

# Summary Report

Healthcare Collective Launch Event

Nov 11, 2025



## Content

Executive Summary	3
Paradoxical Healthcare System in Switzerland	4
The Healthcare Collective	5
Working Group 1) Hospital waste as resource: recycling, circularity and scaling	6
Final Remarks	8

## Executive Summary

The launch of the Healthcare Collective on 11 November 2025 made one thing unmistakably clear: Switzerland may be a global leader in medical innovation, yet high emissions, linear resource flows, and fragmented structures simultaneously threaten the health of its own system. The discrepancy between medical progress and ecological reality underscores how urgently a shift toward regenerative prosperity is needed for a future-proof healthcare system. This is precisely where the Healthcare Collective comes in.

The PROSPER Compass of the Swiss Impact & Prosperity Initiative provides an inspirational framework for this reorientation. It illustrates that well-being, justice, resilience, and regenerative systems are not isolated concepts but form a shared foundation. Health is thus redefined: not as the result of individual interventions, but as the expression of functioning, sustainable, and just systems. The launch event impressively demonstrated the strong will to work together on solutions.

The four thematic working groups-Cosanum, Johnson & Johnson MedTech, Schulthess Clinic, and ten23 health-demonstrated that although challenges along the healthcare sector are complex, they are solvable when sector boundaries are overcome. The workshops made it clear: whether waste streams, e-waste, supplier management, or Scope-3 emissions-initiatives, insights, and approaches already exist everywhere, but until now they have operated in isolation. The Healthcare Collective creates, for the first time, a framework in which these puzzle pieces can be brought together, scaled, and further developed.

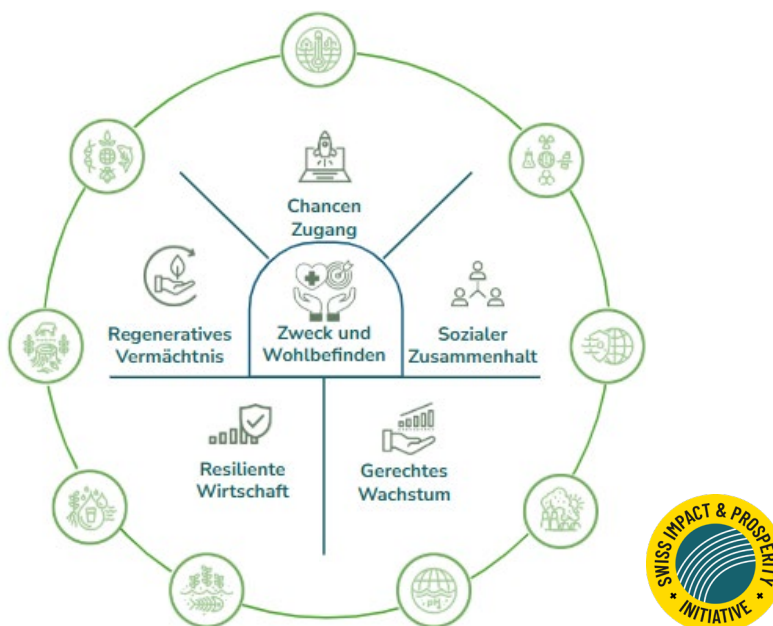
The working groups also outlined clear paths forward: from developing joint circular-economy models to standardizing e-waste processes and sustainable procurement standards, all the way to co-creative innovations along the pharmaceutical value chain. One common thread runs through all groups: real progress can only be achieved through shared standards, shared data, coordinated infrastructures, and systemic thinking.

The launch was therefore not just an event but the starting point of a movement. The Healthcare Collective sees itself as a platform and catalyst connecting networking, learning, and implementation. The next months will be decisive. Joint learning journeys, co-creative formats, regular coordination meetings, and at least three in-depth workshops are planned to translate the energy of the launch into concrete, measurable impact. The structure of the working groups will continue to evolve flexibly, ensuring that topics can be addressed with the necessary depth and effectiveness-always aligned with the framework of the PROSPER Compass.

Transformation can only happen when expertise, experience, and perspectives come together. The Healthcare Collective is the shared space for this. Those who participate actively help shape a healthcare system that not only causes less harm but unfolds regenerative strength-for people, organizations, and the entire system.

