Healthy cities: local and political engagement to build back better

19 October 2020

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01 Global context and challenges to health and well-being

02 Cities, building a better future with health and well-being at the centre

03 Cities and COVID-19

04 Transition to a new normal

05 Building back better

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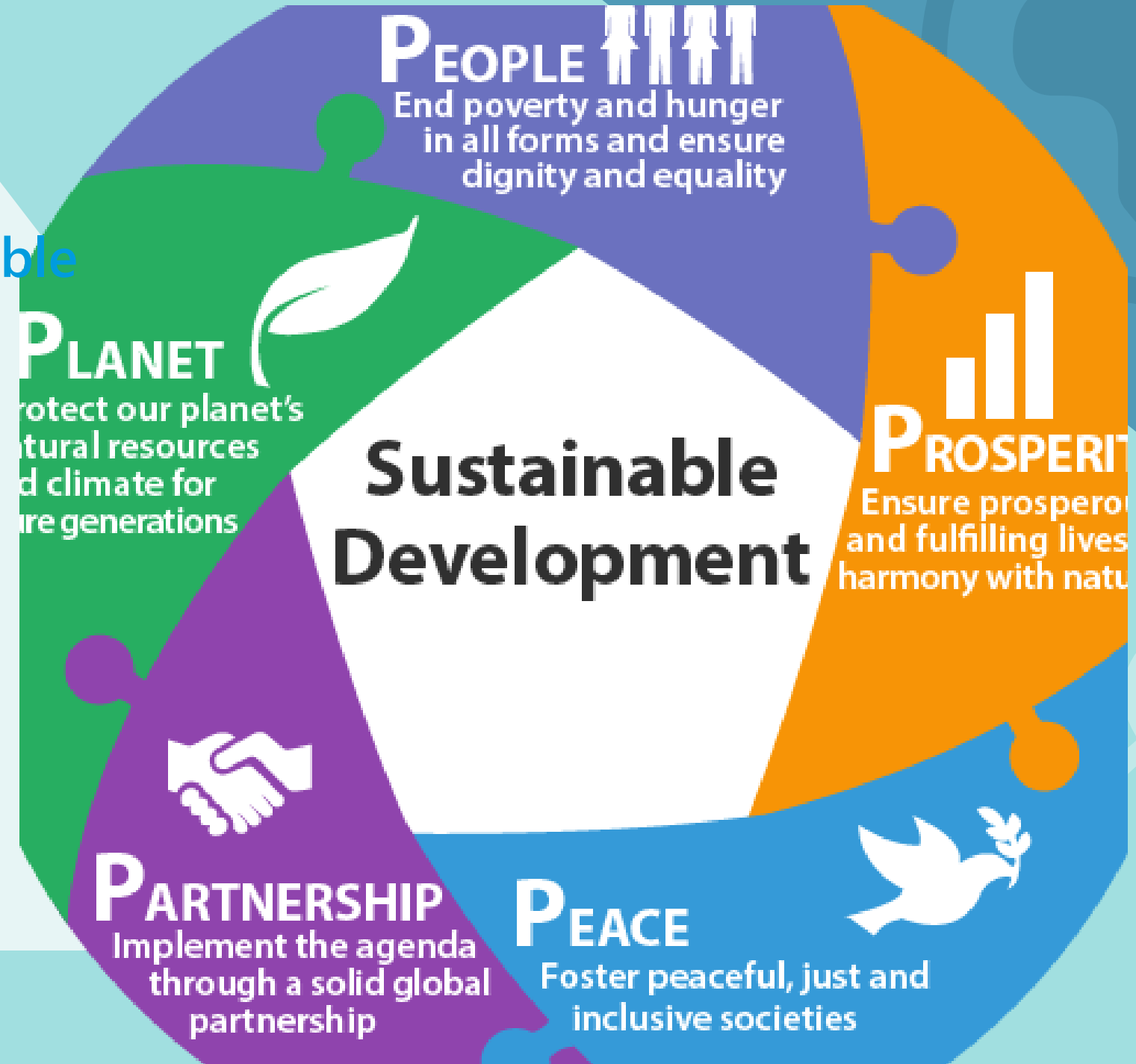
United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



Transformative approaches, leaving no one behind

Health in the SDG era

Health is a **precondition**, **driver** and **outcome** of sustainable development.

