



1st Follower Network Event and Taxonomy Working Group Launch

26 May 2026 | 10:00-11:30 (CET)

Procurers



Supported by



Funded by
the European Union



Technical: Questions, slides etc.

All information will be shared

DURING EVENT

Video, microphone (Q&A)



- ▶ Video and mics will be opened for participants during Q&A
- ▶ Please unmute yourself and turn on video when speaking

Networking



- ▶ **Present yourself** in Chat with name, what you “offer”, contact details
- ▶ Someone has to make the first step ... so contact people (all you could hear is a no)

Questions



- ▶ Ask anytime **using Q&A function** (not Chat!)
 - We try to pick up on questions during presentation to degree possible
 - If we do not, there is a very good chance your question will be answered on slides
- ▶ Q&A will be live following questions and questions asked live
- ▶ Critical / new questions are added to [FAQ](#) on website

AFTER EVENT

Staying informed



- ▶ Health and care organisations can become [Follower](#)
- ▶ All are invited to [newsletter](#) and [LinkedIn](#)

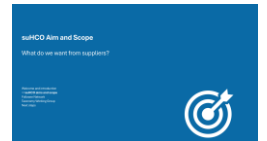


Objectives

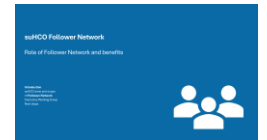
To understand the scope of the project and common challenges



To share the envisaged suHCO solution



To share the of Follower Network



To Launch of suHCO Taxonomy Working Group





Presenters



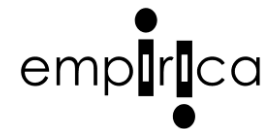
Maria Colomé
Project Manager



Sonja Müller
Senior project manager



Marlene Grauer
Senior Project Manager



suHCO Introduction

What is the Project about and who are we?

>>Introduction

- suHCO aims and scope
- Follower Network
- Taxonomy Working Group
- Next steps





suHCO procurers



suHCO



Catalonia

CSC (Consorci de Salut i d'Atenció Social de Catalunya)



Treviso

EnEA (Ente Educazione e Assistenza)



Wales

HDUHB (Hywel Dda University Health Board)

Supporting partners



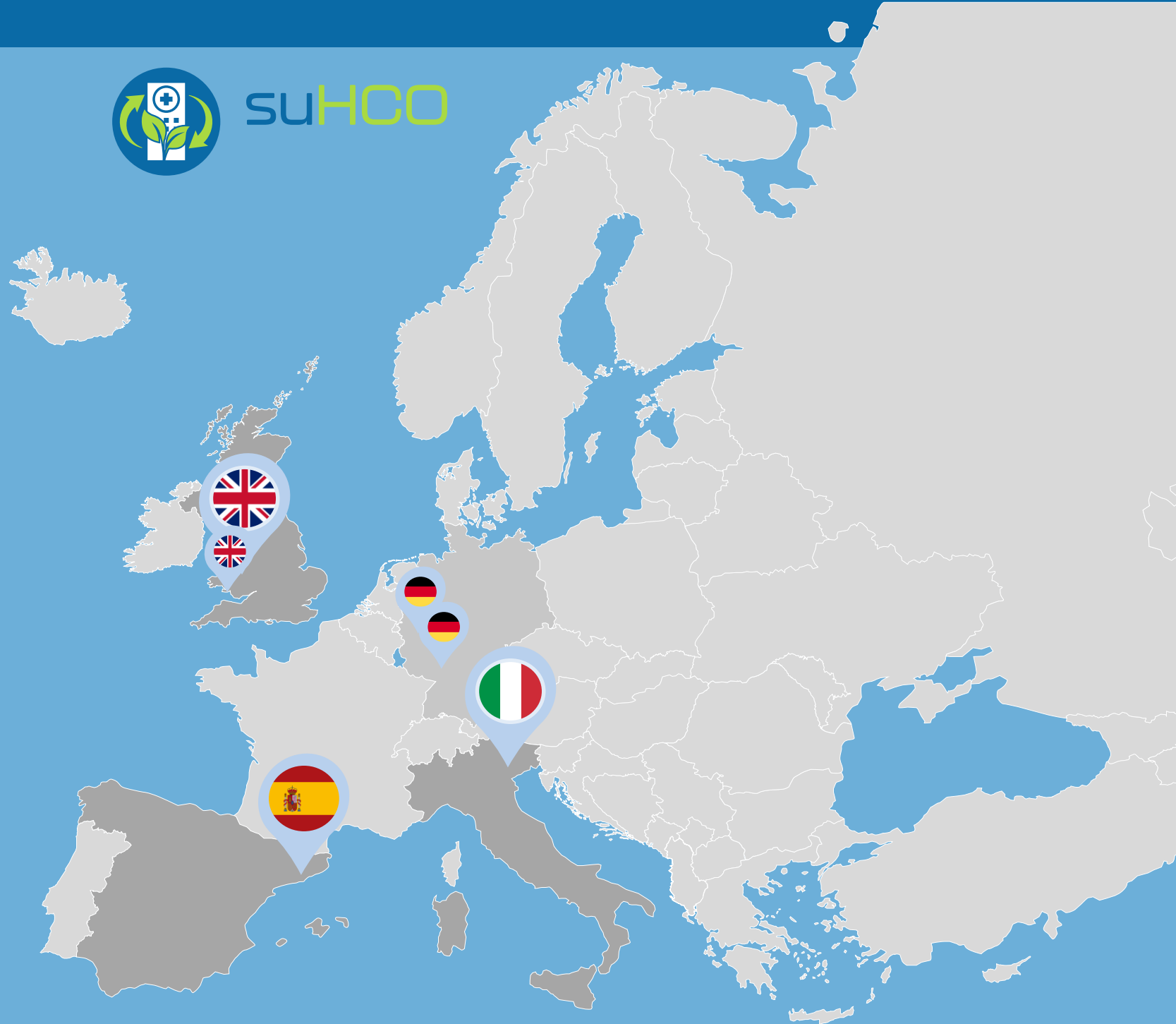
empirica (Communication and Technology Research)



