

WHO European Healthy Cities Network
Annual Healthy Cities Business Meeting and Technical Conference
Resilient Healthy Cities: Creating Sustainable Urban Futures for All

17-19 June 2025
Bursa, Türkiye

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Scope and purpose

Cities are the epicentre of innovation and opportunity and face an evolving landscape of challenges, from climate change to public health crises, making resilience and preparedness more crucial than ever. For the network, urban resilience is focused on preparing cities to adapt, grow, and thrive despite chronic stresses and acute shocks. It involves the capacity to withstand disruptions while maintaining essential functions and adapting to emerging challenges.

The WHO European Healthy Cities Network was launched in 1988 as a political, cross-cutting and intersectoral initiative to be implemented through direct collaboration with cities. It is comprised of 88 flagship WHO healthy cities and over 20 national healthy cities networks, together having more than 1900 cities and municipalities as members in total. A key strategic mechanism of the European Healthy Cities Network is the Annual Healthy Cities Business Meeting and Technical Conference. These meetings bring together both political representatives and technical focal points from the WHO flagship cities and the national networks.

Overview:

The 2025 conference will take place in **Bursa, Türkiye** from **17-19 June 2025**. It will mark a significant transition as the network moves from Phase VII to Phase VIII, reflecting on the progress made and charting a course for future priorities. The theme and subthemes of this year's conference will build on the Copenhagen Consensus of Mayors from 2018, One Health, and more recently, the European Regional High-level Forum on Health in the Well-Being Economy. This year's theme is *Resilient Healthy Cities: Creating Sustainable Urban Futures for All* and will feature abstracts of the following sub-themes:

- **Prosperity:** Thriving Cities, Thriving Futures—The Well-Being Economy in Action
- **Planet:** Climate-Ready Cities—One Health for a Sustainable Tomorrow
- **Participation:** Cities by Us, For Us—Co-Creating the Urban Future
- **People:** Leaving No One Behind: Promoting Equity in Urban Health
- **Place:** Designing Healthy and Equitable Spaces
- **Peace:** Fostering Safe and Inclusive Cities for All

The meeting will be delivered as an in-person conference and will be coordinated by the Healthy Cities Secretariat in the Division for Communicable Diseases, Environment and Health. This will be the fifth and the final Annual Business Meeting to be held in Phase VII

(2019-2025) of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network. The conference will provide a pivotal moment to celebrate achievements, reflect on challenges, and transition into Phase VIII with renewed commitment.

The main objectives of the 2025 annual meeting are to:

- Evaluate the achievements and outcomes of Phase VII of the European WHO Healthy Cities Network;
- Launch of WHO Healthy Cities Network Phase VIII and the adoption of the Phase's themes and commitments;
- Conduct elections for vacant seats in the Healthy Cities Advisory Committee;
- Review 2024 network activities including planning of priority actions for 2025;
- Facilitate sharing and learning of good practices from members in the European Region.

Expected Participants:

- delegations from the city or municipality members of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network, which will include the mayor or lead politician, the coordinator and selected focal points identified to work on the meeting and Phase VII core themes;
- delegations from national healthy cities networks, which will include the political chair of the network, the coordinator, a representative of the health ministry and the regions and one or two observers from member cities;
- invited dignitaries, keynote speakers, resource experts and advisers; and
- representatives from European Region countries interested in joining the Healthy Cities movement.

Key Events:

On **16 June**, a welcome reception is scheduled for the participants. This is not officially a part of the technical conference and is an optional event for participants to attend.

- For **day 1, 17 June** of the conference, a plenary session, business meeting, political committee meeting and an opening dinner is planned.
- On **day 2, 18 June**, abstract presentation, and workshop sessions, along with a dinner will be held.
- On **day 3, 19 June**, an early business meeting, film screening and plenary session will be held.

A detailed programme will be shared with the launch of the conference website. In addition to the technical conference, two side events in Izmir, Türkiye will take place on **20 June**. These side events are open exclusively to registered participants. More information on the side events will be available on the conference website.