

Age-friendly environments in Europe: Indicators, monitoring and assessments





Age-friendly environments in Europe: Indicators, monitoring and assessments

Abstract

Policies to create more age-friendly environments have become a forceful movement in Europe and globally, in which a growing number of cities and communities, local authorities and regional governments participate. This publication examines the contribution of information systems, indicators, monitoring and assessment to the success and sustainability of age-friendly policy initiatives. It sets out the potential sources for drawing a comprehensive picture of the situation of older people and their quality of life, and considers how to communicate these effectively.

This publication is based on lessons learned from existing age-friendly initiatives in Europe and the various ways in which these are supported by measurement, monitoring and tailored communication tools, such as healthy ageing profiles and community information systems. These include participatory approaches to community evaluation with older people and bottom-up initiatives of gathering and sharing of information that support older people to remain active and engaged in their communities and thus to continue doing the things that are important to them.

Keywords

URBAN HEALTH

AGEING

AGE

HEALTH STATUS INDICATORS

QUALITY OF LIFE

SOCIAL SUPPORT

EUROPE

Address requests about publications of the WHO Regional Office for Europe to:

Publications

WHO Regional Office for Europe

UN City, Marmorvej 51

DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark

Alternatively, complete an online request form for documentation, health information, or for permission to quote or translate, on the Regional Office website (<http://www.euro.who.int/pubrequest>).

© World Health Organization 2018

All rights reserved. The Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organization welcomes requests for permission to reproduce or translate its publications, in part or in full.

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

The mention of specific companies or of certain manufacturers' products does not imply that they are endorsed or recommended by the World Health Organization in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned. Errors and omissions excepted, the names of proprietary products are distinguished by initial capital letters.

All reasonable precautions have been taken by the World Health Organization to verify the information contained in this publication. However, the published material is being distributed without warranty of any kind, either express or implied. The responsibility for the interpretation and use of the material lies with the reader. In no event shall the World Health Organization be liable for damages arising from its use. The views expressed by authors, editors, or expert groups do not necessarily represent the decisions or the stated policy of the World Health Organization. This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Commission. The responsibility for the content of this report lies with the authors, and the views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Commission; nor is the Commission responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained herein.

ISBN: 9789289057776

Document number: WHO/EURO:2018-1088-40834-55192

Contents

List of boxes, figures and tables	iv
Acknowledgements	iv
1. Introduction	1
Creating age-friendly environments	2
Assessing age-friendliness within a four-phase policy model	4
Overview and how to use this tool	6
2. A framework for age-friendly city indicators	7
Person–environment fit	7
Coverage of age groups and definition of age limits	8
Limitations of the framework and the lists of indicators	8
A rapid assessment tool for monitoring policy processes	9
3. Indicators per domain	10
Choosing among indicators and measurement methods	11
Domain 1. Outdoor environments	12
Domain 2. Transport and mobility	15
Domain 3. Housing	17
Domain 4. Social participation	18
Domain 5. Social inclusion and non-discrimination	21
Domain 6. Civic engagement and employment	22
Domain 7. Communication and information	24
Domain 8. Community and health services	25
4. Health and social outcomes for older people	27
Indicators of health and social outcomes	27
Equity measures	29
5. Investing in surveys and research partnerships	30
6. Observatories on public health and public sector policies: from local to European level	31
Core functions of observatories	32
Examples of national themed observatories	32
European observatories on active and healthy ageing	35
7. Participatory assessments and data collections	36
Focus groups and community forums	36
Vancouver Protocol	37
Participatory asset mapping	37
Photovoice	37
8. Healthy ageing profiles: charting the status quo	38
Population profile	39
Socioeconomic portrait: vulnerabilities and strengths	40
Health and social systems	40
References	41
Annex 1. Global guide to measuring the age-friendliness of cities	47
Equity measures	47
Age-friendly environment outcomes	47
Inclusive social environment	47
Impact on well-being	47
Quality of life	47
Annex 2. European and other international data sources on regional and urban trends in ageing	48
United Nations Population Division	48
Eurostat regional and urban statistics	48
References	48

