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# LEIPZIG PASS

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### Objectives of the project

The Leipzig Pass offers the chance to participate more fully in the social and cultural life of the city. It is aimed at people living in the city, who are unemployed or receive social benefits or are on low income. The Pass holders are given a reduction on the entry costs of cultural events, sports facilities or public transport.

### Timeline

The project started in 1992 and is ongoing.

### Background

The Leipzig Pass was introduced to allow residents of Leipzig with a low income to participate in social and cultural activities. It is available to Leipzig residents who are on low income. The pass offers a variety of grants and reductions such as lunch in day care centres and at school, transport/mobility and use of culture, education, sport or leisure facilities. The pass is valid for one year at a time and can be extended. Eligibility for the Pass is based on holders receiving certain types of social benefits which are granted for one year at a time.



### Who is responsible for project implementation?

The social welfare office of the City of Leipzig is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the Leipzig Pass.

### How does the project work?

People wishing to benefit from the Pass have to apply, either in one of the citizen centres or the social welfare office (depending on which type of social benefits the applicant receives). Recipients of municipal social benefits are advised on their eligibility for the Pass and given advice on how to apply for it.

The pass provides two types of financial benefits: grants and reductions. Grants are available for:

- school-lunch in public schools and food supply in day care centres; and
- school trips.

Reductions, usually of 50%, are available for:

- the annual school transport ticket and special transport for pupils with disabilities;
- a monthly ticket (Leipzig-Pass-Mobilcard) for local public transport;
- holiday-pass (activities for children during school holidays);
- courses in the public music school and public citizens education centre;
- the fee for senior studies at the University of Leipzig;

- the entrance fee for all public museums, public theatres, public library, public swimming pools and the zoo;
- the membership fee of all NGOs which are granted by the municipality;
- a monthly season ticket of the public transport system.

## What are the results of the project?

In 2008, 56,727 passes were given out and over the last years the number of passes has risen continuously. Most of the people who apply for the pass receive social benefit while other recipients receive it due to their low income. The number of families using the Pass has increased.

In 2008, a citizens' initiative got political support to introduce a reduced-price monthly ticket for the public transport system. The ticket was introduced in August 2009. In December 2009 more than 16,000 tickets were sold.

## Was the project evaluated and followed up?

The opinion of the users is not evaluated. However, the municipality regularly monitors the update of the Passes by gathering data on the number of Passes given out, place of residence, sex and age of the users. The increasing number of passes given out, as well as increasing costs for the grants, illustrates their successful use by the people. However, the possible drawbacks of the programme and its side effects are unknown.

## What were lessons learned and unintended benefits of the project?

Make the measure as simple and understandable as possible. For example, do not differentiate between user groups.

Think about the territory beyond city boundaries - offer contracts to other municipalities in exchange for cost coverage.

Carry out good statistical research to document the use and costs.

## What are the budget and resources for the project?

The budget is not limited and the costs that arise are planned and 100% covered by the municipal budget. In 2006, the costs were about €1.35m. Since the Passes are given out by existing municipal offices, there are no additional costs for staff working on the project.

## Who is the contact person for the project?

City of Leipzig

Nicole Brodowski, Social Policy Assistant

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[www.leipzig.de/de/buerger/aemterhome/sozialamt](http://www.leipzig.de/de/buerger/aemterhome/sozialamt)

## Website

<http://www.leipzig.de/de/buerger/newsarchiv/2009/14385.shtml>

<http://www.lvb.de/index.php?page=1258&session=337f68d6051e286089ca471162d7125b>

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).