EHMA 2024

Shaping and managing
innovative health ecosystems

Health and climate. From environmental sustainability to economic sustainability

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Politehnica University of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania

EHLAUNIÓ Associació d'Entitats Sanitàries i Socials

#EHMA2024

Overview

- Who we are
- The Health and Climate Project of La Unió
- Conceptual framework
- Sectorial sustainability dimensions
- Lines of action
- Examples of some actions

Who he are

LA UNIÓ Catalan Hospital, Health & Social Services Association

We are an association of health and social care entities

Plurality

+115

Associated entities with diverse public and private ownership

- Associations
- Cooperatives
- Publicly-owned corporations
- Foundations
- Mutual insurances
- Religious orders
- Commercial companies

Transversality

+750

Health and social care centres

- Primary and community care
- Acute hospital care
- Sociosanitary care
- Care of mental health and addictions
- Social services care
- Outpatient rehabilitation
- Other

Territoriality

We are present throughout Catalonia

8 million inhabitants

70.000
Professionals

95%
of state-subsidised private health centres

65%
Public health system

81%
Provide services to the public system

64%
Dependency

45
Companies of the Innovation forum

The Health and Climate Project of La Unió (I)

MOTIVATION

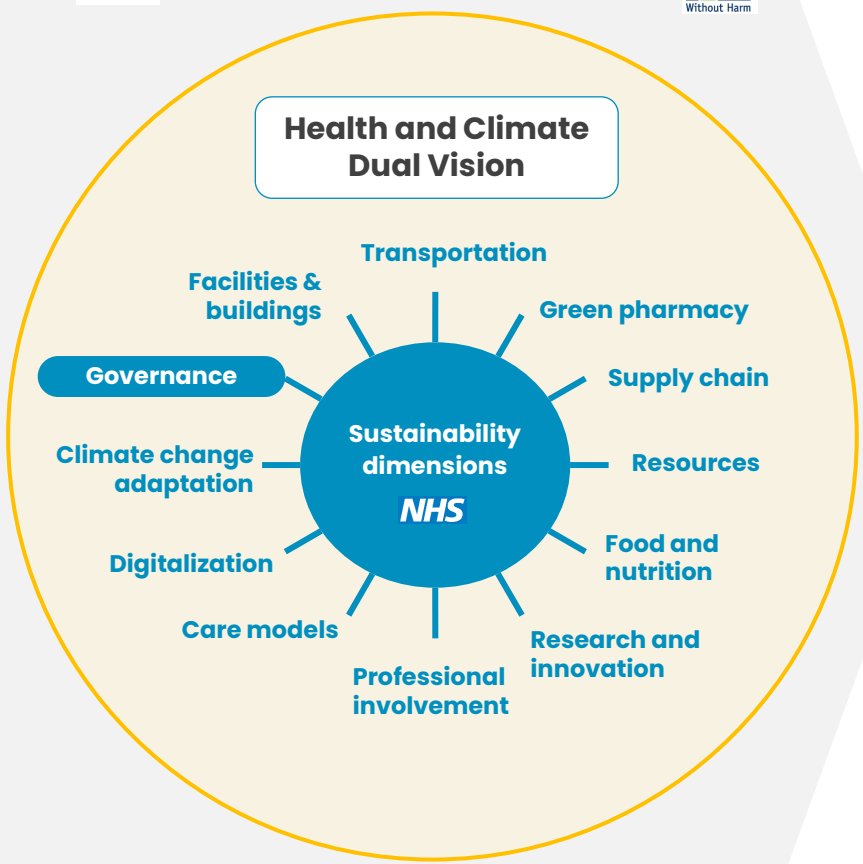
- Climate change is one of the most serious threats facing humanity.
- The health and climate binomial is inseparable and bidirectional. As a health and social sector, we care for people's health, on which climate change becomes a very relevant determinant, and we are generators of carbon emissions and other negative impacts.
- To reduce carbon footprint and negative impacts, organizations need to adopt a holistic approach that considers the direct and indirect implications of their activity.
- As La Unió, we promote the commitment to go beyond and set an example to raise awareness, understand, and minimize the effects of climate change.
- It is time for all professionals individually and, of course, from the governance of organizations, to demonstrate with actions that we are concerned and move forward together with tangible efforts.

