

HEALTH 2020

Leadership for health and wellbeing in 21st century Europe

The French Healthy Cities Network sincerely thanks the World Health Organization (WHO) for inviting consultation about the new European policy of Health 2020. This has permitted the 80 French healthy cities and the Network's national partners to become acquainted with the document and to contribute to the final version.

This time of consultation has been important to the members of our Network. We fully recognize the approach and the values found in Health 2020 and we congratulate the World Health Organization for the richness of this strategic plan. It continues in the same vein as 'health for all' and affirms for the first time, that "health is everyone's business".

Two aspects particularly caught our attention:

The document shows a real understanding about promoting health in the difficult economic context currently felt in the European countries, which requires new strategies to be put in place. Cities are places where people live, of social interaction, of culture but are strongly associated also with a tradition of creativity and innovation. They find, therefore, that their legitimacy to act in the health field has been strengthened.

Cities can influence all the determinants of health and also are close to the needs of their population. They have the power and the knowledge of working intersectorially which is particularly pertinent to improving complex health issues. As is highlighted in the Point 69 of the current short version of Health 2020 "Many mayors and city parliaments have taken the health agenda forward though a "health in all policies" approach." It is necessary to go further and state, as Health 2020 does, that health is truly **a collective responsibility**.

Health 2020 supports the WHO French Network of Healthy Cities' vision and priorities. We propose to undertake the following :

- To request that the national institutions integrate whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches in their new national public health policies.
- To integrate these orientations in our Network's strategies, both nationally and locally, in the aim to promote health equity and in particular, to prevent the exclusion of any part of the population.