Bevan Commission (Swansea University)



BME (German Association of Materials Management, Purchasing and Logistics)





Project

Leading health and care organisations are tackling a common challenge together

PROJECT INFO

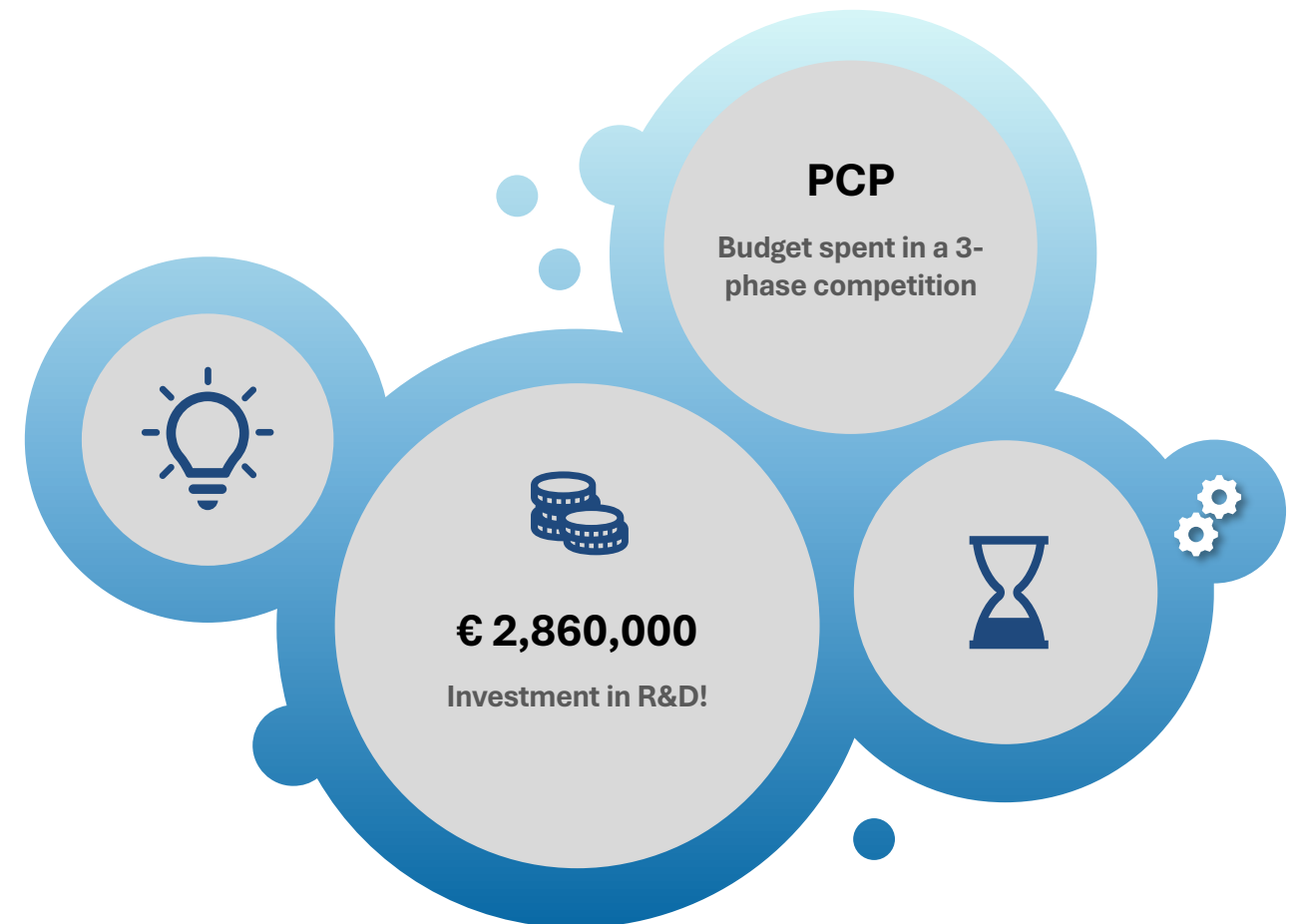
**3 Procurers – representing a diverse group of HCOs¹,
providing services to 6.4 million clients**