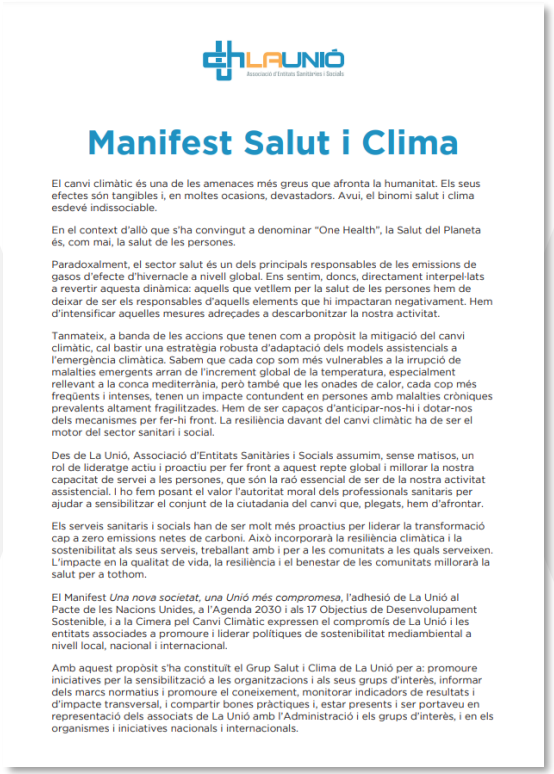
OBJECTIVES

- Promote initiatives for raising awareness within organizations and their stakeholders.
- Inform about regulatory frameworks and promote knowledge.
- Monitor outcome and cross-cutting impact indicators and share best practices.
- To be present and act as a spokesperson representing La Unió's associates with the Administration and stakeholders, as well as in national and international organizations and initiatives.

The Health and Climate Project of La Unió (II)

Conceptual framework





LA UNIÓ

Manifest Salut i Clima

El canvi climàtic és una de les amenaces més greus que afronta la humanitat. Els seus efectes són tangibles i, en moltes ocasions, devastadors. Avui, el binomi salut i clima esdevé indissociable.

En el context d'allò que s'ha convingut a denominar "One Health", la Salut del Planeta és, com mai, la salut de les persones.

Paradoxalment, el sector salut és un dels principals responsables de les emissions de gasos d'efecte d'hivernacle a nivell global. Ens sentim, doncs, directament interpel·lats a revertir aquesta dinàmica: aquells que vetllem per la salut de les persones hem de deixar de ser els responsables d'aquells elements que hi impactaran negativament. Hem d'intensificar aquelles mesures adreçades a descarbonitzar la nostra activitat.

Tanmateix, a banda de les accions que tenen com a propòsit la mitigació del canvi climàtic, cal bastir una estratègia robusta d'adaptació dels models assistencials a l'emergència climàtica. Sabem que cada cop som més vulnerables a la irrupció de malalties emergents arran de l'increment global de la temperatura, especialment rellevant a la conca mediterrània, però també que les onades de calor, cada cop més freqüents i intenses, tenen un impacte contundent en persones amb malalties cròniques prevalents altament fragilitzades. Hem de ser capaços d'anticipar-nos-hi i dotar-nos dels mecanismes per fer-hi front. La resiliència davant del canvi climàtic ha de ser el motor del sector sanitari i social.

