Euractiv, one of the leading EU news portals in December 2013, said:
'ISDS forces governments to use taxpayer funds to compensate corporations for public health, environmental, labour and other public interest policies and government actions'.

Preparing for European elections

HEAL provided members with a workshop on how to get the health and environment messages to MEPs and worked as a member of the Green10 to launch a manifesto at the end of 2013 (above).

The Green10 is a group of the ten leading environmental organisations active at EU level. As a member, HEAL values working with these organisations to gather expertise and produce sound evidence, and to multiply the impact of our efforts. Exchanges with top level EU Commission officials such as the EU Commissioner for Environment Janez Potočnik have helped to raise HEAL's profile and ensured health considerations were taken up in horizontal EU policy deliberations. This was particularly impactful during the Irish EU Presidency and the agreement on the 7th EU Environmental Action Programme (EAP).


© European Union 2014

Green 10 representatives including HEAL present their position on TTIP to EU Commissioner for Trade, Karel de Gucht (second from right).

Fighting threats of a trade agreement to public health

The EU-US Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) talks have risen rapidly up the political agenda this year. If accepted TTIP would not just be another agreement on easing trade barriers, it involves harmonising regulatory systems, which could mean a watering down of EU protective standards. HEAL is part of a coalition of environment and health NGOs opposed to the inclusion of the investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS).

HEAL's Deputy Director Anne Stauffer has spoken extensively on concerns that the deal would undermine the precautionary principle and EU chemicals policies. Letters have been sent to EU Commissioner for Trade, Karel de Gucht and US-Ambassador Michael Fromann.


CHEMTrust
HEAL
TTIP – how the EU-US trade talks could harm our health by affecting chemicals regulation
EU-US negotiations on a trade agreement (called the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, 'TTIP', or the Trans-Atlantic Free Trade Agreement, 'TAFTA') have been criticised for their lack of transparency and little involvement of civil society.[1] Concerns have been raised relating the potential weakening of existing standards and democratic procedures. This briefing deals with the threat to undermine EU chemicals regulation.

A joint briefing by HEAL and CHEM Trust in March 2014 (above) gives the reasons why TTIP is not a typical trade agreement, and shows the differences in EU and US chemicals regulation, with a much weaker system in the US.

Fracking: safety first!

HEAL's speeches, letters, policy papers and press releases on shale gas extraction (a controversial gas and oil mining process, known as fracking) achieved an early policy success. MEPs voted to include fracking in the revision of the EU's Environmental Impact Assessment Directive. Disappointingly, however, the plenary vote in December 2013 called only for "voluntary" measures.



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Lisette van Vliet, HEAL (shown above holding the banner from the right) joined others to call for "No fracking in Europe" outside of the EU Commission buildings on 22 January 2013.

Film festival hears film celebrity's concerns

Leading US actor, Sean Penn was heard as the narrator in "The Human Experiment" at this year's Paris environmental film festival (FIFE 2014). Sean Penn's film was one of three films screened and debated during the "Health and Environment" day at the festival, which was sponsored by HEAL.





Nadia Bennich, whilst at Fundacion Vivosano (now with HEAL) hosted a debate on her film "In Small print" with Pauline Berthellemy, from Réseau Environnement Santé (RES), and Génon K. Jensen, HEAL.

santé et environnement

Enpartenariat avec HEAL, Alliance pour la Santé et l'Environnement
www.env-health.org



Vendredi 7 • 13h45 • s.2

Qui me déranGe
tHiSCoLourtHat BotHerS me
khardiata Pouye
sénégal • 2012 • 26' • vostf

AuSénégal, de nombreuses femmes se dépigmentent pour avoir une peau plus claire, sans mesurer les conséquences de cet acte sur leur santé.

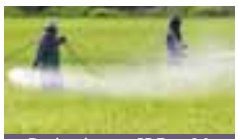
renContre
Cosmétiques et santé
Unerencontre surles problèmes sanitaires liés aux cosmétiques et aux diktats actuels en matière de beauté.
Avec Anne Barre (Women in Europe for a Common Future), Genon K. Jensen (HEAL), Claudine Reinhard (Wala France – Dr. Hauschka) et Carole Tawema (Karethic).



Vendredi 7 • 10h15 • s.2
samedi 8 • 12h30 • s.3

tHe Human exPeriment

donHardy & dana nachman
états-unis • 2013 • 52' • vostf
Au quotidien,noussommes de plus en plus exposés aux pollutions chimiques, mais l'ampleur des enjeux économiques rend le combat contre les industriels inégal.



+ Projection en IDF p. 21

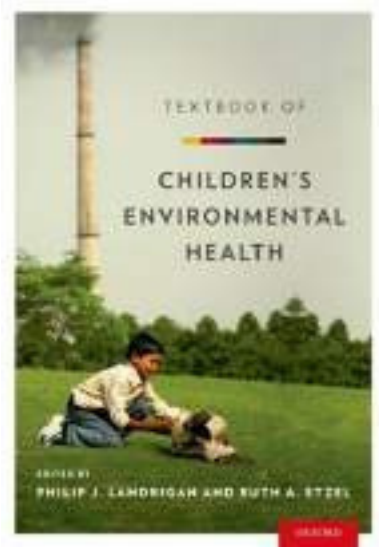
Vendredi 7 • 12h15 • s.2
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in small Print
La Letra pequeña

nadiael Bennich
espagne • 2012/2013 • 75' • vostf
Ilya quelque chose d'invisible dans notre nourriture, nos cosmétiques ou les jouets de nos enfants, dont l'impact sur notre santé peut être grave.

Reaching future messengers?

The world's first-ever textbook on "Children's Environmental Health" will help take the history of Europe's successes to a new generation of doctors and clinical practitioners thanks to a chapter by HEAL's Genon K. Jensen and Diana G. Smith.
The Oxford University Press publication is aimed at students of public health and environmental science.



Climate and energy

Success in highlighting the external costs to health from air pollution caused by coal power generation in Germany, Poland, UK and Romania; health summit at the UN climate talks showed HEAL's rapid and consistent progress in building a voice on coal and health at the national level.

This year, support for HEAL's position on the co-benefits for health of climate action has greatly increased through national activities to promote the findings of the ground-breaking report: "The Unpaid Health Bill: How coal power plants make up sick".

Thanks to the translation of HEAL's report into German, Polish and Romanian, and the promotion of figures on costs in the United Kingdom, these countries now have at their disposal the economic analysis on health costs related to coal power. This is being used at the national level for energy decisions and for further deliberations on the EU 2030 climate and energy package.