A wide-reaching Follower Network

**Prior Information Notice (PIN)
OJ S 208/2025 29/10/2025**

**Common Challenge: accelerate the sustainability
transition in HCOs**

PRE-COMMERCIAL PROCUREMENT



1. The term 'health and care organisation' (HCO) is to include any organisation in health and care systems which has control and over and therefore the ability to reduce the environmental footprint of the sector. This includes but is not limited to hospitals, care homes, networks or groups, central procurement, cascading organisations etc.

What is the problem?

There is a huge potential to increase sustainability in the health and care sector

HEALTH AND CARE SECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR

Up to ~5% of GHGs globally¹

Millions of tons of waste², wide use of disposables

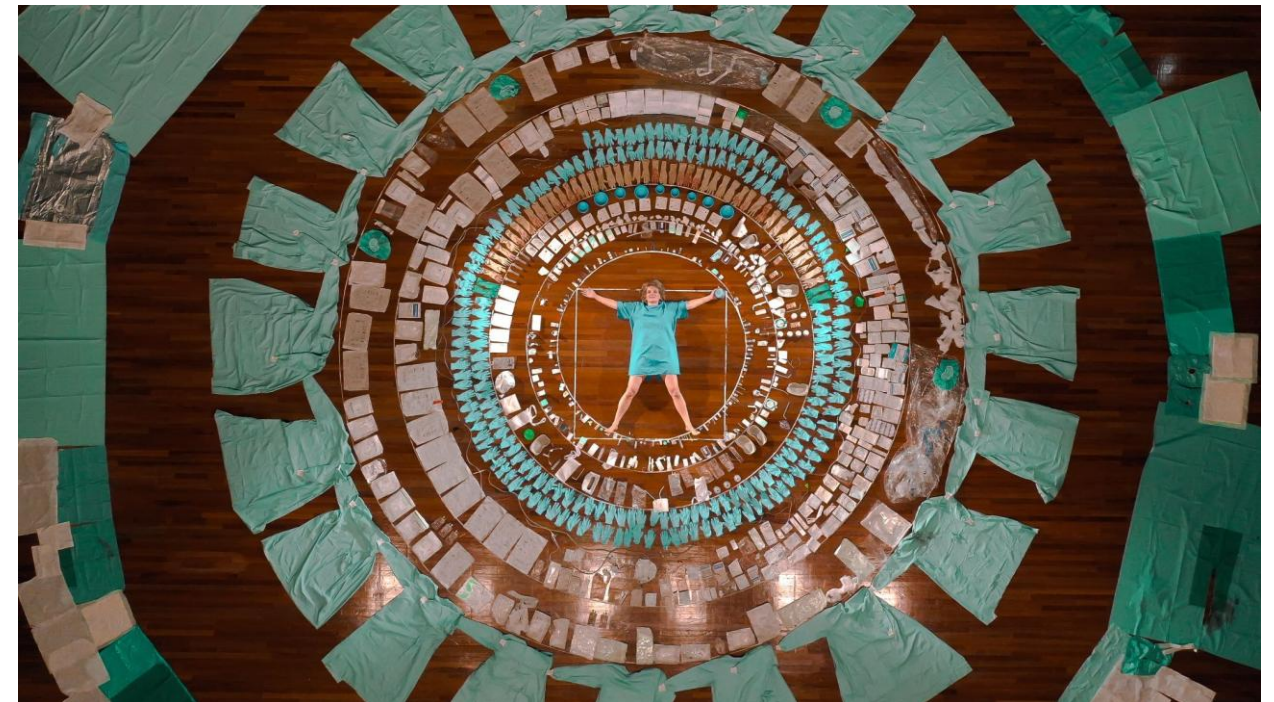
85% of waste is non-hazardous³

64% of sector emissions from linear supply chain⁴

Medical supply chains are vulnerable because of their complex global structures^{5,6}

A STRIKING EXAMPLE

- ▶ A patient asked surgeons to keep all waste from her breast reconstruction after cancer and created an artwork⁷:



.... and there is even no packaging on the image ...



