

Putting Public Health on Every Agenda: The Power of Cities and Multisectoral Action

WHO European Healthy Cities Network



Prevention Conference, Independent Health Insurance Funds

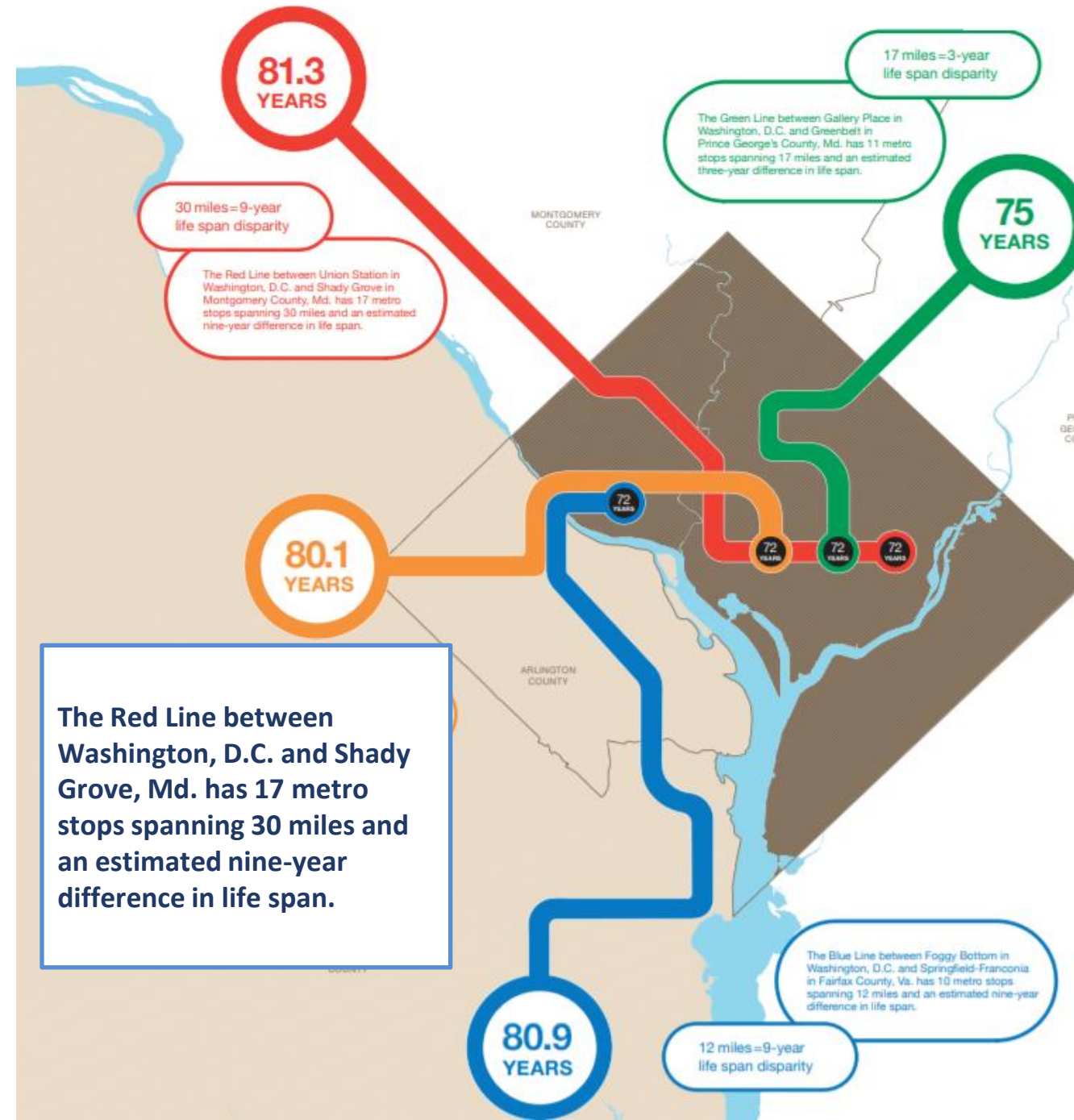
26 November

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Inequity at a Glance

- **Poverty and inequity** are two of the greatest challenges of this century.
- 689 million people world-wide live on **less than \$2 per day**.
- **Urban areas** are already home to 55% of the world's population – it is anticipated that this will **grow to 68% by 2050**.
- Stark differences in economic opportunities, discrimination and unequal opportunities in work explain poorer health outcomes of **women and minority ethnic groups** and significant health inequities between and within countries.



