



3rd World Congress of Age Friendly Cities and Communities

16-18 June 2026

Donostia / San Sebastián, Spain

Shaping the Global Age-friendly Futures Research Network

Pre-Congress Day Workshop

Date: June 15th, 2026

Time: 9:00 – 10:30

Location: Room 5

Capacity: Up to 40 participants

Background

The [Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities](#) has grown and matured since its launch in 2010 and now includes 1705 cities and communities in 60 countries. The success of the movement and the importance of Age-Friendly Frameworks in supporting local, national and regional initiatives to develop across a range of governmental and cultural contexts was celebrated at the [WHO Age Friendly Futures Summit held in Manchester](#) in November 2025. It gathered over 300 leaders in research, policy and practice from across the world to explore how to grow and sustain Age-Friendly programmes and to address future opportunities and challenges of population ageing and urbanisation. At the summit over 90 researchers, older people as experts by experience, policy makers and practitioners from around the world came together to share a commitment to advancing an Age-Friendly Futures research agenda. This set the objective for the group of developing a Global Age Friendly Futures Research Network. The 3rd World Congress of Age Friendly Cities and Communities was identified as a unique opportunity to progress the idea and gather collaborators to shape and grow the research network.

Purpose of the Workshop

This interactive workshop will bring together diverse researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and funders to collectively shape the foundation of a new Global Age-friendly Futures Research Network. Participants will work together to define the network's purpose, scope, governance structure, and research priorities.

Workshop Objectives

1. Refine the Network's Purpose and Function

- Develop a comprehensive, collaborative age-friendly research agenda
- Facilitate personal connections, community-building, and solidarity among diverse researchers

- Advance the evidence-to-action architecture and knowledge translation on age-friendly environments
- Establish a research ecosystem to enhance access to funding opportunities

2. Map Research Interests and Gaps

- Test and refine outcomes from the [Age-friendly Futures Summit Statement](#)
- Ensure mechanisms that promote inclusivity and globally representative research approaches, questions and participants
- Align with emerging evidence from the Age-Friendly Environments Mega-map as well as other sources of evidence.

3. Establish a Collaborative Governance Model

- Form a core governance group with volunteer leadership
- Explore sustainable management structures
- Plan for ongoing engagement through quarterly meetings

Who Should Participate

We seek up to 40 committed participants who collectively bring:

- **Diverse expertise** across disciplines and geographic regions
- **Demonstrated experience** in age-friendly research, policy, or practice
- **Resources and commitment** to support and sustain the network
- Representation from **academia, policy, practice, and funding bodies**

Format

The workshop will be interactive and participatory to ensure meaningful engagement and collective decision-making.

Next Steps

Interested participants are invited to pre-register through the expression of interest form. Selected participants will be notified in advance of the Congress and will receive preparatory materials to maximize workshop productivity.

For more information, please contact the GNAFCC Secretariat (gnafcc@who.int) or the organising team (patty.doran@manchester.ac.uk).