Coal and health: creating a debate across Europe

GERMANY
24 April 2013: Coal's health bill in Germany: up to 6 million EUR annually**, Berlin**
13 June 2013: Meeting of local communities in coal mining region, **Buir, Nordrhein-Westfalen**
12 September 2013: Health impacts of coal highlighted at doctor's training session, **Pulheim, Nordrhein-Westfalen**
27 September 2013: Polish-German conference on impact of coal pollution on health, **Guben/Gubin**
8 November 2013: Hearing at the state Parliament of Nordrhein-Westfalen, **Düsseldorf**
12 December 2013: Hearing on expansion of lignite mine, **Cottbus, Nordrhein-Westfalen**
18 February 2014: Meeting on how health insurers could profit from phasing out coal, **Aachen 24 February 2014:** The return of coal: German TV documentary, screened on prime time **German TV, Hamburg**

POLAND
24 May 2013: Conference on children's environmental health, **Legnica**
3 June 2013: First-ever assessment of health costs from coal burning launched in **Poland, Warsaw 26 – 30 August 2013:** HEAL reaches out to health and medical experts on air pollution, **Warsaw**
15 November 2013: European Greens' conference Citizens Energy, **Warsaw**
16 November 2013: Climate and Health Summit, **Warsaw**
29 November 2013: Air quality conference: Coal combustion's impact on health, **Lubin (Western Poland)**
7 February 2014: Expert workshop on health impacts of domestic coal combustion, **Warsaw 10 March 2014:** Conference on 'New legislation in the fight for clean air', **Krakow**

UNITED KINGDOM
5 December 2013: HEAL briefing: 'What does coal cost health in the UK?' **London**
1-2 March 2014: Healthy Planet UK Conference, **London**

BELGIUM
Continuous: HEAL works to educate decision-makers on the health costs of coal pollution in Europe, and policy changes needed, for example on the Transitional National Plans, **Brussels**
27 November 2013: One of three lectures on the impacts of fossil fuels by HEAL member Inter-Environnement Wallonie, **Liège**

FRANCE
March 2013: HEAL Member C2DS participates in national energy date, **France**

ROMANIA
9 December 2013: Press conference on coal's health bill in Romania: up to 6 million EUR annually, **Bucharest**

TURKEY
26 June 2013: Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) speaks at the Global Power Shift conference, **Istanbul**

Initiating national public debates

By makingknown nationalfigures onthe health costsof coal power generation in Germany and Poland, HEAL succeeded in launching a public debate and strong media coverage in these two countries. This prompted medical and scientific representatives to become more vocal in policy discussions as agents of change.



Polish version

In Poland, thanks to a letter to the city mayor and media coverage, HEAL contributed to Kraków becoming the first city in Europe to issue a complete ban on the domestic burning of coal and wood.

The ***German Medical Journal*** made crystal clear what HEAL's work was achieving at the national level in the following headline:
"Healtheffectsfromcoalpower plants:New study has fuelled debate."

In an interview with a Krakow daily newspaper, circulation over 400,000, HEAL's Lukasz Adamkiewicz was asked why he thought health arguments on coal were not yet being taken into account. He answered:

"It seems strange because very good research carried out by Professor Wieslaw Jędrychowski of the Medical College in Krakow has found that the contamination (by pollutants from coal in the air) affects infants. They have a smaller head circumference than in less polluted areas and this in turn can affect their intellectual potential."

Source: The study that opens our eyes, Gazeta Wyborcza, Krakow, 23 October 2013

Engaging health experts in Poland

Poland is Europe's biggest user of coal and one of HEAL's priority countries. In February 2014, HEAL hosted an expert workshop with medical professionals and health experts on the domestic use of coal in Poland. The productive meeting resulted in five participant organisations: Military Institute of Medicine; Polish Federation of Associations of Asthma, Allergy and COPD; Warsaw University of Technology, Faculty of Environmental Engineering; Institute of Environmental Protection - National Research Institute; National Institute of Public Health - National Institute of Hygiene; European Medical Students' Association expressing interest in producing joint materials on health implications of domestic coal burning aimed at building capacity among health and medical experts.

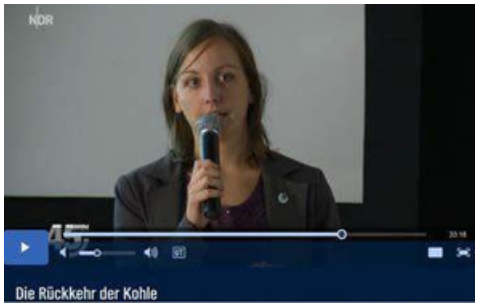
Putting Germany on the spot

Germany is the second target country for HEAL's activities as it plans to build several new coal power plants. Germany's coal power plants are associated with health costs of more than €6 billion per year.

On 24 April 2013, HEAL launched the German version of report The Unpaid Health Bill with a press conference in Berlin. Media coverage featured in Die Welt, a leading national daily newspaper, and in Spiegel online, the leading weekly. The report was featured in over 50 articles in national and regional media.



In February 2014, HEAL's senior coal and health officer Julia Huscher appeared in a documentary filmed on the health impacts of coal power plants, which was shown on prime time television across German on the TV channel ARD.



HEAL took its work beyond the capital in Germany with advocacy work and outreach to health professionals in the key German states of Nordrhein-Westfalen and Brandenburg. Presentations and training were given to medical professionals and health insurance providers and at selected conferences.

HEAL recognised in Turkey

In September 2013, HEAL's Senior Coal and Health Officer Julia Huscher (second from right in below photo) was personally selected out of thousands to participate in global conference in Istanbul, Turkey on coal power. This showed a clear recognition for HEAL's strategy in promoting health harm from coal.



UK briefing reached the top

In December 2013, ahead of an important debate on the future of coal in the UK House of Commons, HEAL published a briefing with the health costs in the UK associated with air pollution from coal power plants. The findings appeared in coverage in most of the UK daily newspapers.

Guardian headline, December 2013

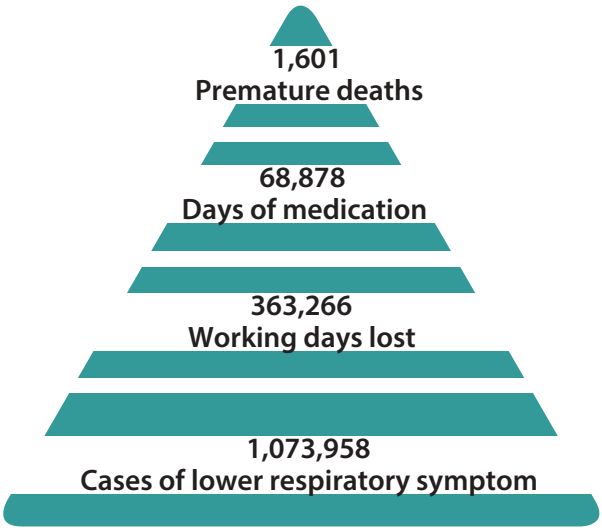
Charity says coal-burning kills 1,600 a year as MPs vote on tighter controls



HEAL's Executive Director Génon K. Jensen presents HEAL's Unpaid Health Bill to the Prince of Wales at an event (well timed with the launch of the UK briefing) on health and climate in London in December 2013, supported by HEAL member Torben Sigsgaard, from the European Respiratory Society.

THE HEALTH HARM FROM COAL TRIANGLE

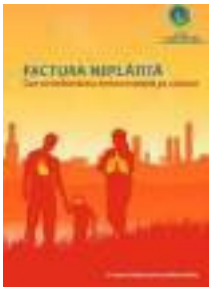
Annual health impacts caused in UK by coal power plants:



£1 to 3 billion per year
total health costs

Source: HEAL briefing: What does coal cost health in the United Kingdom? December, 2013

Romania launch feeds national strategy



A press briefing in Bucharest on 9 December 2013 launched the Romanian version of the report. Activities were stimulated by a request from several national organisations. The discussions have fed into discussions on the Romanian national energy strategy.

