

# 3rd World Congress of Age Friendly Cities and Communities

Transforming together! A connected, equitable and sustainable age friendly world for all generations.

16–18 June 2026

Kursaal Conference Centre and Auditorium

Donostia / San Sebastián, Spain

## Programme

### Overview and daily schedules



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**NOTE:** The Congress programme – including the pre-congress events – is organised by day, with each day comprising the various plenary sessions, parallel sessions, workshops, meetings and, where applicable, activities scheduled to take place outside the Kursaal venue.



# Schedule at a Glance

| 3rd World Congress on Age Friendly Cities and Communities |   | Schedule at a Glance   |  |  |   |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| 16–18 June 2026   |   | Kursaal Congress Centre, Donostia / San Sebastián, Spain                                   |  |  |   |
| Time  | Day 0<br>Mon 15 June<br>Pre Congress      | Day 1<br>Tue 16 June<br>Honouring the Past   | Day 2<br>Wed 17 June<br>Here and Next                  | Day 3<br>Thu 18 June<br>Shaping the Future                       | Day 4<br>Fri 19 June<br>Age Friendliness in Action                                      |
| Theme   | Technical Meetings, Summits & Workshops   | Recognition · Celebration · Lessons Learned  | Inclusion · Exchange · Collaboration                   | Vision · Innovation · Sustainability                             | Post-Congress Site Visits (Euskadi Lagunkoia)   |
| 08:30 – 09:00   | Registration                              | Registration   | Registration   | Registration   |   |
| 09:00 – 10:30   | Parallel Sessions & Workshops (Rooms 3–8) | Plenary 1: High-Level Opening Ceremony & Global Reflections                                | Plenary 3: Welcoming Newcomers & Expanding the Network | Plenary 5: Commitments & Progress                                | Site Visits depart 09:00 – 14:00  |
| 10:30 – 11:00   | Coffee Break                              | Coffee Break   | Coffee Break · Global Village (Posters & Stands)       |  |   |
| 11:00 – 12:30   | Parallel Sessions & Workshops (Rooms 3–8) | Parallel Sessions & Workshops (Rooms 0, 3, 4, 8 & 10)                                      | Parallel Sessions & Workshops (Rooms 0, 3, 4, 8 & 10)  | Conversations on the Future of Age Friendly Cities & Communities | Municipal visits: Amurrio · Azkoitia · Barakaldo · Bilbao · Donostia · Victoria-Gasteiz |
| 12:30 – 14:00   | Free Lunch                                | Lunch  | Lunch · Global Village (Posters & Stands)              |  |   |
| 14:00 – 15:30   | Parallel Sessions & Workshops (Rooms 3–8) | Parallel Sessions & Workshops (Rooms 0, 3, 4, 8 & 10)                                      | Parallel Sessions & Workshops (Rooms 0, 3, 4, 8 & 10)  | Plenary 6: Vision: Looking to the Future                         |   |
| 15:30 – 16:00   | Coffee Break                              | Coffee Break   | Coffee Break · Global Village (Posters & Stands)       | Closing Ceremony   | Site visits conclude 14:00 (morning programme only)                                     |
| 16:00 – 17:30   | Parallel Sessions & Workshops (Rooms 3–8) | Plenary 2: Celebrating the Legacy & Lessons Learned  | Plenary 4: Strengthening Peer Support & Collaboration  |  |   |
| 17:30 – 18:30   |   | Off-site activities  | Hariak & Hariak Kantuz (Choral · 18:00–19:30)          |  |   |
| 18:30 – 22:00   |   | Off-site cocktail & cultural programme   | San Telmo Museum Social Cocktail (20:00–22:00)         |  |   |
| All day   | Side activities across the city           | Global Village — Exhibition Stands Open · Auzo Ori (Zurriola Promenade, all congress days) |  |  |   |
| <b>Legend</b>   | Plenary / Ceremony                        |  |  |  |   |
|   | Parallel sessions & workshops             |  |  |  |   |
|   | Off-site / site visits                    |  |  |  |   |
|   | Breaks (coffee / lunch)                   |  |  |  |   |
|   | Registration / All-day                    |  |  |  |   |

Note: Rooms and the choral ceremony are indicative and subject to confirmation. Site visits on Friday run 09:00–14:00 from the Kursaal; free buses provided except for Donostia / San Sebastián. Full session details: [3wcatcc.org](http://3wcatcc.org)



# Monday, June 15, 2026. Pre-congress

## Technical meetings

- **08:30-09:00: REGISTRATION.**
- **09:00-10:30: PARALLEL SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS.**
  - From Interest to Implementation: Advancing Age-Friendly Cities and Communities at national level.
  - Shaping the Global Age-Friendly Futures Research Network.
  - Introduction to AFCC – focus on cities and communities (Greater Manchester Combined Authority).
- **10:30-11:00: COFFEE BREAK.**
- **11:00-12:30: PARALLEL SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS.**
  - Mega-map on Interventions and Programs for Age-Friendly Environments.
  - Workshop lead by the AF Basque Country Team: How to promote citizen involvement in the age-friendliness project?
  - Approach to evaluating and monitoring the *Villes Amies des Aînés* (VADA) programme: the example of the label «*Ami des Aînés*®» by the Réseau Francophone des Villes Amies des Aînés (RFVAA).
  - Workshop: Universal accessibility as a means of ensuring the independence and health of older people.  
Speakers: Ana Pélaez (CEDAW Committee) and Jesús Hernández (European Accessibility Centre). Moderator: Jesús Martín (Director-General for the Rights of People with Disabilities).
  - Workshop: Housing for all ages. Speakers: Joseba Zalakain (Director of SIIS, Centre for Research on Social Policies), Elisa Pozo (architect) and Eduardo Fierro (co-founder and CEO of Kuvu). Moderators: Rosa Martínez (Secretary of State) and Luiz Carlos Zamarco (Municipal Secretary for Health, São Paulo).
- **12:30-14:00: BREAK.**
- **14:00-15:30: PARALLEL SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS.**
  - Workshop. Age-Friendly Cities in Numbers and Faces: Global Insights from the AFCCQ.