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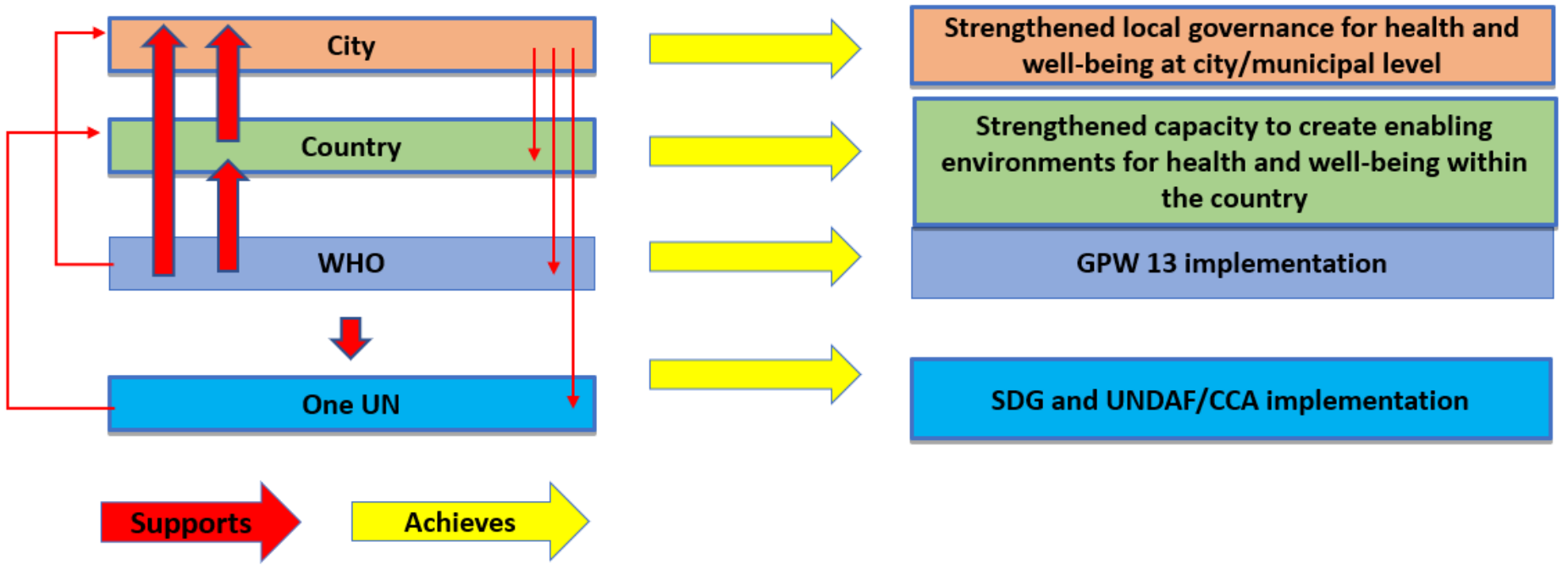
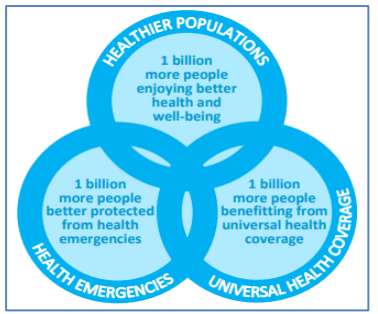
WHO European Healthy Cities Development Approach

GOAL:

Strengthen local government for healthy and equitable sustainable development

WHO European healthy cities development approach





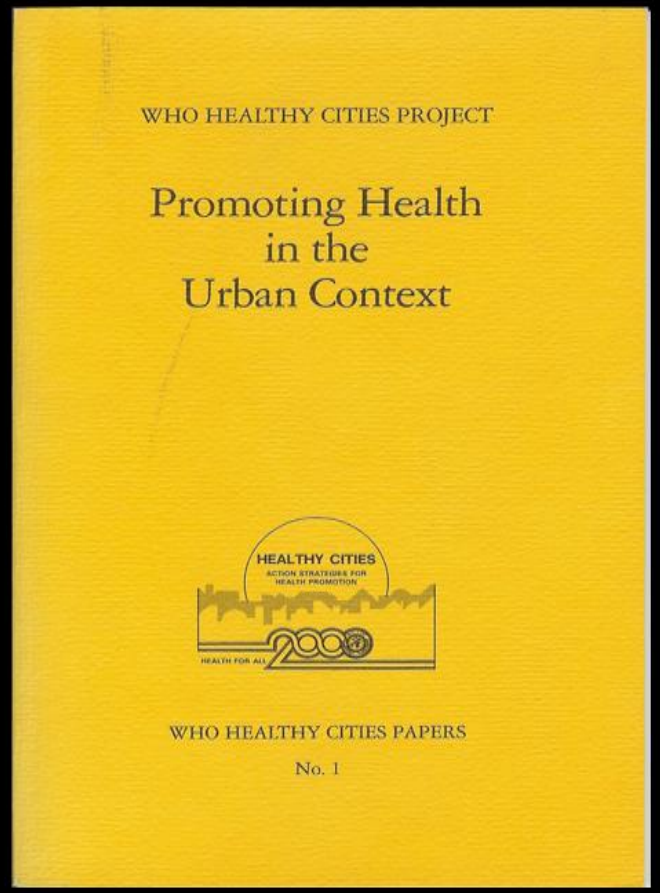
What is a healthy city?

