



LA SALUTE AL CENTRO DELLE CITTÀ
Bologna, 15 luglio 2026

ENTORN URBÀ I SALUT

LOCAL POLICIES ON URBAN HEALTH

EUS Background

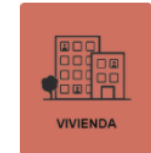
Launch 2010: DIBA Urban Improvement “Cities as a key determinant of health.”

Overall objective: To implement the WHO’s “Health in All Policies” strategy in the design, planning, and management of urban environment elements, in order to promote healthier cities and towns and reduce environmental health risks for the population.

EUS Background

2010–2019: Focus on policies regarding **urban planning, public space, housing, and natural areas**.

Leadership of the Public Health Service, through a coordination group comprising representatives from other corporate areas. → [Urban environment & health guide](#)



2020–2023: Integration of a health perspective into the **social and community transformation** of **neighborhoods** → [Toolkit to measure Health impact in communities](#)

2024–2027: Cross-cutting approach Health in All Policies, with the aim of addressing the impact of **climate change** on health from two perspectives: improving urban environment and adapting to the new context.

EUS working framework

Key ideas

- Health is more than healthcare
- Health determinants are interconnected
- Urban environment strongly affects health
- Scientific evidence confirms the link
- Health should be considered in all policies
- Creating **healthier urban environments** through integrated public policies can significantly improve population health and well-being.



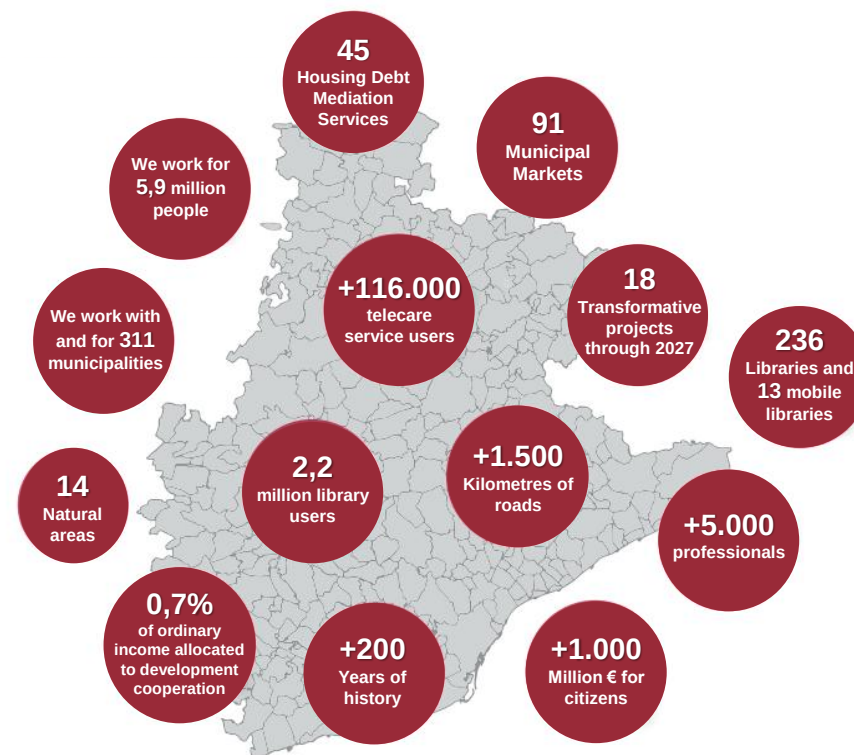
EUS working framework

The Provincial Council is the **supra-municipal** body that provides support to the **city councils** of the province



Main data

- **311** municipalities
- **Population:** 5.9 million
- **Total budget 2026:** 1,4 billion €
- Particular combination of needs: large number of **intermediary cities** in contrast to **rural populations**.



Management model of support

The Provincial Council **supports** municipalities to help them **provide quality local services** through:



Economic resources



Legal assistance



Technical & material resources



Training

The working model is based on **respect for local autonomy** and **networking between local governments and the Provincial Council** in order to build a joint action programme, in accordance with the principles of efficiency and economy of public action.



Organisation into 14 department

	Department of the Presidency		Department of Education
	Department of General Services and Digital Transition		Department of Climate Action and Energy Transition
	Department of Economic Development and Tourism		Department of Urban Planning, Housing and Urban Regeneration
	Department of Culture		Department of Feminism and Equality
	Department of Infrastructures and Territory		Department of Sports and Physical Activity
	Department of Social Sustainability, Life Cycle and Community		Department of Natural Spaces and Green Infrastructure
	Department of Good Governance, Transparency and Participation		Department of Trade, Consumer Affairs and Public Health

EUS working framework



EUS working framework

Main actions:

- Providing tools and methodological resources to incorporate health perspective into urban planning and the design and management of urban environment elements.
- Collecting and disseminating local best practices in healthy urban planning and architecture.
- Promoting health impact assessments for policies and actions aimed at improving the urban environment.



