



The City of Gothenburg are delivering on the European Pillar of Social Rights

Principle 1

Education, training and life-long learning

Everyone has the right to quality and inclusive education, training and life-long learning in order to maintain and acquire skills that enable them to participate fully in society and manage successfully transitions in the labour market.

The City of Gothenburg's pledge summarized from the Gothenburg City Program for an Equal City 2018-2026

Our initiative and program are a long-term strategy and includes work for breaking up the traditional silos in the municipal to create better possibilities to reach all citizens and especially the groups that are at risk of not being able to participate fully in society.

In the City of Gothenburg children and young people and their careers shall be offered early concerted support to guarantee that everyone can create the best of their given possibilities to succeed through the education system.

The fact that our inhabitants gets a good start in life increases the opportunities for as many as possible to take command of their situation in terms of work, health and wellbeing through their whole lifecycle.

The City of Gothenburg's objective with this strategy is in cooperation with the region and the civil society is to further develop parenting support in the city's activities and services for families. It is about providing parenting support to all families and ensuring that the support reaches the families who need it the most. Parental support also needs to be developed and included with a normative approach to reaching groups that the municipality today has difficulty reaching. The basis of it all is in a sense empowerment for the citizens.

The Gothenburg idea of lifelong learning

There are three steps in the municipals work for lifelong learning. First a good start in life with family support and early reading by the initiative "The City where we read for our children". The linguistic development is a fundamental part of a child's development, closely related to other aspects of childhood, such as the development of cognitive, social and the physical motility. Linguistic development is about more than the spoken language and it summarize the diverse ways that children and youngsters communicate.

Early reading and storytelling experiences are of major importance for a child's linguistic development, schooling and opportunities further into life. The carers/parents are the most valuable resource for the child's language creation. Our objective is raising the awareness of adults around the child about the importance of reading and narrative moments is therefore an issue. For each child to be given the opportunity for a good linguistic start in life, activities that meet children, young people and carers need good insight and understanding of the importance of language for equal living conditions. A person with a large vocabulary not only has the opportunity to better explain his or her

feelings and world view, but also has a better chance of grasping the complexity of the world.

The second and very important part of the work on lifelong learning is that the City of Gothenburg creates conditions for young people to be able to complete their high school studies. We implement methods to prevent drop outs and create a study environment and pedagogical tools to meet each student's needs and enable them to see their possibilities and skills.

The third part of the work on lifelong learning is adult education. The main task of adult education is to reduce the differences in living conditions by giving people the opportunity to compensate for incomplete secondary education and to be able to meet changes in the labour market.

Work, education and learning form a significant part of people's living conditions. Through the strong links with people's livelihoods, they are central to achieving the goal of Gothenburg being an equal city. Having a work strengthens people's sense of control over their own lives and their involvement in society. Work is a foundation for people's identity and social life. People who work usually also have better health than those who do not have a job or a job.

The demands of the labour-market have risen parallel with the changes in society. Training is usually a prerequisite for getting a job and self-sufficiency. The relationship between unemployment and education is very clear. The longer the education, the lower the unemployment rate. It is therefore important to strengthen the opportunities for completing education, for example at high school. A key here is to give residents the conditions for education and learning as well as promoting lifelong learning. This also includes competence as education support for those who currently lack work.

Combining education with training is to facilitate the first step into the labour market
A high school education is usually required to take the first step into the labour market. It is an obstacle for people who lack full upper secondary education. With another way of looking at skills, the city can offer young people or migrants their first job focusing on providing the opportunity for skills development and reaching a high school diploma, at a rate that is adapted to the individual. One way to get there is that the city's administrations and companies offer assisting services based on the step-by-step job and a knowledge ladder.

The step by step job and education initiative - is a supported career chain where the main target group are migrants and mostly with non or short education. The idea is that the language skills and working skills needs to be combined during the same period. Therefore we offer the possibility to enter the labour market step by step at the same time as the participants work with their basic education and language courses.

The City expands the possibility of entering the labour market by stimulating the development of social enterprises and cooperatives, the City of Gothenburg can provide people with difficulties in obtaining or retaining work opportunities for job integration and employment.

Equality for us means that no social groups of the local community shall be left behind and that if we shall build a wellbeing city we need to give support where it's most needed.

In order for people to develop to their full potential, they need reasonable conditions. The City of Gothenburg will work for employers to consider which qualifications they have

and that they should not require more than needed to get an employment with them. By adapting the requirements to what is really needed, workers can find their way into the labor market and then, in line with their conditions, develop themselves and their work.

We will customize education and learning to facilitate entry into the labor market. Each person brings unique and different experiences and knowledge. The validation of professional skills within the City of Gothenburg needs to be able to find out what the individual can to gain access to education at an appropriate level. Professional validation, which really validates the person's professional skills, is a tool for providing the skills development needed for entry into the labor market.

With these three aspects we hope to ensure that all our citizens can reach as far as possible based on an inclusive education, a comprehensive training and the possibility for a lifelong learning cycle.

The City of Gothenburg, 11 of December 2018