Zooming in on the European Region



Mental Health

64% of young people in the EU reported low well-being in 2021.



Urbanization

Two-thirds of the population lives in urban environments



Child Poverty

In high-income countries, one child in five lives in poverty



Non communicable diseases

Physical inactivity is responsible for 1 million deaths every year.



Air Pollution

1.4 million Europeans die prematurely each year due to polluted environments



Road Traffic Injuries

92 492 people die every year from road traffic injuries in the Region





Jana's Story

Social Determinants of Health Across the Life Course

Jana's story is a hypothetical example illustrating the critical intersection between the social determinants of health and the creation of healthy cities.

CHILDHOOD

Violence and Housing



Jana seeks care at a sexual health clinic following a distressing incident involving an intruder who entered her home through an unsecured entry.

ADULTHOOD

Safety and Employment



Jana visits outreach mental health services due to chronic stress stemming from rising crime rates in her community and her ongoing unemployment

Access to Healthy Food



Jana visits a physician and is diagnosed with a vitamin deficiency caused by insufficient fruit and vegetable intake.

ADOLESCENCE

Urban Planning and Transportation



Poor urban planning in her city limits access to parks and safe areas for physical activity and socialization.

SENIOR

Healthcare Access and Stigma



In her senior years, Jana struggles with worsening asthma due to increasing air pollution in her urban neighborhood. However, the stigma surrounding her past sexual assault results in inadequate care, leaving her health needs unmet.

Healthy Cities Network: Strategic Vehicle to Implement the SDGs and the EPW



HEALTH COVERAGE

1 BILLION more people with health coverage, which provide access to health services when and where they are needed, without financial hardship.



HEALTHIER POPULATIONS

1 BILLION more people enjoying better health and well-being.



HEALTH SECURITY

1 BILLION more people better protected from health emergencies and outbreaks.



Our Work

*‘As people are born, live and age in cities, the urban environment provides a **setting** to adopt a life-long approach, disrupt transmission of generational inequities and take early action to address future health challenges’*

The Healthy Cities Network was established 35 years ago with a view to translate the Ottawa Charter into the streets of Europe.



Annual Business Meeting in Utrecht, 2023

Our Reach



81
Flagship Cities

1900 +
Cities

22
National Networks

237
Million people

The Healthy City Network's Role



Platform for Knowledge Exchange:

- Sharing best practices and successful initiatives
- Organizing ABM conferences, workshops, and webinars



Facilitating Partnerships:

- Connecting cities with similar challenges
- Encouraging joint projects and collaborations within and across the region



Japan's green and blue spaces inspire the continued promotion of healthy cities in Europe