Filling the gaps

The suHCO approach is focusing on making real impact happen by offering what is missing

HORIZONTAL - NOT VERTICAL

We aim to cover the whole Circular Economy

Our solution is agnostic

Medical devices

Medication

Construction

Textiles

Waste

...

SYSTEMIC – NOT SPECIFIC

We offer services to the entire organisation

Our solution is to help all HCO employees

Our solution is to connect with health decisionmakers

Our solution is to empower HCOs of any size

Our solution is to make sustainability actionable

suHCO Aim and Scope

What do we want from suppliers?

Welcome and introduction
>>**suHCO aims and scope**
Follower Network
Taxonomy Working Group
Next steps



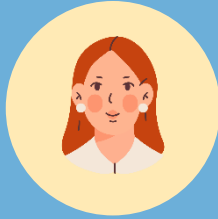
Core elements of our challenge

We defined the challenge along four building blocks



User Groups and Personas for the suHCO solution

We have identified 7 user groups, with a persona for each describing their motivations, frustrations and desired features

Health and care decisionmakers	Sustainability staff	Procurement staff	Compliance staff	Health and care practitioner	Estate staff	Administration staff
Marta (57)	Matteo (52)	Lisa (46)	Robert (41)	Abigail (33)	Alexander (37)	Sofia (31)
Chief medical officer	Sustainability manager	Head of procurement	Compliance risk officer	Registered nurse	Facilities manager	Administrative coordinator
						

User Group
Name (age)
Position

HCO Survey results, a first impression

The survey confirms the suHCO needs and considers the proposed features as important

OVERVIEW

Stats

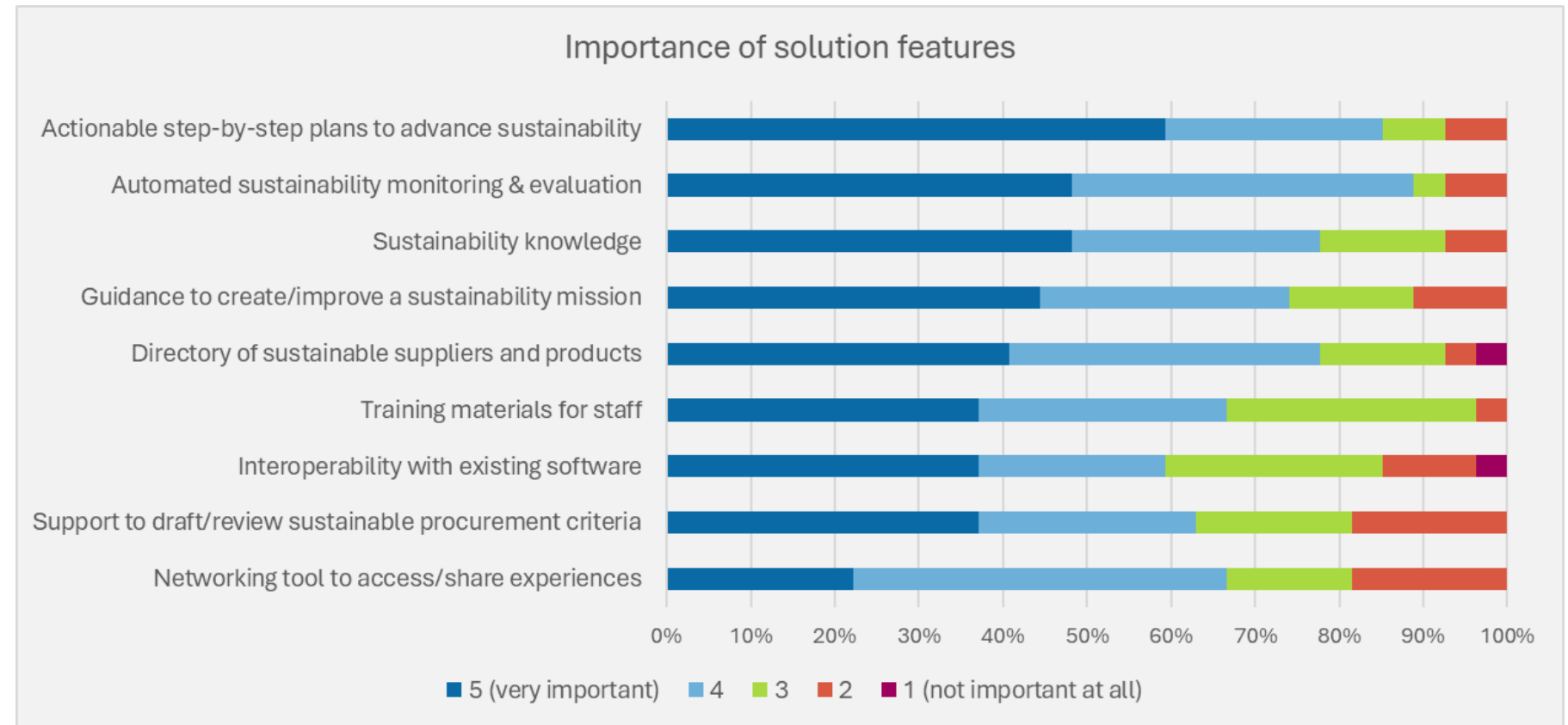
- ▶ 27 responses
 - As of 26 Feb
 - Mostly from health and care service providers (78%)

