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CliCCHE stands for Climate Change, cities, communities and Equity in Health and is an Erasmus+ project. Within this project, a series of workshops on urban health have been organized, to educate students on concepts related to energy efficiency, sustainable built environment, current and future urban challenges, methods to identify and select sustainable solutions to design problems and improve existing mitigation and adaptation strategies toward climate change and urban health.



Health: “A state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”. (WHO, 1946)

About the author

Niki Paisi is a PhD student at the Climate and Atmosphere research center (CARE-C) of The Cyprus Institute, working on air quality modeling and health impacts, focusing on the European domain. Her research focuses on fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and their adverse health effects. Her research interests include toxicology, epidemiology and air quality modeling.



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The case of Strovolos. Nicosia, Cyprus

The Municipality of Strovolos

Location: Nicosia

Established: Year 1986

Population: 70.000 residents

- Annual Population Change: 1.5% [2001-2011]

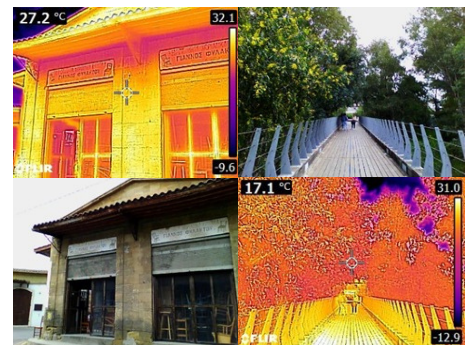
Area: 25km²

- Since 1974, the area has developed into a hub, with small industries and services

- It is separated into six parishes: Agios Vasilios, Agios Demetrios, Apostolos Varnavas and Agios Makarios, Chryseleousa, Stavros and Ethnomartiras Kyprianos.

The questions we had to address included: How well protected are the critical areas of Strovolos, (i.e. near the Pedieos river) against flooding? How good is the air quality in Strovolos, considering traffic and the green areas? In the summer time, how severe is urban heat? How easy is it to interact socially? How easy is it to access essential shopping services? How easy is it to access essential health services in the area?

Questionnaire's average score:
4/10



 [strovolos_municipalitycy](#)

A 2 hours walk over the old area of Strovolos was organized to collect several information about the area, as well as to ask questions to random residents about their neighborhood. Our team had then the chance to review their experience through a questionnaire.

Ranking for: Noise level, air quality, walkability, sense of safety and number of services that allow someone to live comfortably in Strovolos.

Average score: 3.2/5

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Highlights and take-home messages



Many of these NCD are preventable and living a healthy life is crucial for minimizing the risk for developing those diseases. Thus, strategic urban planning that promotes physical activity, green energy use, safe and easy access to health care systems etc., would be highly important.

Urban Health Research Agenda: A set of global priorities for 2022-2032

The research agenda includes all WHO focus areas (e.g. environmental health, climate change, tobacco, housing, healthy diets, physical activity, road safety and emergency preparedness and response) with the overarching goal of supporting states, actors and communities in achieving their health, equity and sustainability targets.

References:

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Importance

Why is it important to integrate health in urban planning processes?

- 91% of the world's population live in areas where the WHO air quality guidelines are not met. (WHO, 2018)
- 7 million deaths are attributed to household and ambient air pollution.
- Non-communicable diseases (NCD) are the largest cause of illness and death. Although communicable diseases are higher in low-income countries, non-communicable (e.g. cardiovascular diseases and cancer) are more prevalent in high-income countries.

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The Municipality of Strovolos is located in the Nicosia district and was established in 1986. It is the second largest Municipality in Cyprus, with a population of over 70.000 inhabitants. There are references to Strovolos or Strovilos since the Middle Ages, where according to sources, Strovolos was a royal field during the years of Frankish Rule. Strovolos now covers an area of 25km² and has evolved in its present condition after the events of 1974, when Turkey invaded Cyprus and Nicosia was divided, with many refugees settling within Strovolos. Since 1974, the area has developed into a hub, with small industries, services and manufacturers largely occupying the historic centre, in what has developed into an urban area with residential and commercial buildings in blended use. The municipality now includes a theatre, library, cultural and sports centres, as well as parks and exhibition areas