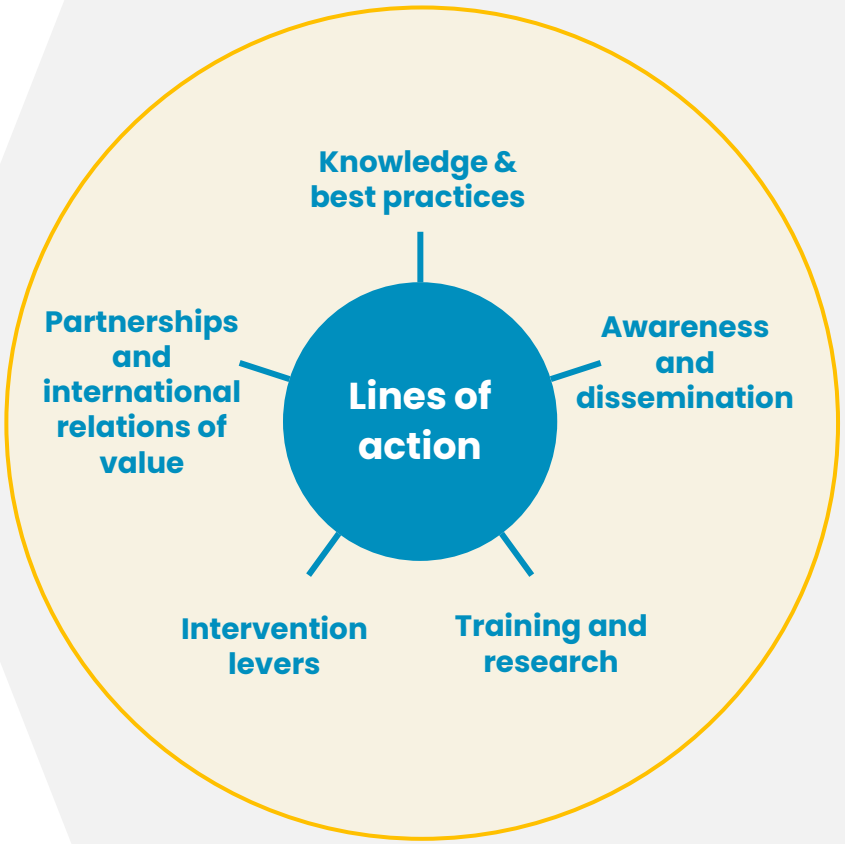
Des de La Unió, Associació d'Entitats Sanitàries i Socials assumim, sense matisos, un rol de lideratge actiu i proactiu per fer front a aquest repte global i millorar la nostra capacitat de servei a les persones, que són la raó essencial de ser de la nostra activitat assistencial. I ho fem posant el valor l'autoritat moral dels professionals sanitaris per ajudar a sensibilitzar el conjunt de la ciutadania del canvi que, plegats, hem d'afrontar.

Els serveis sanitaris i socials han de ser molt més proactius per liderar la transformació cap a zero emissions netes de carboni. Això incorporarà la resiliència climàtica i la sostenibilitat als seus serveis, treballant amb i per a les comunitats a les quals serveixen. L'impacte en la qualitat de vida, la resiliència i el benestar de les comunitats millorarà la salut per a tothom.

El Manifest *Una nova societat, una Unió més compromesa*, l'adhesió de La Unió al Pacte de les Nacions Unides, a l'Agenda 2030 i als 17 Objectius de Desenvolupament Sostenible, i a la Cimera pel Canvi Climàtic expressen el compromís de La Unió i les entitats associades a promoure i liderar polítiques de sostenibilitat mediambiental a nivell local, nacional i internacional.

Amb aquest propòsit s'ha constituït el Grup Salut i Clima de La Unió per a: promoure iniciatives per la sensibilització a les organitzacions i als seus grups d'interès, informar dels marcs normatius i promoure el coneixement, monitorar indicadors de resultats i d'impacte transversal, i compartir bones pràctiques i, estar presents i ser portaveu en representació dels associats de La Unió amb l'Administració i els grups d'interès, i en els organismes i iniciatives nacionals i internacionals.

