

MANİSA METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

AGE-FRIENDLY BASIC EVALUATION REPORT

As Manisa Metropolitan Municipality, we aim to make urban life inclusive, accessible, and sustainable for all stakeholders. In this process, we carry out various social services and projects with the aim of improving the quality of life of the elderly population in particular. As part of the process of joining the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Cities Network, making our work in this area more systematic and aligned with international standards is one of our top priorities.

1. Demographic Situation:

According to 2023 data, Manisa Province has a population of 1,475,716. Approximately 12.63% of the population (186,433 people) is aged 65 and over. As in Türkiye as a whole, the proportion of the elderly population in Manisa is increasing. The coexistence of rural and urban settlements in our city diversifies the needs of elderly individuals. This requires sensitivity in many areas, particularly spatial inequalities.

2. Current Services and Policies:

As Manisa Metropolitan Municipality, services we offer to elderly individuals are listed as follows:

- Home Care Service: We provide home care services to elderly, lonely, and needy citizens. Within the scope of this service, our professional teams provide our citizens with comprehensive support in their homes, including nursing, physical therapy, personal care, dietetics, psychological counseling, and hairdressing.
- Hot Meal Service: Daily hot meals are delivered to the homes of designated elderly individuals.
- Food Box Support: Food boxes are regularly delivered to households identified as in need through social assessment.
- "I'm Here" Alzheimer's and Dementia Bracelet: This application, developed for the safety of Alzheimer's and dementia patients, ensures that individuals can be easily located in case they go missing.
- World Hearing Day Event: On World Hearing Day, free hearing tests and informational activities are conducted for elderly citizens.
- Patient Transport Ambulance: Free transportation to hospitals is provided for elderly and disabled individuals.
- In order to closely monitor the health conditions of our elderly citizens, respiratory function measurements are taken along with blood pressure and blood sugar

measurements, and citizens with risky findings are referred to the relevant health institutions regularly.

- Through the events we organize as part of the World Health Organization's "Move for Health" Day, we aim to raise awareness among our elderly citizens about the importance of physical activity.
- Free Public Transportation for People Over 65: This is an important initiative that supports the independence of elderly individuals in terms of transportation.
- Social Support Services: Psychosocial support, health guidance, and visits to increase social interaction are being carried out.

Our municipality also provides the following services to strengthen social cohesion and intergenerational bonds:

- A "Welcome Baby" package containing newborn essentials is distributed.
- In order to increase the participation of mothers with children aged 0-5 to social life; the Mother Card grants them the right to use public transportation free of charge.
- Childcare centers provide quality education to children to alleviate the burden on working parents.

3. Areas of Development and Planned Projects:

As Manisa Metropolitan Municipality, we are planning the following new services in order to make the age-friendly city vision sustainable:

- Retiree Café Project: We plan to create age-friendly spaces where retirees can socialize and participate in cultural activities.
- Alzheimer's Day Care Center: The goal is to provide professional support for the daytime care needs of patients with mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease.
- Increasing the Numbers and Capacity of Nursing Homes: The aim is to improve the quality of care in existing nursing homes and to build a new nursing home.

In addition to all this, workshops are being organized by the departments of municipality to bring different units together to develop age-friendly practices in our city, and common strategies are being developed. In these workshops, projects targeting elderly individuals are given priority.

4. The Need for the WHO's Age-Friendly Cities Network:

Manisa's elderly population is growing every day. With aging, social, physical, and psychological needs are also diversifying. Although the services currently provided in our city

form a strong foundation for meeting these needs, a more inclusive and sustainable approach is needed.

At this point, we consider participation in the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Cities Network as an important opportunity to increase Manisa's institutional capacity in this area by examining international best practices and exchanging information. By this way we aim to develop our own model accustomed to our city's needs.

5. Conclusion:

As Manisa Metropolitan Municipality, we are working diligently to enable older adults to lead active and safe lives. Through the Age-Friendly Cities Network, we aim to systematize these efforts. In this process, we plan to adopt a coordinated approach across various fields, including social services, transportation, health, and urban planning.