- Workshop. Integrating Care for Older People through Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Workshop: Translating continuum of integrated care into AFCC Action.
- Forum of Mayors.  
Municipal leadership in the face of the challenge of ageing.
- **15:30-16:00: COFFEE BREAK.**
- **16:00-17:30: PARALLEL SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS.**
  - Strengthening the links between Human Rights, Equity and Age-Friendly Environments.
  - The age-friendly journey of the Nordic region: Progress and future directions (by invitation only).
  - Prevention: CONGRAL, Health, WHO and Caixa.
  - EuroCities meeting (by invitation only).
  - GNAFCC Affiliates knowledge exchange and insights from the GNAFCC affiliates research project (by invitation only).
  - Age-friendly Cities and Communities Beyond the Global North: Co-Creating AFCC Frameworks in Low-Resource Contexts Across South Asia and the Middle East.
  - Panel: Social and health care prevention and care. Moderator: Carmen Galán (Imsero). Speakers: Stefania Ilinca (WHO), Estefanía García (Ministry of Health), Tamara Peiró (General Council of Official Colleges of Pharmacists), Jesús Hernández (ONCE Foundation) and Icíar Ancizu ("la Caixa" Foundation).

Each session's organisers will manage the invitation and registration process.



# Tuesday, June 16, 2026. Honoring the past

## Theme: recognition, celebration, lessons learned.

- **08:30-09:00: REGISTRATION.**
- **09:00-10:30: PLENARY 1 – HIGH LEVEL OPENING CEREMONY & GLOBAL REFLECTIONS (AMBASSADORS AND NEWCOMERS).**

### Speakers in order of appearance:

- **Jon Insausti.** Spain, City Council of Donostia / San Sebastián.
  - **Mayte Sancho Castiello.** Spain, Imserso.
  - **Anne Berit Rafoss.** Norway, Congress Chair, Centre for an Age-friendly Norway.
  - **Nerea Melgosa.** Spain, Basque Government.
  - **Heidrun Mollenkopf.** Germany, Congress Ambassador.
  - **Alexandre Kalache.** Brazil, Congress Ambassador.
  - **Eider Mendoza.** Spain, Gipuzkoa Provincial Council.
  - **Usman Ahmad Mushtaq.** Norway, Ministry of Health and Social Services.
  - **Thiago Hérick de Sa.** World Health Organization (WHO).
  - **Pablo Bustinduy.** Spain, Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and 2030 Agenda.
- **10:30-11:00: COFFEE BREAK.**
  - **11:00-12:30: PARALLEL SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS.**

### PARALLEL BREAKOUT SESSIONS (EXAMPLES, RESEARCH AND BALANCE URBAN AND RURAL PERSPECTIVES).

- **HOUSING.**

**Moderator: Emer Coveney. Ireland, Age Friendly Ireland.**



- **Eduardo José Fierro Carballo. Spain, Kuvu Homesharing SL.** “Bizihabi: intergenerational shared housing to reduce loneliness”.
- **Hans Christian Sandlie. Norway, Husbanken.** “Housing at the centre of age friendly policy: the norwegian national programme for age friendly housing”.
- **Raquel Valadés Rodríguez. Spain, Municipality of Fuenlabrada.** “SHARE: A new model of lifelong housing that regenerates urban spaces. The Fuenlabrada Intergenerational Pact”.
- **Gabriela Queiroz. Portugal, Municipality of Porto.** “Aconchego Programme”.
- **Declan Gaffney. Ireland, Age Friendly Ireland.** “Ireland’s approach to delivering age friendly housing”.
- **Antonella Gilardoni. Italy, University of Bérgamo.** “Rethinking long-term services and supports for ageing with lifelong disabilities: insights from an exploratory study”.
- **SOCIAL PARTICIPATION.**
  - Moderator: Jaco Hoffman. South Africa, North-West University.**
  - **Stian Fantoft Alvestad. Norway, Stavanger kommune.** “Citizen participation for age-friendly communities: a case study of Stavanger, Norway”.
  - **Myrna Elia García Barrera. México, IEPAM Alzheimer Monterrey.** “Beyond adherence: strengthening municipal capacities and the role of citizen participation in the sustainability of people-friendly cities”.
  - **Edurne Martínez Rodríguez. Spain, Sirimiri SL.** “The power of older people to transform their environment: opportunities through ‘Get your neighbourhood moving’ on the Bizan Network”.
  - **Patty Doran. United Kingdom, University of Manchester.** “Working with older people to shape age-friendly policies and programmes: Insights from a seven-city study”.
  - **Mélanie Levasseur. Canada, University of Sherbrooke.** “Trajectories of social participation and connection in aging women and men: implications for age friendly cities and communities from the Canadian longitudinal study on aging”.



- **Stefania Butti. Italy, University of Bergamo.** “Re-imagining longevity: active co-researchers and the role of older adults in designing inclusive communities”.

- **CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND EMPLOYMENT.**

**Moderator: Natalie Turner. United Kingdom, Centre for Ageing Better.**

- **Natalie Turner. United Kingdom, Centre for Ageing Better.** “Age-friendly employers: how to create age-inclusive workplaces”.
- **Veslemoy Risnes Lerheim. Norway, Asker kommune.** “Longer work life for senior employees”.
- **Silvia Gascón. Argentina, University ISALUD.** “Universities as catalysts for the decade of healthy ageing: the UNIDES model of social innovation, public value, and global alignment”.
- **Joanna Sun. Australia, University of Tasmania, Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre.** “Building a global consortium for dementia-inclusive environmental design: connecting researchers, practitioners and communities across continents”.
- **Marisa Sheldon. United States of America. The Age-Friendly Innovation Center, The Ohio State University, College of Social Work.** “Age friendly scholars: a replicable model to expand workforce and research capacity for the age-friendly global movement”.
- **Andrea Pozo. Spain, Matia Institute.** “A roadmap for implementing an age-friendly programme in local establishments through the active participation of older people”.

