



T.C.  
KADIKÖY BELEDİYE BAŞKANLIĞI  
Özel Kalem Müdürlüğü

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To whom it may concern,

For the entirety of recorded human history, there has been no other period like this day, during which the aging of population has been on top of the global agenda. Starting from the late 20th century, it can be observed that ageing has become one of the main concerns especially for the developed countries, as well as all others.

According to data collected for the year 2014, in Istanbul, which has population of 14.377.018, 6% of the total population is above 65 years of age whereas in Kadıköy, which has population of 482.571, this proportion is as high as 17%. Kadıköy has an elderly population rate that is much higher than Turkey's national average of 8% and has already reached the elderly proportion figures that Turkey will not reach before the middle of this century.

Kadıköy is the place with the highest proportion in Turkey in terms of the population aged 65 and above. The actions to be taken in Kadıköy in this subject will therefore be pioneering for future anticipations in Turkey.

Currently, numerous projects are being implemented in Kadıköy for the citizens aged 65 and above. Kadıköy Municipality's Social Center (Sosyal Yaşam Merkezi) is an active ageing center, providing health care services, sports activities and social facilities for the people of Kadıköy aged 65 and above. Other Kadıköy Municipality services for the senior citizens include home delivered hairdresser service, free computer literacy educations at the municipal education centers, in-kind support (including the provision of wheel chairs, medical beds, underpads, food delivery etc.) where the elderly has disabilities, free-of-charge cardiology service, free medical checkups on diabetes and other diseases and free attendance to the cultural events organized by Kadıköy Municipality. Additionally, in the Volunteer Centers bound to Kadıköy Municipality, on monthly basis, education seminars based on health (blood pressure, eye health, diabetes, hypertension, hearing loss, depression, chronic diseases etc.) are made available for the senior citizens. Volunteering programs are also organized in order to encourage senior citizens' active participation in social life. Volunteer Centers, which are available in every district of Kadıköy are actually the active ageing centers, involving around 5000 elderly people in various volunteering activities.

In the near future, Kadıköy Municipality will inaugurate Kadıköy's first "Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Day Care Center" and the architectural plans for this project have currently been completed. Additionally, Kadıköy Municipality's Urban Design Office will also work through the rearrangement and adaptation of urban furniture and urban design projects across Kadıköy in the context of age-friendly city principles.

In Kadıköy, active participation of the senior citizens in decision-making processes and awareness-raising activities for inter-generational dialogue and struggle against ageism are also being diligently planned.

Through becoming a member of the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities, Kadıköy Municipality wishes to be involved in closer cooperation in terms of the exchange of knowledge and experience in age-friendly practices.

**Aykurt NUHOĞLU**  
Mayor of Kadıköy Municipality  
Sincerely yours