

Accessibility, Infrastructure, and Housing for Elderly People.

Adapting human habitat and associated services is one of the priorities of our federation.

In many countries, national strategies on aging specifically address the needs of elderly people regarding infrastructure, housing, accessibility, and quality of life. However, it should be noted that in developing or transitioning countries, structures and housing may be less suited to the specific needs of the elderly.

To implement these strategies, it is crucial to actively involve elderly people and the organizations representing them in the urban planning process and infrastructure development. This ensures that the needs, concerns, desires, habits, and life projects of elderly people are taken into account from the beginning of the design process.

Some governments provide financial incentives to homeowners to make their homes accessible to the elderly, in the form of direct grants, tax credits, or other fiscal benefits.

However, the cost of modifications can be prohibitive for many homeowners or facility managers. Additionally, housing adapted to the needs of the elderly may be limited or unavailable in many regions, leading to difficulties in finding housing that meets their mobility, safety, and comfort needs. Therefore, temporary or longer-term alternatives to their historic residence need to be developed.

It is evident that in many cities, elderly people face stigma and discrimination when using public infrastructure that is not adapted to their needs. These obstacles contribute to their social isolation as they are discouraged from going out and participating in community life. Specific policies must therefore be implemented, particularly in urban and rural areas, making accessibility a priority.

In the face of the discrimination they experience, elderly people must have the opportunity to lodge complaints and seek redress for the denial of their rights to accessibility, infrastructure, and housing. Remedial mechanisms, such as financial compensation, infrastructure modifications, or corrective measures, must be put in place to prevent future violations.

In conclusion, FIAPA advocates for raising awareness among all audiences about the importance of adapting housing and services for elderly people, not only to combat isolation and promote their mobility, comfort, and safety but also to optimize existing resources.

Therefore, it is essential to:

Promote the construction and/or renovation of adapted housing, also taking into consideration intergenerational solidarity (co-housing).

Strengthen the concept of "age-friendly cities" by improving accessibility to transportation, local shops, safety, etc., and consider integrating the concept of "The 15-Minute City."

Design public policies and ongoing transitions in the "Silver economy" by fostering an "integration" approach for all.