Thirteen articles were published in Romania following the press conference. Media outlets included Agerpress and several energy and economic news agencies for Romanian audiences.

International advocacy

UN climate talks

The UN Climate Conference (UNFCCC COP19) in Warsaw, Poland in November 2013 provided HEAL with an opportunity to promote the important benefits for health of strong action to mitigate climate change.

Prior to the meeting, HEAL wrote to WHO Director General Margaret Chan with partners urging the WHO to bring the positive health message to both health ministries and climate negotiators across the globe: the "co-benefits" to health of tackling both chronic diseases and climate change are increasingly well known, and benefit both people and planet.

Génon K. Jensen was invited to speak on the panel for an official COP19 side event organised by WHO Europe which took place the day after the Health and Climate Summit (see below).. Génon spoke alongside representatives of the health ministries of Poland, the UK, the EU Commission, German Development cooperation and others.

She gave special emphasis to the benefits for health of reducing air pollution by phasing out coal in energy production and welcomed the support of the WHO in helping health ministries from the African Region to participate in the climate negotiations.

The Summit for health

HEAL was a local convening partner of the **Climate and Health Summit** on 16 November 2013. Organised by the Global Climate and Health Alliance (GCHA) with the World Medical Association and supported by the WHO, it attracted 250 participants and emphasised the urgent need to prioritise the protection and promotion of health within global and national policy responses to climate change.



Executive Director Génon K. Jensen outlined her thoughts on a political roadmap for the international health community towards COP21 in Paris in 2015.

HEAL's senior coal and health officer Julia Huscher addressed the Summit on the links between air pollution, energy and health, focusing on the co-benefits to health and highlighting



HEAL's activities on coal and health. She opened the session with an inspirational video from HEAL partner, Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA), Australia, on the human cost of coal. (snapshot from film left).

HEAL ensured that the health impacts of coal were evident in Poland at the COP19 climate talks by stimulating articles in the Outreach – the COP19 magazine and Climate News Network, which provides journalists with climate science news. HEAL was quoted from the event in the Guardian Green blog.



The HEAL team in Poland took part in **"Cough for coal" activities**. With a huge number of other civil society groups, HEAL supported the Cough4coal campaign, to which Julia Huscher provided health expertise. One of the stunts was to bring a giant pair of inflatable pink lungs to the building where a World Coal Summit was taking place in parallel to COP19. The action appeared in leading European media including The Guardian, the Irish Times, National Geographic, Sueddeutsche, and on Chinese Central television.



Above: Adam Pawlak, Jola Adamkiewicz, Julia Huscher, Génon K. Jensen and Lucy Mathieson (HEAL)



Right and below: Isobel Braithwaite, Healthy Planet UK takes part in the action



European health and coal campaign on Facebook

A month before COP19 on the occasion of the Global Day of Action against Coal in October 2013, HEAL launched a coal and health Facebook page to encourage individuals to share their personal stories on how coal is affecting their health. During COP19, this page was updated regularly.



Strength through partnership

HEAL aims to put health at the centre of the EU 2030 climate and energy policy because harm from climate will fall heavily on human health - and mitigation action will promote health.

HEAL works closely with partners in Europe on climate advocacy for example, in this action (below) where leading NGOs including HEAL called on the EU to put climate ambition back on track with what its citizens – and science – are calling for. This partnership event included a joint letter to German Chancellor Angela Merkel and energy minister Siegmar Gabriel on the package in February 2014.

More formally, HEAL is part of WHO's newly-formed Health in Climate (HIC) network and has continued to work closely with Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe, the Green10, Global Climate and Health Network as well as our members and partners to bring health to the centre of discussions.



Air quality

A dramatic growth in new scientific evidence of the harm to health from air pollution gave HEAL much material for policy dialogue; more medical professionals in member organisations took action.

The EU Air Quality package has the potential to improve health for millions of children and communities in Europe. As a member of the EU's expert group on air quality, HEAL worked throughout the year to gather support for its policy demands in collaboration with many health and environmental organisations.

Three key demands:

1. Ambitious emission reduction commitments in the revised National Emissions Ceilings (NEC) Directive including black carbon and methane
2. Sectoral legislation to cut emissions from all major sources
3. Enforcement and strengthening of EU ambient air quality limit values to bring them in line with WHO health standards



Supportive MEPs demonstrated with the pink inflatable lungs in front of the Strasbourg parliamentary buildings in December 2013. They were calling for the release of the EU Clean Air Package with the help of the giant lungs brought back from the UN COP19 climate summit in Warsaw. The EU published its proposals a few days later. The photo was published in the European Voice.

HEAL shares findings of a research boom

Research evidence on the harm to health from exposure to air pollution expanded almost weekly. First came the news from the global burden of disease assessment that air pollution now ranks 11th in Western Europe. WHO's cancer agency, IARC then released a statement confirming that exposure to air pollution is a risk factor for both lung and liver cancer. Then the science review of WHO showed effects of air pollution at lower concentration levels and links to new conditions, such as diabetes and impacts on children's development.

Expert witnesses speak to Parliament



Leading scientists on air quality and health, including Professor Bert Brunekreef, Dr Roberto Bertollini, World Health Organization (right), and patient group representatives told a joint event in the European Parliament in March 2013 how lung conditions are aggravated by air pollution. The event, **'Spotlight on Clean Air'**, organised by HEAL, European Respiratory Society and European Lung Foundation, brought together MEPs and representatives from both the Commission and the Lithuanian EU presidency to discuss the future EU clean air package.



Genon K. Jensen highlighted HEAL's concerns at a breakfast hosted by the European Voice, where the White book on Lung Health in Europe was launched. The White Book was published by HEAL mem- bers European Respiratory Society (ERS) and European Lung Foundation (ELF), and HEAL helped to promote the findings.





Maximising the impact of research projects

HEAL's press release on the launch of the WHO REVIHAAP results on health effects of air pollution attracted interest from a leading leading British newspaper, the Guardian.

TIPS ON REDUCING YOUR CHILD'S EXPOSURE

Checking the daily air quality forecasts for your city or town (e.g. http://watch.eyeonearth.org/). Use this information to plan your child's activities.

Avoiding outdoor activities near busy roads especially during rush hour. Consider alternative routes with lower levels of pollution.

When pollution levels are high, for example in the summer because of ozone, avoid energetic outdoor activities or by encouraging your child to do them in the morning or late in the evening and keeping windows closed.

In February 2014, HEAL worked with the EU funded research ESCAPE project (European Study of Cohorts for Air Pollution Effects) to launch four patient information leaflets on lung disease; cardiovascular disease; lung cancer; and, children's asthma and allergies.


INFORMATION LEAFLET:

PATIENTS WITH LUNG DISEASE

AIR POLLUTION AND LUNG HEALTH

New findingsfromtheEU-wide research project'European Study of Cohorts for Air Pollution Effects' (ESCAPE) make raising awareness of the effects on health of exposure to air pollution even more urgent. This leaflet developed by the ESCAPE project in collaboration with the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) explains the latest news on the links between outdoor air pollution and lung disease: chronic bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and adult asthma. It also provides prevention tips for patients to achieve a healthier future.

