



City of Brno

Commitment of the City of Brno to the European Pillar of Social Rights Principles 11, 17 and 18

An essential element of a democratic and open society is cohesion and mutual assistance between its members. The Statutory City of Brno (hereinafter referred to as the SMB) has prepared and approved the document Strategie Brno 2050 (Strategy Brno 2050), which formulates the value "cohesive and respectful city" as one of the fundamental values. The goal of the SMB in this area is to provide a wide range of quality, easily accessible public and social services for all groups of the population in need of social care and social assistance.

Commitment to Principle 11: Childcare and support to children

The City of Brno is aware of the economic and social importance of education and supports the education of the population at any age. Ensuring quality education in all public kindergartens and primary schools is a matter of course for its representatives.

The City of Brno plays a key role in providing education for children from an early age in its territory. It is a key player that supports the development of children, cooperation with families, equal conditions for education for all children and the possibility of meaningful use of leisure time of children and youth. In the long-term the City has supported catchment schools in socially excluded localities with a large number of children from disadvantaged backgrounds, as well as schools that educate children of foreigners, whose number has been growing in the city for a long time. The City also provides annual funding to organizations of hobby and non-formal education, which allows children to participate in informal and hobby activities such as cultural, sports and other, incl. activities aimed at developing responsible citizenship of children. Since 2014, the City has been systematically focusing on supporting children at risk of school failure and early school leaving within ESIF projects, and since 2016 on supporting families with children entering primary school and increasing support for families with children from socially excluded localities. Another important supported area is the personal and professional development of pedagogical staff, kindergartens and primary schools in Brno. As part of ESIF projects, the City implements educational activities and practical seminars for teachers with the exchange of experiences, which, among other things, strengthen the ability of teachers to work with all children.

The City's strategic document for education "Local Action Plan for the Development of Education in the City of Brno" is currently being updated, addressing equal access for all children to pre-school and primary education, developing the potential of each child and a quality inclusive environment and conditions in schools as one of the main goals. The City has long applied the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights in its activities and in its strategic documents in the field of education.

Under Principles 11 on support to children, the City of Brno undertakes to:

Ensure quality and accessible education at the level of kindergartens and primary schools

Create conditions for a quality hobby and non-formal education

Create conditions for a cooperating and informed family

Commitment to Principle 17 "Inclusion of people with disabilities"

People with disabilities have the right to income support that ensures living in dignity, services that enable them to participate in the labour market and in society, and a working environment adapted to their needs.

The City of Brno has been using the method of community planning of social services since 2005 when planning services for its inhabitants, which enables independent initiation, planning and networking of social services in the city. Currently, the sixth Community Plan for Social Services for the period 2020–22 has been created, which will enable the development of a coordinating and mediating role of the City of Brno in negotiations between individual stakeholders and strengthen their participation in defining and harmonising demand for and supply of social services. At the same time, it will strengthen the strategic role of the city of Brno in shaping its own local policy of social assistance and social services. This role requires a more accurate knowledge of the current development of the social needs of the city's inhabitants, as well as information on possible resources and capacities for social services in the city.

The community plan places great emphasis on the development of outreach and walk-in services, which are one of the key conditions enabling people with disabilities to remain in the natural environment and at least partially facilitate care provided by informal carers. Comprehensive support of the family as a whole is important, as well as a holistic approach to the family in which a person with a disability lives. The aim is to provide comprehensive and continuous services for people with different degrees of disability from an early age, through adolescence and adulthood to the elderly and to support caring families with regard to the changing needs of people with disabilities. The removal of barriers, whether physical, informational or otherwise is essential for integration into the labour market and into society in general.

The city supports from its budget various activities and organisations whose objective is the inclusion of people with disabilities. Every year, the city spends about CZK 1 billion on social care, a substantial part of which is spent on care for people with disabilities. The City of Brno plans to increase the budget for social services in 2021 in order to make it possible to expand the capacities of both outreach and residential services for people with disabilities. Through its efforts, Brno wants to contribute to mutual inspiration and cooperation among European cities in the field of inclusion of people with disabilities.

Commitment to Principle 18 "Long-term care"

Everyone has the right to affordable long-term care services of good quality, in particular home-care and community-based services.

One of the large target groups that community plans focus on is the elderly. In Brno, as in other large cities, the number of people of working age has been declining for a long time, and the process of demographic ageing is deepening. People entering old age represent a very diverse group of people on an age scale spanning more than 30 years. The elderly look for different ways and means of fulfilling their needs, which are related to the previous stages of their life cycle and factors such as education, professional profile, health predisposition or ethnicity.


Experts, but also the elderly themselves, emphasise that age alone is not the cause of an elderly person's demand for help and support; this usually arises with a decrease in functional abilities and self-sufficiency. Especially for single elderly people, namely those of higher age, where the life situation can change from full health and independence into a situation of limited mobility, or the need for further assistance, the need to ensure their own safety, the need to maintain contact with the environment and very often the need to provide help and care, appears in the forefront. And just as the personal functional potential of the elderly decreases, the demands on the range of social services increases, which can ensure an adequate quality of life in old age.

Brno strives to be a city friendly to the elderly; a number of activities meant for seniors are supported, such as clubs for the elderly, Seniorpass, University of the Third Age, Senior Academy, etc. The city's priority is to support care for seniors in their natural environment (outreach services) and develop specific residential services for those elderly people who cannot stay at home alone any more.

From its budget the city supports various activities and organisations aimed at affordable and quality home and community-based services for the elderly. Every year, the city spends about CZK 1 billion on social care, a substantial part of which is spent on care for people with disabilities. The City of Brno plans to increase the budget for social services in 2021 in order to make it possible to expand the capacities of both outreach and residential services for people with disabilities. Through its efforts, Brno wants to contribute to mutual inspiration and cooperation among European cities in the field of long-term care for the elderly.

Under Principles 17 and 18, the City of Brno undertakes to continue investing in the development of services involving people with disabilities and long-term care services and to enable both people with disabilities and the elderly to live a full life in the environment they are accustomed to for as long as possible. Currently, an important strategic document, the Concept of Social Policy of the City of Brno until 2030, is being prepared, and a Strategic Plan for the Gradual Removal of Barriers in the City is also under preparation. Principles 17 and 18 will be consistently applied in both of these documents.

Jaroslav Suchý
Councillor for Education,
Youth and Sport



Brno, September 15, 2020