

Promoting environmental policy that contributes to good health

Roberta Savli

Florence, 22 May 2017



HEAL

*Promoting environmental policy
that contributes to good health*

About HEAL

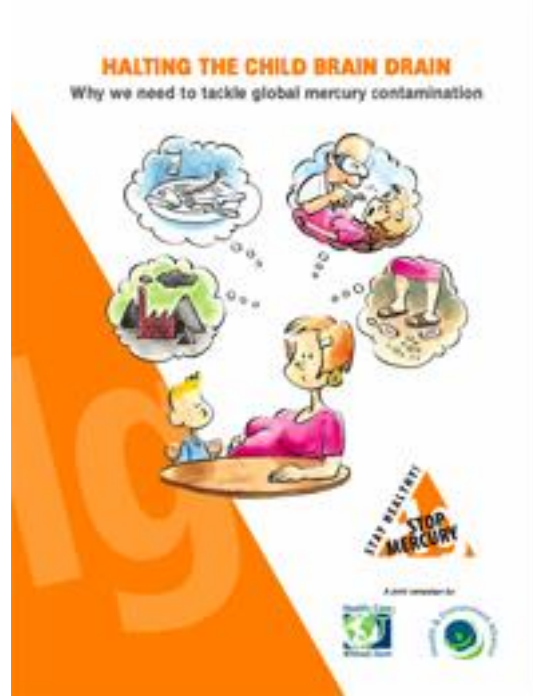
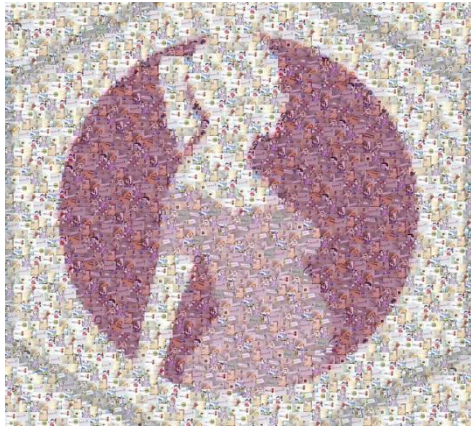
Our vision:

*A healthy planet for healthy people,
Our health depends on it*



MISSION 1

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



MISSION 2

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

**HEAL Executive Committee
2016 -2020**




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Our members

Over 75 members in > 28 countries



Doctors

Nurses

Public health research institutes

Environmental groups

Women's groups

Youth groups

Public health insurers

Scientists

Patient groups

The map shows a light green outline of Europe with various member groups labeled in blue text. A red pushpin is located in the central part of Europe, and a grey circle is located in the western part of Europe.

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Our Network – diverse and inclusive



Our global partners

Global Climate and Health Alliance

World Health Organisation

IPEN a toxic free future

World Medical Association

Chemical Assessment Health Advisory Committee

United Nations Environment Programme

Collaborative on Health and the Environment Science

Global Alliance on Health and Pollution



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MISSION 3

We help shape laws on chemicals, pesticides, air quality, climate change and energy by sharing real life stories on the health harm of pollution, and making the economic case for environments that promote health.

We focus particularly on building knowledge about the opportunities for reducing cancer, lung and heart disease, allergies and asthma, diabetes, obesity, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, autism and ADHD, genital birth defects, premature puberty and infertility.



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We are asking Members of the European Parliament to take action on chronic respiratory diseases now.

The infographic features a central illustration of human lungs in pink, surrounded by small pink flowers. To the right of the lungs, several pink puzzle pieces are arranged in a line, each labeled with a different aspect of healthcare: "Lung checks", "Support", "Research", "Diagnosis", "Allergy tests", and "Reimbursement". A pink speech bubble on the right contains the text "Our health. Their mission." Below the puzzle pieces, a dark blue banner contains the text "Sign the written declaration 115/2016 on chronic respiratory diseases." and a Twitter icon followed by the hashtag "#BreatheMission".

