



**WHO European Healthy Cities Network  
Annual Meeting of the WHO European  
National Healthy Cities Networks**

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**Lisbon, Portugal  
29–31 May 2019**

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## **Scope and purpose**

The WHO European Healthy Cities Network entered Phase VII (2019–2024) of its operation in January 2019. Throughout the 31 years of its existence to date, the Network has brought together over 100 cities and approximately 30 accredited national networks to strengthen healthy cities. The success of this movement within the WHO European Region has been noted at the global level and there is a call for the WHO European Healthy Cities Network to share its knowledge, operations and experience with partners involved in Healthy Cities movements in other WHO regions.

Phase VII is guided by a vision outlined in the Copenhagen Consensus of Mayors: Healthier and Happier Cities for All and an operational strategy outlined in the Belfast Charter for Healthy Cities: Operationalizing the Copenhagen Consensus of Mayors. The Copenhagen Consensus of Mayors is aligned with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while the Belfast Charter provides a strategy for implementation of the WHO roadmap to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at local level, building on Health 2020, the European policy for health and well-being. The Belfast Charter is aligned with WHO's Thirteenth General Programme of Work, 2019–2023 (GPW 13), which was adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2018. Through the adoption of the Belfast Charter, the WHO European Healthy Cities Network supports the implementation of GPW 13 at all three levels of the organization. The work of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network contributes to the goal in GPW 13 of *1 billion more people enjoying better health and well-being* and output 3.3.1 of the Proposed programme budget 2020–2021: *countries enabled to adopt, review and revise laws, regulations and policies to create an enabling environment for healthy cities and villages, housing, schools and workplaces.*

National networks are an essential pillar of the Healthy Cities movement in the WHO European Region. National networks provide technical and strategic support to the efforts of their member cities to improve health and well-being for all, to reduce health inequalities and to overcome barriers to the local implementation of WHO-inspired and national policy frameworks. Every national network has developed according to the unique needs of its member cities, the available resources, and the relevant cultural and legal frameworks. The priority for the next phase of work is to strengthen and support national networks to take a leading role in developing and supporting the WHO European Healthy Cities movement across the Region and beyond.

The Annual Meeting of the WHO European National Healthy Cities Networks will bring together political representatives and coordinators of national networks, representatives of the health ministries of WHO European Member States, WHO national counterparts and national technical focal points, WHO technical experts, and representatives of healthy cities movements in other WHO regions. Participants in the meeting will explore ways to implement the plans and

priorities for Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network as outlined in the Belfast Charter for Healthy Cities and the implementation framework for Phase VII, and discuss and plan ways to share the approaches and lessons learned from the 31 years of the Healthy Cities movement.

## **Objectives**

The meeting will have four key objectives:

- (1) to undertake a situation analysis of the national networks in the European Region in the context of the strategic objectives, goals and implementation framework for Phase VII;
- (2) to identify examples of good practice and ways of strengthening synergy and coherence between networks and national counterparts as part of Phase VII implementation;
- (3) to share examples of good practice and lessons learned, and discuss ways to strengthen scientific and technical support to national networks; and
- (4) to discuss the creation of an action plan and accountability and indicator framework for national networks by using exercises designed to deliver leadership training.

## **Outcomes**

The meeting will work towards achieving five key outcomes:

- (1) a situation analysis of the work of national networks in relation to the implementation framework for Phase VII in the European Region, including strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats;
- (2) identification of case studies of good practice and of approaches to strengthening synergy and coherence between networks and national counterparts as part of implementation of Phase VII;
- (3) identification of good practice in the scientific and technical support to be provided to national networks;
- (4) a draft outline of a national network action plan and an accountability and impact framework; and
- (5) identification of new tools for leadership training.