

# CITY OF ZAGREB – DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY



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## Background

In an effort to promote further investment and enable people with dementia to live independently as long as possible, the City of Zagreb has signed a Registration and Process Agreement on December 14, 2017 to become “Dementia Friendly Community”.

## Material & Methods

In order to meet the criteria of the agreement and create a working plan, a working group have been established to govern the development of the “Dementia Friendly Community”.

The working group is composed of representatives of social care centers, physicians, neurology specialists, police, city administration, public transportation, firefighters and civil society.

## Results

- Two cycles of Basic Education Program was conducted → the actors who are in frequent contact with citizens were educated, and the aim of the training was to familiarize them with the basic concepts of the disease, how to identify a person with dementia and how to approach such a person.
- The program brought together the employees of the Zagreb Electric Tram, the Zagreb Police Department, Zagreb Public Fire Department and the city government employees.
- The working group is in preparation of a handbook for “Dementia Friendly Institution”, which aims to highlight the importance of identifying people with dementia and to help the staff of the institution with advice on how to communicate with, and understand and adapt to the people affected.
- A future plan is to develop Strategy for defeating Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.



## Conclusion

- Most people with dementia live in their own homes in the community.
- Diagnosis rates have increased and the numbers of people known to be living with dementia has grown, especially people in the early stages of the condition.
- A key point of “Dementia Friendly Community” is partnerships between health and social care system, government bodies, local businesses, NGOs and civil society organisations.