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World Health Organization
Age-friendly network

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To Whom It May Concern,

One of the key commitments I take as mayor of Vilnius is to develop our city being attractive for all ages, where different generations find itself recognized and comfortable within our city's infrastructure. As main priority we aim to improve the quality of life for older people and make it a better place to grow older.

In May 2016, the City Council has approved the public commission *Vilnius – an age-friendly city* to be established which objectives and framework are based on WHO age-friendly world cities guidelines and practices.

The commission acts in order to recognize the capacities and resources among older people, anticipate and respond to ageing-related needs and preferences, respect older people's decisions and lifestyle choices, protect those who are most vulnerable and promote older people's contribution to all areas of community life.

In December 2016, City of Vilnius has taken the leadership to finance and conduct the survey among 65+ Vilnius citizens to cover 8 interconnected domains of urban life: transportation, outdoor spaces and buildings, housing, social and civic participation, employment, communication and information, community and healthcare, respect and social inclusion. The results of the survey have clearly indicated the priority themes - age-friendly services and neighbourhood, communication, knowledge and innovation, inclusion and participation - for our long-term strategy plan.

We work in partnership with older people, older people's organisations, the voluntary and community sector, the private sector, central government and universities. We are ready to replicate Vilnius practice to other cities in Lithuania.

The challenge lies in achieving that this plan would be interconnected within different municipality departments and furthermore other governmental institutions.

It is going to be based on a strategic line of Active Ageing, the process of optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age.

Like for any city plan, I guarantee all my support for its implementation, which I am fully confident in.

Yours sincerely,

Remigijus Šimašius
Mayor of Vilnius

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. Šimašius', written over a light blue grid background.