## Paradoxical Healthcare System in Switzerland

Health must necessarily be understood more holistically. Although Switzerland is a global leader in medical innovation, a second look reveals a paradox: in the Sustainable Development Index, Switzerland ranks only 26th in 2025; in the Climate Change Performance Index, it ranks only 33rd. Can we really speak of world-class performance when our innovation progress simultaneously endangers our own health? Those who contribute to the climate crisis ultimately impair the well-being of all. We treat diseases that are partly caused by our lifestyle and economic systems. This is why we need a more comprehensive understanding of health—one that places regenerative economic practices at the center.



PROSPER Compass of the Swiss Impact & Prosperity Initiative

Source: <https://www.impact.swiss/>

This is where the PROSPER Compass comes in: it provides a navigation system for regenerative prosperity and shows how organizations can shift their focus from purely efficiency-driven growth to long-term system health. Its seven interconnected pillars—from purpose and well-being to equitable opportunities, regenerative systems, and a resilient economy—illustrate that health is both a foundation and an expression of regenerative prosperity. Thus, it becomes clear: regenerative prosperity and health are not separate goals but closely intertwined and essential for the future viability of our entire system.

## The Healthcare Collective

To truly implement a holistic, regenerative understanding of health, more is required than individual efforts by single institutions-it requires genuine collaboration. The complex challenges of our healthcare system cannot be solved within isolated silos. Clinics, care facilities, pharma, MedTech, logistics, politics, and sustainability actors depend on each other, yet they often act side by side rather than together. The greatest untapped potential lies precisely here: collective action creates impact that no organization can achieve alone.

This is why the Healthcare Collective was created-because “We believe in the power of togetherness” (Thomas Schefer, Headcoach at Cosanum). It is not just another project but a unifying movement. It brings together actors from across the Swiss healthcare system, united by the shared vision of creating a future-proof, sustainable, and more human healthcare system. Its purpose is clear: to connect people and organizations, to learn from one another, to enable inspiration, and to translate knowledge into concrete solutions. Progress emerges through exchange-through sharing successes, challenges, and insights. Supported by four leading founding members, the Collective offers a platform where innovation and sustainability can be advanced and practically developed jointly.

The launch event on 11 November 2025 marked precisely this starting point. It served as a catalyst for four topic-focused working groups that are now working across sectors on concrete sustainability solutions-each supervised by a founding member driving a topic close to its core competencies. The mission is as simple as it is powerful: connect, inspire, share, develop. In doing so, an ecosystem of cooperation emerges that goes beyond declarations of intent-toward measurable impact and real transformation. Or, as Thomas Schefer put it: “Doing is like wanting, just more intense!”

Only through collective action can the Swiss healthcare system move from fragmented initiatives to a regenerative, resilient, and humane system.

## Working Group 1) Hospital waste as a resource: recycling, circularity and scaling

### Thematic Focus and Context

Cosanum is one of Switzerland's leading logistics and supply partners for hospitals, care facilities, and emergency services-and knows the material and waste streams of the healthcare system like hardly any other actor. For exactly this reason, Cosanum is focusing on "**Hospital waste as a resource: recycling, circular economy, and scaling**," addressing an area with enormous untapped potential.

Over many years-driven by requirements relating to patient safety, process optimization, and efficiency-the Swiss healthcare system has developed a pronounced single-use mentality. Almost all of these products consist of oil-based plastics, and due to regulatory frameworks (MDR), changing the materials used is hardly feasible. The result is a waste system that is neither ecologically nor economically viable for the future.

The numbers speak for themselves:

- 9% of all hazardous waste in Switzerland consists of medical waste-around 170,000 tons per year (FOEN). This corresponds to approximately 10,000 truckloads, i.e., a truck traffic jam from Zurich to Geneva.
- Medical waste causes twice as many CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per kilogram as conventional municipal waste (1,000 kg vs. 500 kg CO<sub>2</sub>).
- The healthcare sector is responsible for 8% of national CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Cosanum therefore focuses deliberately on medical products and asks how waste can be understood not as a problem but as a resource. Programs such as cosaRecycling and concepts such as "Hospital Mining" show how valuable raw materials could be recovered and returned to circular systems. Roughly one-third of all waste is theoretically reusable-the challenge now is to design safety, hygiene, and process integration so that this potential can be realized in practice.

