

Bosna i Hercegovina
Federacija Bosne i Hercegovine
Tuzlanski kanton
GRAD TUZLA



GRADONAČELNIK

Broj: *02-093-03-2023*

Tuzla, 23. 03. 2023.

Subject: Letter of Tuzla Mayor Zijad Lugavić, as an integral part of Tuzla Application for the WHO Global Network Age-friendly Cities and Communities Network

I am proud to announce that Tuzla is the first local community in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Western Balkans to create and implement the Age-friendly Strategy 2020 – 2025. Our aim was to involve the ageing population in the planning process, engage them in understanding the real impact of social policies, and identify areas for improvement.

The development of Tuzla's Age-friendly strategy involved a diverse group of stakeholders, including senior representatives, senior associations, retired workers associations, healthcare and social care representatives, Tuzla City, and Swiss Red Cross consultants. Under the guidance of the Tuzla City Administration, they collaboratively drafted a document outlining prioritized areas for improvement and the roles of various institutions.

To provide comprehensive support for senior citizens, the strategy addresses several key areas:

- Health and social care support, focusing on in-house care and support, and various forms of assistance for people with dementia
- Sensitizing city administration to deliver age-friendly services
- Developing an age-friendly social environment with opportunities for intergenerational cooperation
- Facilitating mobility, transportation, and movement in Tuzla
- Identifying and preventing security risks concerning senior citizens, including financial security and protection from violence

The strategy emphasizes a participatory approach that stimulates independence and individualism while providing age-friendly community support. It considers gender aspects and social activation, recognizing the specific challenges faced by women and men, and addresses the needs of seniors in both urban and rural areas.

Challenging circumstances brought on by the pandemic, especially affecting the senior population, slowed down the implementation of the strategy. However, immediately after the epidemiological situation improved, Tuzla continued to successfully work on identifying the most suitable and feasible measures to ensure the full participation of older individuals in community interactions across all sectors. Tuzla aims to promote and replicate age-friendly development both nationally and regionally, with ambitions to spearhead the Western Balkans

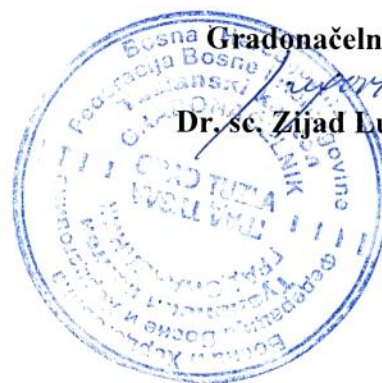
age-friendly communities group as part of the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

We hope to learn from the experiences of WHO Global Network partners, adopting their positive practices to further develop Tuzla's age-friendly initiatives.

With this in mind, we humbly submit Tuzla City's application for the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

Hoping for your positive feedback, I remain.

Respectfully yours,



Gradonačelnik

Dr. sc. Zijad Lugavić