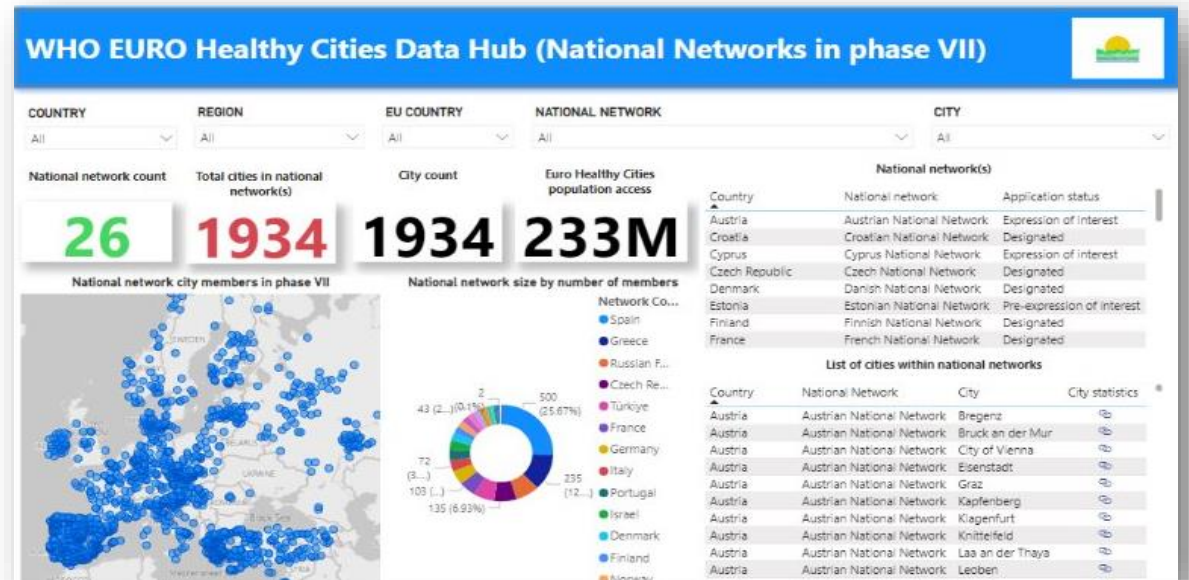
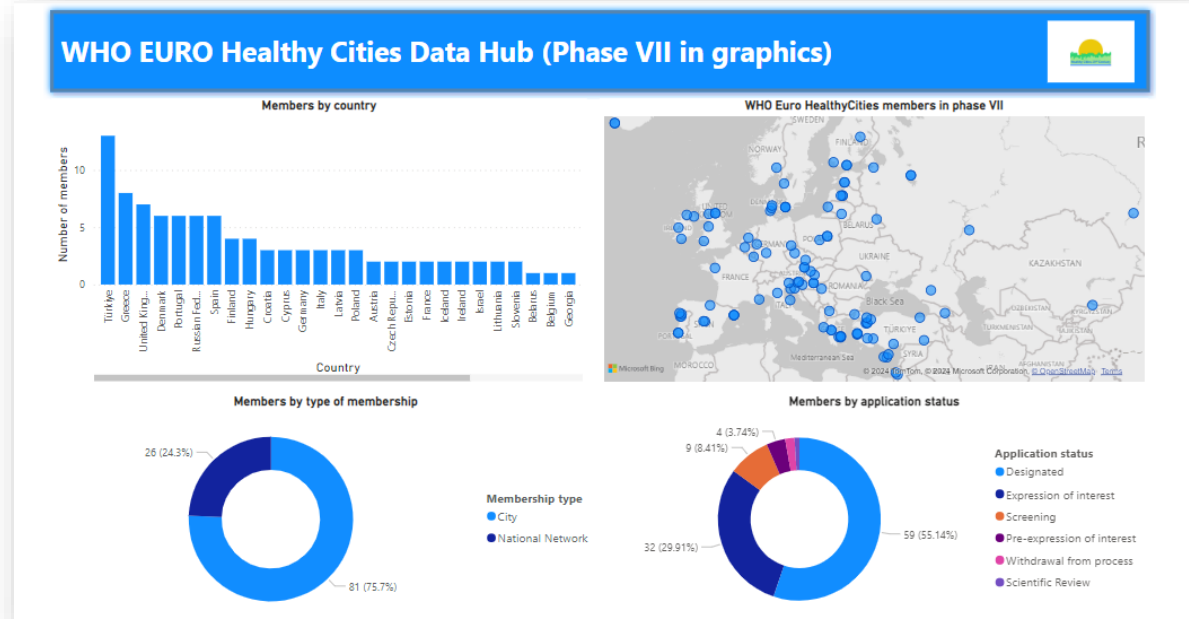
Policy Advocacy & Technical Expertise:

- Supporting cities in implementing health-promoting policies
- Advocating for health and well-being at local, national and international levels



Data Hub

- **Data Aggregation:** Centralize data from all member cities and national networks, including working groups, and task forces.
- **Compendium of Best Practices:** Be a compendium of best practices from annual conference abstracts, serving as a resource for cities to learn from successful initiatives.
- **Community Engagement:** Engage coordinators and stakeholders by making data accessible through user-friendly interfaces.
- **Policy Support:** Provide data-driven insights to inform policy development and advocacy efforts, focusing on health equity and urban development within the network.





Jana's Life Reimagined

Thriving in a Healthy City

CHILDHOOD



Violence and Housing

Jana feels secure in her neighborhood, allowing her to easily access support at a stigma-free sexual health clinic where she feels comfortable seeking care.

ADULTHOOD



Safety and Employment

As a young adult, Jana lives in a neighborhood with low crime rates, allowing her to feel safe and secure. She benefits from job training programs that help her gain employment, reducing her stress levels and improving her overall mental health.