WHAT DOES THE LATEST RESEARCH SHOW?

HEAL
Promoting environmental policy that contributes to good health

ESCAPE

The EU-wide ESCAPE project found that the ability of human lungs to function well is affected by exposure to air pollution. The number of new cases of reduced lung function and COPD is directly related to how close people live to busy roads and to levels of chemical compounds known as nitrogen oxide (NO_x) and nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) in the air. Although the results were less clear on chronic bronchitis and asthma, this does not imply that poor air quality does not have an impact on these conditions.

The research showed the inhalable particles in the air (PM_{10}) to be of greatest concern. A significant association was established between exposure to higher levels of PM_{10} in the air and the number of people developing COPD.

The quality of outdoor air is crucial to children's health and lives. Cleaner air would allow children to spend more time playing outside.

MEDIA COVERAGE

In the UK's Guardian (4 July 2013),
Anne Stauffer HEAL Deputy Director said the results were:

"A wake-up call for decision-makers in Europe to take air pollution more seriously. The new findings provide evidence-based science that EU policies are inadequate. Twice as many people suffer from asthma today compared to 30 years ago".

Chemicals

Successes included establishing an EDC-Free Europe network, one-to-one access to top policy makers, and significant media coverage. Specific "wins" related to the REACH authorisation process.



Pushing for proper control of EDCs

The objective this year was to push for the EU to set criteria and launch its strategy on endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs). In May 2013, HEAL wrote to the President of the EU Commission José Manuel Barroso and to EU Commissioners for Industry and Enterprise, Environment, and Health. However, it soon became clear that a full impact assessment would be carried out before the launch of a policy proposal. Throughout the year, HEAL was in contact with cabinet officials and desk officers to present our concerns on the deliberations and urge for quick EU action.

HEAL also asked for a meeting with EU Commission President José Manuel Barroso on behalf of the EDC-Free Europe coalition. A member of his cabinet came down from her office to receive the letter during an action outside the Commission building in November 2013.

EDC-Free Europe grows apace

Since HEAL launched the EDC-Free campaign in July 2013, it has swelled to over 50 organisations from 16 countries. Over 39,000 hits on the "Take Action" photos page has provided images identifying everyday products that individuals suspect contain EDCs with the banner 'Is this disrupting me?' The first photos were made into a collage for an action outside the EU Commission in November 2013.





The photo collage of President Barroso shows him making an "all OK" sign – this was in the hope that he would respond positively in supporting urgent action on EDCs to reduce human exposure, particularly in products used by the most vulnerable, such as babies and pregnant women.

THE PARLIAMENT
POLITICS, POLICY AND PEOPLE MAGAZINE

Following the action, an article entitled 'Commission delay over endocrine disruptors 'prolonging public exposure' was published in The Parliament Magazine. This journal is widely read in EU policy circles. The article was tweeted to the magazine's 13,000 Twitter followers, including many MEPs, distributed to 8,000 readers via the Daily Bulletin, and is now searchable on the website. At about the same time, HEAL's Senior Chemicals Officer Lisette van Vliet was quoted in Chemical Watch's monthly briefing highlighting the urgent need for the EU to act on EDCs.

Making REACH chemicals law work for public health

In June 2013, HEAL participated in the committee of Europe's chemical agency (ECHA) which identified six chemicals, including EDCs to be placed on Europe's list of most harmful chemicals and to be strictly controlled in the REACH system.

On 12 March 2014, ECHA's Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) adopted an opinion proposing to reclassify bisphenol A (BPA) from "suspected" to "presumed human reproductive toxicant".

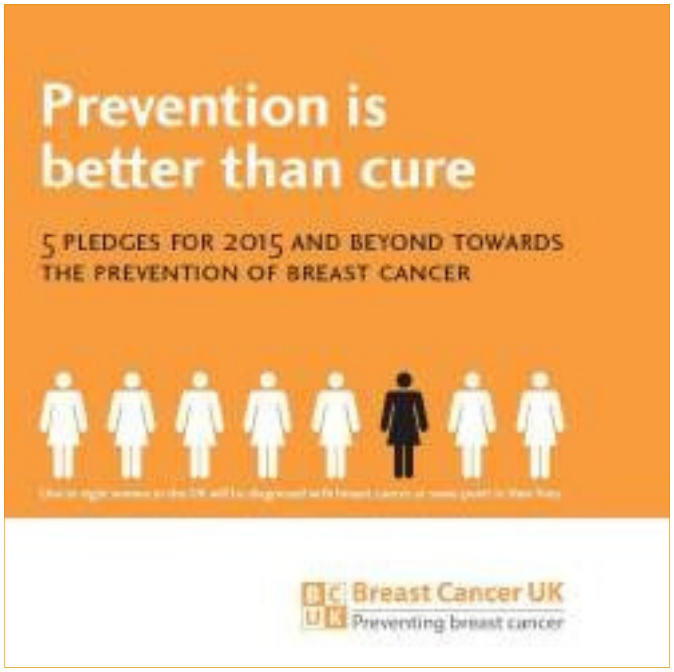
Another triumph came with HEAL's initiative of a critique in ECHA's RAC. At the meeting in November, Senior Chemicals Officer Lisette van Vliet said that said that the practice of identifying safe levels for reproductive toxicants was outdated since some substances are assessed because of their EDCs properties. If this debate is won, it will improve the outcome of the REACH review of EDC authorisation.

There was also good news to share with members on brominated flame retardants (BFRs). First, the industry-proposed standard on the use of BFRs in televisions had been rejected in Europe. Second, a standard set in California in the 1970s requiring BFRs in many products (to serve as a "flame retardant" but offering no additional security) had now officially been corrected. This would open the market for BFR-free products around the world.

National support

In the UK, HEAL signed up to a manifesto on breast cancer prevention produced by member, Breast Cancer UK. It calls on the UK government to stop breast cancer before it starts and highlights the role of chemicals in breast cancer. Twitter activity by Alliance for Cancer Prevention brought a reaction on EDCs from Cancer Research UK, which has 121,000 followers. ACP gave HEAL and others the opportunity to join the discussion.

SEPSAS, a public health society in **Spain** with 3,800 members released a press release drawing on HEAL materials. HEAL promoted an English translation and it was featured in Chemical Watch.



chemicals ▸ health ▸ monitor

The Chemicals Health Monitor project aims to increase environmental and health protection by raising awareness among health and environmental groups, journalists and the general public on hazardous chemicals, especially on endocrine disruptors, and on how EU policy needs to be strengthened.

CHM turns attention to Germany



This year, HEAL translated and promoted several key materials into German. One was a briefing on scientific evidence of harm to health from EDCs ("Hormonell wirksame Chemikalien – das sagt die Wissenschaft") released in November 2013. It provides support for scientists and others who want to become engaged in EU policy deliberations on EDCs. The briefing includes a translation of the Berlaymont Declaration and the position of the Collegium Ramazzini, two scientific documents on EDCs, both of which call for an EU policy change. When the Berlaymont Declaration by over 80 leading scientists was published in May 2013, HEAL voiced support with a press release.