A clean, safe, high quality physical environment (including housing quality).

Access to a wide variety of experiences and resources with the possibility of multiple contacts, inter-action and communication.

A diverse, vital and innovative city economy.

An ecosystem which is stable now and sustainable in the long term.



Encouragement of connectedness with the past, with the cultural and biological heritage and with other groups and individuals.

A strong, mutually supportive and non-exploitive community.

A city form that is compatible with, and enhances the above parameters and behaviours.

A high degree of public participation in and control over the decisions affecting one's life, health and well-being.

An optimum level of appropriate public health and sick care services accessible to all.

The meeting of basic needs (food, water, shelter, income, safety, work) for all the city's people.

High health status (both high positive health status and low disease status).

What is the WHO European Healthy Cities Network?

Founded in **1988**

Active and vibrant **process and platform** for **inspiration and learning** for cities working to contribute to **health, well-being and health equity**

Key **partner and vehicle of the WHO** for delivering on global and regional agends

Three pronged approach:

- **political commitment;**
- **technical excellence;**
- **community participation**

Where are we now….
WHO European Healthy Cities Network

Currently consists of **1500 cities / 200 million people** supported by National Healthy Cities Networks in 30 countries

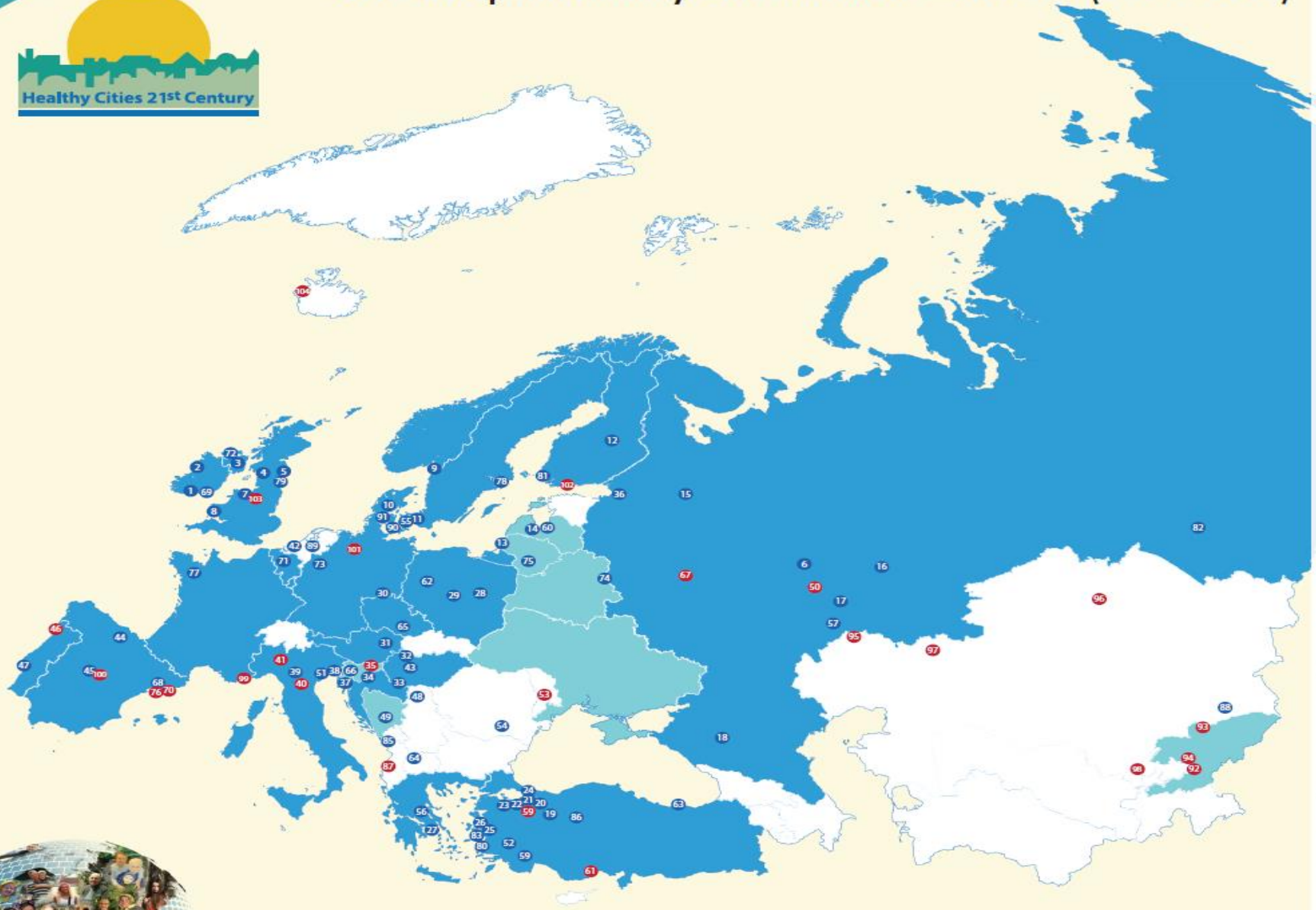
106 cities in total

- 81 WHO flagship cities
- 9 applicant cities,
- 16 expressed interest

Phase VII (2019 – 2024) marks over **32 years of knowledge, experience and innovation**