Challenges when implementing sustainable practices

- ▶ 98 challenge selections were made
- ▶ Budget and time constraints most frequently, followed by awareness and lack of strategies with practical steps

Importance of solution features

- ▶ Implementation-oriented support is prioritised over exchange-oriented features
- ▶ Average important rating: 4.04 out of 4



Focus Group results, a first impression

Focus groups deepened understanding of the perceived challenges and proposed features

OVERVIEW

Stats

- ▶ 61 participants:
 - 17 health and care practitioners
 - 25 procurement staff
 - 19 sustainability staff

Ranking of challenges¹

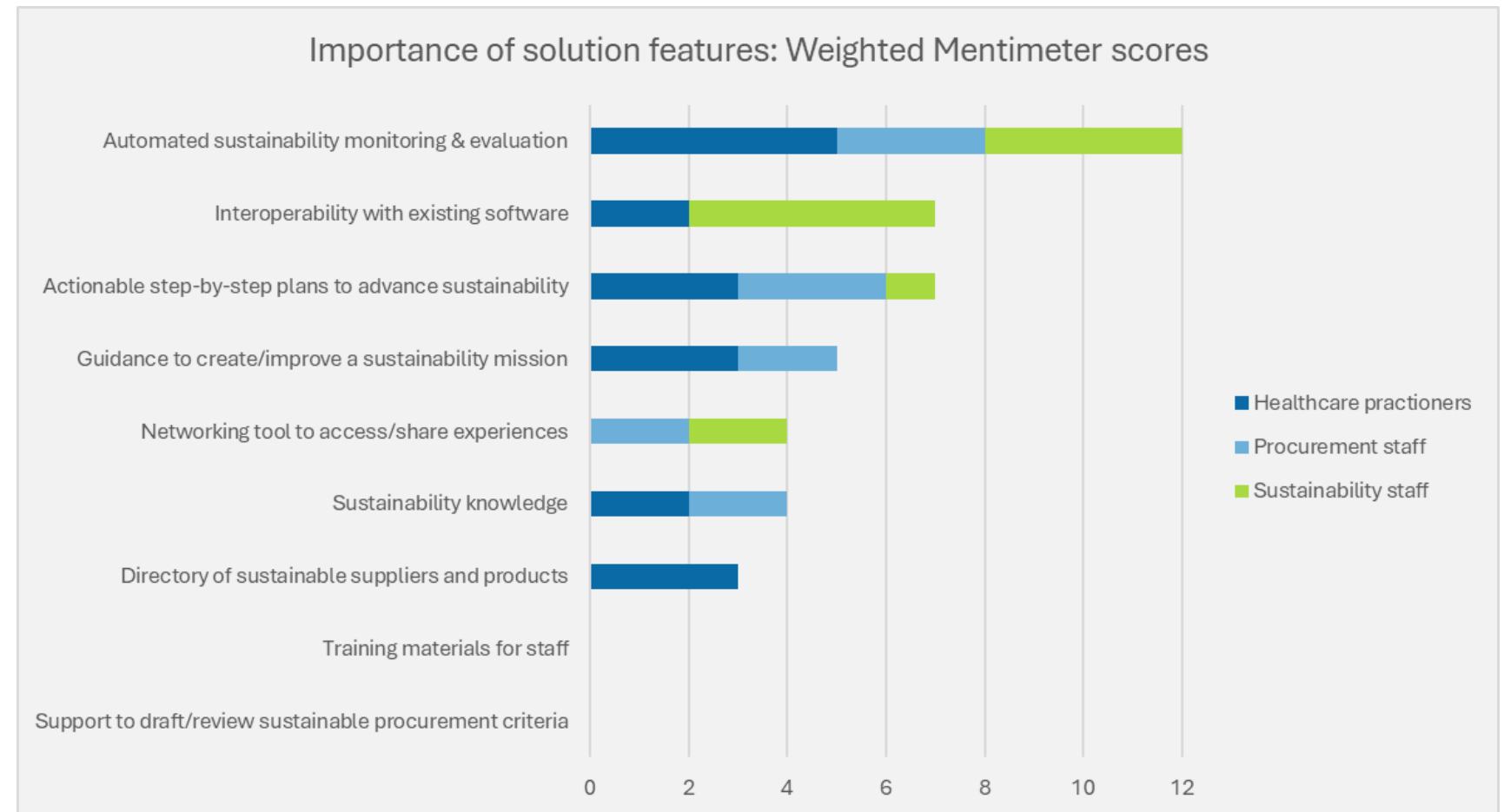
- ▶ Similar to survey results:
 - Awareness and organisational culture was ranked most frequently in the top 3 challenges, followed by budget and time constraints

Ranking of solution features¹

- ▶ Automated monitoring is considered slightly more important than in survey responses (still in both top-3)
- ▶ Actionable step-by-step plans are in both top-3



Survey and Focus Group results align on key challenges and features



1. Weighted scoring approach in which only the three highest ranked challenges were considered. The challenge ranked first was assigned 3 points, the second 2 points, and the third 1 point.