- **OUTDOOR SPACES AND BUILDINGS.**

**Moderator: Emi Kiyota. Singapore, National University of Singapore.**

- **Marta Méndez. United Nations.** “Reclaiming public space for all generations: advancing age-friendly environments through global frameworks for inclusive urban development”.
- **Siri Beate Arntzen-Ratnarajan. Norway, Fabric+/AT arkitektur.** “Ageing in the Arctic”.
- **Ranganayaki Thangavelu. Singapore, The Constellation.** “Making Community Participation real and powerful – SALT-CLCP as a practice method to make actual voices from the ground to be heard”.



- **Nadia Oktiarsy. Indonesia, University of Tokyo.** “Flood adaptation in aging urban areas: spatial and community-based insights from Bekasi City, Indonesia”.
- **Melanie Davern. Australia, RMIT University.** “What makes places liveable for older people? Insights from an Australian study through a capabilities lens”.

#### **WORKSHOP:**

- **11:00-12:30: WORKSHOP ON AGEISM.**  
**Vanesa López Suárez. Spain, City Council of Rivas-Vaciamadrid.**  
**Opening:**
  - **Alexandre Kalache. Brazil, President of the International Longevity Centre in Brazil (ILC-BR).**
  - **Naiara Artaza Aristondo. Spain, Director-General for Longevity and Demographic Challenges, Provincial Council of Bizkaia.**
- **12:30-14:00: LUNCH BREAK / GLOBAL VILLAGE.**
- **14:00-15:30: PARALLEL SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS.**

#### **PARALLEL BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

- **COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND HEALTH SERVICES.**

**Moderator: Yuka Sumi. World Health Organization (WHO).**

- **Kristen Collins. Japan, Reitaku University.** “Bridging borders and generations: a model for international, intergenerational community building in Tsukuba, Japan”.
- **María Pilar Monge Diest. Spain, Instituto Aragonés de Servicios Sociales.** “CuidArte in supportive communities: an evaluation of a group-based sociotherapeutic intervention”.
- **Lok Sze Dorothy Yeung. China, Our Hong Kong Foundation.** “Realising dignified and inclusive end-of-life care in age-friendly communities: a people-centred policy framework from Hong Kong”.
- **Margareta Eriksson. Sweden, City of Stockholm.** “System transformation for an age-friendly city and improved and more equitable public health”.
- **Miguel Ángel Acosta Benito. Spain, Sociedad Española de Medicina Familiar y Comunitaria (semFYC).** “Age friendly health



centers: a model for enhancing primary care for older adults in community settings”.

- **Salume Okure. Uganda, Emerald Foundation.** “Advancing age friendly environments in low-resource settings: a community-led model from Soroti City, Eastern Uganda”.

- **RESPECT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION.**

**Moderator: Aparna Shankar, India, FLAME University.**

- **Tine Buffel. United Kingdom, University of Manchester.** “Age-friendly cities and spatial justice: Insights from seven international case study cities”.
- **Tomislav Meštrović. Croatia, University North.** “A nation-wide analysis of public knowledge and attitudes toward abuse of older individuals in the Republic of Croatia and implications for age-friendly policies”.
- **Carolina Fernández González. Spain, Avilés City Council.** “Contamos contigo’ (We’re counting on you)”.
- **Laia Ortiz Castellvi. Spain, Fundació Pascual Maragall.** “From silent exclusion to inclusive transformation: a methodological framework for community services in the context of dementia”.
- **Rosa Kornfeld-Matte. United Nations Human Rights Council.** “Unsafe cities, lonely elderly people: challenges for age-friendly cities”.
- **Tess Hartland. United Kingdom, University of Manchester.** “Age-friendly cities and forced displacement”.

- **TRANSPORT.**

**Moderator: Olga Sarmiento. Colombia, University of the Andes.**

- **Hilda Rømer Christensen. Denmark, University of Copenhagen.** “Mobility in old age: How rollers and walking can be integrated into age-friendly cities”.
- **Félix Delgado Pérez. Spain, CIRMA Círculo de Mayores.** “Ageing in one’s own home: community governance, assistive technology and flexible services in a rural municipality (Villadangos del Páramo, León)”.
- **Ana María Medina, Colombia, Instituto de Envejecimiento, Facultad de Medicina, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana.** “Care as



a critical tool to evaluate the city: contributions and limits of the age friendly cities model in Bogotá, Colombia”.

- **Melanie Davern. Australia, RMIT University.** “Meaning of neighbourhood liveability for older adults, Brisbane, AUS”.
- **Hanna Vangen. Norway, Oslo Metropolitan University.** “Housing characteristics and mobility patterns in later life”.
- **Ester Cerin. Australia, Australian Catholic University.** “Neighbourhood, socioeconomic status and cognitive health”.

#### ○ **COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION.**

**Moderator: Moon Choi. South Korea, KAIST Graduate School of Science and Technology Policy.**

- **Silvia Elena Saavedra Ibarro. Spain, Dirección General de Mayores y Prevención de la Soledad no Deseada del Ayuntamiento de Madrid.** “PALOMA: empathetic artificial intelligence to build more friendly and connected cities”.
- **Eva Salaberria. Spain, Municipality of Donostia / San Sebastián.** “Onkide: digital equity and older people as agents of change in technological transformation”.
- **Lucía Gómez Aguilera. Spain, Fundación Maldita.es contra la desinformación.** “Level Up: tools for strengthening older adults’ ability to recognise disinformation online”.
- **Vanessa Silva. Brasil, Federal University of Pernambuco.** “Digital inclusion is associated with advanced activities of daily living in older people participating in social groups in a municipality in Northeast Brazil”.
- **Eglal Elrayah. Ireland, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.** “Interventions to address barriers and improve the uptake and use of digital patient portals among older adults: a scoping review preliminary results”.
- **Mark Awe Tachea. China, Henan Normal University.** “Machine learning analysis of the age-friendly cities and communities questionnaire (AFCCQ): determinants, thresholds, and policy implications”.