WHO European Healthy Cities Network – Phase VI (2014 – 2018)

Healthy Cities 21st Century



1	Cork	IRE	53	Chisinau	MDA
2	Galway	IRE	54	Bucharest	ROM
3	Belfast	UNK	55	Frederiksberg	DEN
4	Carlisle	UNK	56	Filothei-Psychiko	GRE
5	Newcastle	UNK	57	Chapayevsk	RUS
6	Cheboksary	RUS	58	Burdur City	TUR
7	Liverpool	UNK	59	Osmangazi	TUR
8	Swansea	UNK	60	Riga	LVA
9	Østfold County	NOR	61	Mezitli Municipality	TUR
10	Horsens	DEN	62	Poznan	POL
11	Copenhagen	DEN	63	Trabzon Metropolitan	TUR
12	Kuopio	FIN	64	Skopje	MKD
13	Klaipéda	LTH	65	Brno	CZE
14	Jürmala	LVA	66	Ljubljana	SVN
15	Cherepovets	RUS	67	Stupino	RUS
16	Izhevsk	RUS	68	Sant Andreu de la Barca	SPA
17	Dimitrovgrad	RUS	69	Waterford	IRE
18	Stavropol City	RUS	70	Barcelona	SPA
19	Eskişehir	TUR	71	Brussels	BEL
20	Gölcük	TUR	72	Derry City and Strabane	UNK
21	Yalova	TUR	73	Düsseldorf	DEU
22	Bursa	TUR	74	Gorki	BLR
23	Nilüfer	TUR	75	Kaunas	LTH
24	Kadiköy	TUR	76	L'Hospitalet de Llobregat	SPA
25	Izmir	TUR	77	Rennes	FRA
26	Karşıyaka/Izmir	TUR	78	Stockholm	SWE
27	Amaroussion	GRE	79	Sunderland	UNK
28	Warsaw	POL	80	Samos	GRE
29	Lódz	POL	81	Turku	FIN
30	Dresden	DEU	82	Novosibirsk	RUS
31	Vienna	AUS	83	Municipality of Balçova	TUR
32	Györ	HUN	84	Jerusalem	ISR
33	Pécs	HUN	85	Podgorica	MON
34	Zagreb	CRO	86	Çankaya	TUR
35	Celje	SVN	87	Tirana	ALB
36	St Petersburg	RUS	88	Almaty	KAZ
37	Rijeka	CRO	89	Utrecht	NET
38	Udine	ITA	90	Lolland	DEN
39	Modena	ITA	91	Fredericia	DEN
40	Bologna	ITA	92	Osh	KGZ
41	Milan	ITA	93	Bishkek	KGZ
42	Rotterdam	NET	94	Djalal-Abad	KGZ
43	Székesfehérvár	HUN	95	Uralsk	KAZ
44	Vitoria-Gasteiz	SPA	96	Astana	KAZ
45	Villanueva de la Cañada	SPA	97	Aktobe	KAZ
46	Viana do Castelo	POR	98	Tashkent	UZB
47	Seixal	POR	99	Nice	FRA
48	Novi Sad	SRB	100	Madrid	ESP
49	Sarajevo	BIH	101	Bremen	DEU
50	Ulyanovsk	RUS	102	Helsinki	FIN
51	Venice	ITA	103	Manchester	UNK
52	Denizli	TUR	104	Reykjavik	ISL