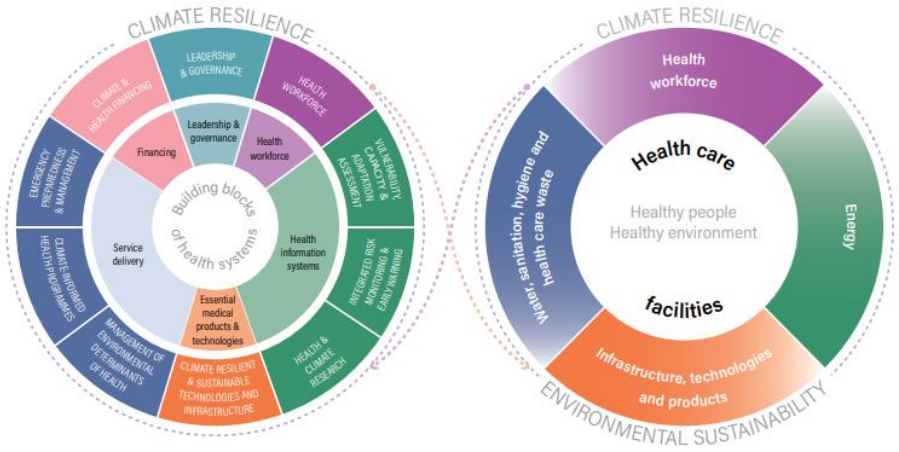
Results and tools



Conceptual framework

World Health Organization

Objective: low carbon, climate resilience and environmental sustainability



Source: Healthcare facilities resilient to climate and environmental sustainability. WHO. (2021)

Health Care Without Harm

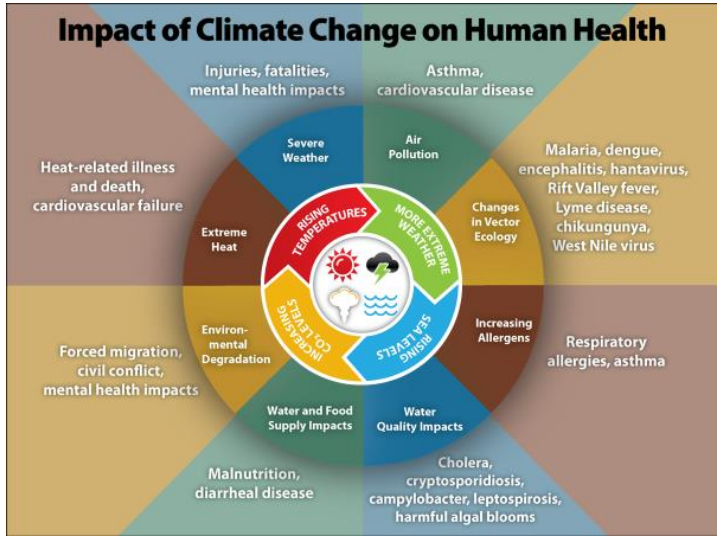
7 high-impact actions

- Power health care with 100% clean, renewable electricity
- Invest in zero emissions buildings and infrastructure
- Transition to zero emissions, sustainable travel and transport
- Provide healthy, sustainably grown food
- Incentivize and produce low-carbon pharmaceuticals
- Implement circular health care and sustainable health care waste management
- Establish greater health system effectiveness

Source: Global Road Map for Health Care Decarbonization. Health care without harm (2021)

CDC

Impact of Climate Change on Human Health



Source: Climate Effects on Health. *National Center for Environmental Health*

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1. Facilities & buildings

- Improve and optimize the use of water and energy resources.
- Include the sustainable vision into infrastructure reform, rehabilitation, and construction processes

2. Transportation

- Promote sustainable mobility among workers, customers, suppliers and patients and reduce unnecessary transport to reduce the carbon footprint

3. Green pharmacy

- Optimizing and improving the efficiency of medication prescription and supply
- Seeking the best environmental practices to minimize carbon footprint

4. Supply chain

- Understand the supply and certification conditions offered by suppliers to minimize the carbon footprint

5. Resources

- Optimizing the use of resources and reducing and properly managing waste
- Promoting circular economy

6. Food and nutrition

- Create guidelines focused on the provision of healthy and sustainable food
- Raising awareness among citizens about the benefits of a healthy diet
- To reduce food wastage

12 sectorial sustainability dimensions

7. Research and innovation

- Study and generate scientific evidence linking climate change with the increase of health problems in the population

