

# final conference of pacte+

## Statement from Jean-Louis Erneux

**Brussels, [16/04/2025] – As the PACTE+ project reaches its conclusion, Jean-Louis Erneux, project lead and representative of Sport and Citizenship, issued the following statement at the opening of the final conference:**

“It is with great pride and gratitude that we welcome participants from across Europe to the closing session of PACTE+, a three-year EU-funded initiative focused on promoting active cities and addressing the challenges of physical inactivity.

The strong turnout today reflects growing awareness—and concern—around sedentary lifestyles and highlights the vital role that local governments and urban environments play in promoting healthier, more active communities.

PACTE+ was built on the foundations of the original ‘PACTE Matrix for Change’, launched six years ago. Over the past three years, the consortium has worked together with remarkable cohesion, commitment, and shared vision to expand and refine this unique toolkit. Thanks to this collaboration, the Matrix is now more effective and user-friendly than ever before.

The implementation of pilot programs in Angers, Limerick, Graz, and Frederikstad has not only tested the model but has proven its relevance and effectiveness. These cities are now shining examples of how urban policy and design can be leveraged to promote physical activity.

By measuring the impact of these pilot projects and organizing collaborative workshops, PACTE+ has generated valuable knowledge and built a strong foundation for future action. We are confident that other European cities will now be able to replicate these successes.

The urgency is clear: according to the World Health Organization's 2024 data, 23% of European adults and 81% of adolescents fail to meet global physical activity recommendations. This is not merely a public health issue—it is a societal challenge with environmental, economic, and social implications.

With more than 55% of the global population now living in urban areas—and this number expected to rise to 68% by 2050—cities must become central actors in promoting healthier lifestyles.

As lead partner of PACTE+, Sport and Citizenship reaffirms its strong commitment to change. We believe that sport and physical activity are powerful tools for societal transformation, yet they remain under-prioritized at EU level. This must change. Sport is more than recreation—it is a shared language, a vector for cooperation, and a force for social integration.

Finally, we extend our sincere thanks to the European Commission, whose support made this initiative possible. With their help, we have developed not only a vision for more active cities, but also the practical tools to make that vision a reality.

We now look ahead with optimism, confident that the momentum created by PACTE+ will inspire continued action across Europe.”

Jean-Louis Erneux,  
Project Lead – PACTE+ and Secretary general at Sport and Citizenship