



PREZYDENT MIASTA KRAKOWA

Kraków, 27 January 2023

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General
World Health Organisation

Dear Director-General,

On behalf of the City Kraków, I am very pleased to express my interest in joining the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities. The City of Kraków recognizes the importance of encouraging and promoting age-friendly planning and policies to address changing demographics and improve the quality of life.

Kraków is the second-largest city in Poland, situated in the Małopolska Province. In December 2021, the city's population was 782,137, of whom 160,872 were aged 65 and over (21% of the urban population).

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Kraków had a policy aimed at supporting older citizens (the PASIOS 2015-2020 Municipal Programme for Social Activity and Integration of Older People). In March 2020, when the pandemic created an emergency, Kraków was prepared to support older people living in the city in various ways. Since February 2022 (due to war in Ukraine) Kraków and its citizens have also been actively involved in helping refugees.

The City operates Senior Activity Centres where older residents can engage in various social and voluntary activities. In 2022, there were 53 Senior Activity Centres in the City with 6,500 participants (aged 60+). Nowadays, the centres also provide support to Ukrainian seniors by inviting them to daily activities.

Activities addressed to the elderly implemented under the city policies include also running the internet portal “Kraków for Seniors”, where all information about undertakings and events targeted at older citizens is posted. Under the Municipal Healthcare Program, the “Healthy Kraków” campaigns were carried out to encourage older citizens to take the vaccine against SARS CoV-2. Since 2015 the city has organized the “Let’s act together!” competition that promotes and enhances intergenerational activities between pupils, students and older persons.

The city also implements the ASYSTENT 85+ project that focuses on improving the quality and standard of living of Kraków’s residents by providing them with care and support from assistants. In 2021 the project supported also people with disabilities over the age of 70. Also, in Kraków, the idea of including the voice of the ageing population voice in policy-making is put into practice (project “Officials listen, Senior Citizens Research and Designing”).

Kraków has already established international collaboration with the members of the Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities, as since March 2022 the City has been a partner in the project City & Co: Older Adults Co-Creating a Sustainable Age-friendly City (ERA-NET Cofund Urban Transformation Capacities (ENUTC) (with The Hague and Wrocław from Poland).

For the City authorities, it is clearly essential to ensure high-quality and age-friendly urban space and social services for all citizens. Joining the Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities, we are deeply convinced that this is a crucial step in improving measures for active aging of the population.



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Jacek Majchrowski