8. Professional involvement

- Involving professionals in environmental sustainability through the implementation of climate policies and strategies with achievable objectives
- Training and support

9. Care models

- Evolving healthcare practices towards more sustainable and efficient models
- Focusing on co-benefits, emphasizing the relationship between good health and combating climate change

10. Digitalization

- Promoting and enhancing the use of digital resources to optimize patient relationships
- Automating the monitoring of resource consumption and data accessibility

11. Climate change adaptation

- Adapt facilities for potential adverse weather events

12. Governance

- The success of all depends on the responsibility of each one of us
- Create a communication network to collaborate from proximity and trust with the aim of promoting, supporting, and building greener organizations.

NHS

Self-development based on the model defined by the National Health Service (NHS)

Lines of Action

1. Knowledge and best practices

- Health and Climate Barometer
- Best Practices
- Progress Guideline
- Generation of comparable and standardizable standards

2. Awareness raising and dissemination

- Annual conference
- Workshops and Webinars
- Presence at national and international conferences
- Publications

3. Training and Research

- Deshealth Project
- Health and Climate Change Chair of Mutua de Terrassa and the University of Barcelona

4. Intervention levers

- Accreditation requirements
- Results Center
- Incentives in payment systems
- Measurable economic return and impact

5. Valuable international partnerships and relations

Catalunya 2030 · 1a Cimera Catalana d'Acció Climàtica #AcciòClimàticaCat · #PorElClima · respon.cat · GSK · EHMA European Health Management Association · forética · ihf International Hospital Federation · Geneva Sustainability Centre · United Nations Global Compact

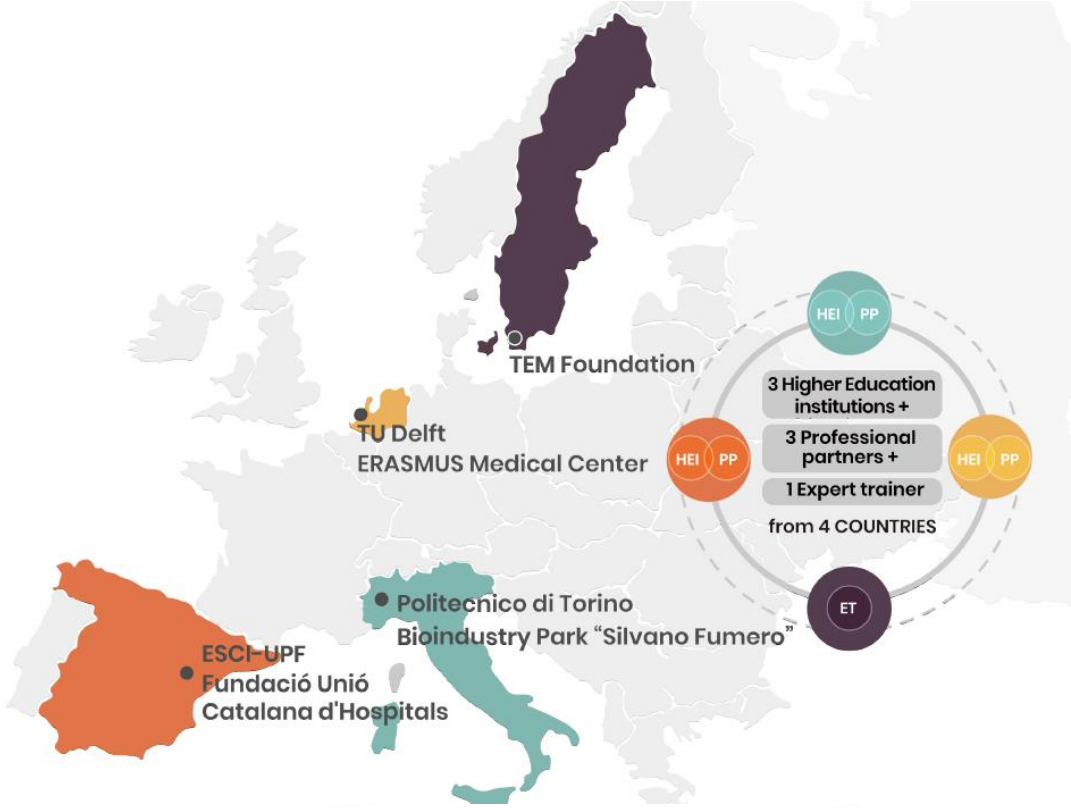
Training: Deshealth Project

DESHEALTH. Systemic design for education and training in sustainability

Objective. Improve the quality and relevance of organizations' educational activities, strengthen collaborative networks and address the educational gap in sustainability by increasing capacity for transnational and cross-sectoral work.

