



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ  
WELTGESUNDHEITSORGANISATION  
ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE  
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'EUROPE  
REGIONALBÜRO FÜR EUROPA  
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Date: 24-04-2026

WHO European Healthy Cities Network Annual  
Business Meeting and Technical Conference

Viana do Castelo, Portugal

June 16-18, 2026

Our reference:  
Notre référence:  
Unser Zeichen:  
См. наш номер:

Your reference:  
Votre référence:  
Ihr Zeichen:  
На Ваш номер:

Dear City Councillor,

We are pleased to invite you to the WHO European Healthy Cities Network Annual Business Meeting and Technical Conference, which will take place in Viana do Castelo, Portugal, from **16 to 18 June 2026**, under the theme ***“Healthy Cities for Healthy Generations: Celebrating 40 Years of Promise and Progress Since the Ottawa Charter.”***

Since its establishment in 1988, the WHO European Healthy Cities Network has played a pivotal role in mobilizing cities as key actors in shaping policies that promote health, equity, and sustainable development. Marking 40 years since the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion, this milestone offers a timely opportunity for political leaders to reflect on achievements, reaffirm commitments, and shape a shared vision for the health and well-being of future generations. Following the launch of Phase VIII earlier this year, which was inspired by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its six core priorities—People, Place, Participation, Prosperity, Planet, Peace and the addition of the thematic priority Prepare —, this gathering will focus on how cities can translate these commitments into tangible action—strengthening resilience, addressing inequalities, and delivering visible improvements in people’s daily lives.

Political leadership is essential in advancing the health and well-being agenda at the local level, and your leadership plays a critical role in shaping the conditions for healthier, more equitable, and resilient communities. Your presence at this meeting would offer a valuable opportunity to exchange insights with fellow city leaders, contribute to high-level discussions, and help shape the future direction of the Network. It will also provide a platform to elevate the voice and influence of cities in shaping regional and global agendas, reinforcing the leadership of local governments in responding to today’s complex challenges. Your engagement will also strengthen the collaboration between political leadership and technical coordinators in ensuring impactful, sustainable, and people-centered policies.

There will be various opportunities for engagement with other local politicians, including:

- **Welcome Reception** on 15 June 2026, 19:00-21:00, offering an informal setting to connect before the start of the official conference.

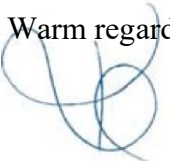
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- **Politicians' Meeting** on 16 June 2026, 15:30-17:00, providing a structured forum for political leaders to discuss strategic priorities, address common challenges, and explore collaboration across cities.
  - **Dedicated Site visits** on 16 June 2026, 17:00-19:00 showcasing innovative urban health initiatives in Viana do Castelo, allowing for direct engagement with best practices in action.
  - **Politicians' Dinner** on 16 June 2026, 19:00-21:00, offering an exclusive and informal setting for political leaders to build relationships and continue conversations in a more relaxed environment.

Further details regarding registration, the scope and objectives of the conference can be found on the official event [website](#). Further for your reference, the provisional programme and travel package is attached with this invitation package.

We would be grateful if you could kindly confirm your participation by **15 May 2026** by registering for the ABM through the following link [here](#).

Your participation would be highly valued, and we look forward to seeing you soon in Viana do Castelo, Portugal.

Warm regards,



Kira Fortune  
Senior Technical Adviser, Healthy Ageing and Healthy Settings  
Division of Health Systems  
WHO Europe