

The Newsletter

1st
edition

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WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN URBAN HEALTH CLUSTER?

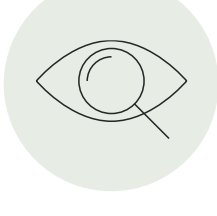
Urban health refers to the wellbeing and health of people living in cities. It focuses on the causal link between common chronic health conditions and the urban environment. The six projects forming the Cluster aim to enhance collaboration and **promote the importance of including health and well-being in urban related strategies and policies.**

Are you eager to learn more about:

- how can we enhance the **impact** of our research on **relevant policies** such as the EU Urban Agenda?
- how can we **promote the health dimension** in the EU Urban Agenda more efficiently?
- how can we effectively **communicate** with cities and with citizens?

Then please keep reading!

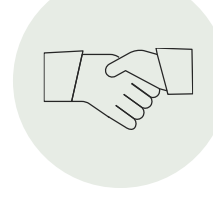
CLUSTER GENERAL OBJECTIVES



Increase visibility and policy translation of urban health research and innovation actions



Strengthen the evidence base to inform local, regional, national and translational policies such as the EU Urban Agenda



Facilitate international cooperation with other relevant multisectoral and interdisciplinary initiatives on urban issues and health

CLUSTER SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES



eMOTIONAL Cities aims to provide scientific evidence on how the natural and built urban environment shapes the neural system underlying human cognitive and emotional processing, with a perspective that also incorporates age, gender and vulnerable groups' specificities.



ENLIGHTENme aims to advance the understanding of how indoor and outdoor lighting affects health and wellbeing, particularly in elderly populations. It will develop innovative, evidence-based guidelines and policies for measures, technologies, and interventions that can be implemented with a dedicated Decision Support System to help both citizens and city leaders improve public health and wellbeing.



HEART aims to address factors influencing public health and well-being, provide evidence base (proven by clinical tests where appropriate) thus improve urban health through changes in individual behaviour of citizens.



RECETAS aims to test if nature-based social prescriptions may be effective way in reducing loneliness and promoting mental wellbeing in cities.



URBANOME aims to promote urban health, wellbeing and liveability, through systematically integrating health concerns in urban policies and the activities of urban citizens.



WELLBASED aims to develop, test and evaluate new innovative health-focused approaches on urban policies to alleviate energy poverty and its effects on the health and wellbeing of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged citizens, based on the socio-ecological model and the right to energy.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE EC LEVEL

*The European Urban Health Cluster aims to utilise synergies and improve collaboration among projects and initiatives. Cities and regions are invited to become partners of the urban agenda to specifically provide insights related to urban health. These will help to achieve **sustainability, inclusion and better quality of life.***

*In order to put this forward, it is proposed to create a joint **Manifesto** with as many interested connections as possible. The*

*Manifesto shall be **inspiring and describe tangible actions** to address both health and wellbeing at the local level, in line with the subsidiarity principle.*

*On **June 28, 2021**, members of the European Urban Health Cluster and the Health and Wellbeing in Cities Cluster met to launch a joint manifesto for cities.*

The Health and Wellbeing in Cities cluster includes four innovation actions, namely euPolis, GoGreenRoutes, In-Habit, and VARCITIES, funded as part of the H2020 SC5 14 "Visionary and integrated solutions to improve wellbeing and health in cities."

The European Urban Health Cluster includes six innovation projects, namely eMOTIONAL Cities, HEART, ENLIGHTENme, RECETAS, URBANOME and WELLBASED.

At this meeting, members from the two clusters discussed about aspects in which the Manifesto should be specific, including: (1) the scale of intervention, (2) human and planetary health, (3) gender, diversity, equity and inclusion of inhabitants, (4), digital and technological component, (5) the cultural dimension of health and well-being and (6) a draft action plan.

*A skeleton for the Manifesto is expected to be submitted by **September 6, 2021**, describing the main actions and the narratives describing them.*

ABOUT OUR FIRST MEETING...

MAY 20, 2021

Project coordinators of the 6 Horizon 2020 projects funded in the frame of the call SC1-BHC-29-2020, representatives of the European Initiatives and Networks, international pioneers in the field of urban health and political decision makers, met to launch the Urban Health Cluster in an open event, which was also joined by other 100 participants. With the aim to build bridges with other past and on-going projects, representatives from related projects were also invited to share their insights and lessons learned.

Collaboration with other EU programmes

The need for multidisciplinary teams that **co-work, co-design and co-create** was encouraged, as well as the promotion of alliances between cities and different actors. In this equation, citizens are an important part. Citizens who possess knowledge can inform **decision making**. The final message is to **join forces** with existing Clusters, initiatives, relevant projects either ongoing or past, to create the ground for collaboration and exploit the golden opportunities that may raise through the new programming period.

About the Cluster-based working groups

There is **great potential of synergies** among the funded projects in the Urban Health Cluster. These synergies will be realized through working groups on the following topics: science translation for policy and practice, health determinants and interventions, data analysis and data protection, urban issues and epidemics, communication and dissemination, and citizen science approaches to urban health.

An **International Advisory Board** will be empanelled by experts in Urban Health from Europe and beyond. Membership, roles and responsibilities of IAB members are under development.

Working group leaders will organise the work across the working groups in order to **exploit opportunities and synergies** to the maximum degree. Scheduling of working groups' activities and outcomes will align with the activities and outcomes of the projects. The identification of special topics of interest within the working groups is essential, in order to maximise reach and impact of the cluster for policy and practice.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE CLUSTER MEMBERS



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