What do we (not) want?

We want to develop something with you which we are happy to pay for after the (funded) project

WHAT WE DO WANT

Cover all departments, sectors, value chains

Achieve significant impacts of R-strategies

Enable HCO independent of starting point

Curating sustainability expertise, using AI to increase value

Scalability for all HCOs with a long-term vision

WHICH MEANS THIS IS NOT FOR US

“A” specific circular solution (others do that)

Squeeze last X% out of a specific use case

Non-replicable cutting-edge technology

“Swinging it” with existing AI models¹ without adding value

Proof-of-concept approaches

1. Use what there is, but make it smart for our challenge.

Capacities required

We seek tenderers capable of covering the following areas

Ability to perform R&D up to original development of the first products or services

Ability develop platform solutions, IT and AI expertise

Circular Economy / Sustainability expertise

Experience with health and care organisations

Ability to commercially exploit the results of the PCP, including intangible results and in particular IPRs

The roles of a consortium must be well laid out and IPR ownership clearly regulated as part of any offer for the suHCO tender.

suHCO is technology neutral

Our focus is to describe the actual problem – you need to come up with technical and practical solutions

**Buyers Group defines a
(very complex) problem
and award criteria**

**Suppliers
define the
solution**

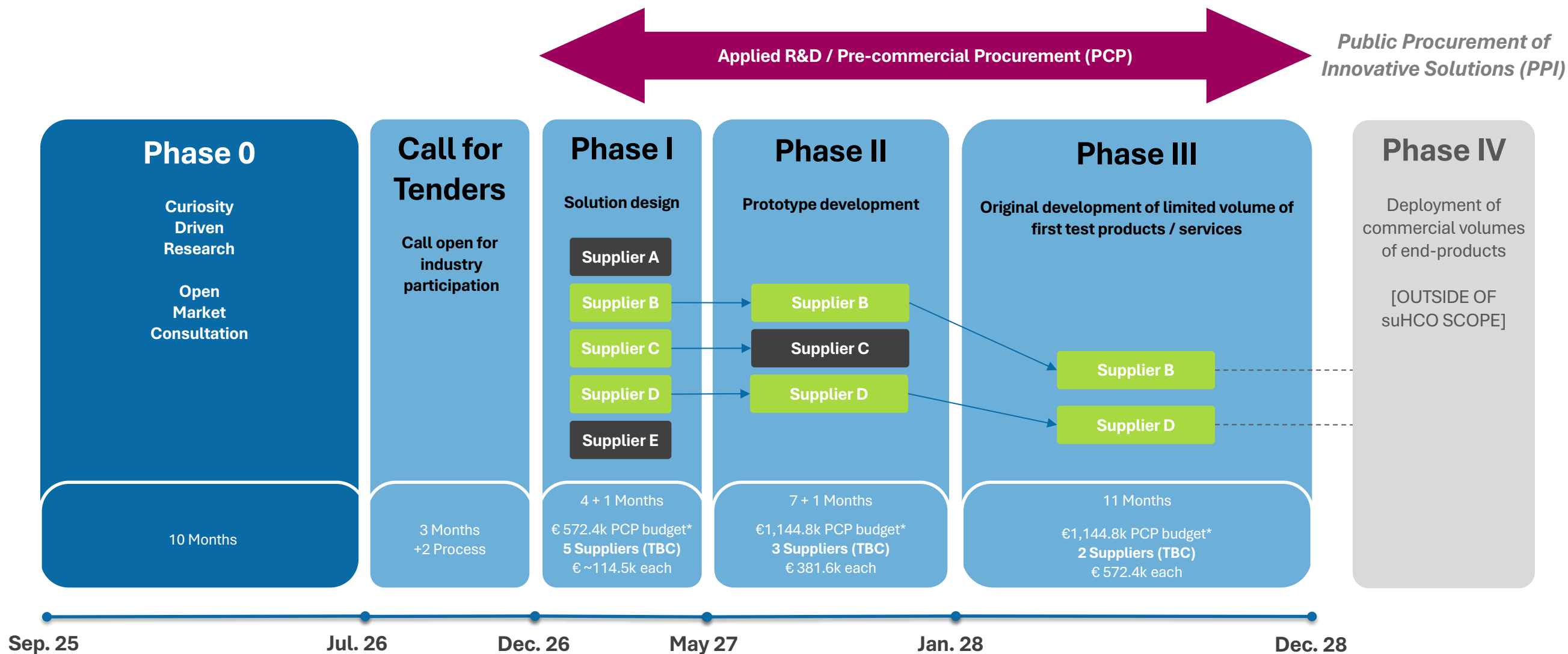
...any constellation of technologies is thinkable if it fulfils
design principles and requirements etc. ...



