

To WHO global network for age-  
friendly cities and communities

It is a pleasure to write to you for expressing my interest in applying to the Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Initiative. The main priority for me, as a mayor, is to ensure decent life conditions for all members of the community. Because of the intense immigration of people, which are leaving from Moldova to go abroad or from rural to urban areas, the population of villages is ageing rapidly (the rate of 60+ year old residents represents 43% of the whole population of Cobîlea). Because of that, creating good conditions for elderly community is one of the most important tasks. Cobilea is a small rural community, with only 2,400 residents, but highly motivated to improve life for older people. Since 2017 the mayoralty of Cobîlea in collaboration with NGO Centre for Social and Medical Home Assistance "CASMED" and HelpAge International, with the financial support of Swiss Red Cross have implemented the project "Ageing and Health". The main objectives of the project were : increase access of elderly population to HBC social and medical services, adapt the infrastructure and services to age specific needs and increase participation and integration of elderly people in project communities in order to create suitable environment, in which they can remain healthy and age safely, with purpose and dignity.

With the support of NGO CASMED an old people need assessment was done in the community, based on that, a lot of challenges were identified. Taking into account the issues identified and the financial possibilities of the local administration there was approved and developed an age friendly strategy for 2017-2019. The mayoralty of Cobîlea intends to support and provide financial coverage for the implementation of age friendly initiatives included in the AFC strategy. The strategy is committed to advance public and aging policy goals within the World Health Organization's eight established domains: arrange outdoor spaces and buildings which are senior friendly; increase the accessibility of transportation and housing; generate jobs to help supplement fixed incomes; ensure with adequate medical and long-term care services and support to help seniors stay healthy and age in good place; protect against abuse, neglect, and exploitation; provide with activities to assure social participation and inclusion to keep seniors active and engaged in the community.

We hope joining the network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities will bring benefits to the network and to the community of Cobîlea contributing further to anchor the AFC concept in the Republic Moldova.

Best regards,

The mayor of Cobîlea village,

Ababei Angela