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- 79 Designated cities
- 25 Applicant cities

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National Healthy Cities Networks – Phase VI (2014-2018)

Healthy Cities 21st Century

WHO Accredited

- Austria
- Belgium
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Russian Federation
- Spain
- Sweden
- Turkey
- United Kingdom

Non-WHO Accredited

- Baltic Region
- Belarus
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Kyrgyzstan
- Latvia
- Slovenia
- Ukraine

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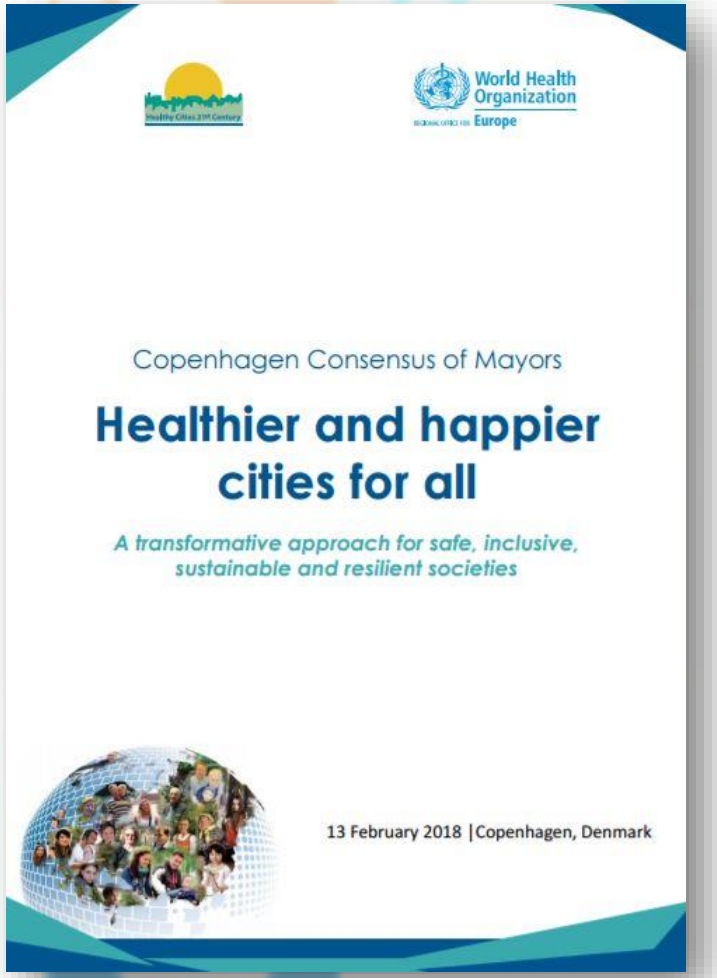
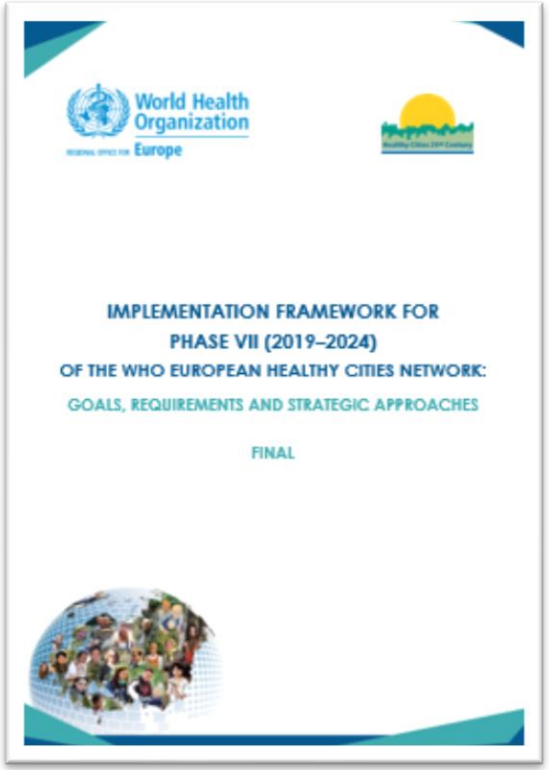
Summit of Mayors – Copenhagen Consensus of Mayors

12-13 February 2018
Copenhagen, Denmark



Phase VII core themes

1. Investing in the people who make up our cities;
2. designing urban places that improve health and well-being;
3. fostering greater participation and partnerships for health and well-being;
4. improving community prosperity and access to common goods and servcies;
5. promoting peace and security through inclusive societies; and
6. protecting the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production.