## WORKSHOPS:

○ **14:00-14:45: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON AGEING IN IBERO-AMERICA.**

**Moderator: Manuel Veguín García. Spain, Imserso.**

**Speakers:**

- **Holman Jiménez. Ibero-American Social Security Organisation (OISS).**
- **Irene Arcas. Spain, HelpAge España.**
- **Rodrigo Goulart. Brazil, Prefeitura de São Paulo.**
- **Alejandro Bonilla. NGO Committee on Ageing.**

○ **14:45-15:30: MADRID INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON AGEING (MIPAA).**

**Moderator: Manuel Veguín García. Spain, Imserso.**

**Speakers:**

- **Amal Abouh Rafeh. United Nations.**
- **Thiago Herick de Sa. WHO.**
- **Heidrun Mollenkopf. Germany, Congress Ambassador.**
- **Mercedes Gallego. Spain, Imserso.**

● **15:30-16:00: COFFEE BREAK / GLOBAL VILLAGE.**

● **16:00–17:30: PLENARY 2 – CELEBRATING LEGACY & LESSONS LEARNED.**

**Moderator: Suzanne Garon, Canada, University of Sherbrooke.**

**Speakers:**

- **Eva Salaberria Artano. Spain, City Council of Donostia / San Sebastián.**
- **Pierre-Olivier Lefebvre. France, Réseau Francophone des Villes Amies des Aînés (RFVAA).**
- **Zhi Xu Tan. Singapore, Ministry of Health.**
- **Dr Emer Coveney. Ireland, Age Friendly Ireland.**
- **Patricia Morsch. Pan American Health Organization, WHO.**



## Activities planned outside the Kursaal premises

- **10:00–11:30: ADINBERRI SAIOA.**  
**Outside the Kursaal.** A live event modelled on a television programme designed to encourage physical, cognitive and emotional activity among older people. The initiative forms part of the strategy for active and healthy ageing promoted by the ADINBERRI Foundation of the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa.
- **15:30-17:00: URBAN FOREST BATHING (FOREST THERAPY).**  
**Aiete Park (meeting point: Aiete Cultural Centre. House of Peace and Human Rights).** Organised by the Basotik Foundation of the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa. The aim of the activity is to experience the benefits of contact with nature for the health and well-being of older people, in line with Gipuzkoa's policies on care and healthy ageing. The activity, to be held in Spanish, will be led by a facilitator trained in forest therapy. 30 places available.
- **17:00-18:00: RECORDING OF THE PODCAST 'FRIENDLY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL CARE ECOSYSTEMS'.**  
**Outside the Kursaal.** Speakers will include Alexandre Kalache (President of the International Longevity Centre Brazil (ILC-BR), Co-Director of the Age Friendly Foundation and Co-President of the Global Alliance of International Longevity Centres); Mayte Sancho Castiello (Director-General of Imserso) and Maite Peña (Councillor for Care and Social Policies). 80 places available.
- **18:00-18:30: URBAN RITUAL – BODY AND MOVEMENT FOR ENCOUNTER.**  
**The Kursaal's Urumea Terrace.** A performance featuring older people and residents from different neighbourhoods across the city, which highlights the body, movement and artistic practices as tools for fostering connections, care and community. The event raises the profile of local initiatives that position older people as active participants in urban life and the pursuit of the common good.
- **AUZO ORRI.**  
**Paseo de la Zurriola, throughout the Congress.** An initiative launched in the Gros neighbourhood – the city's oldest neighbourhood – by various public and private community stakeholders from sectors such as health, sport, culture, youth, social action and local commerce, which, through stories about everyday life in the neighbourhood, fosters spaces for meeting, conversation and collective creation from an intergenerational perspective.



# Wednesday, June 17, 2026. Embracing the present, preparing for the future

## Theme: inclusion, exchange, collaboration and emerging perspectives.

- **08:30-09:00: REGISTRATION.**
- **09:00-10:30: PLENARY 3 – WELCOMING NEWCOMERS & EXPANDING THE NETWORK.**

**Moderator: Flor Murillo, Costa Rica, Ministry of Health.**

### Speakers:

- **Emi Kiyota.** Singapur, University of Singapur.
  - **Elena del Barrio.** Spain, Euskai Lagunkoia.
  - **Ashton Applewhite.** United States of America, Old School Hub.
  - **Madhava Ram.** India, Age Friendly Kochi.
  - **Alexandre Kalache.** Brazil, Congress Ambassador.
  - **María de los Ángeles Rivera Sibaja.** Costa Rica, Municipality of Santa Ana.
- **10:30-11:00: COFFEE BREAK / GLOBAL VILLAGE.**
  - **11:00-12:30: PARALLEL BREAKOUT SESSIONS ON EMERGING TOPICS.**
    - **CONNECTING GENERATIONS, TECHNOLOGY AND CARE:** Bridging gaps between generations, digital divides and primary and secondary care/formal and informal care. **FOCUSING ON SOCIAL CONNECTION.**

**Moderator: Kazuki Yamada. Organización Mundial de la Salud.**

- **Olatz Irulegi Garmendia. Spain, University of País Vasco.**  
“Transforming public spaces to prevent loneliness: the KALELAGUN Framework for age-friendly and intergenerational urban design”.
- **José Miguel Luengo Gallego. Spain, Municipality of San Javier.**  
“Network of meeting points: ‘In your park or mine’”.