Access to Healthy Food

Jana has easy access to fresh fruits and vegetables through nearby grocery stores and community gardens. Her school provides nutrition education, teaching her the importance of healthy eating.



Urban Planning and Transportation

Jana enjoys safe access to parks and recreational areas for physical activity and socialization. The city provides reliable public transportation, enabling her to connect with friends and participate in community activities.



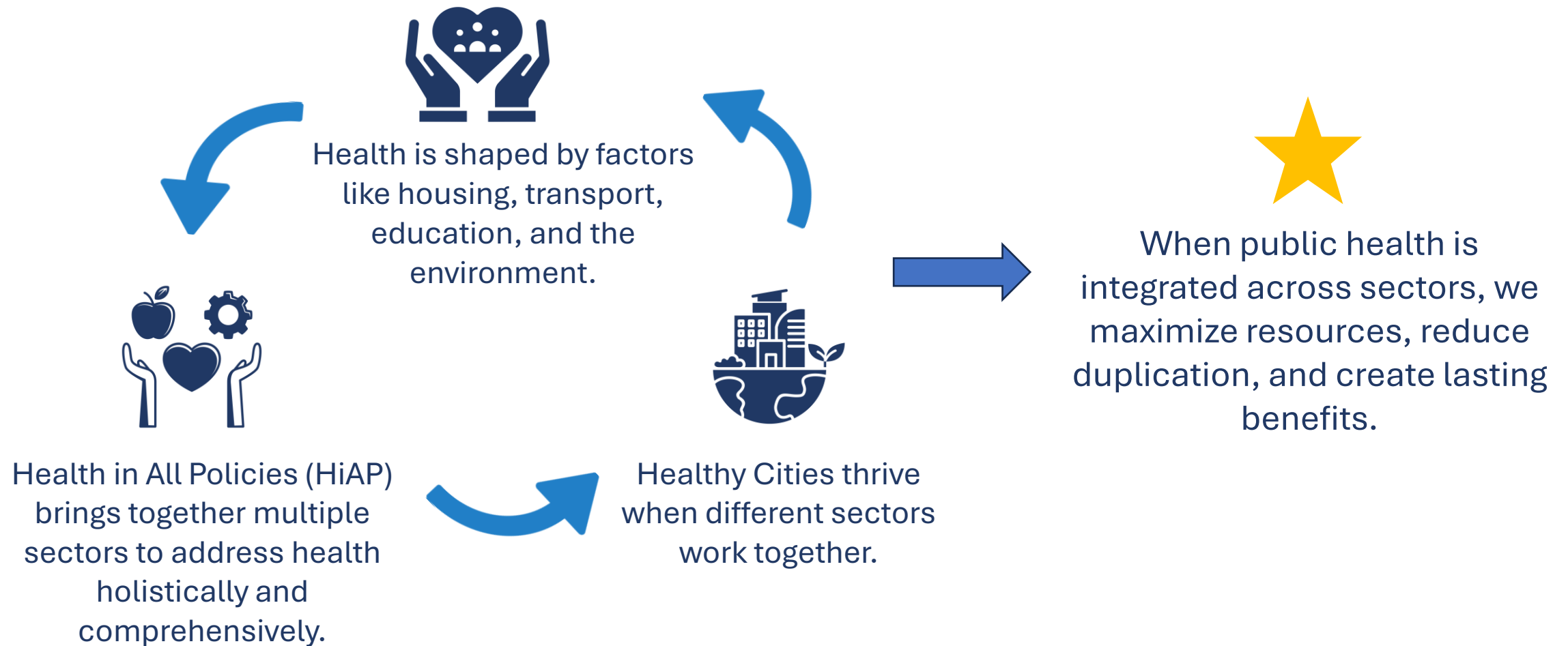
Healthcare Access and Stigma

Jana continues to manage her health effectively, receiving comprehensive healthcare in a supportive environment that respects her as a senior, ensuring her health needs are met with compassion and understanding, free from bias or stigma.