Copenhagen Consensus of Mayors
13-14 February 2018

Mayors and political leaders representing cities from all over the world

Adoption of the common vision until 2030

Commitment to working together to build cities with people, for people; with health and well-being as a driver of urban development.

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Complexity, uncertainty and dynamic changes

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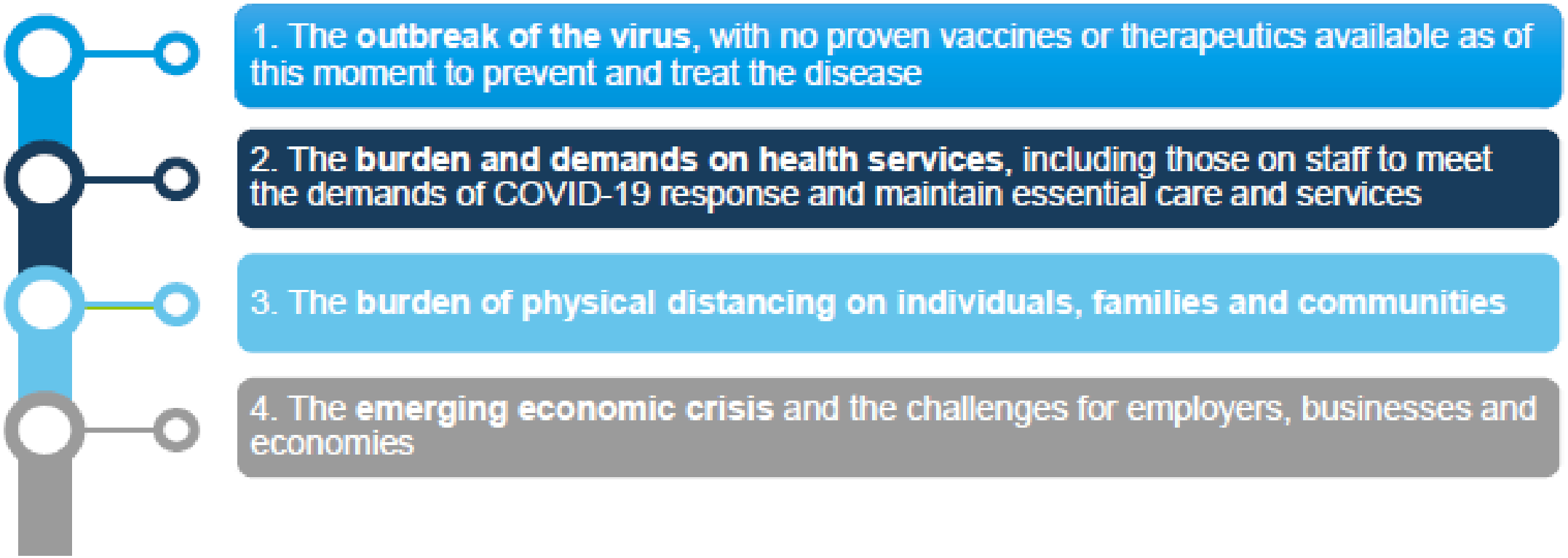
Critical moment – difficult choices

The evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic in the European Region is creating **four parallel sets of demands** that are interconnected and reinforce one another:



1. The **outbreak of the virus**, with no proven vaccines or therapeutics available as of this moment to prevent and treat the disease
2. The **burden and demands on health services**, including those on staff to meet the demands of COVID-19 response and maintain essential care and services
3. The **burden of physical distancing on individuals, families and communities**
4. The **emerging economic crisis** and the challenges for employers, businesses and economies

Magar, Veronica. Gender, health and the Sustainable Development Goals. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 2015;93:743. http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/93/11/15-160937.pdf?ua=1