PCP structure

PCPs follow a multi-staged process to select the most suitable and promising innovation; R&D services are funded at all stages

PRELIMINARY



*All PCP budget values stated are expected to include VAT (21%). The maximum PCP budget for a successful Supplier (participating in all three phases) equals € 1,068,480

suHCO Follower Network

Role of Follower Network and benefits

Introduction

suHCO aims and scope

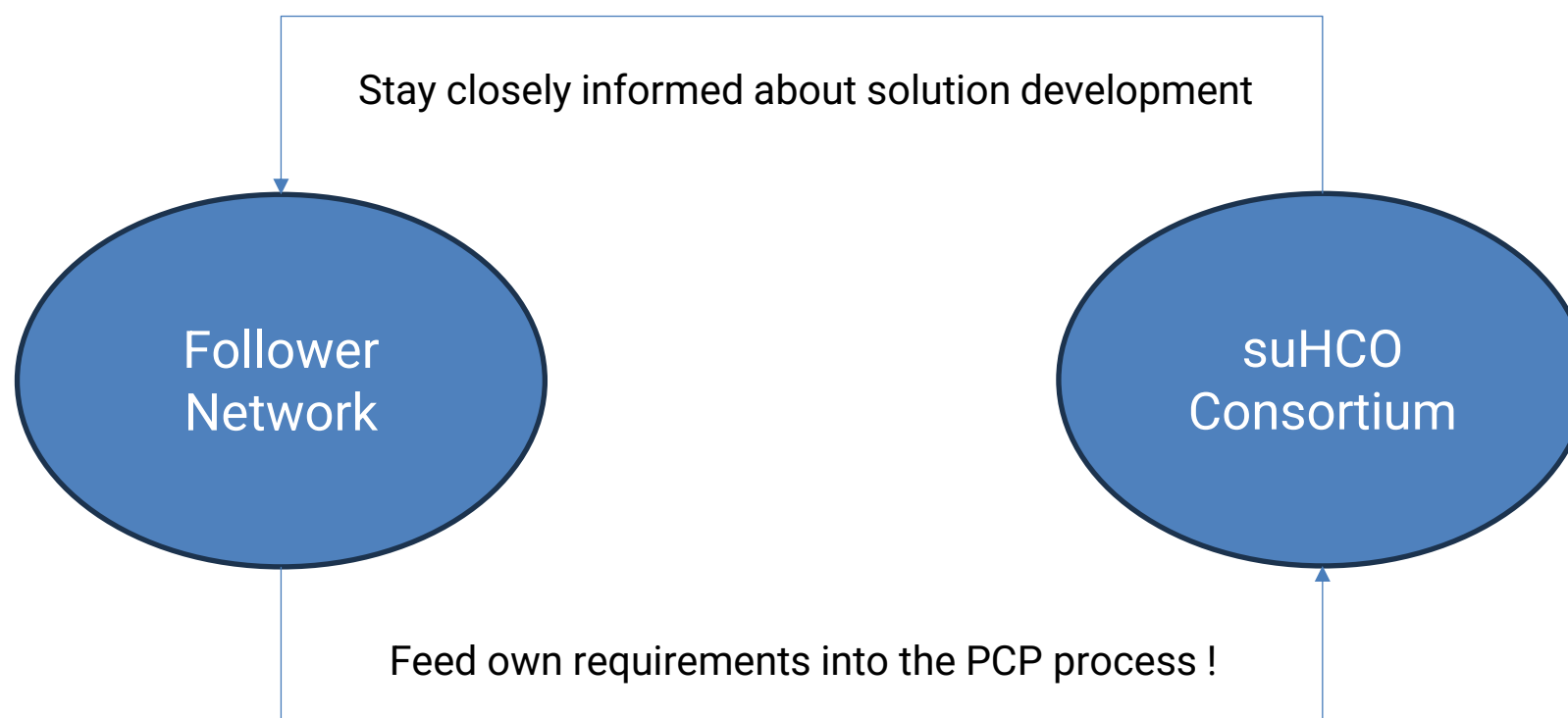
>>**Follower Network**

Taxonomy Working Group

Next steps



What is the Follower Network about?



