

Sund By Netværket (The Danish Healthy Cities Network), a member of the WHO Healthy Cities Network, takes its point of departure in the general WHO definition of health as:

”a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”

Mission

The Danish Healthy Cities Network, constituting a part of The Healthy Cities Network in the WHO European Region, is targeted towards strengthening the Danish public health work through the creation of a synergistic cooperation between municipalities, regions and national stakeholders within the field of public health.

Vision

By a strengthening of the quality of the public health work, the Danish Healthy Cities Network will create the frameworks for providing access to a good life for all Danish citizens.

The Healthy Cities Network's Foundation in WHO

Sund By Netværket is the Danish Healthy Cities Network within the WHO international Healthy Cities Network. The WHO Healthy Cities Network is a global movement committing municipal/regional managements to the prioritisation of health through e.g. political ownership and commitment. The European Healthy Cities Network consists of about 100 cities and 30 national networks comprising more than 1400 towns and cities within the European region. The national networks constitute the backbone of The WHO Healthy Cities Network. As they represent national resources of experience and expertise within the promotion of health and the prevention of disease, the national networks constitute a dynamic platform for public health work.

The Healthy Cities Network, and hence, Sund By Netværket, takes its point of departure in the general WHO definition of health as being: "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". This definition serves a holistic approach to man, making quality of life a focal point. It is a dynamic health concept fusing body and mind and thus shaping the health of the individual human being in the dynamic interaction between heritage, lifestyle, conditions of life, and public-health work. The involvement of citizens, everyday life, political frameworks and preconditions for leading a good and healthy life, plus cross sector collaboration are all elements at the core of the general concept of health. The Healthy Cities Network's work lies within this conceptual framework.

Being a member of WHO equals the undertaking of an obligation. In order to satisfy the criteria for cooperative commitment, the Danish Healthy Cities Network must be accredited for new phases. WHO is focused on health and sustainable development in relation to which the Danish Healthy Cities Network will issue a declaration of compliance with organisational, strategic and professional criteria. The Healthy Cities Network takes its point of departure in WHO's phases and in the Health 2020 Plan of the European region. By their joining the Healthy Cities Network, its members commit themselves to put health high on the local social, economic and political agenda and to work with the action areas of the phase currently applicable.

The Healthy Cities Network 2013-2016 strategy will be contributory to focus the network's efforts and to prioritise contributions. The strategy reveals that the network has made definite choices as regards direction and who will constitute the network with respect to the framework for what we will carry out collectively. The strategy comprises four action areas having been chosen as model driving forces for the next four years' work within the framework of the Danish Healthy Cities Network.

Mission and Vision for the Danish Healthy Cities Network's 2013-2016 Strategy

Mission

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Vision

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The 2013-2016 Strategic Action Areas of the Network

The Danish Healthy Cities Network's mission and vision will be implemented in four action areas contributing to the network's realisation of its goals for the next four years. Each action area is comprised of elements that structure and prioritise the approach to the work pertaining to concrete initiatives and actions.

The Healthy Cities Network's work is directed towards a promotion of:

- The cooperation in the prevention of disease and promotion of health across policy areas – internally in the municipality and across the nation
 - By gathering and systematising experience and knowledge concerning the implementation and organisation of health promotion and disease prevention
 - By the establishment of a further strengthening of cooperative relations with national players and the research institution
 - By supporting the cooperation with the civil society
- Equality in health by the creation of good opportunities for a healthy life for all citizens
 - By supporting the responsibility for health across policy areas with respect to action as policies
 - By gathering and systematising experience of and knowledge about equality in health
 - By supporting the development of health-promoting and disease-preventing initiatives for specific citizen groups, including vulnerable groups
- Structural disease prevention for the purpose of thus enhancing the effect of prevention initiatives
 - By a clarification of the frameworks and potentials suitable for local initiatives
 - By supporting the testing of methods and models providing experience with local structural prevention
- Strengthened professional standards within health promotion and disease-prevention
 - By a strengthening of the members' feasibility of promoting public health
 - By a strengthening of cross networking
 - By focusing on the competences of those frontline staffs having the direct citizen contact throughout the municipality/region

Possible Courses of Action and Concrete Initiatives

Taking their point of departure in the strategy, the Healthy Cities Network's Theme Group Chairmen and the Committee of Representatives will, each year, provide the board with input for concrete initiatives and possible courses of action for the work to be carried out in year ahead. On an annual basis, such input will – together with the members' working conditions and national trends within public health work – provide the basis for the directions concerning the next year's project portfolio to be laid down by the board. The board will consider the project-portfolio proposals submitted and, on this basis, it will prioritise the concrete courses of action to be taken.