

# WHO European Healthy Cities: 35 Years of Shared Learning

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## Overcoming Adversity



- Milan 1990 outside La Scala
- WHO selected '*cities in Europe with the greatest problems and fewest resources*'
- Deindustrialization and political troubles
- ✓ Political ✗ partisan



# The DNA of Healthy Cities

## A 'triple helix' of mutual learning

### The 1990 Milan Declaration

- Political Commitment by city mayors
- Universities generate science of health determinants
- WHO frameworks synthesise evidence
- HC Secretariate and local partners contribute knowledge from operational experience



# WHO Bridging the 'Valley of Death' between academic and policy communities

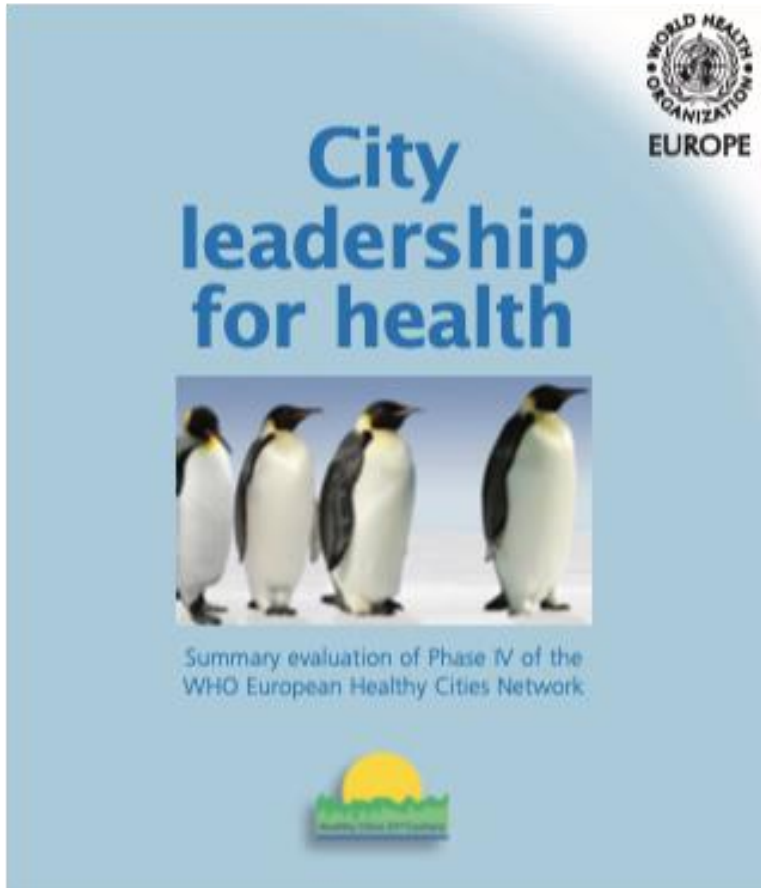
- Synthesis of global evidence
- Policy frameworks and mandates
- Tools, guidance and expertise
- Convening power
- Actions with European partners



B. Mellor, Nature 2008



# Evaluation of Phase IV Frameworks for Action



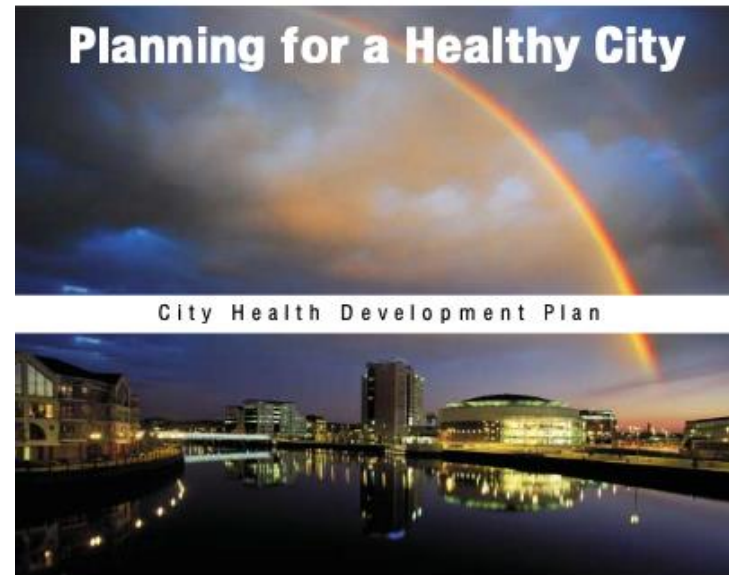
- City Health Profiles
- Active participation
- Equity & determinants of health
- Health Impact Assessment
- Healthy Urban Planning
- City Health Development Plans
- Age Friendly Cities



# City Health Development Planning

- *'The key benefit of the approach we took within our city has been placing health on the agenda of sectors that would previously not have considered health as an issue within their plans'.*
- *Endorsement by Minister of Health, Chief Exec of Belfast City Council, + 8 key sector leaders.*
- *'Thanks to Joan Devlin & HC team for production'*