ADOLESCENCE

SENIOR

Multisectoral Action: The Key to Building Healthy Cities



Overview of Well Being Economy

Aim

Supporting pilot cities and beyond in **accelerating efforts in building a well-being economy.**

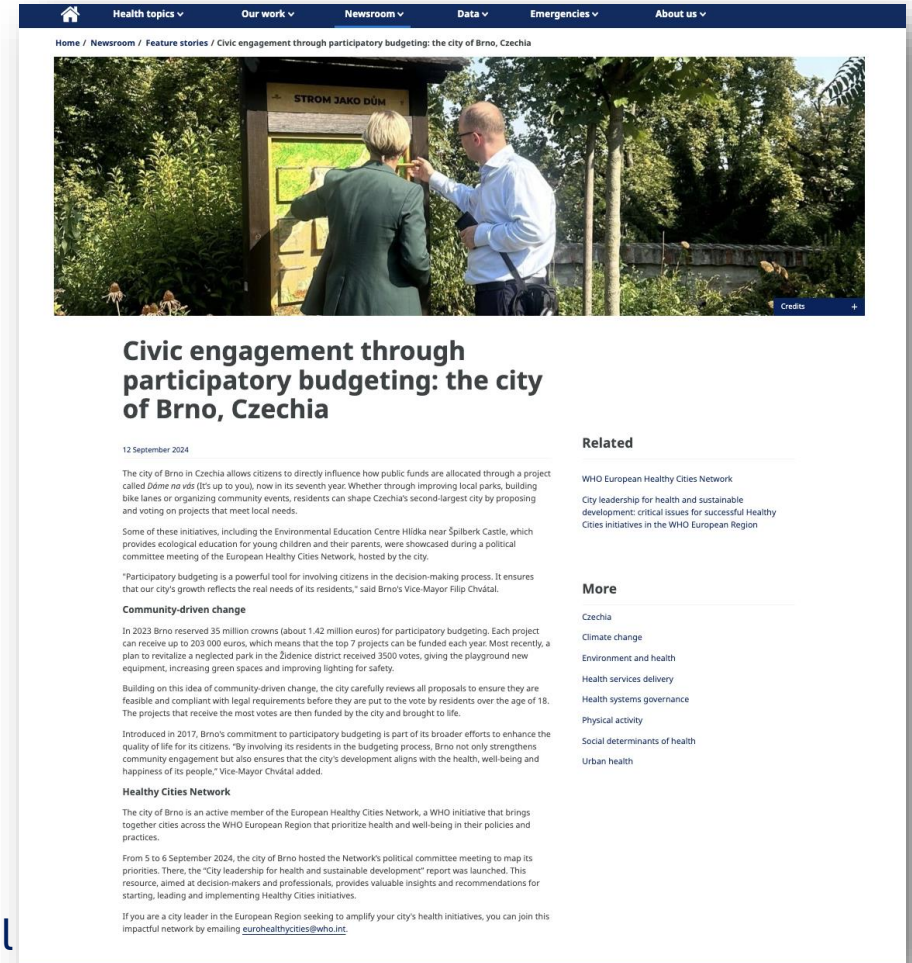
Participants

Eight cities from the WHO European Healthy Cities Network are participating in the pilot: Belfast, Brno, Cork City, Derry and Strabane, Reykjavik, Tbilisi, Udine and Utrecht.

Process

Action learning journey:

- Regular check ins
- Capacity building workshops
- Technical support on thematic priorities
- Developing a self-assessment checklist tool



The screenshot shows a webpage with a dark blue header containing navigation links: Home, Health topics, Our work, Newsroom, Data, Emergencies, and About us. Below the header is a breadcrumb trail: Home / Newsroom / Feature stories / Civic engagement through participatory budgeting: the city of Brno, Czechia. The main content area features a large photograph of two people, a woman in a green jacket and a man in a white shirt, looking at a digital display board in a park. The board is titled 'STROM JAKO DŮM'. Below the photo is the article title 'Civic engagement through participatory budgeting: the city of Brno, Czechia' and a date '12 September 2024'. The article text discusses the city of Brno's participatory budgeting project, its goals, and the involvement of citizens. A 'Related' section on the right lists 'WHO European Healthy Cities Network' and 'City leadership for health and sustainable development: critical issues for successful Healthy Cities initiatives in the WHO European Region'. A 'More' section on the right lists 'Czechia', 'Climate change', 'Environment and health', 'Health services delivery', 'Health systems governance', 'Physical activity', 'Social determinants of health', and 'Urban health'.

Pilot City: Brno, Czech Republic

What is participatory budgeting?

A democratic process that enables citizens to actively participate in the decision-making of allocating public funds within a community or organization. It allows individuals to have a direct say in how a portion of the budget is spent, typically at the local level. The process is designed to promote transparency, engagement, and collaboration in the allocation of resources.

