One Health 4 Cities

BENISSA - SPAIN



I. City context

Benissa, in Alicante, blends cultural heritage with a strong tourism focus. With 11,871 inhabitants and 40% international residents, it faces challenges linked to an aging population. Its economy relies on tourism and traditional agriculture. Complex terrain and climate change complicate urban and environmental management. Tourism strains local resources during peak seasons, while integrating and supporting older international residents drives the development of specialized care services.



II. One Health vision and goals

Benissa's One Health vision aims to create a model community where human, animal, and environmental health attract international senior residents and support a sustainable care economy. Key strategies include expanding specialized health and wellness services, innovating in the care sector, and promoting a healthy natural environment. The plan also emphasizes animal welfare, accessible housing, environmental conservation, and social integration through education, inclusion, and community engagement to strengthen overall well-being.



III. City's flagship One Health projects

- Revitalization of Municipal Sports Schools based on health and social cohesion
- Community awareness "Benissa is Health"
- Creation green spaces and sports facilities to promote health and cohesion
- Partnership with Health department to promote community physical activity
- Promotion of animal welfare and local biodiversity
- Activation of the coastline and ecological promenade
- Protection and sustainable activation of the Serra de Bèrnia
- Safe and Healthy School Routes in Benissa
- Sustainable tourism model
- Local One Health governance

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AJUNTAMENT DE BENISSA

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One Health 4 Cities

ELEFSINA GREECE

I. City context

Elefsina, located 20 km northwest of Athens, is a city with a rich historical and industrial heritage. With its strategic position near the port and capital, Elefsina has long played a central role in Greece's economy, acting as a key industrial hub. Today, it has a population of approximately 30,000 inhabitants, and while it is known for its ancient heritage, such as the Sanctuary of Demeter, it also faces modern challenges due to its economic and industrial character.





II. One Health vision and goals

Elefsina’s vision is to become a **City of Responsible Growth,** one that transforms its challenges into opportunities, reconnects people with nature, and promotes harmony between the industrial, cultural, and ecological dimensions of urban life. Through collaboration, education, and environmental stewardship, Elefsina aims to grow as a **city that learns, adapts, and thrives — from its roots to its future**.

III. City’s flagship One Health projects

Elefsina’s flagships One Health projects aim to build a culture of well-being and environmental responsibility from early childhood by 2030. The city promotes healthy habits, inclusive health services, climate resilience, and ecosystem protection through early education. Children learn natural cycles, sustainable food practices, water conservation, animal welfare, and proper waste management. Through hands-on learning and strong family involvement, nurseries and kindergartens adopt comprehensive recycling practices and collective environmental actions that strengthen active, responsible citizenship.



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One Health 4 Cities

KUOPIO FINLAND

I. City context

Kuopio is the 8th biggest city in Finland. The city of 900 lakes is a home for 126 000 citizens of which 80% live in urban areas. Resident satisfaction among the 20 largest cities in Finland was highest in Kuopio in -25. Closeness to nature is rated high among the residents's. Over 90% of the citizens have <300 m access to nature. Kuopio is known of it's ambitious health and wellbeing research and promotion, and it's expertise in comprehensive security. The heart of the city - Puijo Forest - is one of the 1st nature conservation areas in Finland (est. -28).





II. One Health vision and goals

The One Health approach is seen as a cross-cutting, unifying, and guiding mindset across all city sectors. The goal of the Kuopio's strategy is to achieve more consistent and comprehensive cross-cutting objectives and collaboration in all policies. The vision of Kuopio is to become a flourishing city where people, plants, animals, and ecosystems thrive in a healthy environment. Kuopio is a sustainable, healthy, and safe city for both nature and people. The city's development emphasizes ecological solutions, well-being, and safety, which support sustainable growth and quality of life.

III. City's flagship One Health projects

- Multidisciplinary One health communication aimed at change is strengthened.
- Interaction and collaboration between different sectors, actors, and residents are strengthened adopting a One health approach
- The One health perspective is visible in all strategic plans guiding the city's operations.
- The assessment of decision impacts is carried out consistently and across sectors applying One health approach.
- The implementation of the One health perspective in the city's services and decision-making is evaluated



