

WHO ARE THE "SENIOR CITIZENS"?

Today, who is the "senior citizen"? Several legal and medical definitions primarily based on age are proposed, such as the one from the World Health Organization (WHO), which defines people over 60 years old as seniors.

In France, according to the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (Insee), seniors' citizens are aged between 55 and 64. Finally, the Larousse dictionary describes seniors as people over 50 years old.

According to Cerema, the French public agency for developing public expertise in the fields of urban planning, regional cohesion and ecological and energy transition, there is no "consensual definition of an age threshold at which a person becomes an elderly person. This label is attributed as a result of physical, physiological, and psychological changes associated with aging" (2016).

The way to qualify a senior citizen is constantly evolving, depending on social and societal contexts. Several factors can be taken into consideration, such as age, retirement, general state of health and thresholds, set by health insurance companies, for example.

Originally, the term "**senior**" was borrowed from English and in Latin, it means "**older, elder**".

This note aims to objectively identify the areas of work and action strategies for supporting aging in urban environments.

The first part will present the needs and expectations of seniors in public spaces, while the second part will illustrate these trends and challenges with solutions and examples of initiatives implemented in public spaces to support aging in cities.

Seniors in key figures

The number of **people aged 65 and over** is expected to double over the next three decades, to **reach 1.6 billion worldwide in 2050**, according to the United Nations.

Source – Statista, 2024

12.6% of the European Union's population will be over 80 years old by 2070.

In fact, this demographic is expected to double between 2018 and 2070.

Source – INSEE, 2020

1 in 4 French citizens will be over 65 years old by 2040.

Source – Insee, 2018

One in seven individuals aged 75 to 85 does not leave their home for an entire week.

Source – Cerema, 2016

© Freepik