- **Pablo Ferreiro. Switzerland, Municipality of Geneva.** “From participation to social connection: how cities can enable older people to build belonging, networks and collective power”.
- **Ariunsanaa Bagaajav. Mongolia, City University of New York:** “From a doctor’s visit to a place to hang out: experiences of social isolation and loneliness among older adults in Mongolia”.
- **Siti Munawwarah Binti Awang Tarif. Brunei, Health Promotion Centre, Ministry of Health.** “Situational analysis of age-friendly communities in Brunei Darussalam”.
- **Olga Sarmiento. Colombia, Escuela de Medicina de la Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá.** “Quality of life, mental health and social relationships among older adults participating in the Recreoía physical activity community program”.
- **CONNECTING GENERATIONS, TECHNOLOGY AND CARE:** Bridging gaps between generations, digital divides and primary and secondary care/formal and informal care. **FOCUSING ON INTERGENERATIONAL CONNECTIONS/SOLIDARITY.**

**Moderator: Mellany Murgor. World Health Organization (WHO), Youth Council Steering Committee.**

- **Elisabeth Øverland. Norway, Municipality of Sandnes.** “Generation games in Sandnes”.
- **Sheila Parages Jiménez. Spain, University of Salamanca.** “Evaluating age-friendliness across generations: psychometric assessment of the Spanish AFCCQ”.
- **Heidemarie Sequenz. Austria, Grüne Wien/ Green Party Vienna.** “Growing Together: How Cities Are Connecting Generations”.
- **Shin-Wee Chong. Germany, SilverLining.** “Meet & Speak - one circle, many worlds: building age-friendly communities through intergenerational dialogue”.
- **Noelia Alfaro Vargas. Costa Rica, National University of Costa Rica.** “A Costa Rican Public University Model for gerontological education aimed at transforming the city into an age-friendly environment: insights from the Regional Peripheral Experience of UNA PAM Pérez Zeledón”.
- **Sirle Salmistu. Estonia, International Federation of Landscape Architects.** “Designing age-friendly environments: the role of



landscape architecture in healthy ageing”.

○ **EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES: ENSURING THAT NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND. FOCUSING ON AGEISM.**

**Moderator: Charlotte Lewis, United Kingdom, Centre for Ageing Better.**

- **Charlotte Lewis. United Kingdom, Centre for Ageing Better.** “Age without limits: tackling ageism using behaviour change communications”.
  - **Alexis Caballero. Spain, Jaume I University of Castellón.** “Effectiveness of educational interventions to reduce ageism among healthcare students and professionals: systematic review and methodological critical analysis”.
  - **Lara Bruschinski. Netherlands, VU Amsterdam.** “Prevalence and determinants of ageism experiences in the Singapore population”.
  - **Sabine Hofer-Gruber. Austria, Vienna Social Fund.** “Impact and role of the Senior Citizens’ Advocate of the city of Vienna”.
  - **Cassandra Masters. United States of America, Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh.** “Pittsburgh’s “Picture This” age inclusion campaign”.
  - **Jill Litt. Spain, ISGlobal:** “Nature-based solutions in age-friendly health systems to alleviate loneliness and promote social connection”.
- **EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES: ENSURING THAT NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND. FOCUSING ON CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS.**

**Moderator: Silvia Perel Levin. Argentina, INPEA e ILC GA.**

- **Jinyi Tang. China, Victoria University of Wellington.** “Beyond the urban benchmark: a landscape-equity diagnostic approach for age-friendly assessment in small towns”.
- **Ramón Gelabert Chasco. Spain, Grupo Social UNATE.** “Older people are the key: participatory community initiatives in rural areas”.
- **Alexander Beltrán de Lubiano. Spain, BIZAN-Municipality of Vitoria-Gasteiz.** “LGTBIQA+ older people: The challenge of ageing”.



- **Leandre Dal Ponte. Brazil, Secretaria de Estado da Mulher, Igualdade Racial e Pessoa Idosa do Paraná-SEMIPI.** “Paraná friendly to the elderly – Consolidation and advances in guaranteeing the rights of the elderly”.
- **Rhian Bowen-Davies. United Kingdom, Older People's Commissioner for Wales.** “Older people’s rights: from principles to practice – Wales as a case study”.
- **Stefan White. United Kingdom, Manchester School of Architecture.** “Designing, implementing and evaluating age friendly futures for all: a view from Greater Manchester”.

### **WORKSHOP**

- **11:00–12:30: From interest to action: promoting age-friendly cities and communities at national level. Jonathan Petzold. Germany, Director of the Ageing and Digitalisation Programme at the Körber Foundation.**
- **12:30-14:00: LUNCH BREAK / GLOBAL VILLAGE.**
- **14:00-15:30: PARALLEL SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS.**

### **PARALLEL BREAKOUT SESSIONS ON EMERGING TOPICS:**

- **CONNECTING GENERATIONS, TECHNOLOGY AND CARE:** Bridging gaps between generations, digital divides and primary and secondary care/formal and informal care. **FOCUSING ON CARING COMMUNITIES - AGEING IN PLACE.**

**Moderator: Erkuden Aldaz. Spain, Matia Institute.**

- **Pauline DeLange Martínez. United States of America, Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing, University of California, Davis:** “From engagement to empowerment: building collective impact and advocacy through California's Local Aging & Disability Action Planning (LADAP) Program”.
- **Juan Albarrán Aríztegui, Spain, Matia Institute, and Judit Aldeguer Corbí, Spain, Osakidetza.** “Lagunkoia Pharmacy: from local experience to a regional model of community prevention”.
- **V Vien Lee. Singapore, SingHealth.** “Developing age-friendly communities: insights from Singapore’s Community Ageing-in-Place Ecosystem (CAPE)”.



