Ol Matosinhos

World Health Organisation

Ageing and Life Course Avenue Appia 20 1211 Geneva 27 Switzerland

Dear Sir / Madam,

The Borough Council of Matosinhos takes into the highest consideration the initiatives promoted by the World Health Organization and will be most honoured to have the opportunity to be integrated in the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and communities.

The borough of Matosinhos has assumed over the last four decades a strong dynamic in developing the social area, being nationally recognised as a beacon in terms of involving state agencies, both local (such as the Council) and central (such as health administration agencies), with citizens' organizations in designing tailor-made responses to the local population needs.

Since the 1990s, it has been made clear that the population of Matosinhos would soon follow the ageing trend of the western countries urban communities. It was then that the Council started to emphasise the intervention on the ageing population, present and future needs. That is the case of the Gerontological Plan for Matosinhos, which was designed by the Council with the active participation of all local agents and stakeholders within the frame of the local Social Network of organizations.

The Borough Council of Matosinhos, alongside the Local Health Entity, maintain its aim to build a more responsive and inclusive community bearing in mind particularly the needs of its most aged population. Therefore, the process recommended by the WHO / Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Programme, will be implemented accordingly.

On behalf of the Council of Matosinhos, I present this letter as the official application to join the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities.

Yours sincerely—

The Mayor

Eduardo Pinheiro, Dr.