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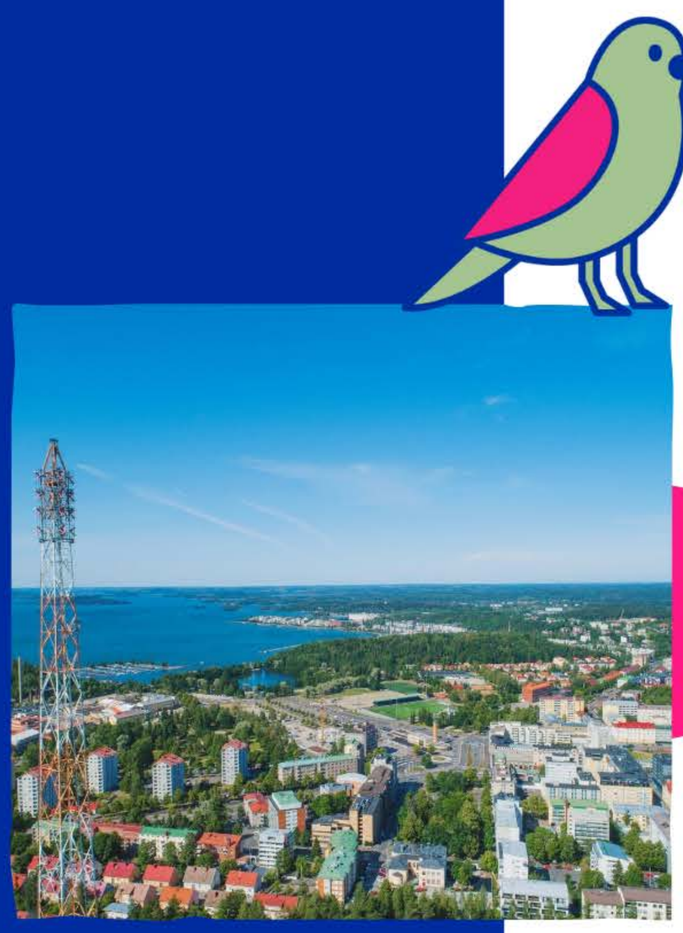
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KUOPIO

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One Health 4 Cities

LAHTI - FINLAND



I. City context

Lahti is a vibrant city of about 122,000 residents in Southern Finland. Known as Finland's leading environmental city and the European Green Capital 2021, Lahti is also celebrated for its strong sports culture.

As the country's newest university city, Lahti combines high-quality urban services with smooth everyday living. Its abundant parks, green spaces, and waterways create a pleasant natural environment that residents value for its beauty and accessibility.



II. One Health vision and goals

Nature Step to Health is the Lahti region's health and environmental programme for 2022–2032. It tackles major global challenges - climate change, biodiversity loss, public health, and the economy - by exploring solutions that promote well-being within the planet's limits.

Lahti is committed to achieving zero emissions, zero waste, and globally sustainable consumption by 2050. The city aims to become Finland's first carbon-neutral large city and a nature-positive city by 2030.



III. City's flagship One Health projects

To meet ambitious sustainability goals, it is essential to engage all employees across the city organization. In Lahti, we have launched a process that offers staff the opportunity to explore sustainability through emotion, knowledge, and action. Pilot groups are helping to shape the process into a model that can later be expanded into a citywide practice.

In basic education, we have introduced comprehensive learning modules for grades 1–9 that focus on healthy nutrition and sustainable lifestyles. Teaching also takes place outdoors in a variety of natural environments. All children and young people participate equally in this learning, as it is a part of Lahti's basic education curriculum.

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One Health 4 Cities

LOULÉ - PORTUGAL



I. City context

Loulé is a diverse and dynamic municipality, marked by regional centrality, strong population growth, and a firm commitment to sustainable policies. Stretching from the mountains to the coast, it faces challenges such as ageing, sedentary lifestyles, and climate change. Embracing a “One Health” approach, it integrates human, environmental, and animal health while promoting sustainable mobility, social cohesion, and active living. The goal is to build a healthier, more resilient, and inclusive community prepared for the future.



II. One Health vision and goals

Loulé’s One Health vision focuses on integrating human, environmental, and animal health to create a resilient and sustainable community. Its goals include promoting active and healthy living, reducing inequalities, and strengthening social cohesion. The municipality aims to enhance sustainable mobility, protect natural ecosystems, and mitigate climate-related risks. By aligning public policies across sectors, Loulé seeks to foster a safer, healthier, and more inclusive environment where wellbeing is shared and long-term sustainability is ensured.



III. City’s flagship One Health projects

Loulé’s flagship One Health projects focus on integrating wellbeing, sustainability, and environmental protection. Key initiatives include expanding active mobility networks, promoting green corridors, and enhancing access to recreational and sports facilities. The city is developing climate-resilient infrastructures, restoring natural ecosystems, and strengthening community-based health programmes. These projects encourage healthier lifestyles, reduce emissions, and improve biodiversity. Together, they demonstrate Loulé’s commitment to a holistic, sustainable model that protects people, animals, and the environment.

