



Gesunde Städte-Netzwerk
der Bundesrepublik Deutschland

Healthy **Cities** Network Germany

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Structure and overview of the network

90 members (12/2020)



Gesunde Städte-Netzwerk
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- 45 major cities
(population > 100.000)
 - 9 Berlin districts
 - 1 region
 - 12 counties
 - 27 medium-sized cities
and municipalities
(population 5.000 –
100.000)
- > 24 million inhabitants

Become a **member!** What to do?

- a formal **decision to join by the municipal council**, the city council or the district council
- the will and the commitment to **develop overall strategic approaches** to health promotion
- strengthen the **coordinating functions of the administration for this purpose** and to appoint a person responsible for the work in the Healthy Cities Network
- to **allow the participation of initiatives, self-help groups and organizations** in health promotion concepts, plans and implementation strategies
- **Including** service providers, independent agencies, professional associations, clubs, institutions, health insurance institutions and community initiatives **on an equal footing**



Become a **member!** What to do?

- pay attention to **health compatibility in local political decisions**
- participate in the annual **exchange of experience** between member cities and regions
- **report** on its own development at four-year intervals at the annual conferences
- **launch model projects** of health promotion and prevention
- create **permanent networking and support structures** for health in everyday life.

The application for membership can be made informally.

The application should preferably be based on the 9-point programme of the Healthy Cities Network Germany.



governance

council of 10
spokespersons

secretariat

5 regional
networks

9 competence
centres

general meeting
annual
conference

annual
competence
forum



Funding

annual service fee (ASF) for members in total: 45.000 €

200 € < 100.000 inhabitants

...

1.500 € > 1 million inhabitants

all expenses not covered by the ASF are borne by individual member municipalities (including the Healthy Cities Secretariat)



partnerships

- statutory health insurances
- Universities
- German Association of Cities and Towns
- Health Promotion Associations



What the **network offers** its members

- Participation in **the internet presence** of the members, multiplication of the potentials and positions of each individual municipality
- subscription to the "**Healthy Cities News**", with practical reports from committed local authorities
- Organization of **annual expert events** on municipal health policy, good practice in health promotion and primary prevention, exchange of experience and further training
- **Informal advice** on a network basis to avoid insurmountable stumbling blocks on your doorstep
- **Knowledge transfer** for pilot projects, with regard to results, evaluation and financing



What the **network offers** its members

- Direct technical support from proven, recognised GSN **competence centres**
- **Liaison node** to associations, clubs, specialist and service departments in the federal government; accompanying information to supra-regional congresses, specialist conferences and further training courses
- Exchange of expertise in **regional networks** (regional health promotion)
- **Enhanced reputation** in the health- and social-oriented professional world, contact person for health insurance companies, universities, foundations, etc.



How it has grown and developed

Based on the Ottawa Charter of 1986, inspired and supported by WHO Europe, **founded in Frankfurt am Main in June 1989** by ten cities and one county, the Healthy Cities Network of the Federal Republic of Germany **today comprises 90 member** municipalities, including 45 major cities, 9 Berlin districts, one region, 12 counties, 27 medium-sized cities and municipalities with a total of over 24 million inhabitants.

The HCN-Germany was and is **financially and institutionally independent** from the federal government and from the 16 states.



How it has grown and developed

The Healthy Cities Network is a **voluntary association** of municipalities. These are cities, city districts, counties, municipalities and regions.

Healthy City-Secretariat hosted by

1. Hamburg: 1988-2004 (60 members)
2. Muenster: 2004-2015 (71 members)
3. Frankfurt am Main: 2015-... (90 members...)

Its special feature is that both at federal level and locally, **local administrations and civil society initiatives**, associations and agencies from the health and self-help sectors **work together on an equal footing.**



Cooperation with government and local authorities

Federal level: The Healthy Cities Network has **no cooperation with the national government**. This has constitutional reasons. (The cities and the 16 states are responsible for the funding for health in the communities. The federal government is not allowed to fund the local level.)

The **statutory health insurance is obliged by law to fund public health in communities since 2015**. (approx. 350 million €/year equals: 0,15% of annual expenditures of the statutory health insurance)

Local level: The member has to implement a body for coordinating public health in the administration. Mostly this is in the local health department.

To coordinate and build structures most Healthy Cities implement a **local Healthy Cities Conference**.



How Covid-19 has impacted the work of the network

negative

- Many public health activities are reduced or cancelled (Children, elderly people, in Kinder gardens and schools, ...)
- No symposia and annual conference and regional meetings in presence.
- IT infrastructure in local administrations is not adapted to the new needs of virtual exchange.
- Sometimes we notice a feeling of uncertainty and devaluation of public health work.

positive

- New ways of virtual exchange of experiences and cooperation are explored.
- It is easier to take part in online based exchange than in real meetings. (fewer resources are needed)
- Health in general seems to become a more important issue.
- Lessons from the pandemic for municipal health promotion (8 theses)



Key achievements

- **steady growth** of memberships (90 members/December 2020)
- Small but stable **resources from the members for the members**
- **Independence**, freedom to act and cooperate based on the Ottawa Charter
- **Recognized as the network for public health in communities.**

Goals

- **more growth: over 100 members until 2025**
- **More cooperation with universities for more resources for research**
- **Keep financially independent**
- **Improve engagement and collaboration with civil society**



**Gesundheit braucht
Kompetenzentwicklung
und Ideen**

Gesunde Städte-Netzwerk Deutschland

Start
Hipp Spiel

***Health needs
the creation of
competencies
and ideas**

Thank you...