- **Sarah Speck. Switzerland, Institute for Ageing Research, IAF, IQT OST.** "Community-based and alternative support forms: reshaping family and ageing in Nepal".
- **Ana Ramovš. Slovenia, Anton Trstenjak Institute of Gerontology and Intergenerational Relations.** "Building capacity, connecting communities: a multi-level model for age-friendly development"
- **Begoña Calleja; Spain, Donostia-San Sebastián City Council / SSI Group:** "Senior citizens' centres as community facilities in Donostia-San Sebastián: transformation in the face of new social and digital challenges."
- **CONNECTING GENERATIONS, TECHNOLOGY AND CARE:** Bridging gaps between generations, digital divides and primary and secondary care/formal and informal care. **FOCUSING ON TECHNOLOGY AND AGE-FRIENDLY DEVELOPMENT.**

**Moderator: Joost van Hoof. Netherlands, Universidad de Ciencias Aplicadas de La Haya.**

- **Alexander Chaverri Carvajal. Costa Rica, University of Costa Rica.** "Evaluating care innovations: a RCT of home teleassistance for older adults in need of care in Costa Rica".
- **Hannah R. Marston. United Kingdom, The Open University.** "What role does technology have to play in age-friendly cities and communities: critical perspectives for 21st society".
- **Oliana Sula. Albania, Aleksandër Mosiu University Durrës.** "Age-friendly strategies for bridging the intergenerational digital divide: tackling digital ageism and strengthening civic engagement in fragile democracies of the Western Balkans countries through new institutionalist lenses".
- **Antonio González-Adalid. Spain, COTINCLUSIVA.** "COTI: An AI-adaptive social network connecting older adults, families and care teams".
- **Aleyne Paul Reyes. Spain, Residencia Nuestra Señora de Queralt.** "Museums, technology and psychosocial well-being in old age: the effectiveness of an ICT-based intervention for cognitive stimulation in healthy older adults and those with mild cognitive impairment".



- **Anna Karenina Dungca. Singapore, National University of Singapore.** “Making ageing visible: AI-mediated visual co-creation as a civic bridge in age-friendly cities”.
- **BUILDING MORE SUSTAINABLE AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES. FOCUSING ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE.**

**Moderator: Gonzalo Lacurcia. United Nations-Habitat, Spain office.**

- **Cherian Mathews. United Kingdom, HelpAge International.** “Age friendly by design, climate-resilient by nature: embedding ecosystem-based adaptation for intergenerational urban futures”.
- **Madhava Ram Balakrishnan. Switzerland, World Health Organization (WHO).** “Advancing climate and age friendly urban approaches in Kochi, India, with implications for strengthening the who-gnafcc framework”.
- **Biljana van Veghel Kondić. Serbia, TARA International Consulting.** “Initiating age-friendly and climate-responsive local governance in the Western Balkans”.
- **Mónica Garita Durán. Costa Rica, Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica.** “Research criteria for climate adaptation in older adult populations in Costa Rica”.
- **Holly Dabelko-Schoeny. United States of America, Ohio State University, Age-Friendly Innovation Center:** “Age-friendly and climate resilient communities: a weather and aging resilient model (WARM)”.
- **Rosa Mari Roig Berenguer. Spain, University of Valencia.** “Environmental risks and older adults: public policy for climate extremes”.
- **BUILDING MORE SUSTAINABLE AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES. FOCUSING ON THE SUSTAINABILITY OF AGE-FRIENDLY INITIATIVES.**

**Moderator: Kathleen Brasher. Australia, La Trobe University.**

- **Jeroen Dikken. Netherlands, The Hague University of Applied Sciences.** “Age-friendly cities in numbers and faces: global insights from the AFCCQ”.
- **Toshiyuki Okui. Thailand, Smart & Strong Project: Community-Based Integrated Elderly Care through a Thailand–Japan Municipal Network:** “From local innovation to cross-national



mutual learning: the STRONG model of Bueng Yitho and the SMART & STRONG Thailand–Japan Partnership”.

- **Nur Hasanah Binti Ahmad Akhir. Malaysia, Penang Women's Development Corporation:** “Bridging institutional silos: implementing the age-friendly cities framework across two contrasting municipal contexts in Penang, Malaysia”.
- **Kathleen Brasher. Australia, La Trobe University.** “From vision to evidence: measuring age-friendly progress in Ballarat”.
- **Ana Dolores Bojórquez Gómez. México, Municipality of Zapopan:** “From policy to culture: institutionalizing an age-friendly agenda across municipal government – the case of Zapopan, Mexico”.
- **Carla Souza. Brazil, Federal University of Minas Gerais.** “Development of a national tool for assessing age-friendly cities based on ELSI-BRASIL: an innovative approach using secondary data”.

#### WORKSHOP:

- **LOCAL CARE ECOSYSTEMS.**

How can we build communities that look after people better? This workshop will present the pioneering Local Care Ecosystems model promoted by the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa, an initiative that brings together local authorities, health and social services, organisations and the public to provide more preventive, personalised and community-based solutions. **Maite Peña**, the **Councillor for Care and Social Policies**, together with the mayors of Aretxabaleta, Hondarribia and Zarautz, will share their municipalities’ experiences and lead a participatory discussion on the challenges and opportunities of this innovative model, which has been recognised by the European Social Network (ESN).

- **15:30-16:00: COFFEE BREAK.**

- **16:00–17:30: PLENARY 4 – STRENGTHENING PEER SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION.**

**Moderator: Alexandre Da Silva. Brasil, National Secretary for the Rights of Older Persons, Brazil.**

**Speakers:**

- **Kathleen Brasher.** Australia, La Trobe Rural Health School in Wodonga.
- **Leandre Dal Ponte.** Brazil, Federal Deputy for the State of Paraná.



