



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

**World Health
Organization**

Europe

**WHO Global Network
of Age-friendly Cities
and Communities**

Terms of Reference

**For Members of the Global Network of Age-
friendly Cities and Communities in Europe**

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Background

The WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC) was established in 2010 to foster the exchange of experience and good practice in the creation of age-friendly environments and for mutual learning between cities and communities worldwide. Any city or community that is committed to sharing information, data and experiences from their efforts towards inclusive and accessible urban environments that benefit their ageing populations is welcome to join, subject to a number of membership criteria.

Network Membership

Cities and communities in Europe that join the Global Network share the values and principles of the WHO European policy framework Health 2020 and of the Strategy and action plan on healthy ageing in Europe, 2012-2020. Member cities commit to actively contribute to an exchange of information and experience with other Network members through the Network's virtual information exchange platform (ePortal) and at regional and international meetings.

In order to join the GNAFCC, cities and communities are required to (1) illustrate understanding and agreement with the values and principles of supportive and healthy environments in Europe, (2) demonstrate serious commitment to address healthy ageing at the local level, and (3) commit to information and experience sharing. Cities themselves are responsible for using and implementing WHO guidance, and for monitoring and evaluating their progress. It is not the purpose of the GNAFCC to certify achievement of certain standards of age-friendliness.

Criteria for Becoming a Member

Membership in the GNAFCC is granted on the basis of the following minimum requirements:

A letter of commitment by the Mayor or high-level municipal representative, indicating:

- Knowledge of and agreement with the values and principles of the WHO European policy framework Health 2020, the Strategy and action plan on healthy ageing in Europe, 2012-2020 and the WHO Age-friendly Cities approach.
- Planned strategies to systematically addressing healthy ageing at the city level. These might include developing profiles and plans, addressing issues of dignity and empowerment, supportive physical and social environments and access to services and support and values of right to health, equity, solidarity and sustainability. They should consider mechanisms to involve older people in these processes and to identify concrete outcomes and targets.
- A commitment to share information and experience with other members in the Global Network through the Network's ePortal and at regional and international meetings organized by the Network. This includes provision of a city profile for the Network's website and commitment to keeping it up to date
- Designation of a focal point in the local administration who will be the contact person for the WHO Global Network
- Additionally, candidate cities and communities are invited to consider collaboration with Members of the European Healthy Cities Network, where applicable.

Benefits of Membership

A city or community that becomes a member of the Global Network is able to use the designation “Member of the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities”.

Each member city or community is entitled to a public profile page on the Global Network’s electronic portal on which activities, events and publications can be shared and the age-friendly activities by the city described.

Membership also allows:

- Connection to a global network of ageing experts, including senior officials, programme managers, researchers and older people themselves.
- Receipt of the latest news and material on Age-friendly City and Community projects, meetings and events through the ePortal and Network newsletter
- Guidance on approaches for developing and implementing Age-friendly City and Community approaches.
- Participation in discussions of best practices for implementing and overcoming challenges to building an age-friendly city or community.
- Facilitation of partnerships or collaborative activities between cities or communities.
- Dissemination and sharing of project results
- Access to conferences, events and trainings organized by the Network

Duration of membership

Membership is initially granted for the duration of two years and can be renewed for as long as members continue to be actively working towards making their cities and communities more adapted to the needs of their ageing populations and share their work with the Network.

WHO Support to the Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities in the European Region

The WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities coordinates global discussions and an exchange of practices among cities and communities. The WHO regional office for Europe is strongly committed to age-friendly cities and healthy ageing policies on local level.

Contributions of WHO to the GNAFCC include:

- (1) Organising of a bi-annual global meeting of GNAFCC Members
- (2) Managing the GNAFCC electronic information sharing platform (ePortal) that will enable continuous interregional exchange and information sharing among the cities and communities on the following web page: <http://www.agefriendlyworld.org>

(3) Documenting and comparing practices across the regions and drawing lessons learnt for healthy ageing on local level

(4) Contributing to the development of adaptable tools and guidance, such as “WHO (2002) Active ageing: a policy framework”, and “WHO (2007) Global age-friendly cities: a guide”. Those specify the values and principles of work on healthy ageing and provide guidance for action.

(5) Foster information exchange and mutual learning between cities worldwide

Further planned activities include the development of a Global Database on Age-friendly practices and capacity building activities and training material.

Furthermore, WHO support for age-friendly policies on local level in the European Region also takes place in the WHO European Healthy City Network (WHO-EHCN). Healthy ageing principles are an integral part and a long standing priority in the European Healthy Cities Network. The strength of this network is an established direct cooperation with cities across the region on all aspects of health development, reinforced by the European policy framework Health 2020 and the Strategy and action plan for healthy ageing in Europe, 2012-2020. The WHO regional office for Europe is committed to increase synergies between the EHCN and GNAFCC network.