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| World Health Organization  **Regional Office for Europe**  Weltgesundheitsorganisation  **Regionalbüro füR Europa** |  | Organisation Mondiale de la SantÉ  **Bureau RÉgional de l'Europe**  ВсемирнаЯ организациЯ здравоохранениЯ  **Европейское региональное бюро** |
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| **WHO European Healthy Cities Network**  **International Making Place Conference**  **Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom**  **10 June 2019** | **3 June 2019**  **Original: English** |

### Scope and Purpose

***Background***

*Place* transcends the physical environment - the buildings, streets, urban layout, public and natural spaces - and includes social and economic dimensions. As a WHO working definition, a *Place* is in a state of flux, as it not defined and thus limited by boundaries, but rather represents the outcome of the interaction between people, processes, the physical environment, the economic environment, the online environment, and the social environment at any particular moment, in any particular space; the population *umwelt*.

*Place* as a concept is defined by constant change, movement and transformation, beyond the physical setting, and encompasses all broad elements that influence the health and well-being of people. Social dimensions included in the concept of *Place* include equity, inclusion, non-exploitation, human rights, community resilience, empowerment, trust and ownership, ethics, dynamics between different actors, and the development of human and social capital.

***Implementing the WHO Roadmap to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Expanding our approaches globally to embed and deliver on the Place agenda***

Exploring how to strengthen a holistic engagement between individuals, communities and their environment is in line with the transformative agenda of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. It challenges our understanding of how people’s interactions with their environments impact on their health and well-being; it moves towards a bottom-up, assets-based approach to health and well-being that is focused on empowerment and enabling individuals to reach their full human and social potential, by providing an effective range of environments that support increased ownership of a person’s own health and well-being.

*Place* is an important element to the successful implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This conference supports the implementation of the [WHO Roadmap to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Health 2020, the European policy for health and well-being](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/345599/67wd09e_SDGroadmap_170638.pdf?ua=1), which was adopted by all 53 European Member States at the WHO Regional Committee for Europe in September 2017, and specifically strategic direction 4, that focuses on ‘establishing healthy places, settings and resilient communities.’

The WHO European Healthy Cities Network supports member states in the implementation of the SDG roadmap at the local level through supporting the implementation of the ‘Place’ theme of Phase VII (2019-2024) of the Network, as outlined in the political vision for the network presented in the [Copenhagen Consensus of Mayors: Healthier and Happier Cities for All](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/361434/consensus-eng.pdf?ua=1).

In early 2017, the WHO Governance for Health Programme and WHO European Healthy Cities Network began collaborating with NHS Health Scotland in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the topic of participatory governance approaches at the community level through the development and implementation of the Place Standard Tool. The Royal Town Planning Institute award winning Tool, developed by the Scottish Government, NHS Health Scotland, Architecture Design Scotland, and Glasgow City Council translates complex public health and place making theory into a simple to use product. It supports people of all ages, organisations and businesses to work together and identify both the assets of a place and the areas deemed priority for improvement. In terms of scale and location the tool can be applied within cities, towns and rural neighbourhoods that are well-established, undergoing change, or still being planned.

In September 2017 a 2 day WHO European Healthy Cites Network *Workshop and Masterclass: Healthy People and Healthy Places in the WHO European Region*, brought together cities and representatives from 12 European countries to train individuals on using the tool in their environments. Further trainings were held at the Annual Meeting of the National Networks of WHO European Healthy Cities in Antalya, Turkey, in April 2018, and the International Healthy Cities Conference held in Belfast, United Kingdom, in October 2018. NHS Health Scotland has also been working with the WHO European Healthy Cities Network to provide training in specific countries, and subsequently, more than 13 European countries are currently implementing the Place Standard Tool through the WHO European Healthy Cities Network, with more planned for 2019.

In this context of these important advancements, the WHO European Healthy Cities Network of the WHO Regional Office for Europe in collaboration with NHS Health Scotland is organizing a one-day international conference to be held in Glasgow, Scotland, on 10 June 2019. This will be followed on 11th June with a one-day workshop learning opportunity *WHO Healthy Cities Network Flagship Training: The Place Standard Tool*. This will also be hosted by NHS Health Scotland in Glasgow.

The conference will bring together a wide range of organizations, technical experts, academics, city representatives from across the WHO Healthy Cities Network, WHO staff and key colleagues from the Place Standard Implementation Group and Board.

The conference will have six key objectives:

**Key Objectives**

1. To contribute to a common understanding across policy, organisational and professional boundaries of the concept of place in the context of improving health and reducing health inequalities;
2. To increase place-based thinking amongst participants, through case studies, visits and applied learning opportunities;
3. To support effective delivery through the sharing of effective practice and lessons learned with a particular focus on the delivery of the *Place Standard Tool* model;
4. To provide a forum to exchange knowledge, ideas and challenges and an opportunity to establish new partnerships and working relationships;
5. To celebrate, inspire and expand the application of placed based working at a local, national, regional and global level;
6. To announce a series of important developments to enable the practical delivery of lessons learned and new ideas and to cultivate emerging collaborations.