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07 Aug 2017

WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC)

Dear Mayor,

We are very pleased to welcome Mataró as a European member of the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC). Mataró is now part of a growing global movement of cities and communities that are striving to better meet the needs of their older residents. As a member, Mataró commits to sharing information on experiences to become more age-friendly and to providing feedback annually to inform the development of the network to ensure that it meets your needs.

We look forward to your active participation in the Network. Please find enclosed access details for the networks information sharing platform, Age-friendly World, as well as WHO's guiding documentation to support your work in this area.

Yours sincerely,



Alana Officer
Senior Adviser
Department of Ageing and Life Course
WHO Headquarters



Manfred Huber,
Coordinator, Healthy Ageing,
Disability and Long-term Care
WHO Europe

Annexure: Important guiding documentation

WHO Global strategy and action plan on ageing and health (2016 – 2020). This Strategy Provides a global framework for Member States, the WHO secretariat and partners to contribute to achieving the vision that all people can live long and healthy lives.

<http://www.who.int/ageing/global-strategy/en/>

WHO Strategy and action plan for healthy ageing in Europe 2012 - 2020. This Strategy is in line with Health 2020 and provides WHO's overarching policy framework for health and wellbeing in Europe. <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/Life-stages/healthy-ageing/publications/2012/eurrc6210-rev.1-strategy-and-action-plan-for-healthy-ageing-in-europe,-20122020>

World report on ageing and health (2015). This Report, launched in 2015, outlines a public health framework for action to foster Healthy Ageing built around the new concept of functional ability. It provides the evidence base for the global strategy and action plan on aging and health and suggests 4 key recommendations for achieving Healthy Ageing:

- Transform health systems away from disease based curative models towards the provision of older-person-centred and integrated care.
- Develop comprehensive systems of long term care.
- Create age friendly environments by ensuing a coordinated response across sectors and multiple levels of government.
- Develop better ways of measuring and monitoring the health and functioning of older populations.

To navigate the report: Chapter 1 provides the analysis of context and rationale for action and is followed by the development and explanation of a Public Health Framework for Action in Chapter 2. Chapter 3 provides a comprehensive, stand-alone update of current knowledge on health in older age. It includes a review of demographic and epidemiological change; the characteristics of health in older age, including underlying changes as well as the health conditions of older people; changes in intrinsic capacity and functional ability; behaviours that influence Healthy Ageing; and key environmental risks. Chapters 4, 5 and 6 can be read together. They take the Public Health Framework for Action (outlined in Chapter 2) and examine in detail the implications for health care systems, long-term care and age-friendly environments respectively. Chapter 7 - Next Steps - sets out a menu of options for action applicable to countries at all levels of development. <http://www.who.int/ageing/events/world-report-2015-launch/en/>

Global age-friendly cities: a guide (2007). This document provides guidance on how cities can become more age-friendly so as to tap the potential that older people represent for humanity. It describes the converging trends of rapid growth of the population over 60 years of age and of urbanization, outlines the challenge facing cities, and summarizes the research process that led to identifying the core features of an age-friendly city.

http://www.who.int/ageing/publications/age_friendly_cities_guide/en/