List of boxes, figures and tables

Boxes

Box 1. Key terms related to age-friendly environments	2
Box 2. A proposed toolkit for age-friendly indicators, monitoring and assessment	6

Figures

Fig. 1. Eight domains for age-friendly action	3
Fig. 2. Model of principles and steps to create age-friendly environments	4
Fig. 3. A framework for selecting an age-friendly city indicators set	8
Fig. 4. Public Health England's web portal: Older People's Health and Well-being	33
Fig. 5. DataShine Census information web portal for area-level data	34
Fig. 6. Active Ageing Index: domains and indicators	35
Fig. 7. Wheelmap.org accessibility map	37

Tables

Table 1. Domain 1 indicators: outdoor environments	14
Table 2. Domain 2 indicators: transport and mobility	16
Table 3. Domain 3 indicators: housing	18
Table 4. Domain 4 indicators: social participation	19
Table 5. Domain 5 indicators: social inclusion and non-discrimination	21
Table 6. Domain 6 indicators: civic engagement and employment	23
Table 7. Domain 7 indicators: communication and information	25
Table 8. Domain 8 indicators: community and health services	26
Table 9. Outcome indicators: health and well-being of older people	28

Acknowledgements

The development of this publication profited from the contributions of a number of experts and commentators. Important input was provided during discussions at the technical review meeting of the Age-friendly Environments in Europe (AFEE) project on 13 November 2014 in Brussels, Belgium. Members of the Healthy Ageing Task Force of the European Healthy Cities Network supported its drafting throughout the AFEE project. Measurement, monitoring and indicators for age-friendly initiatives were also on the agenda of the following meetings of the Healthy Ageing Task Force: Kuopio, Finland, June 2015; Udine, Italy, March 2016.

Special thanks are due to the following external experts who provided comments and input: Furio Honsell, Stefania Pascut and Gianna Zamaro (Healthy Ageing Task Force lead city Udine, Italy), Rodd Bond (Netwell Centre, Dundalk, Ireland), Geoff Green (Sheffield Hallam University) and Asghar Zaidi (University of Southampton).

Manfred Huber was the lead author of this publication, supported by Josephine Jackisch, both at the WHO Regional Office for Europe. The authors are grateful for comments and input provided by Casimiro Dias, Ivo Rakovac and Enrique Loyola Elizondo, and for the encouragement and support of Gauden Galea, Director for the Division of Noncommunicable Diseases and Promoting Health through the Life-course, all at the WHO Regional Office for Europe. The AFEE project also benefited from its close cooperation with the Thematic Network on Innovation for Age-Friendly Environments (AFE-INNOVNET) project (2013–2015).

1. Introduction

The level of interest among cities and communities in Europe in setting up and maintaining policy initiatives to improve the health and well-being of older citizens by investing in better age-friendly physical, social and service environments is unprecedented. These schemes have taken place at different scales, from neighbourhood initiatives to citywide planning and coordinated efforts at county, district and other levels of local government.

Much has been learned from existing initiatives about both success factors and challenges to sustained implementation (WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2016; WHO, 2017). One important lesson is that participatory age-friendly assessments of cities and communities and the use of indicators to monitor change are important tools that contribute to the success of age-friendly policy initiatives. Putting in place and choosing among various measurement instruments for age-friendly evaluations and monitoring progress can, however, be resource intensive and needs sound planning.

This publication describes the tools cities and communities can use for the tasks of self-assessment, target-setting and monitoring, and how to select a basic indicator set to monitor changes over time. It builds on recent progress with indicator development at the global level (WHO, 2015a) and on a number of national and European initiatives. Indicators for age-friendly environments are still a fairly recent area of practice and research. This in part also reflects gaps in monitoring trends of active and healthy ageing at the regional and national levels (WHO, 2015b).

Nevertheless, this publication builds on two important recent developments in Europe that have contributed to clarifying and standardizing the field of age-related statistics in Europe. In 2016 the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) published a set of general recommendations for age-related statistics in Europe (UNECE, 2016a). Moreover, the indicator set of the Active Ageing Index – a joint European Commission/UNECE initiative – (Zaidi and Stanton, 2005; Zaidi et al., 2016; European Social Policy Network, 2016), is becoming increasingly relevant for selecting and setting up indicator systems, including those for use at the local level.

