



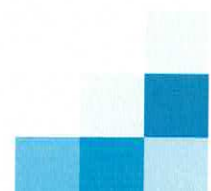
**WICEPREZYDENT  
MIASTA KATOWICE**

**Mr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus  
Director-General  
of the World Health Organization**

In recent years the process of population aging has forced the governments to take decisive actions in the socio-economic area. It is the aging of societies which are and will be one of the most important challenges defining development of most countries and which will have a direct impact on local politics. Not only Europe but also the world is facing the challenges of aging population and this problem does not only concern the developed countries but the developing ones as well. Katowice can also see changes in this area. The number of people in the post-productive age in relation to the people in the productive age is still growing whereas the high demographic burden is maintained. This shows the aging of the city's population. Over 31% of Katowice residents are over 60. Therefore, in response to the growing number of seniors, the city implements a senior policy to shape the proper perception of the aging process in society and to engage them in various forms of civic, social, cultural, professional or artistic activity. In order to meet their needs the authorities try to optimize the conditions for active aging, engage them in social life and care for their safety and health. The city tries to adapt its activity and development to the needs of its residents as it pays special attention to seniors and with regard to their needs and potential.

One of the priorities of the city concerning the aging process is to help create and implement various activities which counteract the social exclusion or marginalization. Katowice cooperates with many senior-oriented institutions and NGOs and implements a number of initiatives for seniors, organizes regular events and meetings as well as obtains funds from the European Union. These activities cover the most important areas of life such as transport, housing, health, culture, education, personal development, etc. To sum up, Katowice is a city friendly to seniors.

With regard to the above, I would like to declare Katowice's willingness to join the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities as I am sure that membership in this prestigious Network will contribute to the future and in-depth development of the senior policy and a better understanding of the needs of this group of residents. Participation in the Network is a beneficial form of experience exchange which helps build a senior policy in the city and joint efforts to improve environmental and social factors that have impact on active and healthy aging.



By expressing the will to join the Network, I accept the commitments which result from it, providing information about the ongoing activities for seniors and I declare my willingness to regularly improve them.

I hope you accept our offer and readiness to join the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities. I am certain that our joint concern for the development of senior policy will bring excellent and tangible results.

Yours faithfully,

WICEPREZYDENT MIASTA KATOWICE

Jerzy Woźniak

