

## **City Council decision Nr. 18**

Department of Ageing and  
Life-Course  
World Health Organization  
Avenue Appia 20  
CH-1211 Geneva 27

**Application for the network  
'Age friendly Cities and Communities'  
Accompanying letter from the  
City Council**

Luzern, 29. März 2021

Dear Sir, Dear Madam,

On behalf of the City Council – the executive authority of the City of Lucerne – it gives us great pleasure to submit our application for membership in the WHO network 'Age-friendly Cities and Communities'. In its legislative program for 2019-2021, the City Council outlined its goal of further reinforcing the positioning of the city of Lucerne as an age-friendly city. Membership in the WHO network was defined as a concrete measure to augment this ambition.

Our application is another milestone in the old-age policy of the city of Lucerne. With the 'Ageing in Lucerne' development concept that was adopted in 2011, the city of Lucerne has given old age policy – previously comprised almost exclusively of care provision and financial protection – greater influence and latitude for action. The concept also gave rise to the Forum Luzern60plus, the successor organisation to the 'Seniors' Council'. The forum is tasked with representing the interests of the 60+ generation and ensuring their participation, also in political processes. Lucerne was also a founding member of the 'Swiss Network of Age-Friendly Cities' in 2012 and is frequently cited as a good practice example of successful old age policy in German-speaking Switzerland. In the 2018 publication 'Design of communal ageing policy in Switzerland', the city of Lucerne achieved the highest level with regard to structuring in each of the four examined dimensions and was listed as a city with a 'comprehensive alignment towards old age policy'.

The application for the WHO network 'Age-friendly Cities and Communities' is an obligation and commitment to continue along the current path, to build on achievements with no change in ambition, and to continuously develop the ageing policy in a participatory, future-oriented and demand-oriented manner.

Furthermore, the desired inclusion in the WHO network means that the city of Lucerne is committed to the ongoing improvement of age-friendliness. To ensure the effectiveness of measures and the long-term viability of the improvement process, the City Council has decided to repeat the representative survey that was carried out in 2020 every four years, and in this way to also respond to the constantly changing needs and concerns of the future elderly population.

The most important component of our application is a detailed report (German language), which is simultaneously a review, a stocktaking and an analysis that addresses the survey on the age-friendliness of the city of Lucerne and examines its results. It is also the foundation of measures to advance age-friendliness and the starting point for the consolidation, improvement and further development of Lucerne's old age policy. We have summarised the most important points of the report, in particular the results of the survey on the age-friendliness of the city in the enclosed English-language Executive Summary. The next step is the development of an action plan based on the findings of the survey.

As a future member of the 'WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities', we greatly look forward to working together and exchanging ideas with the other cities and municipalities in the network, and we will of course be happy to share our knowledge and experience.

Thank you for considering our application. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Mirjam Müller-Bodmer, head of the Department for Age-Related Issues: [mirjam.mueller@stadtluzern.ch](mailto:mirjam.mueller@stadtluzern.ch), +41 41 208 81 38.

Kind regards



Beat Züsli  
Stadtpräsident



Michèle Bucher  
Stadtschreiberin