In December 2013, HEAL's leaflet on chemicals, diabetes and obesity was launched as "Chemische Substanzen in Lebensmitteln und Konsumguetern – das fehlende Glied in der Kette?"

HEAL's former project coordinator for the Chemical Health Monitor Germany (CHM) Angela Franz-Balsen networked with journalists at the Wissenwerte conference in November 2013. It is one of the largest conferences of journalists in Germany.



Disease prevention and our environment – bridging the science policy divide

2013hasseen a substantialincrease inresearch findings on how environmentalpollution andthe degradation of our environment is linked to disease and ill-health. Greater environmental action can help to prevent many diseases and health problems confronting today's societies. Here are some examples showing how HEAL has drawn on cutting-edge environmental health research to make the health case for more protective environmental policies in Europe.

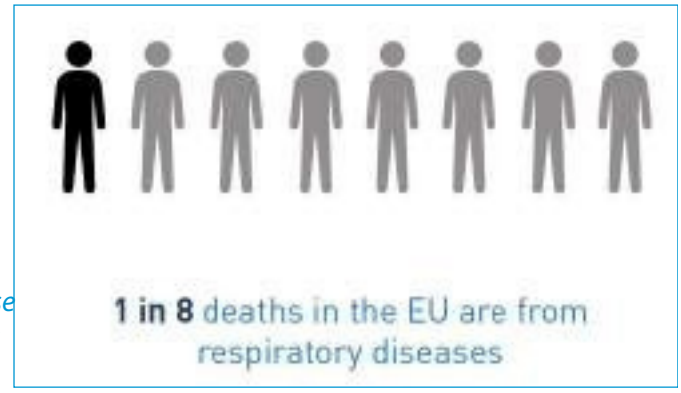
Respiratory

Asthma

School children exposed to higher levels of nitrogen dioxide, black carbon and fine particles had a lower lung function than other children.

This and other findings of the EU-funded ESCAPE project have been used widely by HEAL in media work and with policy-makers.

HEAL members, European Respiratory Society (ERS) and European Lung Foundation (ELF) published Lung Health in Europe, Facts and Figures. in December 2013. "Living close to a busy road increases a child's risk of developing asthma" was one of its findings.



Chronic lung disease and cancer and cardiovascular disease

Outdoor air pollution is a leading environmental cause of cancer deaths.

The World Health Organization's (WHO) International Agency on Cancer Research (IARC) has classified outdoor air pollution as carcinogenic to humans. IARC concludes that there is sufficient evidence that exposure to outdoor air pollution causes lung cancer, and there is also an association to bladder cancer. This finding has been important to HEAL's advocacy work.

The majority of Europeans in cities breathe in air that the WHO considers harmful to health. Health costs from airpollution in the European Union amount to up to 900billion EUR a year, according to the EU Commission.

Source: New policy package to clean up Europe's air, EU Commission press release, 18 December 2013

The Lancet medical journal recognised the growing evidence on particular diseases in an article on 16 March 2013 about HEAL's report "The unpaid health bill – How coal is making us sick".

A large body of evidence exists for short-term and long-term effects on cardiovascular diseases and respiratory diseases—including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, and lung cancer. Newly emerging evidence suggests possible effects on premature births, lung-function development in children, and accelerated progression of atherosclerosis and cognitive impairment.


Editorial

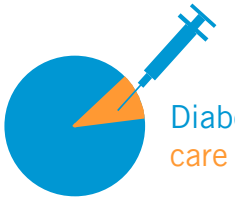
Air pollution: Europe's avoidable health risk

© HEAL

Obesity and diabetes

Some chemicals promote weight gain, and an association exists between our contamination with persistent pollutants and diabetes.





Diabetes absorbs up to 10% of health care budgets in some EU countries



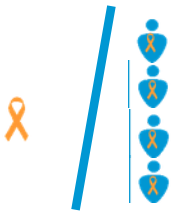
Over half the adult population in the EU is overweight or obese

CHEM Trust's review on environmental prevention of obesity and diabetes showed that these two conditions are not only the result of poor diet and lack of exercise. Exposure to hormone disrupting chemicals, including "obesogens", also play a role. In December, HEAL translated the brochure based on the CHEM Trust review for new contacts developed as part of the Chemical Health Monitor project. The list includes several hundred German journalists who expressed interest in HEAL's work during our participation the largest environmental conference for journalists in Germany.

Cancer

Prostate cancer risks were in some studies related to occupational exposures to pesticides (of an unidentified nature), to certain PCBs and to arsenic.

A joint statement, known as the Berlaymont Declaration, signed by 89 scientists, links exposure to endocrine disruptors to breast, prostate, thyroid, endometrium, ovarian and testicular cancer.
With the exception of high prevalence countries such as The Netherlands and Austria, all EU countries are experiencing strong rises in prostate cancer. Similar trends exist for other hormonal cancers, including those of the testes, endometrium, ovaries and thyroid.



Prostate cancer represents one in four of all cancers diagnosed in men

HEAL has promoted the Berlaymont Declaration widely in direct discussions with policy makers, media releases, its newsletter and social media. Lisette van Vliet, HEAL's senior policy advisor on chemicals appeared in Euractiv article.

Rising levels of cancer along with increasing brain, thyroid and reproductive problems have led an international group of scientists to call for tougher EU regulation on some chemicals used in everyday life.

Brain damage

The number of chemicals known to be toxic to children's developing brains has doubled over the last seven years.

In February 2014, Lancet Neurology released a major new review of the chemicals that are contributing to "a global, silent pandemic" of disorders of brain and nervous system (from clinical manifestations of **autism spectrum disorder, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, dyslexia, all the way to subclinical decrements in brain function**). The authors considered current chemical regulations worldwide to be woefully inadequate to safeguard children whose developing brains are uniquely vulnerable to toxic chemicals in the environment.

HEAL made the findings available with policy quotes, links to the huge media coverage in US and EU press, and suggestions for tweets and Facebook posts to its members and to HEAL "Children" and "Chemicals" listserves. It was also provided to two HEAL members, Women in Europe for a Common Future and PAN Europe, who were joint organisers of a meeting "Protecting children from EDCs" taking place in Brussels the same week.

The prevalence of autistic disorders is currently around one in 500

HEAL's communications at a glance

HEAL's communicationshascontinuedtogrowtremendouslyoverthelastyear,particularly in the realm of social media and national press coverage.

838 tweets, doubled from 2012

@HealthandEnv
@EDCFree

653 new Twitter followers = **2132 in total**



HEAL launched the **EDC-Free Europe** Twitter account in 2013

599 new subscribers to HEAL's newsflash

10 newsletter editions during the reporting year

11 articles for other magazines

56,570 visits to the HEAL website 30% increase from 2012

120 news articles and **111** features on HEAL's members



MEP Satu Hassi mentioned HEAL work on coal to more than 4,000 followers in her home country of Finland:

@Green_Europe: Anne Stauffer @HealthandEnv on coal-fired emissions, health impacts in Europe cost up to €42.8 billion a/v EUGreenWeek

- Participation in **43** stakeholder meetings
- **59** written submissions to EU Institutions
- **20** conferences and events organised
- Active participation at **24** events and conferences
- **5** replies to stakeholder consultations

Two new dedicated Facebook pages EDC-Free Europe and HEAL's European coal and health campaign



504 more likes on HEAL's Facebook page

35 new communications materials published including books, brochures, toolkits, guidelines and videos

HEAL in the press

National coverage

Coverage in national press has been much greater than in previous years due to European capital city launches of national figures such as the health costs of coal-fired power stations in countries including the UK, Germany, Poland and Romania.