With this orientation, Cosanum creates the foundation for one of the Healthcare Collective's central tasks: transforming linear waste streams into true circularity-and thus turning one of the most visible weaknesses of the healthcare system into a measurable opportunity.

### Potential Solutions

The discussion clearly showed that numerous initiatives already exist demonstrating how circular economy principles can be practically implemented in healthcare. Several hospitals-among them Geneva University Hospital, Schulthess Clinic, Hirslanden, and Hôpital de la Côte-are working on projects involving reusable products, precise waste separation, take-back systems, and the integration of sterilization infrastructures. In parallel, innovation partners such as B-Circular/B-Circle, Helbling, and Sense E-Recycling are driving various approaches: from reusing contaminated materials (Sharp Circle) to disassembling MedTech products (Next Gen

Disassemble) to using post-consumer recyclates or developing new reusable designs. Cosanum also contributed a promising approach with its idea for decontaminating medical waste using heating technology to return raw materials to the cycle. Despite individual setbacks- such as failed attempts to implement reusable systems-it became clear that valuable insights already exist and can be used.

Three central project clusters emerged from all contributions:

1. Reuse of single-use materials
2. Development and use of reusable products
3. Cross-cutting system and infrastructure solutions, including:
  - shared collection and decontamination systems,
  - end-of-life models,
  - new financing mechanisms, and
  - targeted technology scouting.

At the same time, it became clear that the transformation will only succeed if additional key actors are involved-particularly policymakers, regulators, manufacturers, waste processors, sustainability organizations, and educational institutions. The goal is coordinated cross-sector collaboration that transforms fragmented individual initiatives into scalable, systemic solutions.

## **Next Steps for the Working Group**

Several central prerequisites were identified for effective participation in future working groups.

Key success factors:

- Clear management buy-in so that initiatives do not fail due to internal barriers.
- Active involvement of legislators and authorities who should not only react but help shape political frameworks.
- Alignment within the industry: instead of isolated individual projects, shared goals, coordinated approaches, and genuine cooperation between hospitals, suppliers, and waste processors. For working groups to generate impact, they must pursue measurable, shared goals and require binding commitment to implementation.
- Central to this is professional stakeholder orchestration, bringing together change management, process management, and the involvement of economic and societal actors.

From this, three direct next steps arise:

1. Consolidation of existing projects into industry-wide initiatives and systematic preparation of best practices.
2. Examination of collective-action approaches to identify which ongoing projects could achieve significantly greater impact through additional partners or coordinated implementation.

3. Definition of a pilot project for shared infrastructure development, particularly in the area of collection and decontamination systems-a decisive lever for achieving true circularity in healthcare.

## Final Remarks

The launch event impressively demonstrated that the central challenges of our healthcare system can only be addressed through genuine cooperation. No hospital, no company, no authority, and no single initiative can achieve the necessary changes alone. The four working groups showed how closely ecological, social, economic, and systemic factors are interlinked- and how important it is to share knowledge, make obstacles visible, and actively use synergies.

The PROSPER Compass offers important orientation: it reminds us that regenerative prosperity is more than resource-efficient action. It means placing the health of people, organizations, and systems into a stable, future-proof state, and thinking big without losing sight of feasibility. The Healthcare Collective can become a true catalyst here: a space for systemic collaboration, a learning platform, and a place where concrete solutions emerge, rather than mere demands.

In the coming months, we want to continue strengthening the working groups and translate the energy of the launch into continuous collaboration and visible progress. We will not rigidly hold on to four working groups, but dynamically evolve the structure so each group can develop the necessary depth, focus, and effectiveness. The PROSPER Compass serves as a unifying framework that aligns all initiatives toward not just causing less harm but generating active regenerative impact.

To unlock this potential, we rely on a clearly structured future process: Tailored learning journeys, co-creative workshop formats, and at least three in-person workshops next year will form the framework for in-depth content work. They will be complemented by regular coordination meetings every two months, ensuring momentum, commitment, and transparency. This continuous interplay of learning, co-creation, and implementation forms the engine of the next phase.

Now it is your turn. We warmly invite everyone to actively participate in the working groups, with expertise, questions, practical examples, or pilot projects. Only when we act together will we generate the collective strength that makes our healthcare system more resilient, sustainable, and humane.

→ [Join a working group now and help shape the transformation](#)