Cities and COVID-19: WHO European Healthy Cities Network

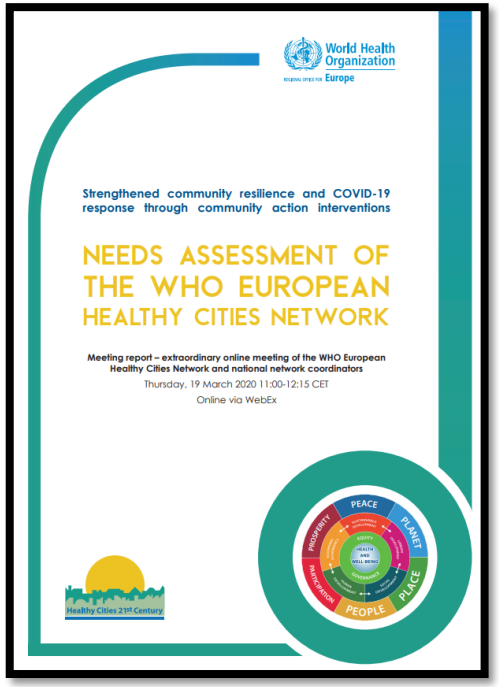
Levels of government closest to communities

Cities are national epicentres in the COVID-19 pandemic: not only in terms of community transmission, points for healthcare surge, international and national travel and trade hubs, as well as entry points into further country-wide transmission

Cities are the closest level of government to the people: Municipal governments work most closely with people, including vulnerable groups. They are an additional entry point to reaching people, with risk communication messaging, with trusted public health messaging and advice

Cities are where policy becomes action: They are key actors in national preparedness and response plans; key providers of services; and central elements of a sustainable future

Networks of cities are key: Platforms to sharing experiences and learnings, promote solidarity, and coordinate support



Prepare, respond, build back better

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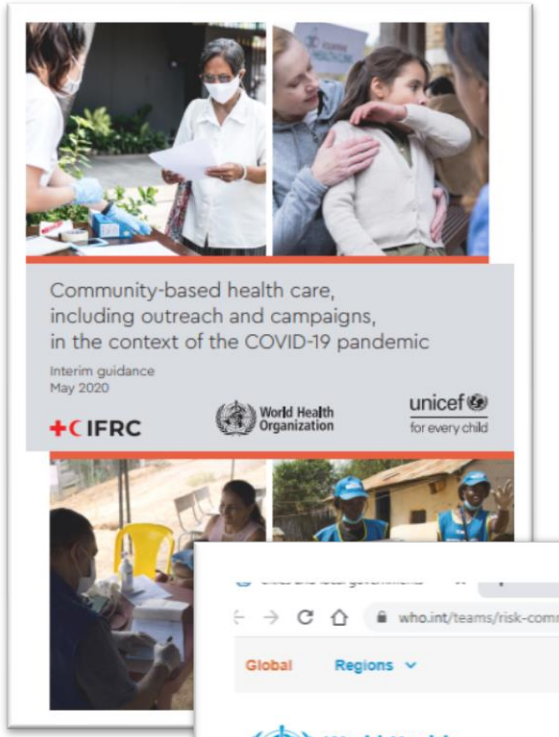
Cities and local governments are critical

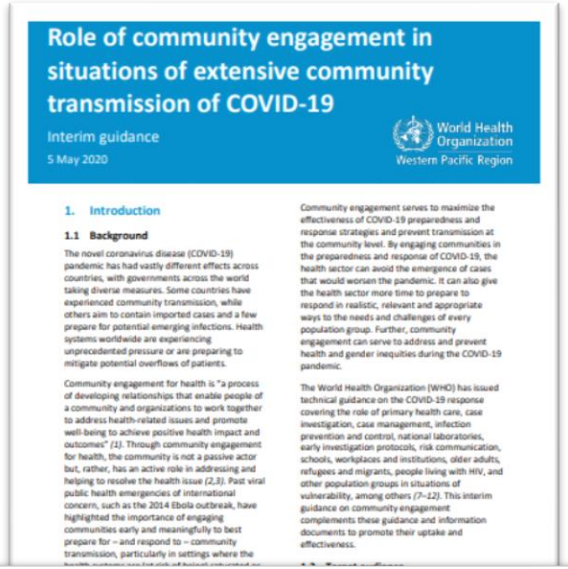
- Response
- Building resilience and sustainability

Key areas of action from cities across the WHO European Region include:

- support to public health measures for COVID-19 response;
- support to increasing surge capacity for the health system;
- support to groups at risk of vulnerability;
- risk communication and community engagement;
- community, social and economic resilience measures to mitigate social and economic disruption;
- building community resilience; societal cohesion; community actions
- provision of culture, art and education