This report provides a synthesis of emerging national, European and international guidance in the field of age-friendly indicators and age-related statistics, from which local governments can draw inspiration to design their own toolbox of indicators, assessment instruments and information systems. It sets out illustrative examples and lessons learned from a number of age-friendly initiatives in Europe and beyond. In so doing, it serves as a guide to tools developed by European and international initiatives and projects (WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2008; AFE-INNOVNET, 2015; WHO, 2015a; UNECE 2016a; 2016b; Zaidi and Stanton, 2015) and national ones (Ontario Seniors' Secretariat, 2013; Public Health Agency of Canada, 2015).

This work is the outcome of the Age-friendly Environments in Europe (AFEE) project 2013–2016, which was jointly led by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the European Commission Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. It is a companion to the AFEE policy tool *Creating age-friendly environments in Europe: a tool for local policy-makers and planners* (WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2016) and the AFEE handbook *Creating age-friendly environments in Europe: a handbook of domains for policy action* (WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2017), which provide the policy and empirical background and the analytical framework on which it builds.

The goal of this publication is to complement these with more technical information on the different measurement tools and means of communication developed by cities and local governments to assess the age-friendliness of neighbourhoods and communities for the purposes of advocacy, planning and monitoring. An overview of the different ways indicators, assessment, monitoring and information systems are used and their role throughout the policy process of age-friendly initiatives is described in the policy tool (WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2016). This publication adds more detail on the practical steps and provides an overview of the concrete assessment instruments available. At its core is a model list of indicators that cities have created or that have been proposed by international measurement initiatives.

This is the first attempt at such a comprehensive synthesis in Europe. It also takes into account guidance developed and evaluated elsewhere (Government of South Australia, 2012; Ontario Seniors' Secretariat, 2013; Public Health Agency of Canada, 2015; Orpana et al., 2016).

Creating age-friendly environments

The policy commitment to create more age-friendly, supportive environments has become a central element of strategies and action plans for active and healthy ageing in Europe and globally (WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2012; EIP on AHA, 2015; WHO, 2016). WHO's *World report on ageing and health* (2015b) explains in detail why age-friendly environments are indispensable for achieving the goals of active and healthy ageing. Some key terms used throughout this report are introduced in Box 1.

Box 1. Key terms related to age-friendly environments

Accessibility describes the degree to which an environment, service or product allows access for as many people as possible – in particular, people with disabilities.

Accessibility standards define a level of quality accepted as the norm. The principle of accessibility may be mandated in law or treaty, and then specified in detail according to international or national regulations, standards or codes, which may be compulsory or voluntary.

Age-friendly environments (such as in the home or community) foster healthy and active ageing by building and maintaining intrinsic capacity across the life-course and enabling greater functional ability in someone with a given level of capacity.

Active ageing is the process of optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age.

Healthy ageing is the process of developing and maintaining the functional ability that enables well-being in older age.

Quality of life is individuals' perceptions of their position in life in the context of the culture and value system in which they live, and in relation to their goals, expectations, standards and concerns. It is a broad-ranging concept, incorporating in a complex way a person's physical health, psychological state, level of independence, social relationships, personal beliefs and relationship to salient features in the environment. As people age, their quality of life is largely determined by their ability to maintain autonomy and independence.

