



ECH – LOOKING BACK OVER 2023

It's been another busy year for ECH as we continue to consolidate our strategies and make our voice heard in promoting the role of homeopathic treatment as an important aspect of European healthcare.

Representatives were invited to attend the WHO summit on Traditional Medicine in India, the IM Congress in Rome, the LMHI Congress in Bogota, the 20th anniversary EFHPA meeting in Marseille, and the WissHom Congress in Köthen, and one of our Council members sits on the Board of EUROCAM.

At HRI's Conference in London, we initiated a new programme of stakeholder meetings to collaborate with HRI, LMHI, ECHAMP, EFHPA and ECCH on projects which will take homeopathy forward as an integral part of future healthcare.

Our Spring and Autumn meetings in Mainz and Vienna were well-attended and it was great to have the opportunity to catch up with people, exchange ideas and plan for the future. In Mainz, we had a memorable tour of the University's Botanic Garden, focussing on plants used in homeopathy, and we also enjoyed a fascinating workshop, led by a former BBC journalist, who guided us in getting our message across in an interview and without being led off in a tangent by awkward questions. The Vienna event began with a Provings workshop, addressed by Andrea Bogad, Izel Botha, Susanne Diez and Ashley Ross. We also heard a presentation from Alex Tournier about his recent work with Stephan Baumgartner at the University of Bern, which demonstrates irrefutably that homeopathy is not placebo. This was further underlined by the presentation from agrohomeopaths Leonardo Faedo and Ileana Rîndasu who presented their research work on homeopathic treatment for plants.

During the year, several members benefitted from a course led by systems thinker Fritjof Capra, studying the interconnectedness of all the systems of life and the world. This will inform the way we approach our work, not just in ECH but in every sphere of our lives.

And looking ahead to 2024 –

We have formed an exciting collaboration with Abhama (Associação Brasileira de Homeopatia na Agricultura e Ambiente). Agrohomeopathy is very strong in South America and we look forward to working with them in this new area. Our recent joint online Conference and Symposium proved very popular and had a gallery of international speakers. ECH now has an Agrohomeopathy Working Group, under the joint leadership of Ileana Rîndaşu and Leonardo Faedo, and we're delighted to be involved in this fantastic new development looking at the further potential of homeopathy for plant and animal health, which will surely – and at long last – put an end to the placebo argument!

Our main concern going forward is the diminishing number of doctors holding a homeopathic qualification. A recent survey by Boiron showed that 67% of the European population uses, or would consider using, homeopathy. However, our own figures show that, whereas in 2013 ECH had 23 member organisations who had a total of 4532 members, in 2023 we had 24 member organisations with a total of only 2214 members – a drastic reduction in the number of medical homeopaths over 10 years.