HEAL quoted **six times in Euractiv**, the leading online media on EU affairs. Euractiv reaches 660,000 qualified readers with an average of at least 2.8 visits per month.

In the UK, HEAL figures which coincided with discussions on coal in the House of Lords appeared in around 20 articles including seven UK dailies - The Guardian, Herald Scotland, Yorkshire Post and Jersey Evening Post with small items in The Sun, The Mirror and Metro.

This coverage prompted a UK MP to request a copy of the full report. UK Environment Agency's Lord Chris Smith had already used HEAL figures to criticise the "dash for coal".

Medical press coverage

This also increased with articles during the past year in the World Medical Journal, The Lancet, British Medical Journal, the German Deutsches Ärzteblatt, and Poland's Practice Medicine.

EU coverage

Sources of independent news for EU policy makers include Euractiv, Parliament Magazine, ENDS Europe (environmental news service), and Chemical Watch, all of which gave at least one mention to HEAL during the course of the year.

Over **200** media articles published during reporting period



How HEAL can spread the word

Scientific statements from partners and members can be quickly distributed to a wide range of EU policy makers and health advocates in the European health and environment community.

The statement on Infant/Young Child Feeding and Chemical Residues by the International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN) was reviewed and then shared the same day on HEAL's Chemicals listserve as well as featuring on our website, newsletter and posted on the EDC-Free website and Facebook pages. It was tweeted and re-tweeted by several HEAL members. Thanks to this promotion, Chemical Watch published an article, taking the news to expert EU policy makers in the EU Commission, and to industry. In the US it featured in CHE's (Collaborative on health and the environment) monthly newsletter.

Membership: Who does HEAL represent?



HEAL has over 65 members in 25 countries. Our broad alliance represents health professionals, non-profit health insurers, doctors, nurses, cancer and asthma groups, citizens, women's groups, youth groups, environmental NGOs, scientists and public health research institutes. Members include international and Europe-wide organisations, as well as national and local groups.

- **Action for Breast Cancer Foundation (ABCF)** is an NGO always at the forefront of advocating for the rights of patients with breast cancer. (Malta)
- **AKUT** is a NGO working on environmental toxicology and related health effects. (Luxembourg)
- **Appel de la jeunesse, Collectif (A2J)** is an NGO aiming to improve health through public policy and promoting a cleaner and healthier environment. (France)
- **Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE)** is an NGO raising awareness of the issue of environmental pollution in Armenia and assisting to decrease the risks of environmental impacts including climate change, and promote a healthy lifestyle and environment. (Armenia)
- **Association for Environmental Health** is a NGO protecting both natural and human environment as well as people's health. (Hungary)
- **Association for Research on Treatment against Cancer (ARTAC)** conducts cancer research and contributes to its prevention by the analysis of possible environmental causes. (France)
- **Association Internationale de la Mutualité (AIM)** works to promote universal access to health care and to defend, at European and international levels, the principles underlying mutual benefit funds that unite its 59 members from 27 countries. (Belgium)
- **Breast Cancer UK** is dedicated to the primary prevention of breast cancer by reducing public exposure to the carcinogenic and hazardous chemicals in our environment and everyday products. (United Kingdom)
- **C2DS - Comité pour le Développement Durable en Santé** was set up by a group of hospitals to establish a healthcare community committed to environmentally responsible healthcare. (France)
- **Caisse Auxiliaire d'Assurance Maladie - Invalidité (CAAMI) / Hulpkas voor Ziekte- en Invaliditeitsverzekering (HZIV)** is a public institution for social security and health insurance in Belgium. (Belgium)
- **Caisse des soins de santé de la SNCB Holding (CSS)** is a public interest organisation acting as an insurance company for compulsory health insurance in Belgium. (Belgium)
- **Cancer Prevention and Education Society** aims to reduce current levels of cancer by reducing human exposure to carcinogens, particularly man-made ones. (United Kingdom)
- **Center for Reproductive Health and Environment "Perzent"** consists of more than 300 individual members aiming to improve the health and environment in the Arab Sea region through education and awareness raising. (Uzbekistan)
- **Centre for Sustainable Healthcare** works on the links between health and sustainable development. (United Kingdom)
- **Centre Local de Promotion de la Santé du Brabant Wallon** carries out health promotion activities in Wallonia, composed of public and private organisations including mutual socieites, Intercommunale social Walloon Brabant, the Red Cross, NGOs, women groups and asssociations of doctors. (Belgium)
- **CEPRO-MED Health Development Promotional and Educational Center** (Serbia)
- **Chartered Institute for Environmental Health** is a registered charity with over 10,000 members in the UK and who provides educational qualifications to push environmental health further up the public agenda. (United Kingdom)
- **Clean Air Action Group (Levegö Munkacsoport Országos Környezetvédö Szövetség)** is a public benefit organisation working to implement the most fundamental human right for people to live and be healthy with clean air. (Hungary)
- **Coalition of Associations in Healthcare (CAH)** is an alliance acting to support the non-profit sector to improve sustainability and contribute to the progress of the Croatian healthcare system. (Croatia)
- **Croatian Nurses Association** counts 3750 members representing professional nursing interests, aiming to improve their advocacy on health and environment and working with national and international institutions. (Croatia)
- **Department of Earth Sciences and Clinical Microbiology** is a joint research initiative between two universities in Sweden looking at the increased use of silver and its risks to health and the environment. (Sweden)
- **Center for Environmental Problems Solution "Eco-Accord"** works for sustainable development, environment and health justice in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and the Central Asia region. (Russia)
- **Eco-sense** is a NGO working on environmental issues to initiate positive change. (Macedonia)
- **Environment and Health Fund (EHF)** is committed to improving expertise in and expanding knowledge of environmental health in Israel to ultimately improve human health. (Israel)
- **European Academy of Environmental Medicine (EUROPAEM)** consists of 92 members across Europe to raise awareness of the different environmental reasons for illnesses in humans, for scientifically proven diagnostics and treatments. (Germany)
- **European Child Safety Alliance (ECSA)** is a network of partners in more than 30 countries across Europe working together to reduce injuries – a leading cause of inequality, disability and death in children. (United Kingdom)
- **European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations (EFA)** is a network of 35 allergy, asthma and COPD patients' organisations in 23 European countries. (Belgium)
- **European Lung Foundation (ELF)** aims to bring together patients, the public and respiratory professionals to positively influence lung health. (United Kingdom)
- **European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)** is Europe's leading NGO advocating for better health. It is a dynamic member-led organisation with 93 members from 29 countries of the European region. (Belgium)
- **European Respiratory Society (ERS)** seeks to alleviate suffering from respiratory diseases and promote lung health through research and knowledge sharing. It is the leading professional organisation in its field in Europe with some 10,000 members in over 100 countries. (Belgium)
- **Foundation for Children from the Copper Basin** helps children whose development is threatened by the intoxication caused mainly by heavy metals, especially in South-West Poland. (Poland)

