



EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum ‘Inclusive cities: Ensuring social inclusion & well-being for all ages’

22 October - 24 October 2019, Warsaw

WG Education updates

1. Mutual learning for WG inclusive education at the centre of the attention in Barcelona

On 24-26 April, the WG education met in Barcelona to exchange on how to promote inclusive education and equal opportunities for all children and young people. 38 participants from 19 cities learned about the Catalan education system and its programme ‘xarxes pel canvi’ which gather 22 networks of schools throughout Barcelona to promote inclusive, empowering and future-oriented learning for all students. From pre-school organisation to the use of digital tools, ways to reduce inequalities and positive school leadership, city delegates had the opportunity to review Barcelona’s practice using the critical friend review methodology. Read more [here](#).

2. Survey on the implementation of principle 11 on “childcare and support to children”- European Pillar of Social Rights

On 17 July, we have launched the second survey part of the ‘[Cities delivering social rights](#)’ initiative for SAF members to report on policy initiatives focusing on **principle 11- childcare and support to children** and principle 19 - housing and assistance for the homeless.

The aim is to collect data, evidence and good practices on the measures cities are taking in line with the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights. From the results, EURO CITIES produced an analytical report on “early childhood education and child welfare” in cities in Europe. This publication is going to be presented during the Social Affairs Forum in October in Warsaw. 23 cities have provided data on early childhood education and child welfare. Read more [here](#). Furthermore, the results will form the basis for the EURO CITIES upcoming ‘Social Europe’ statement and feed into our upcoming policy and advocacy priorities with the incoming EU institutions.

3. Second European Education Summit, in Brussels

On 26 September, the European Commission organised the Second European Education Summit in Brussels on ‘teachers first: excellence and prestige for the European Education Area’. The Commission presented the 2019 Education and Training Monitor which investigates how well teachers are faring. EURO CITIES has actively engaged in the discussions and various workshops on examining innovative teaching methods and technology use enhancing modern learning experiences across Europe. Recording of the summit can be watched [here](#).

4. Cities continue to pledge to the EU Pillar of Social Rights

After the official launch of the campaign ‘Inclusive cities for all: Social Rights in my city’ in February at the European Parliament, cities continue to pledge to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights. The cities presenting new pledges are Amsterdam on principle 1 (education, training and life-long learning), Hamburg and Leeds on principle 11 (childcare and support to children). The pledges will be presented to SAF members and high-level representatives from the European Parliament and the European Commission during the Social Affairs Forum in October in Warsaw. Find all pledges and learn more about how to pledge [here](#).

5. New EUROCITIES handbook on critical friend review

The report is based on a methodology developed and tested in the EUROCITIES Working group on Social Inclusion through Education. It aims at encouraging mutual learning between cities during study visits. Under this method, visiting city experts act as 'critical friend' and provide constructive feedback to the host city. The handbook is a practical manual to guide you through the steps of the process and maximize the learning process and outcomes from a study visit. Read the report [here](#) and watch a video on how to use a critical friend review [here](#).

Upcoming meetings and activities:

- **WG 'Education' meeting - 27-29 November, Vienna**
The WG education members will meet to learn from five practices on various educational stages (from childhood education to lower secondary and pre-vocational education as well as teacher-training). The visits will have a strong focus on diversity, inclusion, school leadership and quality assurance.
More information [here](#).
- **European Commission consultation on the European Social Fund in the 2014-2018 programming period, deadline to complete is 19 December.**
EC has launched a 12-week public consultation to evaluate the support to social inclusion by the ESF. The consultation is available online in all official languages of the EU. The information collected will be used in assessing what has been achieved during the 2014-2018 programming period. It will also help the Commission draw lessons on how to reinforce this support in the future, making it more effective and focused. We invite our members to contribute to this consultation. Find all the information [here](#).



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