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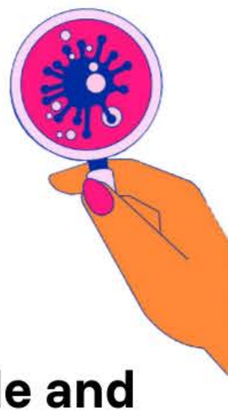
LYON FRANCE



I. City context



Lyon is increasingly exposed to climatic, health, and environmental pressures that call for a One Health approach. Hotter summers, earlier heatwaves, and growing urban heat islands heighten risks for residents, especially in the most disadvantaged neighborhoods. These impacts are reinforced by pollution linked to the city's industrial past. To strengthen resilience and protect both people and biodiversity, Lyon needs an integrated strategy connecting urban planning with human, animal, plant, and ecosystem health.





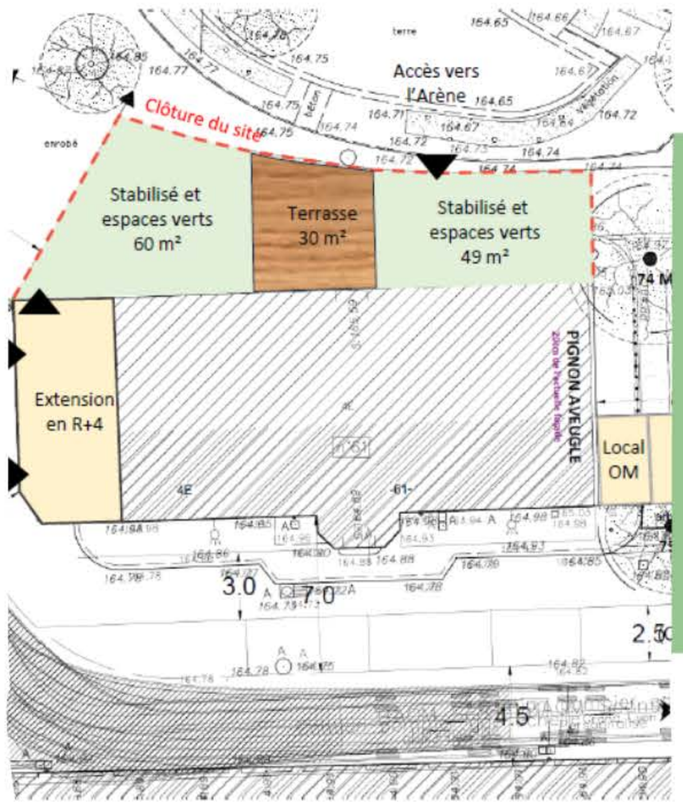
II. One Health vision and goals

Lyon aims to become a vibrant urban hub where **people and nature truly thrive together**. The city will adopt a **regenerative approach**, reshaping its systems to support the environment while improving everyday life for residents. Walkable streets, cycling paths, parks, and ecological corridors will allow **all living beings to move freely and enjoy** healthy, welcoming spaces. Residents will be encouraged and supported to **look after their own well-being as well as local ecosystems**. Built on **participation and collaboration**, Lyon will show that a city caring for the four dimensions of health is not only necessary, but **achievable**.



III. City's flagship One Health projects

As part of Lyon's Health Strategy and its One Health pillar, a key action is the creation of a **"One Health center"** within a vulnerable neighborhood. Guided by the One Health approach, the center will address residents' **health, social, environmental, and ecological needs in a coordinated and sustainable way**. Planned activities include medical consultation, green prescriptions, food and cooking workshops, guidance on managing bedbugs with fewer chemicals, pet-care support, contact with nearby nature areas, and advice on the safe and rational use of medicines and chemicals, etc.



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MUNICH GERMANY

I. City context

Munich is a vibrant, green city with a high quality of life, but it faces challenges that require a holistic approach. The city's growth is projected to reach over 1.8 million residents by 2045, with nearly half having a migration background, leading to social and spatial tensions. Increased urban pressure, rising temperatures, and environmental issues: air pollution, biodiversity loss, strain the city. Additionally, social inequality persists, with one in six residents living in poverty, highlighting the need for greater resilience in urban systems moving forward.



