Healthy Buildings, Healthier People

The climate footprint of buildings - houses, office spaces, schools etc - is too high. The building sector is responsible for approximately:

- 36% of CO₂ emissions in the EU
- 40% of energy consumption in the EU

People spend around 90% of time indoors - in homes, offices, schools, healthcare facilities - and 1 in 6 Europeans live in buildings that make them sick.

The health sector has a unique role to play in the transformation to healthier buildings through:

- Raising awareness on the importance of indoor environments on building user's health
- Engaging around deliberations on the future of European buildings and renovations strategies.
- Sharing and promoting best practices.
- Leading by example with ensuring that buildings such as hospitals, clinics or public health offices are health-promoting buildings.

Buildings need to become health and climate friendly.

The built environment has a large impact on our health through:

- Cardiovascular diseases
- Cancer
- Respiratory diseases
- Childhood illnesses
- Mental health
- Premature deaths due to extreme temperatures in winter and summer

HEAL gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the European Union (EU) and the European Climate Foundation for the production of this publication. The responsibility for the content lies with the authors and the views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the EU institutions and funders. The Executive Agency for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (EASME) and the funders are not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained in this publication.