Ongoing activities

- Identify emerging skills needs through mapping best practices in environmental sustainability.
- Survey on required skills by contacting some partners.



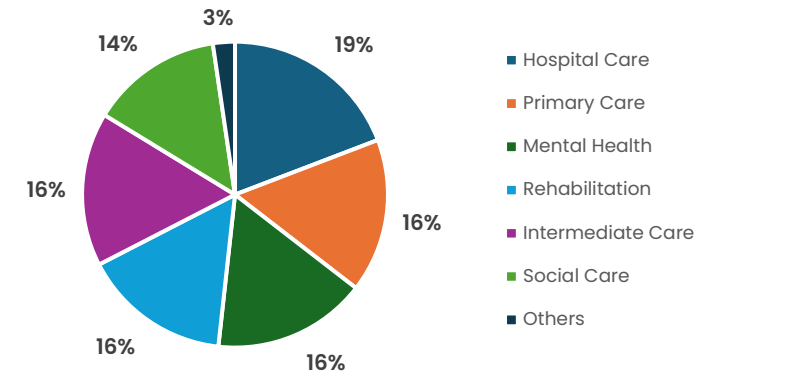
Funded by the European Union 2023-1-IT02-KA220-HED-000157600

1st Health and Climate Barometer

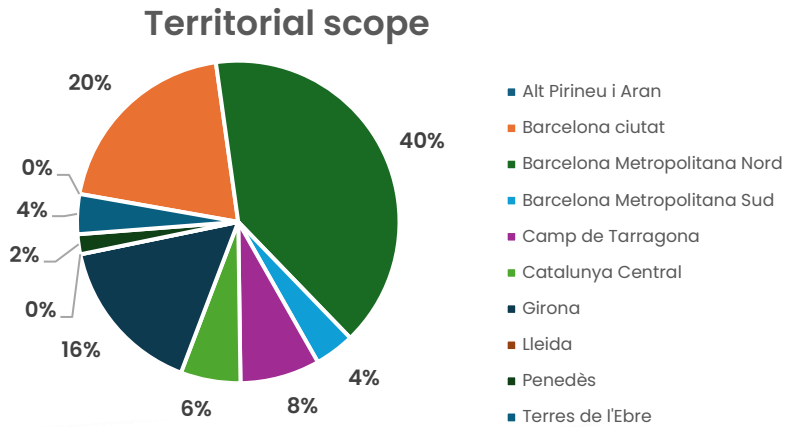
Description of the sample

- Data for 2022
- 50 buildings from 28 associates
- 99% of the centers have a contract with CatSalut
- 64% of the centers have a contract with the Social Rights Department
- 88% of the centers are urban, 10% are semi-urban and 2% are rural.
- 90% of the centers calculate their carbon footprint
- 34% of the centers have an ISO energy certification system

