

Letter of commitment – Lene Conradi

Letter of commitment in joining the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities

I am pleased to confirm that the municipality of Asker is committed in joining the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities. We are convinced that being part of this global network will enhance our local work on age-friendly initiatives. We hope that by sharing our experiences and results on our work, other members of the network might be inspired and gain useful information. Asker is prepared to actively contribute to the network.

Asker is the 8th largest municipality in Norway, with a mix of urban and rural areas. The population of 100.000 inhabitants is expected to be about 113.000 by 2050. We are situated about 20 kilometers southwest of Oslo, and Asker is an intertwined part of the capital region when it comes to labor market and everyday life.

Asker was established as a new municipality in 2020, joining three previous municipalities. The UN sustainability goals is a framework for our work and strategic plans, building our new local community. Membership of the network will specifically contribute to our effort to reach goal 3, 11 and 17.

One of our first tasks as a newly established municipality, was to prepare a strategic plan called "Live a full life – in age-friendly Asker". This plan, in addition to the national reform "A full life – all your life", and a new national reform from 2023, named "Live safely at home" are foundations of our work to meet the demographic challenges we are facing.

A growing part of our population will be seniors in the years ahead. In 2020 inhabitants over 80 years of age counted about 3900 persons – by 2032 the number will have increased to 6900.

This demographic change is often referred to as a "senior wave" with a slightly negative meaning. From my perspective, our citizens represent a great diversity of people and resources. I have high expectations to how elderly of the future can contribute with time, commitment and experience, and strengthen volunteer work in our local communities.

At the same time, an older population requires facilitation, care and other types of accommodation – which we must ensure. Various health problems that can come with age should not be an obstacle to active participation and independence. We hope elderly in Asker for the decades to come can live a full life – in an including and age-friendly Asker. To ensure that, we need facts, plans and cooperation.

Asker is already a member of WHO European Healthy Cities Network, and of the Norwegian Nettverk for helsefremmene samfunn (Fremsam) which is part of WHO Healthy Cities. Fremsam is for and by municipalities and county councils that value public health and social sustainability through their community planning. As mayor of Asker, I am fortunate to be chairman of the board of Fremsam, and a member of WHO Healthy Cities Political Committee.

We strongly believe that we can create more when we work together – in collaboration with inhabitants, businesses and voluntary bodies locally, but also through networks nationally and internationally. For that reason, Asker applies for membership of the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

Yours sincerely, Lene Conradi

Asker, March 2nd 2026