Resources for cities and local governments





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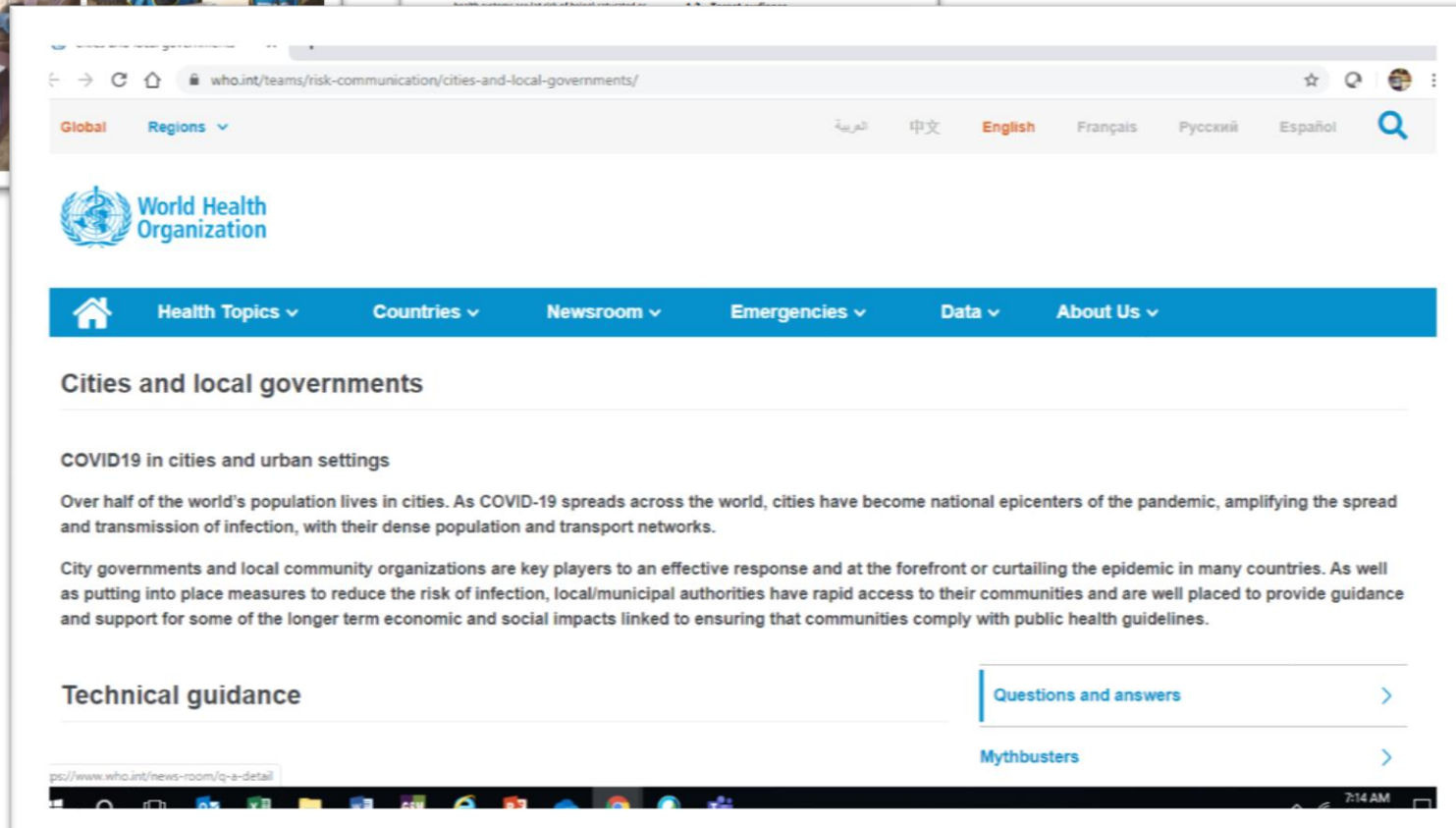

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Transitioning to a ‘new normal’: City reported actions in the European Region

Response and recovery
Resilience and sustainability
‘No regrets’

Protect and support **groups at risk of vulnerability**	**Community investment** and mobilization	Leadership, **governance** and coordination
Spatial **measures to support public health**	Community, social and cultural **resilience measures**	**Economic measures** to build back better

WHO Manifesto for a healthy and green COVID-19 recovery

1. Safeguard Nature
2. Ensure Access to Clean Water
3. Ensure a quick healthy energy transition
4. Promote healthy, sustainable food systems
5. Build healthy, liveable cities
6. Stop funding pollution

Source: COVID-19 Coordination meetings of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network

Thank you!

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