



MISSION STATEMENT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK ON POPULATION AGEING AND URBANISATION

The International Network on Population Ageing and Urbanisation (INPAU) brings together leading research groups, local authorities, NGOs and charitable foundations engaged with the task of facilitating active ageing in urban environments. The Network seeks to collaborate with a broad range of partners to develop high quality research contributing directly to public policy in a key area of global concern. By 2030, two-thirds of the world's population will reside in cities, with – for communities in most high-and middle income countries – at least one-quarter of their populations aged 60 plus. Increasingly, cities will be charged with pursuing their role of leading economic development whilst ensuring the empowerment of diverse groups of older people.

International organisations have responded to population ageing and urban change with the call to develop what the World Health Organisation terms ‘age friendly cities’. This approach is supported by influential bodies such as AGE Platform Europe who emphasise the importance of ‘raising awareness and making proposals on how an age-friendly environment can be promoted at EU, national and local level to ensure the full participation of older people in society’. The age-friendly city perspective has been influential in raising awareness about the impact of population ageing, especially for the management and planning of urban environments. However, the value of this approach has yet to be evaluated in the context of modern cities influenced by pressures associated with urban regeneration, migration and climate change.

Since its formation in 2012 the Network has developed an extensive programme of work pursuing four main objectives:

- Building a collaborative research-based network drawing together researchers at all career stages, practitioners and policy-makers.
- Working on a proposal for a cross-national study examining different approaches to building age-friendly cities.
- Identifying relevant data-sets and other resources for understanding ageing and urbanisation.
- Developing links between international research centres concerned with ageing and urbanisation.

The Network has a particular interest in addressing issues concerned with: combating poverty and social exclusion in urban neighbourhoods; working with marginalised groups of older people; linking age-friendly policies to urban planning and urban design; working to develop

participatory methods with a wide group of stakeholders, including older people themselves; and co-producing knowledge with stakeholders to facilitate impacts on policy and practice.

The Network draws on the skills and experience of leading research and policy groups across Europe, Asia and North America, including: The University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University, The Open University, Manchester City Council, The Beth Johnson Foundation, and the International Longevity Centre–UK, Free University of Brussels (VUB), VU University Amsterdam, National University of Ireland Galway, The Institute for Gerontological Research (Berlin), University of Applied Sciences Magdeburg-Stendal, Lingnan University (Hong Kong), The University of Alberta (Canada), Case Western Reserve University (USA), The University of Michigan (USA).

The Network will work during 2014 and 2015 to disseminate findings from its various activities, collaborating with partners to develop innovative ways of understanding the impact of urban change on older people and new approaches to building age-friendly communities. The Network welcomes new groups and disciplines to help shape its work, to assist in developing research and policy ideas, and to encourage discussion with a range of international organisations.