- **Fundacion Vivo Sano** take a preventive approach to protecting health through education, research, public awareness and training programmes. (Spain)

- **Generations Futures** is an NGO working on environmental issues. It carries out actions to raise awareness on the risks of various types of pollution, such as chemicals and pesticides, and promotes alternatives to reduce the negative impact on health. (France)

- **German Network on Children's Health and Environment** coordinates the work of German NGOs on children's health and environment and develops training courses for health professionals. The organisation consists of individual members and NGOs. (Germany)

- **Green Doctors** is the Ukrainian branch of the International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE). (Ukraine)

- **Greens of Montenegro** is a NGO working on environmental and ecological issues at national level. (Montenegro)

- **Hygiène Publique en Hainaut** works (with the support of the Provincial Institute Hainaut Vigilance Sanitaire) on the links between the environment and health at different levels. It supports public and other stakeholder's awareness, research, training and educational action (Belgium).

- **Health and Environmental Care Technical Organization (HECTOR)** is a non-profit organisation aiming to create an intermediate platform for communication between experts, public authorities, decision-makers and GPs in emerging environmental health threats. (Belgium)

- **Initiativ Liewensufank (IL)** raises awareness of environmental issues to protect the health of babies, families and future generations. IL has more than 1000 members and is a member of the International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN) to improve the health of babies, children and their families. IBFAN is a network of 273 groups in 168 countries. (Luxembourg)

- **Inter-Environnement Wallonie (IEW)** consists of 150 members, mainly volunteers, working to protect the environment. IEW provides advice and support through its expertise, legal services and training. (Belgium)

- **International Network on Children's Health, Environment and Safety (INCHES)** is a global network of people and organisations interested in promoting the protection of children from environmental and safety hazards. (Netherlands)

- **International Society of Doctors for Environment (ISDE)** is present in 36 countries through national or regional member associations. (Switzerland)

- **Irish Doctors' Environmental Association (IDEA)** seeks to promote the right to health through public awareness raising acknowledging the potential impact of environmental conditions. (Ireland)

- **ISDE Austria - Ärtzinnen und Ärtze fur eine Gesunde Umwelt (ÄGU)** is a politically independent association of doctors working on the health impacts of environmental problems. (Austria)

- **Landsbond van Liberale Mutualiteiten (LLM) – Union Nationale des Mutualités Libérales** is a National Union overseeing the ten liberal health insurance funds in Belgium and offers compulsory and complementary health care services. (Belgium)

- **Leefmilieu** is a Dutch environmental organisation of volunteers with a focus on air quality, low frequency noise and empowering grassroots groups (Netherlands).

- **London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine** is an internationally recognised centre of excellence in public health and tropical medicine aiming to improve health worldwide. (United Kingdom)

- **Macedonian Association of Doctors for the Environment (MADE)** is an NGO member of the ISDE network, mainly organising campaigns and conferences on issues related to environmental health. (Macedonia)

- **Mutualités Libres-Onafhankelijke Ziekenfondsen (MLOZ)** are a group of six health insurance funds covering more than 2 million people in Belgium. They ensure the health of citizens through the reimbursement of health care and disability work in the context of compulsory insurance. (Belgium)

- **My right to know** is a foundation raising awareness on chemicals and diseases and their links to the environment. (Bulgaria)

- **Nationaal Verbond van Socialistische Mutualiteiten (NVSM)** enables the operation of the national compulsory health and invalidity insurance system and cooperates with health care practioners and institutions to preserve quality and accessible health care. They aim is to promote the physical, psychological and social well-being of their affiliates. (Belgium)

- **Natural England** is the UK government's advisor on the natural environment in England to ensure sustainable stewardship of the land and sea so that people and nature can thrive. (United Kingdom)

- **North of England EU Health Partnership** is an evolution of the North West Health Brussels office which explores the opportunities and impacts of EU legislation on the NHS, public health networks, academia and health related organisations. (Belgium and United K ingdom)

- **One Health Sweden** aims to raise awareness and knowledge of the connection between humans, animals and the environment, by stimulating interdisciplinary research and environmental sciences. (Sweden)

- **Own Crossroad Foundation / Válaszúton Alapítvány** mainly works on air quality and health. It raises understanding and awareness of local communities, their traditions and environmental problems. (Hungary)

- **Pediatric Cultural Association** is a NGO gathering 1500 paediatricians to enhance children's health and promote education and training. (Italy)

- **PIN Partnership-Information-Networking for Health** is a NGO to promote and implement evidence based public health policies in Croatia and in Central and Eastern European countries. (Croatia)

- **PAN Europe** is the regional centre in Europe. It was founded in 1987 and brings together consumer, public health, and environmental organisations, trades unions, women's groups and farmer associations from across 19 European countries. (Belgium)

- **Portuguese Society of Environmental Health** promotes environmental health in Portugal and in Portuguese speaking countries and Ibero-american regions. (Portugal)

- **Réseau Environnement Santé (RES)** brings together NGOs, health professionals, patients, scientists and citizens to address existing legislation and to protect health and the environment. (France)