Sign the written declaration 115/2016 on chronic respiratory diseases. #BreatheMission

HEAL strategic objectives to 2020

- 1. PREVENT:** Target priorities
- 2. UNITE:** Bridge global and local action
- 3. COMMUNICATE:** Mobilise for healthy people and a healthy planet

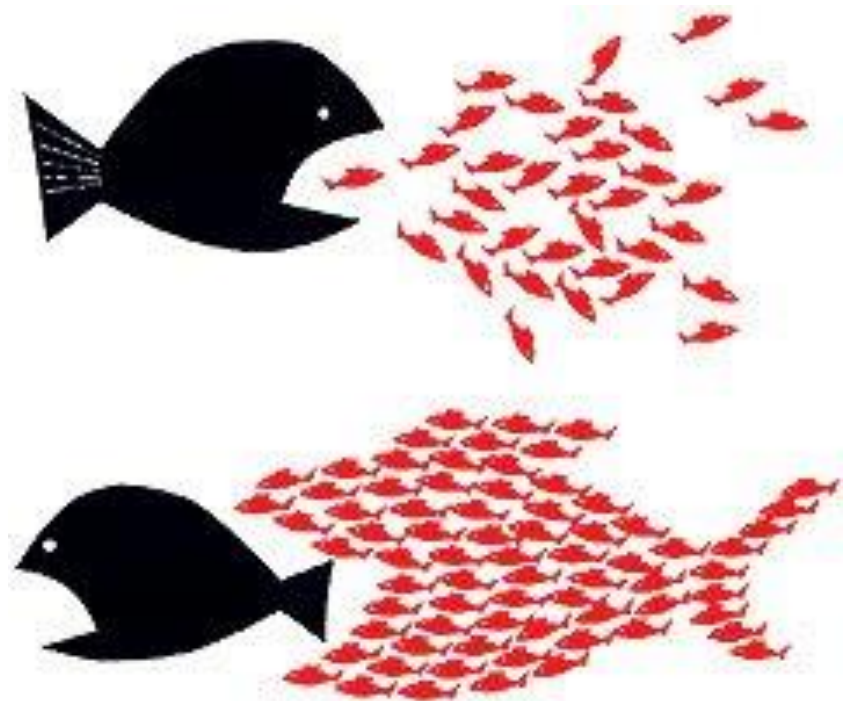


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Unite: Bridge global and local action

- Develop a **global collaborative network** of partners with fully engaged members representing all aspects of public health
- Build **strong grassroots capacity**, create synergies and facilitate links with cutting edge scientific expertise
- Sharing **scientific, medical, health and economic evidence** through effective advocacy



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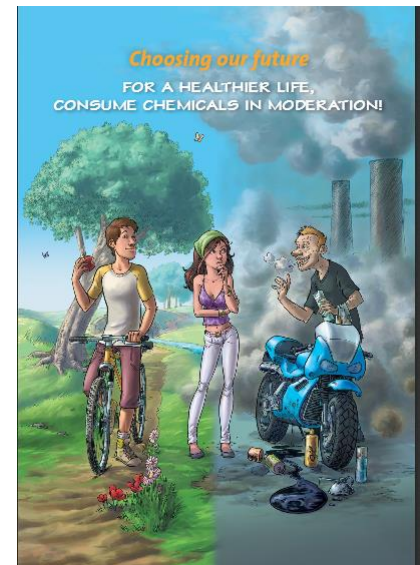
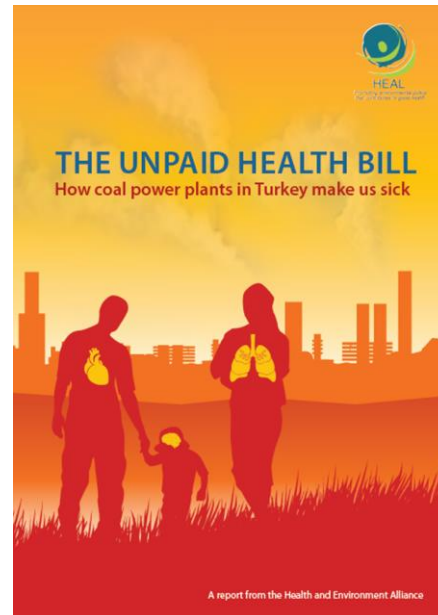
Communicate: Mobilise for healthy people and a healthy planet

