

A network of aging-friendly cities World Health Organization

ACCEPTING AN UNDERTAKING

The ageing of populations is a demographic phenomenon commonly observed around the world. Also in the Kalisko-Ostrowska Agglomeration, a phenomenon that will increase in the years to come, there is an ageing population.

Kalisko – Ostrowska agglomeration is an area comprising 21 areas of local government in Wielkopolska, including Kalisz city and the city of Ostrów Wielkopolski with a total population of more than 357 thousand inhabitants. According to data from the Central Statistical Office, including the and demographic structure of local government units forming part of the Kalisko-Ostrowska Agglomeration, in 2017, the percentage of inhabitants over 60 is 24%, and is forecast to be 40% in 2050. This means that in 2050 the Kalisko-Ostrowska Agglomeration will have a population of more than 140,000 elderly people. Affiliated municipalities in the south-eastern part of Wielkopolska there will be an increase in the number of elderly people, so local authorities need to prepare for the effects of demographic change of the population and take measures consisting in particular in introducing effective instruments to ensure the best possible living conditions for seniors living in the Kalisko-Ostrowska Agglomeration.

Local policymakers, aware of these challenges, have been making the development of the Senior Policy one of the strategic priorities for the development of the region for several years. Creating the first assumptions and projects inter-international partnerships seek to meet the needs of older people. By making changes to the priority axis, local authorities confirm that active ageing is a lifelong process. Therefore, the activities carried out by the members of the Kalisko-Ostrowska Agglomeration Association give rise to the claim that the Agglomeration region is age-friendly in the multigenerational process.

This proposal is the result of one year of work with seniors in 2018-2020, where together with social workers and local officials we carried out a project diagnosing the initial needs of the elderly. Nearly 1,000 people taking part in our event from the bottom up initiated the accession to the WHO network of age-friendly cities and municipalities, expressing their approval for this

initiative. Residents are interested in local authorities implementing a coherent senior policy and implementing innovative changes for an ageing population.

We are aware that our biggest challenge will be diagnosing the needs of all social groups and looking for ways to meet them at the level of local municipalities forming the Kalisko-Ostrowska Agglomeration Association. We will draw information from the activities of residents, institutions and NGOs, which will jointly support the process of change.

Joining the network is intended as a signal to the inhabitants of the Kalisko-Ostrowska Agglomeration and in a practical way a plane of changes for the elderly. We are confident that the way the network operates will help us achieve our goals and give back to the networks good practices that are forming in our local environment.

As Director of the Kalisko-Ostrowska Agglomeration Association, acting on behalf of the members of the Association, I wish to join the WHO-established network of age-friendly cities, representing 16 local government units interested in the idea of creating age-friendly municipalities, among them are: City, Municipality of New Skalmierzce, Brzeziny Municipality, City, Odolanów Municipality, Przygodzice Municipality, Sieroszewice Municipality, City, Opatówek Municipality, Koźminek Municipality, Kalisz City, Szczytniki Municipality, Sośnie Municipality, Great Godziesze Municipality, Gołuchów Municipality, Lisków Municipality, City, Raszków Municipality, Ostrów Wielkopolska Municipality and Pleszewski District and declare acceptance of commitments to continuous improvement and exchange of information within the network.

Sincerely

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STOWARZYSZENIE
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