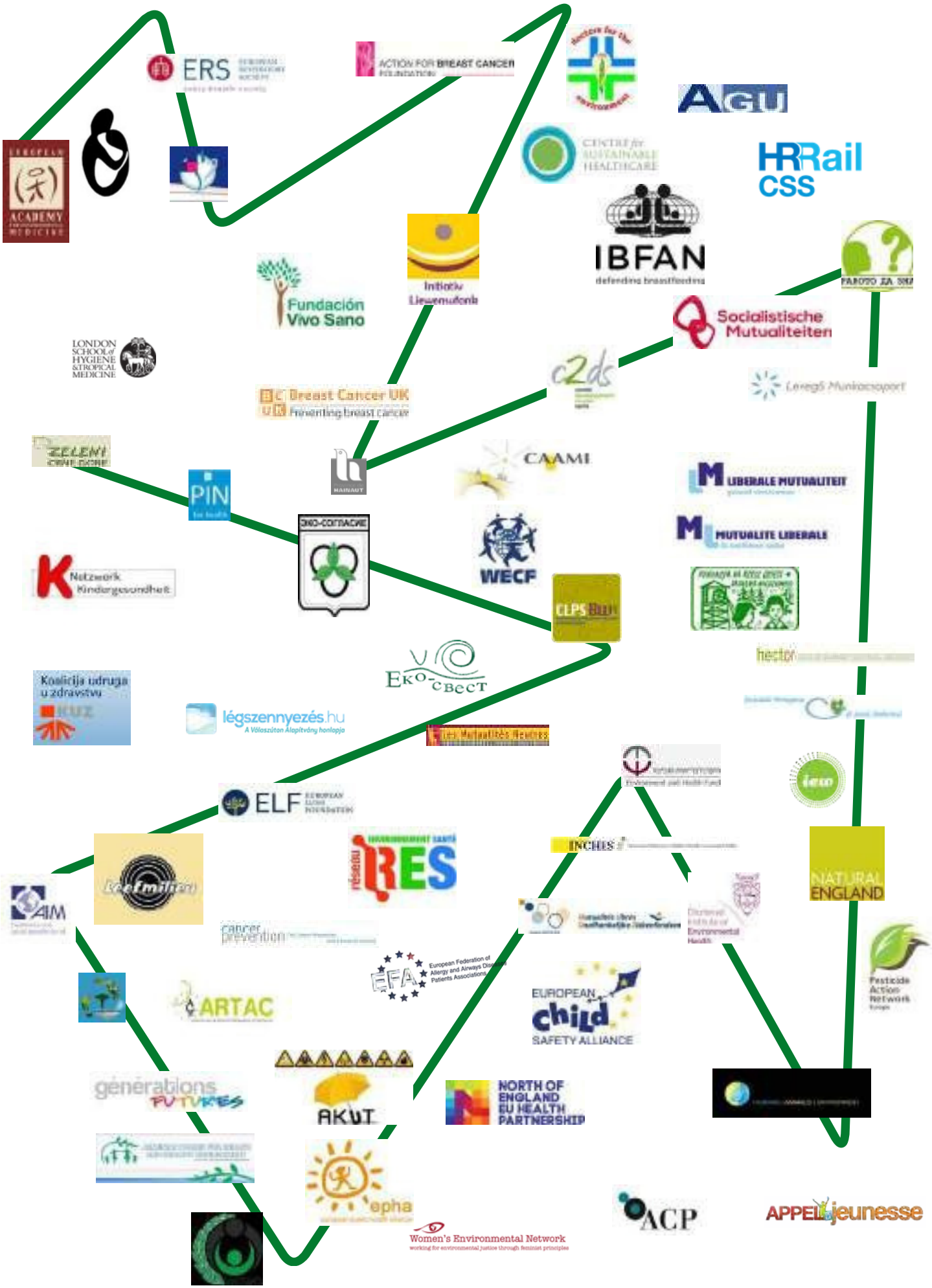
- **Stichting Ecobaby** is a NGO working on paediatric environmental medicine and supporting studies in this field as well as bringing science into the policy debate. (Netherlands)

- **Union Nationale des Mutualités Neutrés (UNMN)** enables operation of the national compulsory health and invalidity insurance system and cooperate with health care practitioners and institutions to preserve both quality and accessibility of health care. (Belgium)

- **Women for Green Way for Generations (WGWG)** contributes to the sustainable way of living, the right to be healthy and live in a healthy environment. The majority of members are representatives of the scientific community aiming to transform scientific knowledge into action. (Armenia)

- **Women's Environmental Network** represents women on campaigns linked to gender, environment and health issues. (United Kingdom)

- **Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF)** is a network of more than 100 women's and environmental organisations and individuals working for sustainable development, protection of health, the environment and poverty reduction in 40 countries. (Netherlands)


ERS
ACTION FOR BREAST CANCER
AGU
HRRail
CSS
IBFAN
defending breastfeeding
Fundación
Vivo Sano
Socialistische
Mutualiteiten
LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
&TROPICAL
MEDICINE
Breast Cancer UK
Preventing breast cancer
CAAMI
LIBERALE MUTUALITEIT
MUTUALITE LIBERALE
Netzwerk
Kindergesundheit
WECF
CLPS Brain
EKO-СВЕСТ
Koalicija udruga
u zdravstvu
légszennyezés.hu
ELF
RES
INCHES
NATURAL
ENGLAND
EFA
ARTAC
EUROPEAN
child
SAFETY ALLIANCE
générations
FUTURES
AKUT
NORTH OF
ENGLAND
EU HEALTH
PARTNERSHIP
epha
ACP
APPEL jeunesse
Women's Environmental Network

HEAL Secretariat

Our committed and inspiring team are all working to create a better, healthier environment (September 2014).



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Our work was supported by:
Bérénice Borchers, Communications Assistant
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We were sorry to say good-bye to:
Angela Franz-Balsen, Chemicals and Health Project Coordinator

HEAL gratefully acknowledges the financial support from the European Union for this publication. Sole responsibility for this publication lies with the authors. The funders are not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained herein.

Executive Committee

HEAL's work and mission is governed by its membership and advanced by the activities of our members and partners with the help of the Brussels-based Secretariat. 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 in 2012.

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.



Monika Kosinka
European Public Health Alliance (BE)



Roberta Savli
European Federation of Allergy & Airways Diseases Patients' Association (BE)



HEAL President
Petervan denHazel
International Network for Children's Health, Environment and Safety (NL)



HEAL Vice-President
Yannick Vicaire
Réseau Environnement Santé (FR)



HEAL Treasurer
David Stone
Natural England (UK)

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Irina Rodriguez de le Flor
Fundacion Vivo Sano (ES)



Marie-Christine Dewolf
Hygiène Publique en Hainaut (BE)

Finances

HEAL's activities are funded through our membership fees and grants from the European Union (EU), governments, international organisations and 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 2013 until 14 March 2014. The audit was carried out by an independent auditor's company.

INCOME	
EU grant	€ 350,462.00
Other grants (governments, foundations)	€ 335,848.01
Membership fees	€ 10,970.00
Total income	**€ 697,280.01**

EXPENDITURES	
Personnel costs	€ 465,749.79
Activity costs including subcontractors	€ 132,741.54
Travel and subsistence costs	€ 33,736.81
Administration, IT and office costs	€ 54,081.87
Total expenditure	**€ 686,310.01**

Provisions for social regulations	**€ 10,970.00**

The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) is a leading European not-for-profit organisation addressing how the environment affects health in the European Union (EU). With the support of more than 65 member organisations, HEAL brings independent expertise and evidence from the health community to different decision-making processes. Our broad alliance represents 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 research institutes. Members include international and Europe-wide organisations, as well as national and local groups.

Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)

28 Boulevard Charlemagne
B-1000 Brussels
Belgium
Website: www.env-health.org
Email: info@env-health.org

HEAL project websites:

www.env-health.org/resources/project-websites/

· Coal's unpaid health bill
· Health and environment film prize
· Chemicals Health Monitor
· Sick of Pesticides
· Know your Air for Health
· EDC-Free Europe
· Healthier Environments for Children
· Choosing our Future (comic book on harm from chemicals)
· Stay Healthy, Stop Mercury
· Climate change good practice awards
· Damp and mould information for citizens

HEAL is a member of the following expert groups and networks:

· Civil Society Contact Group
· International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN)
· EU Stakeholder Group on review of air policy
· EU Indoor air quality expert group
· EU Chemicals Agency (ECHA) Member State Committee, Management
· Board and Advisory Group on the dissemination of public information about chemical substances, and EU EDCs Strategy Ad hoc Group
· WHO European Environment and Health Task Force (EHTF)
· WHO European Working Group on Climate change and Health (HIC)

HEAL has an ongoing collaboration with the:

· Collaborative on Health and Environment (CHE)
· World Health Organisation (WHO)
· United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
· United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

HEAL
Promoting environmental policy that contributes to good health