Tool for assessing determinants of health in public space

[Questionnaire | Public Space & Health](#)

The questionnaire allows local practitioners and planners to assess the determinants of health in proposals for the improvement or creation of new public spaces.

2026 Updating

- Incorporate new scientific evidence of the effects of climate change to health & review of indicators.

2026 New Tool: Healthy streets

Projects 2024-7

- Environmental risks associated to climate change
- Adapting infrastructure and public spaces to ensure they remain healthy and sustainable



Projects 2024-7



- Evaluation of the implementation of smoke-free beaches campaign (2025)
- Update: Accessibility Manual for Beaches in the Barcelona Area (2003)



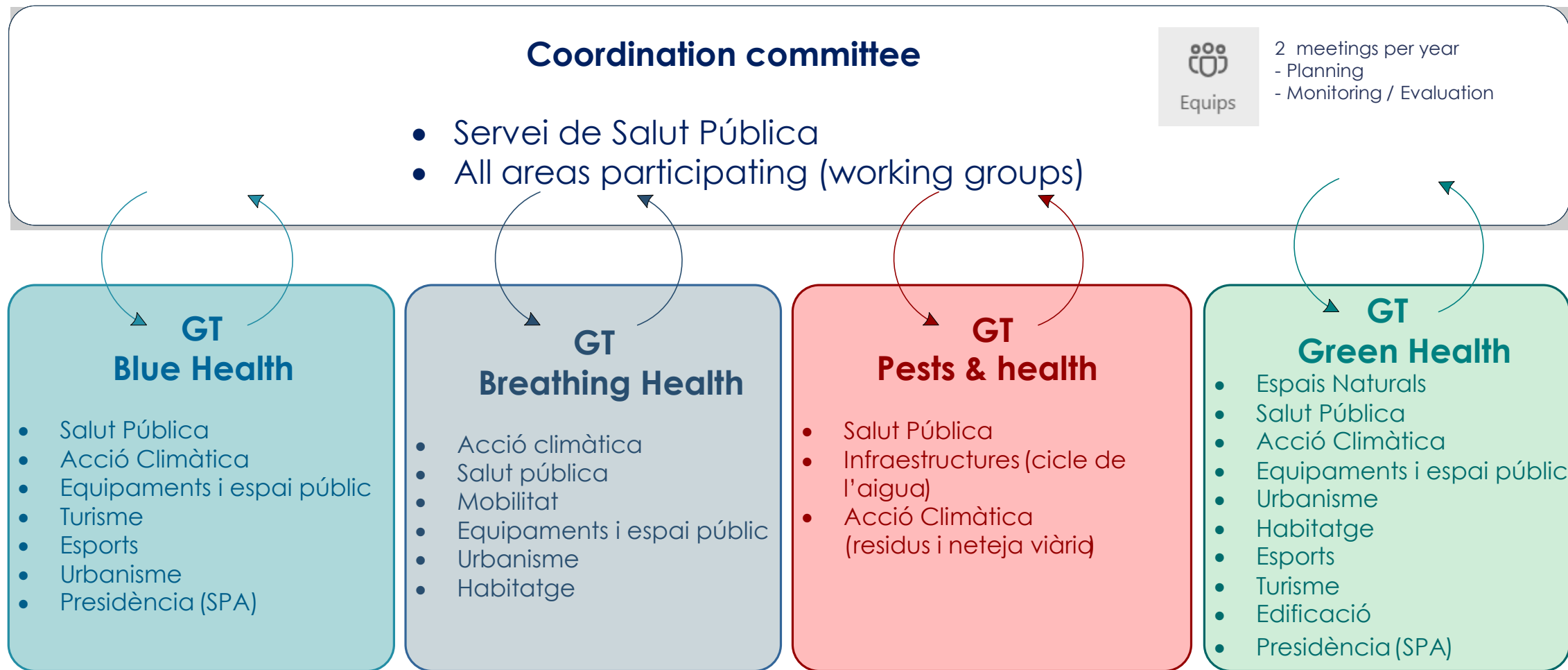
- Assessment of the suitability of the HUDI (Healthy Urban Design Index) at the local level
- Proposal to study health impacts and incorporate health criteria into the design of buildings, premises, and corporate public spaces (I3 Call)
- Update and improvement of the tool for assessing health determinants in public spaces



- Assessment of NO₂ exposure and awareness of health risks through citizen science
- Measurement and raising awareness regarding the health risks of radon gas exposure in homes



Partners & organisation



EUS Scientific partners



Urban planning, environment and health initiative



Results & challenges

Main results

- Effective case of Health in All Policies
- Toolkits for local policies
- Scientific evidence at local level
- Healthier towns & cities
- Citizen Engagement in Health policies

Challenges

- Development of the health and pest program, an urgent challenge for municipalities
- New era of urban improvement in neighbourhoods

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