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# DRESDEN PASS

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### Objectives of the project

Dresden Pass is a voluntary benefit that gives families and individuals on low income the possibility to participate in social life in Dresden. To achieve it, it offers reductions to cultural, leisure and sports facilities in the city. To be eligible for the reductions, the applicants need to be residents of Dresden and be on low income or receive social assistance benefits.

### Timeline

1993-today.

### Background

The Dresden-Pass was introduced in 1993 to offer reductions for the recipients of social assistance benefits. The reductions are similar to those for pupils, students and people with disabilities. Several institutions contributed to the Dresden-Pass (including office for youth welfare, office for cultural affairs, agency for child day care, public transport). The project is still ongoing.

There are around 58,000 recipients of social assistance benefits in Dresden (including asylum seekers). The exact number of low income inhabitants without social assistance benefits is difficult to be estimated. The recipients of social benefits and people on low income can apply for the Dresden Pass which allows them to visit cultural and sports facilities in the city at a reduced price. Moreover it provides numerous reductions for local public transport and municipal benefits.



### Who is responsible for the project?

The project is implemented by the agency for social assistance benefits (*Sozialamt*). The agency prepared the decisions which were then adopted by the City Council.

### How does the project work?

Dresden Pass is issued upon submission of an application at the agency for social assistance benefits by inhabitants above the age of 18. The application can also be submitted at the local administrative offices. The applicants are entitled to apply for the Dresden Pass for dependants of their household. The Dresden Pass is valid for a maximum of one year from the issue date. After this period it can be prolonged if the applicant still meets the eligibility criteria.

The application forms can be obtained at the agency for social assistance benefits, at the local administrative offices and the internet.

The reductions offered by Dresden Pass include:

- reductions for public local transport season tickets;

- free certificate of eligibility for a council flat;
- reduced entrance to municipal sports facilities and public baths;
- reduced costs for meals in child day care facilities or school;
- reduced costs for school transport;
- free holiday card for pupils between 6 and 14 years;
- grant to participate at the recreation-program for children aged between 6-18 years;
- reduced annual fee for offers of the youth art's school (*Jugend und Kunstschule Dresden*);
- free annual fee for municipal library Dresden;
- reduced entrance for museums in the City of Dresden;
- reduced entrance to the zoo.

In addition there are some private suppliers who offer discounts to holders of the Dresden Pass without being part of the programme.

## **What are the results of the project?**

By the end of October 2009, some 20,000 Dresden Passes have been issued. The reactions to the Dresden Pass are positive (also in the media). Since the introduction in 1993, the number of Dresden-Passes has been rising, with 3,000 extra in circulation in the first six months of 2009 alone.

People who hold the Dresden-Pass use public baths more often and are more engaged in sports activities. More children participate at special events and their wellbeing is improved because they have a good time with children in their age and find new friends. Free holiday cards are of great help to parents and children. With cultural institutions, the Dresden pass is less beneficial because the cheaper entrance of museums is not used quite often.

## **Was the project evaluated and followed up?**

Up to now no evaluations have taken place. The number of the Dresden Passes issued has increased in 2009. This was caused by to the increase of the overall number of persons eligible for the Dresden Pass.

## **What lessons did you learn?**

Dresden Pass gives people opportunity to take part in the life of the community. They feel more satisfied about having equal rights. In this way Dresden-Pass has the potential to contribute to social peace.

## **What budget and resources were allocated to the project?**

Dresden-Pass is financed out of municipal funds. In the future, Dresden Pass will be co-financed by the revenues of a foundation "Sozialstiftung" which was founded in 2009.

An annual budget is difficult to be estimated because the decrease in revenue depends on the uptake of the offers. The more people with Dresden-Pass use an offer, the higher is

the decrease in revenue because there is a gap between full and reduced price. This difference is not compensated by the agency of social assistance. Examples for decrease in revenue/expenses for 2007 include:

- decrease in revenue for municipal institutions: €491,875;
- expenditures of the municipal office for social benefits: €141,791.

During the introduction phase, one or two persons did work for the Dresden Pass. Now, one person is responsible for further development and monitoring of the system. In addition, there are six outlets for issuing the Passes and for checking the applications.

## Contact person

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More information

[www.dresden.de/dresden-pass](http://www.dresden.de/dresden-pass)

If you have an example of a good practice that you would like to include in the database, please send an email to [caroline.greene@eurocities.eu](mailto:caroline.greene@eurocities.eu).