

How to improve the school food environment and create equal opportunities for children?

From Policy to Practice

FINAL CONFERENCE AGENDA 5TH and 6TH NOVEMBER 2026



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General information

Date

Thursday 5 and Friday 6 November 2026

Conference venue 5 November 2026

Convention Centre WTC Rotterdam
Beursplein 37
3011 AA Rotterdam

EUROCITIES working groups venue 6 November 2026

Wilhelminakade 179
3072 AP Rotterdam

Conference language

The official language is English.

Conference website

www.healthywave.eu/conference

Meals

Coffee breaks will be provided throughout the conference. There will be given in the detailed programme. Conference lunch is also included.

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Hosted by:

POSTILLION
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TIMETABLE

Thursday 5 November 2026

08.30 – 09:30	Registration of participants'
09.30 – 13.00	Opening – Plenary session I
13.00 – 14.00	Buffet lunch and networking
14.00 – 15.30	Parallel Session I
15.30 – 17.30	Closing – Plenary session II
19.30 – 21.30	Dinner (invitation only)

Friday 6 November 2026 (open for Eurocities members)

09.00 – 12.30	Working Group sessions
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch & networking
13.30 – 15.30	Site visits



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08.30 - 13.00	OPENING	Thursday 5 th November 2026	Plenary Session I - Room
08:30	Registration of the participants of the conference		
09:30	Official opening conference Welcome words by:		
	René Segers-Hoogendoorn	Vice-Mayor Care, Welfare and Social & Community Infrastructure	
09:45	Keynote:		
	Jiří Švarc	European Commission	
10:15	Inspirational Insights: The results of the travel of the SchoolFood4Change project		
	Annelies Smets	Rikolto	
10:45	Questions to the speakers		
11:15	Networking with coffee		
11:45	Panel Debate: Rethinking Healthy School Meals		
	Moderator:	Josje van Nes	
	Panel:	Jiří Švarc	European Commission
		Ana Paula Reis	Agrupamento de Escolas Anselmo de Andrade
		Andrea Magarini	Comune di Milano
		Vera van Stokkom	InHolland
13:00	Networklunch		



14.00 - 15.30
PARALLEL SESSIONS
Parallel Session I
Parallel A
How to improve Early Childhood Education & Care (Room A)

Moderator	Franca Locati	Chair working group Children, Eurocities, policy officer city of Milano
Keynote	Pauline Slot	Endowed Professor University Utrecht
	Ilze Spunze	Policy Advisory of the city of Riga
	Lieve De Bosscher	Director of childcare services Ghent
	Silke Schöngart-Mühlegg	Head of the Health and Food Management Team Munich

Parallel B
How to improve Local School Food Policy (Room B)

Moderator	Chiara Mandelli	WG Food, City of Milano
Keynote	Katrien De Maegd	HOGENT
	Joakim Karlsson	City of Gothenburg
	Annette Stafleu	Voedingscentrum
	Daniela Onofrei	School in Baci

Parallel C
How to Break the Cycle of Child Poverty (Room C)

Moderator	Eerika Kantonen	Chair of the Working Group Education, policy officer Helsinki
Keynote	Francesca Pisani	Eurochild
	Sonia Fuertes(tbc)	Barcelona City Council
	Nicole Lucassen	Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam
	Mieke van Duijn	OBS Delfshaven

15.30 - 17.45
PLENARY CLOSING
Plenary Session II - Room

15:30	Voice of the Children
16:00	Outcomes of the Healthy Wave project by Leen Tyrions (Rikolto) and Marit Struiksma (Erasmus MC)
16:45	Conclusions and Recommendations of the three parallel sessions and panel debate by The Youth
17:15	European Respond
17:30	Closing statement by Josje van Nes



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Friday 6th of November 2026

08.30 - 12.30	WG EDUCATION	40.11 - Room
08:30 - 09:00	Registration and coffee	
09:00 - 09:20	Welcome and opening <i>Eerika Kantonen, City of Helsinki, chair</i>	
09:20 - 10:00	Reflections on the first day (school meals and wellbeing and learning) (small groups)	
10:00 - 10:45	What innovative initiatives does your city have to support the wellbeing in schools/in education (menti)	
10:45 - 11:15	Networking and coffee break	
11:15 - 11:45	Subgroups present their first meetings	
11:45 - 12:00	Discussing the upcoming events Antwerpen and Warsaw	
12:00 - 12:30	Preparation to the site visits	

08.30 - 12.30	WG CHILDREN	27.55 - Room
08:30 - 09:00	Registration and coffee	
09:00 - 10:00	Conference Takeaways and Discussion	
10:00 - 10:45	Cities in Focus: Local Practices and Innovations Sharing experiences and inspiring practices from cities on: • Tackling child poverty • Healthy food and nutrition policies • Children's wellbeing and equal opportunities	
10:45 - 11:00	Networking and coffee break	



- 11:00 – 12:00 Cities' Challenges and Policy Updates
- Exchange on current challenges faced by member cities
 - Peer learning and discussion
 - Eurocities policy and advocacy update
- 12:00 – 12:30 Looking Ahead: Priorities and Next Steps for the Working Group Children
- What should be our priorities for the coming year?
 - What support do cities need from the network?
 - Future activities, advocacy priorities and collaboration opportunities

08.30 - 12.30	WG FOOD	5.023 - Room
08:30 - 08:55	Registration and coffee	
08:55 – 09:00	Introduction of the day <i>Ottavia Pieretto & Chiara Mandelli, MUFPP Secretariat</i>	
09:00 – 09:30	WG Food Meeting & CLEVERFOOD Updates <i>Chiara Roticiani, Eurocities</i>	
09:30 – 10:00	Urban Agenda Position Paper of the Partnership & EU Policy Updates	
10:00 – 10:30	JRC Presentation <i>Aurora Perez Cornago</i>	
10:30 – 11:00	Networking & Coffee break	
11:00 – 12:30	Workshop with cities Building on the thread of work of the Wednesday afternoon	



08.30 - 12.30	HEALTHY WAVE – last transnational project meeting (closed)	07.41 - Room
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09:00 – 09:30	Reflection on the conference
09:30 – 10:00	Reflection on the last Local Action Group meetings
10:00 – 10:30	Tasks in the following weeks before sending final report
10:30 – 11:00	Definitive version of the project results
11:00 – 11:30	Dissemination activities & Plans for the future
11:30 – 12:30	Evaluation of the whole project and lessons learned so far

12.30 - 13.30	LUNCH TIME	In your own Room
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13:30 – 14:00	Travel time to the site visits
14:00 – 15:30	Site visits
15:30	End of the meetings