II. One Health vision and goals



The health of all Munich residents is our motivation and our highest priority. Together, we work to ensure health equity – so that all people in Munich, regardless of origin, income, or education, have the best possible access to prevention, the protection of their health, and a dignified burial.
We understand health, in the spirit of “One Health,” as healthy coexistence between humans, nature, and animals.
Our goal is to make the connections between human, animal, and environmental health visible in the public space.

III. City’s flagship One Health projects

We have developed new ideas for implementation (upon City Council approval of our health policy), including:

- spatial health planning to integrate health into municipal processes, a cumulative exposure map to assess environmental impacts on the population,
- support for local businesses to enhance access to fresh, organic food in deprived neighbourhoods,
- and the protection and development of biodiverse green spaces to foster connections with nature.



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One Health 4 Cities

STRASBOURG FRANCE

I. City context

The Eurometropole of Strasbourg, located at the French-German border, includes 33 communes centered around Strasbourg. It is a multicultural hub for education, research, and European institutions. Although part of its population benefits from a pleasant living environment, health inequalities persist, exacerbated by environmental factors : air and noise pollution, exposure to chemicals. The metropole faces growing environmental challenges, such as the spread of the tiger mosquito and rising urban temperatures.
To address these issues, the Eurometropole has been engaged for the past years in an ambitious environmental health policy, incorporating cross-cutting actions that aim to improve the inhabitants quality of life.





II. One Health vision and goals

To take care of the citizens, the environment, and all living beings, Strasbourg Eurométropole has adopted a “One Health” strategy aimed at systemic integration. This involves four main goals: **integrating the “One Health” approach into local public policy**, taking into account the interconnection between human, animal, and environmental health in key areas such as urban planning, mobility, agriculture, water management or air quality; **raising awareness, informing, and training** local stakeholders and citizens to promote a “One Health” culture; **supporting observation and research** through transdisciplinary projects and partnerships with academic institutions; and **structuring dedicated governance**. The IAP provides an opportunity to translate this strategy into operational and replicable actions, tested in a pilot area.

III. City’s flagship One Health projects

The IAP focuses on a testing area within the territory: the Neuhof, Meinau, Stockfeld and Illkirch parts of the Eurometropole. It combines ecological, social, and health challenges with promising local dynamics. In this context the Rhin-Tortu river, often perceived as a physical barrier dividing the territory, becomes the guiding thread of the project. The plan focuses on restoring ecological continuity, promoting natural acoustic landscapes, raising awareness of “One Health,” reconnecting residents with nature and studying diffuse pollution and interactions between living environments using a “One Health” approach. All while promoting an integrated and interconnected vision of health at every step.



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eurometropole

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SUCEAVA ROMANIA

I. City context

Suceava, a historic city in northeast Romania, serves as the capital of Suceava County. Known for its rich heritage, including UNESCO-listed monasteries and a 14th-century fortress, the city is situated on the Suceava River, which demarcates the old and new parts of the city. Environmentally, Suceava has a mix of urban areas, forests, agricultural land, and green spaces, making air quality management a focus, especially given the various sources of pollution such as industry, domestic fuel combustion and traffic.

Suceava faces the combined challenges of increased motorised traffic, stringent European environmental and energy targets mainly in the context of reducing the traffic emissions, waste recycling, economic growth, increase the energy efficiency, increase the quality of life into the city.





II. One Health vision and goals

Suceava will have high quality green spaces that are multifunctional, inclusive and community driven, supporting habitats, and enabling active and healthy lifestyles for all.

Suceava municipality commits to improve the quality of urban life for its citizens in response to various health risks related to rapid urbanization and densification of cities. Thus, the aim is to support and improve the quality urban ecological infrastructure specially designed to provide benefits for health and well-being.

The interaction between the urban environment and health is wide and diverse, with many possible approaches and opportunities. The subject requires an integrated overview, always keeping the focus on the urban planning as the main tool to bring together all the different issues that affect the city.

III. City's flagship One Health projects

- Redesign **The Dendrological Park Şipote-Cetate :** an extensive rehabilitation project of 7 hectares of vegetation with pedestrian walkways, theme gardens, playgrounds, fitness areas, bicycle tracks, lighting system, playgrounds, running area, outdoor amphitheatre and multifunctional pavilions.
- Foundation of **Zamca forest- forest school :** the rehabilitation project of 100 hectares of vegetation, with areas dedicated for educational activities of biology, zoology, environmental protection and geography.
- Creating **Teodoreni Urban Forest** : afforestation of almost 6 hectares of degraded land. The urban forest will be established by planting 180,000 trees, as well as a mix of 45,000 dogwood, hornbeam, sedge and hawthorn shrubs.



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