- **Dara McGuigan.** Ireland, Age Friendly Ireland.
- **Michelle Greicha Frangie.** Mexico, Age-Friendly Zapopan.
- **Maite Peña.** Spain, Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa.
- **Agustín Martínez Molina.** Spain, Imserso.
- **18:00–19:30: HARIAK, THE VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY.**
  - **In the 'Cámara' hall at the Kursaal.** A unique experience combining art, emotion and participation to show how communities can respond to the challenge of unwanted loneliness. Through theatre, dance, music and the collective creation of a live sculpture, the protagonists of HARIAK – Gipuzkoa's strategy to tackle unwanted loneliness – will share real stories of connection, support and belonging. An intergenerational journey that begins with loneliness and culminates in community, highlighting the power of bonds, collaboration and community networks to build friendlier, more inclusive and more humane societies.

## Activities planned outside the Kursaal premises

- **AUZO ORRI**

**Paseo de la Zurriola, throughout the Congress.** An initiative launched in the Gros neighbourhood – the city's oldest neighbourhood – by various public and private community stakeholders from sectors such as health, sport, culture, youth, social action and local commerce, which, through stories about everyday life in the neighbourhood, fosters spaces for meeting, conversation and collective creation from an intergenerational perspective.

**20:00–22:00: MUSEO SAN TELMO (CÓCTEL SOCIAL).**



# Thursday, June 18, 2026. Shaping the future

## Theme: vision, innovation, sustainability

- 08:30-09:30: **REGISTRATION.**
- 09:30-10:30: **PLENARY 5 – COMMITMENTS & BREAKTHROUGHS.**

**Moderator: Thiago Herick de Sa. World Health Organization (WHO).**

### Speakers:

- **Amal Abou Rafeh.** United Nations.
- **Louise Scheel Thomasen.** Nordic Welfare Centre.
- **Siti Munawwarah Binti Awang Tarif.** Brunei Darussalam, Ministry of Health.
- **Nicola Waterworth.** United Kingdom, Greater Manchester Combined Authority.
- **Constancio Rodríguez Martín.** Spain, Friends of Pescueza.
- **Tamer Mohamed Shousha.** United Arab Emirates, University of Sharjah.
- **Paulette Mettang.** Cameroon, Cameroon Association for the Care of the Elderly (ACAMAGE).
- 10:30-11:00: **COFFEE BREAK.**
- 11:00-12:30: **CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF AGE FRIENDLY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES.**
  - **Moderator: Patricia Morsch. Rapporteur: Flor Murillo.**
  - **Moderator: Mellany Murgor. Rapporteur: Ina Voelcker.**
  - **Moderator: Pierre Olivier Lefebvre. Rapporteur: Marie Beaulieu.**
  - **Moderator: Michael Kimuhu. Rapporteur: Joshua Byenkya.**
  - **Moderator: Yudi Pamela Suero Samboy. Rapporteur: Fatima Salomoni.**



- **Moderator: Tamer Mohamed Shousha. Rapporteur: Nur Hasanah Ahmad Akhir.**
- **Moderator: Yongjie Yon. Rapporteur: Lisa Christina Warth.**
- **Moderator: Andrea Pozo. Rapporteurs: Elena del Barrio and Eva Salaberria.**
- **12:30-14:00: LUNCH BREAK / GLOBAL VILLAGE.**
- **14:00-15:30: PLENARY 6 – VISION – LOOKING AHEAD.**
  - **Moderators: Paul McGarry (United Kingdom, Greater Manchester Ageing) and Christine Young (Australia, Australian Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities).**
- **15:30-16:30: CLOSING CEREMONY.**
  - **Official closing address.**
  - **On Do Ko: a community performance created collectively with older people from Donostia / San Sebastián.**
  - **Final farewell.**

## **Activities planned outside the Kursaal premises**

- **AUZO ORRI.**  
**Paseo de la Zurriola, throughout the Congress.** An initiative launched in the Gros neighbourhood – the city's oldest neighbourhood – by various public and private community stakeholders from sectors such as health, sport, culture, youth, social action and local commerce, which, through stories about everyday life in the neighbourhood, fosters spaces for meeting, conversation and collective creation from an intergenerational perspective.



# Friday, June 19, 2026. Euskadi Lagunkoia

## Visits to municipalities in the Basque Country Network of Friendly Cities and Communities (Euskadi Lagunkoia)

- **Planned destinations**

- Amurrio.
- Azkoitia.
- Barakaldo.
- Bilbao.
- Donostia-San Sebastián.
- Vitoria-Gasteiz.

- **Objective**

Learning about municipal initiatives within the Euskadi Lagunkoia Network through on-site visits, which will enable participants to explore municipalities in both rural and urban settings, exchange knowledge, share best practices and promote innovative approaches based on citizen leadership, intergenerational collaboration, new housing models, health research and the fight against ageism in different local contexts across the Basque Country.

- **Duración**

From 09:00 to 14:00.

- **Start and end points**

Kursaal Conference Centre, Donostia / San Sebastián.

- **Transport**

Free buses will be available for travel between venues, except for Donostia / San Sebastián.



- **Limited spots available.**

To participate, applicants must complete the **registration form** available in the **private area for registered Congress participants**. Confirmation of attendance will be communicated by email.

- **Translation.**

All tours will include Spanish-English interpretation, if required.

## Amurrio

### Theatre and the Council of Senior Citizens

**Total population:** 10.442 inhabitants

**Percentage of people aged 65 and over:** 27,7%

**Visit hosts:** The visit will be led by representatives from Amurrio Town Council (including the Mayor's Office and the municipal technical team supporting the Council of Senior Citizens), alongside older people who play an active role in the Council.

The visit offers an intimate experience to discover how the participation of older people can become a driving force for community life. Through a theatrical performance featuring older people who are members of the Amurrio Council of Senior Citizens, attendees will be able to gain a first-hand insight into their stories and concerns, demonstrating the potential of art as a tool for expression, cohesion and collective reflection.

