



# Circular economy and health

12 June 2019

The role of healthcare sector

# About HCWH Europe



- A **non-profit membership organisation** of European hospitals, healthcare systems, healthcare professionals, local authorities, research/academic institutions, and environmental and health organisations (88 members in 25 countries of the WHO European Region)
- **Bringing the voice of healthcare professionals** to the European policy debate about health and key issues
- **Educating the healthcare sector** to understand the importance of the circular economy, climate and environment in health

<https://noharm-europe.org/>

# Global Green & Healthy Hospitals



Global Green & healthy Hospitals (GGHH) is an international network of:

- Hospitals
- Healthcare facilities
- Health systems
- Health organisations

Members are dedicated to **reducing their environmental footprint and promoting public and environmental health** (more than 1,185 members in 58 countries)



<https://www.greenhospitals.net/gghh-connect/>

# HCWH Europe Programmes



Safer Chemicals



Climate-smart Healthcare



Sustainable Food



Safer Pharma



Sustainable Procurement

**Engaging in the European  
debate on circular  
economy**



**SAFER CHEMICALS  
EUROPE**



**Reduced human and environmental exposure to toxic chemicals in  
healthcare**



## SAFER CHEMICALS EUROPE



- Raise awareness amongst policy-makers and the healthcare sector of **toxic chemicals in healthcare**
- Increase commitment of the healthcare sector in Europe to use **safer medical devices**
- Reduce the health and environmental impacts of i) **chemical waste** (with focus on plastics), and ii) **disinfectants** used by the European health sector



## CLIMATE-SMART HEALTHCARE EUROPE



**Climate change as a health issue:** decarbonisation of the European healthcare sector and increased climate advocacy by healthcare leaders



## CLIMATE-SMART HEALTHCARE EUROPE



- **Network expansion:** Expand direct healthcare climate action via network in Europe
- **Policy advocacy:** Pushing for more ambitious climate targets in Europe and integrate health care into climate policy and climate into health policy at the national and EU level
- **Economic transformation:** Accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy / Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across the European healthcare sector



# SUSTAINABLE FOOD EUROPE



Plant-based  
diets in  
European  
healthcare

Setting the table for  
a healthy & sustainable future



**Increased sustainability of food  
production and consumption in  
European healthcare**



## SUSTAINABLE FOOD EUROPE



- **Strengthen policies** applicable to the provision of sustainable food in the healthcare sector
- Improve **sustainable food practices** in European healthcare
- Increase **awareness** about the economic/health/social/environment benefits of sustainable food



**SAFER PHARMA  
EUROPE**



The EU has the 2nd place in terms of pharmaceuticals sales behind the US with an overall market estimated at €225 billion.

## **Reduced pharmaceuticals presence in the environment**



**SAFER PHARMA  
EUROPE**



- Advocate for increased transparency and improved consistency of **pharmaceutical manufacturing** throughout the supply chain
- Enable a **reduction in pharmaceuticals discharged in the environment** from animal farming and aquaculture
- Identify **best management practices** for wastewater at a manufacturing, municipal, and hospital level
- Increase awareness amongst healthcare professionals about over-prescription practices and **proper use of pharmaceuticals**



# SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT EUROPE



REDUCING  
THE **CARBON**  
**FOOTPRINT**  
OF **HEALTHCARE** THROUGH  
SUSTAINABLE  
PROCUREMENT



**Leverage healthcare's purchasing and  
investment power to accelerate the  
transition to circular economy**



## SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT EUROPE



- Strengthen **sustainable procurement practice** through increased access to information and awareness of best practices in sustainable procurement policy
- Increase **market demand for responsible products**
- Facilitate and coordinate healthcare to play a major role in implementation of **the EU circular economy and plastics strategies**

# Thank you!



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