



29th April, 2022

## WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities application

Vantaa is a city that—in all its actions—strives to promote the status of its residents by accounting for characteristics specified in various human-rights agreements. Joining the Age-Friendly Cities network will boost the City of Vantaa's systematic work to improve the status of different population segments. The City of Vantaa is committed to implementing UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities model, as well as to UNESCO's global network of learning cities. The networks will also supplement our commitment as a city to promoting the UN's agenda 2030 goals.

The City of Vantaa's values are transparency, courageousness, responsibility and sense of community. Accountability means that we will secure a good life to the present and future generations. The Age-Friendly Cities model supports realization of this value. Preparation and decision-making account for ecological, social, financial, and cultural perspectives. As a city, we also want to promote the position of our aged residents. Vantaa is a multicultural city. Fifty-two thousand people living in Vantaa are native speakers of languages other than Finnish, Swedish, or Sami. In 2020, the number of over-65-year-old foreign-language speakers living in Vantaa amounted to 1,633. Vantaa Council of the Elderly initiated Vantaa's joining the network and started to promote the networking matter.

Compared to the other biggest cities in Finland, the percentage of the aged grows most rapidly in Vantaa. We are committed to promoting our senior citizens' lives and everyday living, so that all senior citizens have the right to live their own lives as they wish, regardless of their background. In order to achieve the goal of living one's own life, we have set up a WHO Age-Friendly Cities and Communities coordination team that consists of the city's various professionals. The aim of the team is to refine already existing good practices, to create future goals, as well as to create Vantaa's age-friendly policy. In the future, we aim to also add experts by experience to the coordination team.

The goals of the Age-Friendly Vantaa policy will be widely accounted for in all the city's functions. Vantaa is willing to develop and share its know-how in promoting the status of the aged population both nationally and internationally.

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to be "Ritva Viljanen", written over a horizontal line.

Ritva Viljanen  
Mayor  
City Of Vantaa