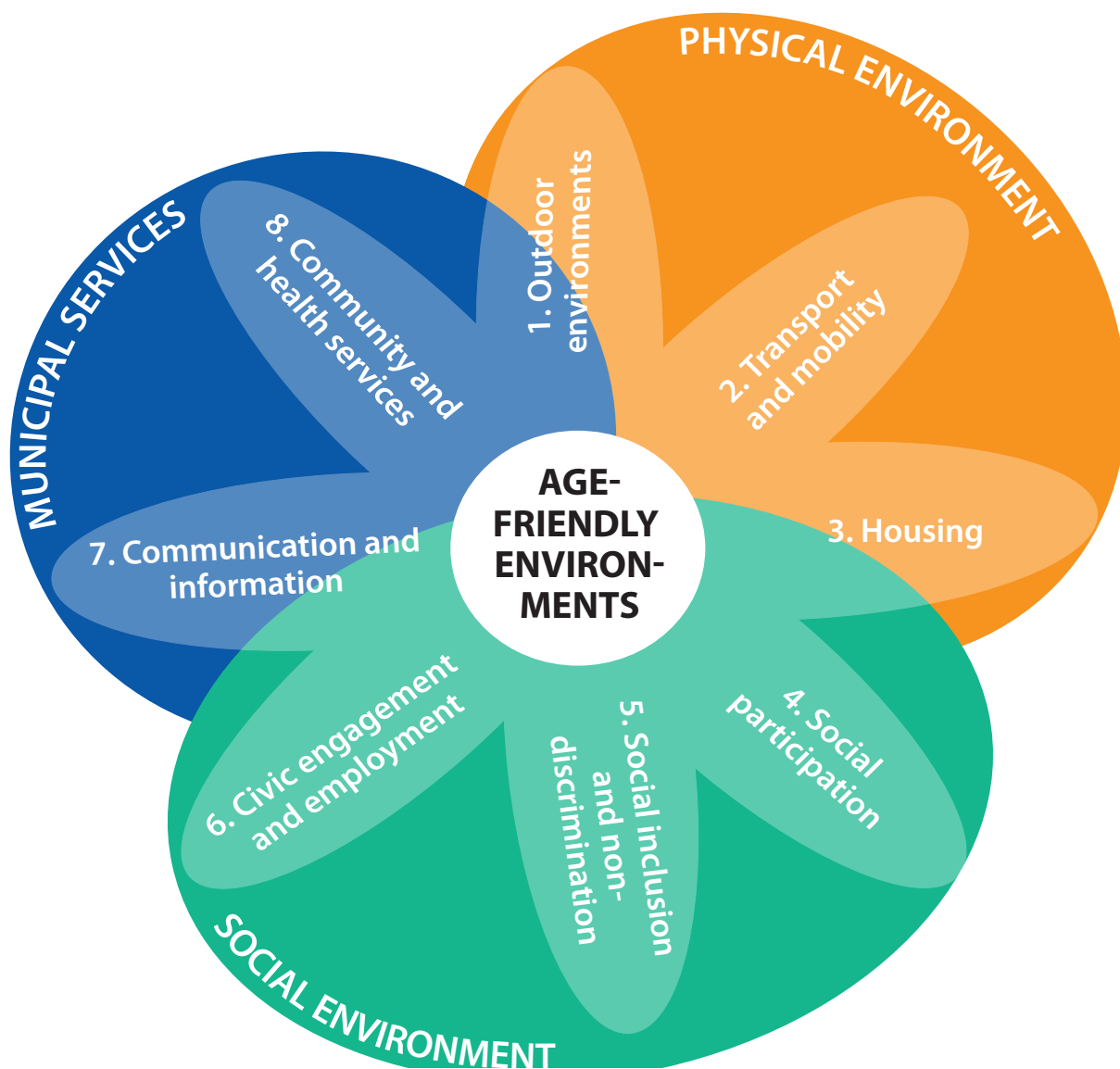
Supportive environments for health offer protection from threats to health and enable people to expand their capabilities and develop self-reliance in health. They encompass where people live, their local community, their home and where they work and play, including people's access to resources for health and opportunities for empowerment.

Universal design refers to the design of products, environments, programmes and services to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. It should not exclude assistive devices for particular groups of people with disabilities where this is needed.

Source: WHO (2015b: Glossary).

Over the past decade WHO's *Global age-friendly cities: a guide* (2007a) has served as methodological reference point for the age-friendly environments movement – a movement that has grown dynamically ever since. The 2007 guide developed a framework of eight domains for age-friendly action in cooperation with 33 cities globally. This project was based on the methodology of the Vancouver Protocol (WHO, 2007b), which identified eight domains or major fields of concern from the perspective of older people, comprising three clusters (Fig. 1).

Fig. 1. Eight domains for age-friendly action



预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_26060

