

## **COST – European Cooperation in Science & Technology**

### **Scientific Summary**

Urbanism & Architecture, a catalyst for healthy neighborhoods – addresses one of the major challenges in public health. Recognizing the potential of non-medical interventions, the World Health Organization has launched a ‘health in all policies’ approach, in which non-medical approaches, including neighbourhood engaged care, play a key role. This reflects an overriding trend in public towards prevention and health promotion – the predominantly medical response to the covid-crisis will not change this. Consequently, the context in which medicine operates is bound to change. In practice, however, it is difficult to ensure maximum synergies between these policies and create a new balance between medical and non-medical approaches. This proposal positions architectural and urban interventions as a catalyst for the integration of all relevant, health-related policies, and urban space as the only self-evident inclusive domain. It explores their potential at the scale that has been recognized as the most promising for pursuing healthy cities policies: the neighbourhood. This Action addresses the following, overall questions:

- In what way can spatial (architectural and urban) interventions contribute to a coordinated, balanced health system at the neighbourhood level that integrates policies from various domains, including the provision of medical services.
- How can elements of the healthy city concept be realized in neighbourhoods that were built in different periods, different geographical conditions, different political settings, and inhabited by people with different (social, economic, demographical) characteristics.
- Theoretical reflections on health synergies are its starting point, a selection of case studies its most fundamental source of knowledge.