- **Raise awareness** on health and economic benefits of strong health friendly and sustainable environmental policies
- Consolidate as **international hub for health and environmental information**, science and policy development
- Stimulate **global health experts, practitioners, individuals and communities thinking** and mobilise action on pollution prevention for public and planetary health,



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Prevent: Target priorities

Integrate health prevention into environment policy and sustainable development by bringing health science to people and policy makers



- Globally: support **17 Sustainable Development Goals**
- Europe:
 - 2020: a **toxic-free future** in which chemical production, use and disposal does not harm people and the environment
 - 2020: **phase out of mercury** in products building on the Minamata Convention
 - 2030: **air quality** in line with recommendations of the World Health Organization
 - 2040: **phase out of coal-fired power plants** in the European region
 - 2050: **100% renewable energy** in Europe plus other action to tackle climate change building on the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement



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5 priority areas

1. Climate and energy
2. Air quality
3. Chemicals and EDCs policy
4. Better regulation, global trade and health
5. EU enlargement



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A step further towards HEAL Strategic Goals 2015- 2020

Chemicals and EDCs policy – Goals

- Toxic-free environment through comprehensive REACH implementation and EDCs identification in pesticide and industrial chemicals
- Risk assessments of harm to vulnerable groups, incorporation of chemicals mixtures and multiple exposures
- EU wide Human Biomonitoring system, uptake of HBM evidence in EU legislative frameworks, particularly REACH



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Chemicals and EDCs policy – Activities

- **Public consultations** on candidate & priority listing, authorisation and restrictions processes, REACH review
- **Advocacy** on EDCs identification/criteria process, ECHA's classification of glyphosate, EFSA's review of BPA
- Free online **webinars** to raise awareness on EU chemicals policy developments
- **Testimonies** from cancer patients on why they want measures on EDCs, glyphosate and BPA
 - Participation in **EU Human Biomonitoring Initiative**
 - Secretariat of **EDC-Free Europe coalition**



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Climate and energy – Goals

- Paris COP21 climate agreement implementation, ambitious National Climate and Energy Plans
- Public debates on health impacts of climate change at EU level
- **Germany**: phase out of coal power generation by 2040, energy transition that puts healthy energy choices first
- **Poland**: public debates on the need to transform the coal-based energy sector



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Climate and energy – Activities

- Engage with and mobilise health experts to raise awareness on health costs of coal power generation and advocate for coal phase out
- Briefing on health benefits and risks from wind power
- Advocacy work on the National Climate and Energy Plans
- Campaign highlighting health impacts and costs of fossil fuel subsidies in the EU and worldwide, national advocacy with health partners in DE, PL, UK and TK, workshop during the German G20 Presidency



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Air quality

Goals

- By 2030, air quality (inside and outside) levels in line with WHO air quality guidelines
- Health evidence leading to halting or abandoning new or existing coal power plants
- **Poland**: enforcement of air quality standards and increased measures at local level for clean air



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Activities

- Monitor implementation and advocate for **EU policy developments**
- Review the **Global Commission on Health, Pollution and Development**
- Input for the **Partnership on air quality**, initiated by the Dutch Ministry of Environment
- **Toolkit on clean air** at local level in Poland
- Collect **testimonies** (written & oral) from grassroots leaders, doctors, citizens

Better regulation

Goal

- Contribute to EU better regulation by providing examples of inadequate EU legislation implementation for health protection

Activities

- **Advocacy** for more comprehensive regulation on food contact materials to close health protection gaps
- Input into **public consultations** as part of EU REFIT/fitness checks
- **Work with partners** in Better Regulation Watchdog, CHE Health and Environment Alliance Partnership
- Contribute to **WHO Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health** as only health stakeholder in WHO environment and health process