The event is rounded off with a video presentation explaining how the Council of Senior Citizens works – a forum through which initiatives are promoted and their active role in local life is strengthened.



## Azkoitia

### “Pasira” - Healthy walk

**Total population:** 12.084 inhabitants

**Percentage of people aged 65 and over:** 20,9%

**Visit hosts:** The visit will be attended by representatives from Azkoitia Town Council (Department of Social Services, Culture and Youth) alongside representatives from the Azkoitia Lagunkoia Development Group.

During the visit, participants will have the opportunity to learn about the “Pasira” initiative, an intergenerational walking group recognised as a best practice within the Euskadi Lagunkoia Berria network, involving young people from the vocational training college and older residents of the municipality. This initiative promotes healthy



lifestyles, interaction and mutual support between generations, and the active participation of older people in community life.

The tour, which has been specially tailored for this visit, will offer a hands-on experience of the walk and, along the way, will provide an opportunity to learn about various municipal initiatives and senior-friendly measures implemented in Azkoitia as part of the programme. The visit will conclude with an informal get-together where participants can meet and chat.

## Barakaldo

### Campaign against ageism

**Total population:** 100.200 inhabitants

**Percentage of people aged 65 and over:** 24,5%

**Visit hosts:** The visit will be attended by representatives from Barakaldo Town Council (including the Mayor's Office and the municipal technical team supporting the project), along with older people who are members of the Barakaldo Lagunkoia Development Group.

During the visit, participants will have the opportunity to learn about the Barakaldo Lagunkoia project and, in particular, the campaign against ageism ("My age does not define me") launched by the group in recent years, which seeks, through participatory and intergenerational means, to raise public awareness and combat age-related stereotypes.

The visit will combine a contextual presentation of the project with a representative sample of the campaign, offering the chance to view a visual exhibition featuring totems with images and messages, providing space for reflection. In addition, an excerpt from the play created by older people and young people will be shown, depicting everyday situations of age discrimination.

The event will conclude with an informal gathering and discussion, encouraging dialogue between participants and the project team.



## Bilbao

### Aukeragune y Zorroza Lagunkoia

**Total population:** 346.933 inhabitants

**Percentage of people aged 65 and over:** 25,4%

**Visit hosts:** The visit will be attended by representatives from Bilbao City Council and the team responsible for the Bilbao Age Friendly City Plan.

During the visit, participants will have the opportunity to visit the Aukeragune centre, an innovative initiative aimed at supporting older people who are frail or living in isolation.



The programme is designed to provide direct support to 80 people, and it is anticipated that it could eventually reach over 2,000 older people in the neighbourhoods surrounding Otxarkoaga, such as Txurdinaga, Santutxu, Begoña, Bolueta, Uribarri and Zurbarán.

The aim at Aukeragune is for people to reconnect with life and rebuild personal relationships. In this way, they can continue to participate in civic life and contribute to the well-being of the community. Preventing frailty is one of the ways to promote and preserve people's independence.

The participatory initiative "Zorrotza Lagunkoia" will also be presented, as part of the Bilbao Age-Friendly City Plan. This pilot project, launched in 2022, aims to promote the active participation of older people by creating inclusive, intergenerational community activities that have an impact on the neighbourhood.

## Donostia / San Sebastián

The two visits will take place separately.

**Total population:** 189.866 inhabitants

**Percentage of people aged 65 and over:** 26%



### Institute of Health Research, BioGipuzkoa

**Visit schedule:** 10:00-11:30

**Visit hosts:** The visit will be attended by representatives from BioGipuzkoa.

BioGipuzkoa, the Gipuzkoa Institute of Health Research, is a leading centre for biomedical and health research linked to the Basque health system. The visit will provide an insight into some of the research lines related to ageing currently being developed by the institute, as well as how they incorporate the citizen science dimension into their projects. It will be an opportunity to share lessons learnt, challenges and connections between research, ageing and citizen participation.

### Lifelong homes, Lugaritz

**Visit schedule:** 12:00-13:30

**Visit hosts:** The tour will be led by residents of Lugaritz.

The tour of the homes in Lugaritz will be led by the residents themselves, who will share first-hand accounts of their daily lives within this innovative project. Throughout the tour, they will explain how these two- or three-bedroom rental properties, designed for couples or families, enable them to continue living their lives in a homely, accessible environment that is connected to the community. Residents will show both the private spaces, designed for privacy and personal well-being, and the communal areas, which are key to participation, socialising and building neighbourly relationships, highlighting the support provided by the designated support worker, the personalised management of support services and

matia  
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the integration of community services that make Lugaritz a genuine and flexible alternative to traditional residential models.

## Vitoria-Gasteiz

### BIZAN: Participatory model for senior centers

**Total population:** 253.956 inhabitants

**Percentage of people aged 65 and over:** 23,2%

**Visit hosts:** The visit will be led by representatives from Vitoria-Gasteiz City Council (through the Municipal Service for Older People), alongside older people who are actively involved in the “Activa tu Barrio” (Get your neighbourhood moving) programme.

The visit to Vitoria-Gasteiz offers the opportunity to see first-hand the model of the BIZAN senior centres, a well-established initiative that places older people at the heart of community life. Throughout the tour, the process of transformation of these centres will be showcased; they have evolved towards a participatory approach in which older people not only take part, but also make decisions and lead initiatives through a committee-based model. The visit will allow participants to explore the spaces and understand how this approach translates into real day-to-day dynamics.

The “Activa tu barrio” (Get your neighbourhood moving) programme will also be presented, in which older people themselves drive initiatives that address needs identified in their local area. The experience is rounded off with an overview of how BIZAN fits into the care system, highlighting its role as a key resource for promoting independence, participation and well-being.



Ayuntamiento  
de Vitoria-Gasteiz  
Vitoria-Gasteizko  
Udala



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