An integrated approach to health development for the people of Belfast



February 2002



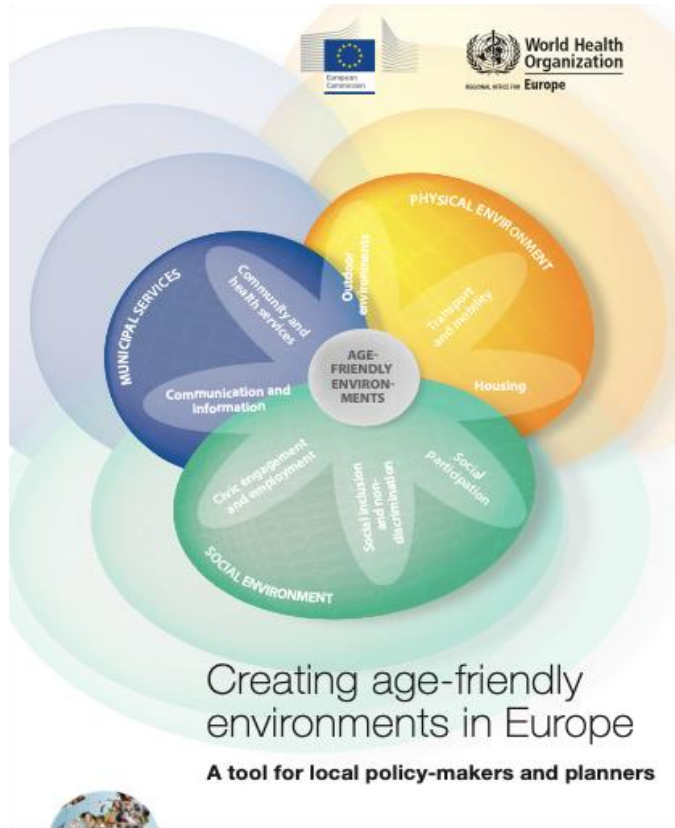
World Health  
Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

Europe

# Age-Friendly European Environments

## *A tool for policy-makers and planners*

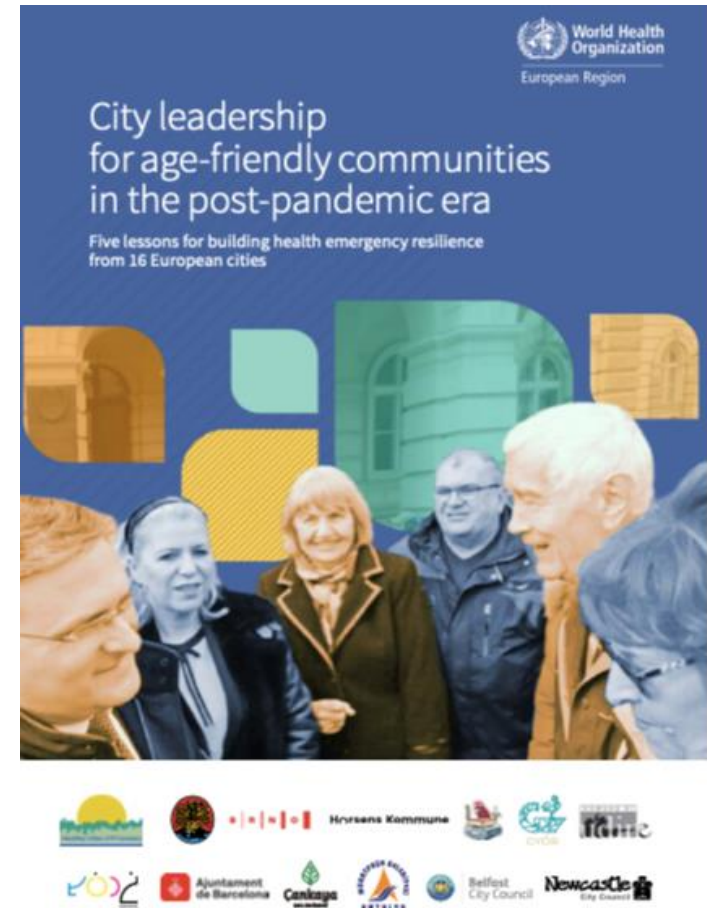


- Collaborative project between WHO, the European Commission & 8 Healthy Ageing Task Force Cities
- Highlights 5 Principles for Action and 20 steps in the **process** of developing an AF city.



# City leadership for Age-friendly Communities in the post-pandemic era

- Co-production by WHO & 16 Task Force Cities (in press)
- Belfast via Anne McCusker & Ciara McClements
- High-level (city logos) endorsement as equal partners with WHO
- *'The Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership in Belfast works closely with Greater Belfast's Seniors' Forum to implement a recovery plan for community resilience entitled Building Back Fairer from COVID-19'*





# Post by Councillor Micky Murray After Healthy Cities Conference



*'While we all know they're decades ahead of us on sustainable & active travel I don't think we talk enough about the noise pollution caused by traffic, the silence of the city of Utrecht is so calming!' (2540 views)*

BHC post > 'Yes [@micky\\_murray](#) completely agree -speak to [@Ruth\\_HunterQUB](#) research at [@spacequb](#) explores the impact of noise pollution and brain health!



# Shared Learning Take Away

Four golden threads in the Healthy Cities DNA:  
(1) The science of health impact, (2) Inspirational WHO frameworks, (3) Political leadership, supported (4) by the strategic and engaged secretariat of Belfast Healthy Cities

Thanks to Joan and the BHC team for weaving all the threads together for over 35 years