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EU enlargement

Goal

- 2030 goal of good air quality in the EU and neighbouring countries, such as [Serbia](#) and [Turkey](#)

Activities

Serbia

- Briefing on national emission reduction plan (NERP)
- Advocacy on Serbian energy strategy, EU progress report
- Health expertise for the Energy Community
- Monitor air quality, climate and energy developments in other Balkan countries



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Turkey

- Advocacy on EU progress report, air quality, climate, energy and health
- Briefing on health impacts and costs of Turkey's largest coal power complex, Afsin-Elbistan
- Supporting the [Right to Clean Act Platform](#)

Some examples

- World Health Organisation European Environment and Health Process
- Coal as the most polluted fossil fuel
- Fossil fuels subsidies and their health impacts



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World Health Organisation

European Region

- Since 1989: **European Environment and Health Process (EHP)**
 - Process to eliminate the most significant environmental threats to human health
 - Progress is driven by a series of ministerial conferences held every five years
- 2004: **Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE)**
 - Focus on safer environments for European children
 - Act on injuries, contaminated water, air, soil and food, safe and balance nutrition, toxic environments to reduce cancers, respiratory neurodevelopment problems
- 2010: **Parma Declaration**
 - First time-bound outcome of the process, setting clear-cut targets to reduce adverse health impact of environmental threats in next decade

• June 2017: **Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Czech Republic**



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EFA will
be
present!



European Union

- 2003: **2004-2010 Environment and Health Action Plan (EHAP)**
 - Reduce the disease burden caused by environmental factors in the EU, identify and prevent new health threats caused by environmental factors and strengthen EU capacity for policy-making
 - 13 concrete actions and 3 working groups with stakeholders

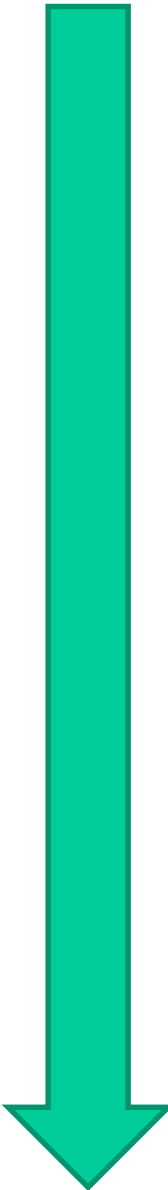


**NOT
ENOUGH!**

- 2007: **Health in All Policies (HiAP)** approach
- 2014: new **Prevention, Promotion, and Protection (PPP)** strategy in relation to health
- The future? **Prevention in All Policies**



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Air quality, energy and climate change

- **Coal** responsible for more than 18,200 premature deaths, about 8,500 new cases of chronic bronchitis, and over 4 million lost working days each year



HEAL opens

HEAL launches
coal FB page

HEAL launches

"For patients with asthma, allergies and other respiratory diseases, air pollution can have severe consequences, imposing limitations on their daily lives, restricting their activities outdoors and even resulting in days off from work. Policymakers should use every opportunity to create an environment that is free from the burden of air pollution, with looking at the health implications of coal consumption being one of them."

Roberta Savli, EU Policy Officer, European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients Associations (EFA)



context



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HEAL
contribution to
**World Medical
Association
journal**

Balkan countries

Coal and health
**conference in Poland
and Serbia**

Webinar and series
of events with
German medical
community

WMA

Launch of
**The unpaid
health bill for
Turkey**

Fossil fuels subsidies and health

EFA
in!

YOU WOULDN'T
ACCEPT

WHY DO YOU
ACCEPT

"Good air quality is crucial to patients with chronic respiratory diseases, from which more than 315,000 Europeans die every year. Fossil fuels are one of the causes that threaten patients' quality of life. They are a threat to human health and politicians have the responsibility to act now!"



Mikaela Odemyr
President

European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations

CHOOSE HEALTH
End Fossil Fuel Subsidies

a  campaign

LET'S STOP FUNDING AIR POLLUTION

END FOSSIL FUEL SUBSIDIES

Thank you for your attention!

Contact us: info@env-health.org
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(HEAL)

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