

## **Complex context, diversified solutions.**

### **The Age Friendly City**

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#### **Course Content:**

Cities are a model of success. In 1900 around 10% of the population lived in cities, nowadays about 50%, and in 2050 it is predicted to be at about 75%. As a result, the city is undergoing a rapid transformation, increasing the pressure on public space to answer to the functional demands made by a growing and diversifying population.

Furthermore, the city has begun to be understood through new urban factors such as globalization, migration, labour, social exclusion and sustainability. Public space, the commons and the social life of the city is ever more critical and under ever more pressure. The relationship between urban form and urban society is now a determining factor in the formation of an urban quality of life.

From 2015 – 2050, the proportion of the world's 60 plus population will nearly double from 12% to 22%, and is set to inspire public debate about age friendly societies and communities. The world health organisation initiative for age friendly cities aims to maximise the capacities and health of older adults together with their social participation and security.

With the help of social scientist Frode Fadnes Jacobsen, our course aims to enter this debate via a comparative approach, exploring what cities and cultures have done to become age friendly, and looking at ways of developing this further in Bergen and beyond.

Key concerns will encompass social inclusion, shared, intergenerational and separate space, the institution vs. the home, mobility, safety, housing, 3<sup>rd</sup> sector work and activity.

At the Complex Context course we intend to develop project tools that help the student to understand the relationship of a building and the urban context, through a highly structured working process.