

CONTEXT

Demographic change

The core long-term structural demographic change in Europe is ageing.

How can our societies and environments adapt to accommodate that change in terms of housing, transport, social infrastructure?

Do we have adequate policies and practices that enable us to create age-friendly environments?

Are the voices of different groups of older people heard?

Age-friendly environments (AFE)

foster health and well-being and the participation of people as they age. They:

are accessible, equitable, inclusive, safe and secure, and supportive.

promote health and prevent or delay the onset of disease and functional decline.

provide people-centered services and support so that people can continue to do the things that are important to them.

Older people's activism

Older persons are not a homogenous group. Nonetheless, what is often shared by older persons as a group is the experience of being stereotype, of political disempowerment and economic and social disadvantage.

The narrative of older people as engaged citizens who contribute to the well-being of their communities is weak or absent.

Promoting age-friendly environments from older people's perspective, greater involvement in advocacy efforts calling for enhanced thinking and action on the human rights of older persons are some of the most effective approaches for responding to demographic ageing.

AIMS

The overall objective of AFE Activists is to support and train older adults who want to promote and foster age-friendly environments in their cities and communities and to influence municipal agencies in their decision making so that the infrastructures and services are adapted to the diverse capacities, realities, needs and preferences of all residents of all ages.

PROCESS

To this end, the AFE-Activists project will work on:

Designing and testing of a non-formal learning curriculum based on the analysis of the state-of-the-art European and global grass-roots initiatives of older people's activism.

Project-based learning enabling older age (65+) learners to find the most effective methods to translate the promising idea of age-friendly environment into effective action on the local level.

Organising transnational learning mobilities giving the opportunity to selected participants to gain first-hand experience of age-friendly environment in The Hague (The Netherlands) and Udine (Italy).

OUTCOMES

Compendium of good AFE-activism practices focused on grass-roots initiatives

AFE Advocacy Handbook covering the training curriculum, experiences gained in learning mobilities and interesting local activities realised by AFE activists.

AFE Experience Handbook raising awareness of age-friendly environments, presenting good practice examples and showcasing age-friendly cities as skills gaining destination for AFE activists.



KEEP IN TOUCH

The **Erasmus+** project started in October 2018 and runs until the end of September 2020.

The project involves partner organisations in five European countries:

- **queraum. cultural and social research** (Austria)
- **ISIS Sozialforschung, Sozialplanung, Politikberatung** (Germany)
- **Lunaria** (Italy)
- **AFEdemy - Age-friendly Environments Academy** (The Netherlands)

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**Information, support
and training in ageing advocacy**



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