Our Followers

We currently have 36 members of our Follower Network

Health and care organisations



Other public bodies, network/cluster organisations & projects



suHCO Circular Economy Taxonomy Working Group

Mission statement, process and contributions

Welcome and introduction

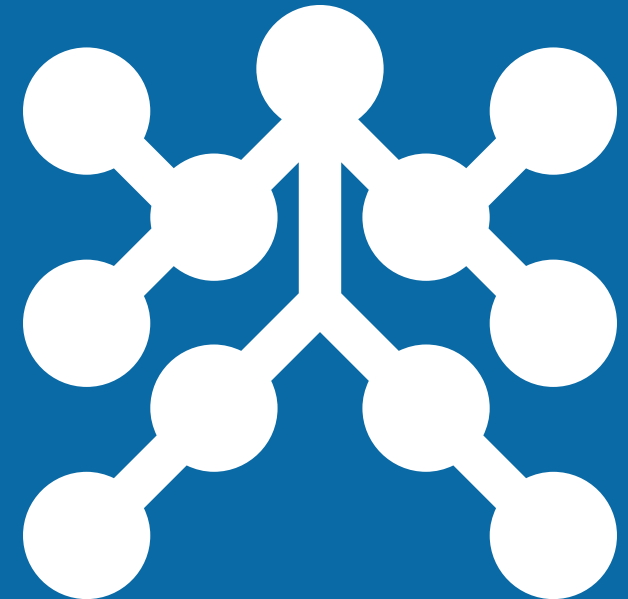
suHCO aims and scope

Follower Network

>>**Taxonomy Working Group Launch**

Next steps

Q&A



Taxonomy

suHCO Circular Economy Taxonomy Working Group

ELEMENTS AND PROCESS



MISSION AND ROADMAP

- ▶ Mission
- ▶ Through suHCO three procurers representing diverse HCOs are to launch a competitive tender for technical solutions aiming to overcome organisational, informational and operational barriers. However, multiple standards and taxonomy-related issues are universal and should not be solved in parallel. Instead, suHCO seeks to involve key stakeholders, leading companies, and academics to tackle the following issues together.
- ▶ **Define core terminology** (i.e. Taxonomy) to ensure different artificial intelligences (AIs) do not increase confusion about circular economy but lead to more clarity.
- ▶ **Identify a set of core data sources** for AIs to ensure that the learning does cover all relevant circularity areas in HCOs instead of being dominated by the most advanced value chain or region etc.
- ▶ **Document a core set of data standards and protocols** to ensure the intended scalable solutions are fit for purpose to operate in a field with diverse IT ecosystems.
- ▶ Status and planning
 - Kick-off and initial state of content as
 - Orientation for Suppliers
 - Encouragement to provide more / better
 - Before and during each Phase:
 - Update of White Paper including annex of working files to be used by supplier AI
 - Working Group Meeting to explain status, uncertainties and gaps
 - Further iteration of files
 - Resulting in
 - Policy Paper(s) to EC for regulation
 - Brief(s) to ongoing standardisation efforts

What do we aim to achieve?

SCOPE OF WORKING GROUP

**Identify what terms,
data sources are of
importance for
procurers
(i.e. HCO)**

—
**Clarify whether or not
terms/sources are
already defined in
existing taxonomies**

**Achieve common
understanding of CE
Taxonomy**

—
**Begin to test CE
Taxonomy with early
prototypes**

GOALS OF WORKING GROUP

**Continue to test CE
Taxonomy in
prototypes**

—
**(Assess whether
extensions are possible
regarding indicators/
benchmarks)**

**Prepare
documentation for /
delegate to
EU regulation**

—
**Apply the CE
Taxonomy across
Demonstration sites**

Specialised groups may emerge from the wider group and will receive support / infrastructure

How to contribute?

Achieve a common understanding of key taxonomies

BACKGROUND

- ▶ Follower contributions

We work in two living documents

WORD
-
**CE Terminology &
Standards**

EXCEL
-
CE Data Sources

suHCO and CE Taxonomy Timelines

Working group activities are in sync with the PCP



Q&A

Welcome and introduction
suHCO aims and scope
Follower Network
Taxonomy Working Group Launch
>>**Next steps Q&A**



suHCO timeline: Next steps

The Call for Tender will be out in early July 2026

Matchmaking + Networking


Open

Taxonomy Working Group


P0-PIII

emp.onl/suhco-news

suHCO.eu

suHCO project

suHCO@empirica.com

TENDER OPEN

Tender Launch


Jul. 26

Tender Training Events


Sep. 26

Tender submission deadline


Oct 10

Q&A anytime ([FAQ](#) already online)

TENDER SELECTION AND PCP PHASES

Tender evaluation


Oct. '26 – Nov. '26

Phase I: Co-Design


Dec. '26 – Apr. '27

Phase II: Prototypes


May 27– Dec. 27

Phase III: Pilots


Jan. 28 – Nov. 28