Dáme na vás
Participativní rozpočet

Voting Project Gallery Implementation of projects Results of votes Contacts WINNING PROJECTS

Gallery Projects

30333 I like it
128 Projects
434 million CZK

SHOW FILTER VIEW PROJECTS ON THE MAP Search by project name

Take a look at the winning projects!
The citizens of Brno have decided which projects the city will implement. 😊

[Realizace projektů – Dáme na vás \(damenavas.cz\)](https://damenavas.cz/realizace-projektu)

- Started in **2017**, Brno is the first statutory city in the Czech Republic to introduce participatory budgeting at the city-wide level.
- In Brno, for the seventh year of participatory budgeting, the city has allocated **CZK 35 million** for the implementation of this year's winners.
- Since one project can cost a maximum of **CZK 5 million**, this means that at least **7 projects** will be implemented.
- The aim is to involve the city's citizens in decision-making about public finances and to support the development of civil society.

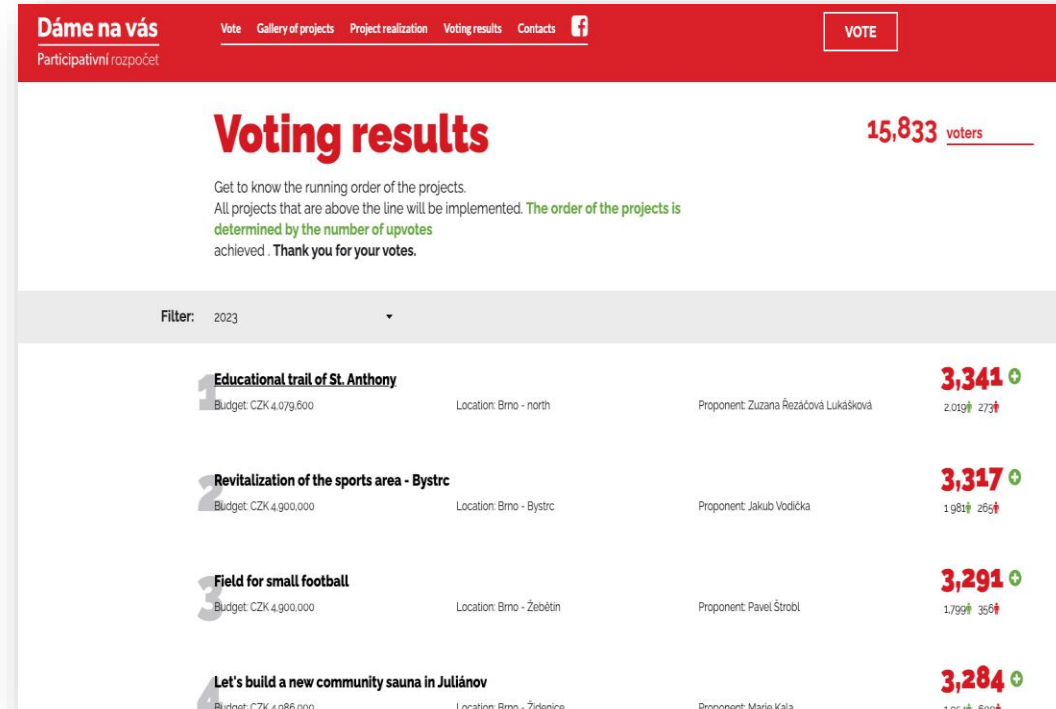
Pilot City: Brno, Czech Republic

Process:

Everyone can submit their ideas on what to implement for a given amount. The city will assess the feasibility of the submitted projects.

Then the citizens of the city will decide in a **vote** which projects the city will implement.

All projects are listed and voted [online](#) here.



“By involving its residents in the budgeting process, Brno not only strengthens community engagement but also ensures that the city's development aligns with the health, well-being and happiness of its people,”
-Vice-Mayor Filip Chvátal

Key Takeaways



*Together, we create healthier,
more inclusive communities*



The **Healthy Cities Network** is a key vehicle for facilitating multi-sector collaboration and implementing these policies at the local level.



The Network facilitates knowledge exchange, partnerships and the implementation of health-promoting policies and advocacy.



Multisectoral collaboration is foundational for healthy cities. Cities thrive when sectors work together, making public health a shared responsibility.



Integrating public health across sectors unlocks opportunities for sustainable, cost-effective solutions.



Thank you

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