Areas of action

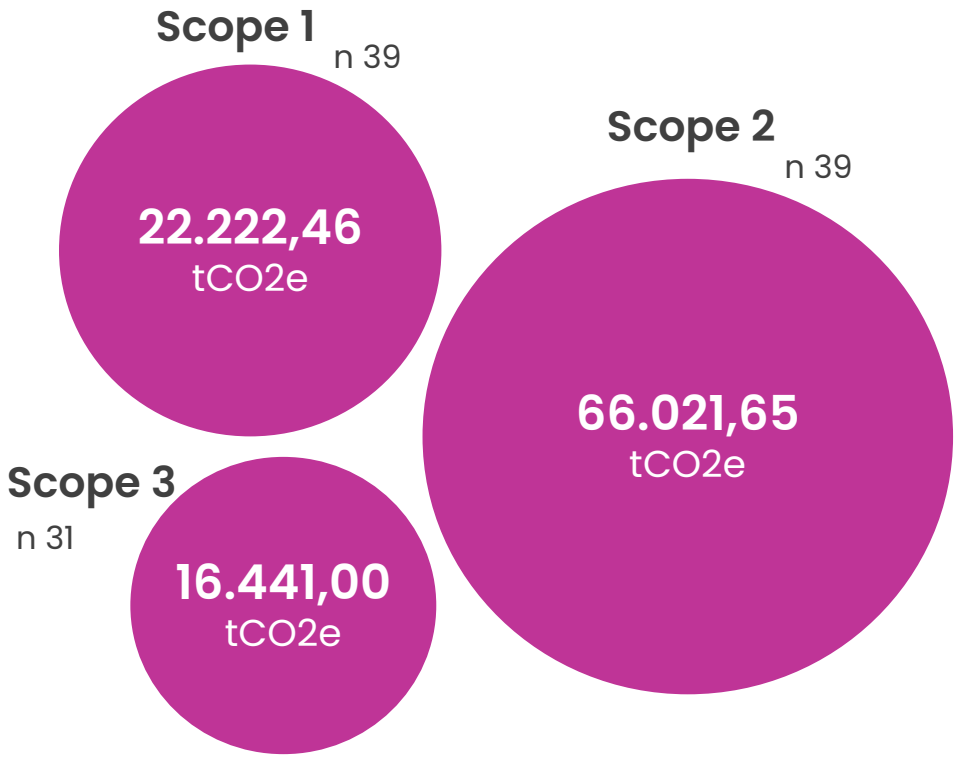


Territorial scope



1st Health and Climate Barometer

Carbon footprint results



In 2022, on average, ...

6,15
tCO2e per worker

262
KgCO2e per square meter built

21,32
KgCO2e per care event

13,5
tCO2e per hospital bed

Scope 1. These are emissions directly emitted from healthcare or social establishments through the consumption of fuels in buildings (natural gas boilers, diesel), leaks of fluorinated refrigerant gases in air conditioning/refrigeration equipment (gas refilling carried out in these equipment) and fuel consumption in vehicles
Scope 2. These are indirect emissions from purchased energy sources, such as electricity, steam, refrigeration and heating.
Scope 3. The majority of emissions primarily come from the healthcare sector's supply chain through the production, transportation, and disposal of goods and services; such as pharmaceuticals and other chemicals, food and agricultural products, medical devices, hospital equipment and instruments. Also included in this supply are work trips using external means of transportation and subcontracted services (waste management, cleaning, security, etc.).

1st Health and Climate Barometer

Environmental management indicators

In the year 2022...

ELECTRICITY

- The annual average electricity consumption was 527.37 kWh per m2
- The clean electricity consumption ratio was 70%.
- The average consumption of a household with 4 people is 3,240 kWh/year, about 36 kWh/year per m2

RESOURCES

- The annual average paper consumption was 22.70 kg per worker
- The recyclable waste ratio was 22%
- In Catalonia, the average paper consumption per capita was 147 kg/year...
- ... and 46.6% of municipal waste was segregated (2021)

WATER

- The annual average water consumption was 24.29 m3 per worker
- The annual average water consumption was 48.5 m3 per inhabitant

Clean electricity consumption ratio (in %). Percentage of electricity (supply and production) from clean electricity in each center.
Recyclable waste ratio (in %). Percentage of recyclable waste from the total waste generated. Recyclable waste includes the sum of paper (confidential and non-confidential), cardboard, clean or non-hazardous plastic packaging, glass, and organic fraction. Total waste generated includes the sum of recyclable waste (as described above) + Group I + Group II. Hazardous waste (Group III - Biological Contamination, Group IV - Chemical Contamination, and expired medication) are excluded from the total.

EHMA 2021

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Thank you!

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