

# Project reference: 101058932 — LIFE21 FPA/BE/HCWH Europe



**Beneficiary:** Health Care Without Harm Europe

**Total Budget:** € 3,640,146

**LIFE grant:** €1,794,000

**Duration:** Framework contract LIFE Operating  
Grants Framework Partnerships 2022 - 2024

**Presented by: Tatiana De Wée**  
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EUROPE.NHARM.ORG



192 members in 27 countries  
across the WHO European region

# About Health Care Without Harm Europe

Founded in 2003 📌

## **HCWH Europe's vision:**

A sustainable healthcare sector in Europe that does no harm and improves human and environmental health

## **Our mission:**

Transform the healthcare sector so that it reduces its environmental footprint, becomes more resilient, and establishes itself as a leader for sustainable development in Europe



# Our programmes



CLIMATE-SMART  
HEALTHCARE



CIRCULAR  
HEALTHCARE



SAFER  
PHARMA

# Aviation or healthcare? (please stand up)

# Circular Healthcare



- Transition away from unnecessary single-use
- Focus on reusable, non-toxic solutions in healthcare that save natural resource and reduce waste
- Better for patients, budgets, and the planet





# Best practice: Reusable nappies – reduced waste and harmful exposures

Angoulême, France 📍

- **Problem:** Single-use nappies are not only a large source of waste; studies have also found several chemicals dangerous for human health present in them that exceed safe levels
- **Solution:** The maternity team at Center Hospitalier (CH) Angoulême introduced washable reusable nappies in the maternity department: lowering the exposure to toxic chemicals, lowering waste and lowering budget by 75%



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# Looking forward

# Plastic reduction campaign in 2025

Launched in December 2024 

- Part of the mission to reduce plastic and chemical use in healthcare and make sustainable healthcare the global norm
- By joining the **Born Green Generation Pledge**, healthcare professionals and (future) parents commit to taking action or supporting those taking action in healthcare environments to reduce the use of harmful and unnecessary plastics and chemicals
- **1) Sign up 2) Take action 3) Share**

The Pledge to  
transform  
healthcare





# The Reusable Textiles Revolution

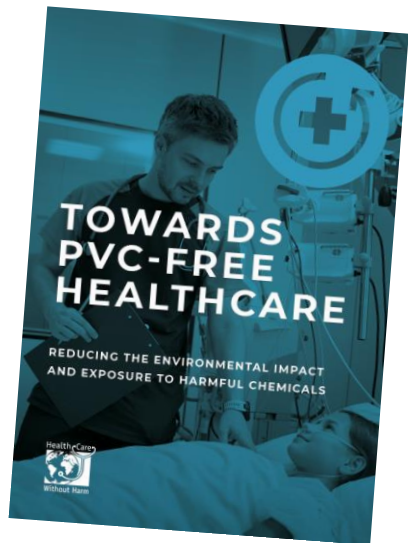
Launched in April 2024 

- Reduce and prevent the use of single use medical textiles by switching to reusable
- Training >>> Audit >>> Substitution action plans
- **Training resources will be made publicly available** to increase momentum for reducing plastic in healthcare globally and promote the widespread adoption of reusable medical textiles to reduce the environmental impact of healthcare operations worldwide



# Training and resources for healthcare professionals

- HCWH Europe has developed a variety of resources, including webinars, courses, and both in-person and virtual conferences, to assist healthcare systems, institutions, and professionals in starting and sustaining their efforts to reduce plastics in healthcare and eliminate toxic chemicals
- Some of our key sources:



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# Any Questions?

# Thank you!

# Presentation: long version



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## **Three core programmatic priorities, co-funded by LIFE:**



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# Aviation or healthcare? (please stand up)

# Circular Healthcare

## Scale of the problem:

- Healthcare's carbon footprint is higher than the aviation sector.
- Nearly 45 percent of its carbon emissions come from purchasing (plastic) equipment and medicines
- Plastic has become ubiquitous in healthcare, with a dramatic shift towards single-use items in recent decades. It negatively affects both human health and the environment

**The solution:** transition away from unnecessary single-use and focus on reusable, non-toxic solutions in healthcare that save natural resources, reduce waste, and are better for patients, budgets, and the planet

**Healthcare providers and healthcare professionals** play a **critical role** in tackling plastic consumption and waste within their own institutions, inspiring action in their communities and other sectors





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- **Community involvement:**
  - The hospital sets an example within their community and encourages parents to choose products that are not harmful to the health of their babies and have a reduced environmental impact
  - Maternity staff host workshops for parents on the harmful health and environmental effects of disposable nappies and the advantages of reusable alternatives (including the financial benefits)





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- More information about Born Green Generation: <https://borngreengeneration.org/>

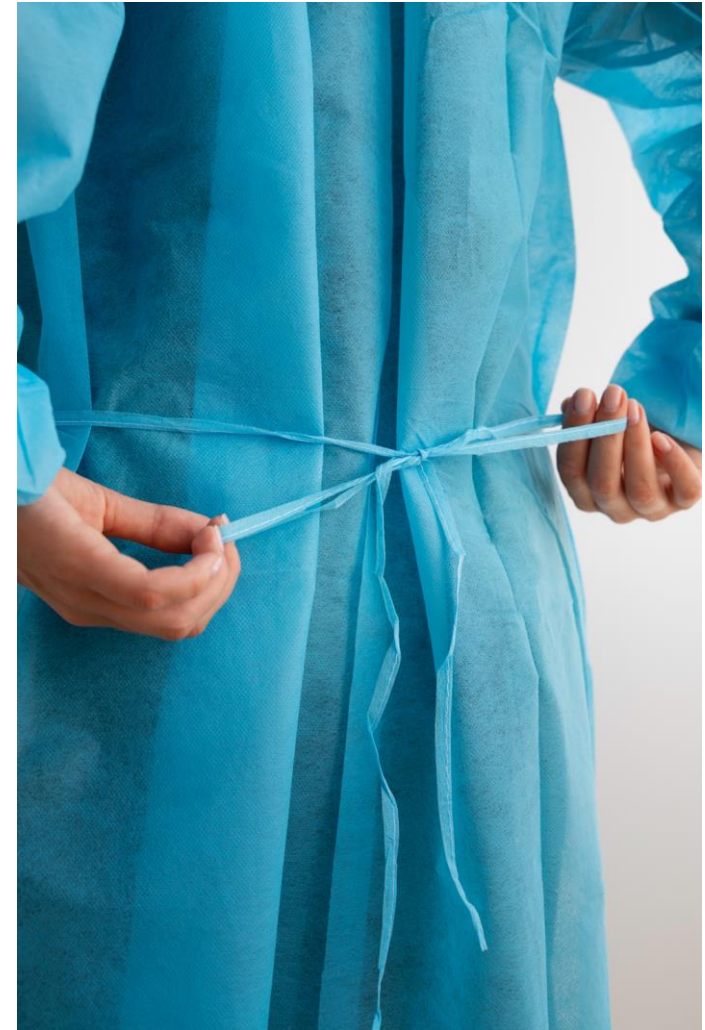
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