



Stadt Leipzig

Pledge to the European Pillar of Social Rights

Social Policy in Europe aims to protect the most vulnerable. This includes people with mental illnesses who often face great constraints in their everyday life such as loss of employment, homelessness and social exclusion. In Leipzig, we aim to ensure that everyone with severe mental health problems has access to psychosocial support close to his home. With easily accessible, community-based psychosocial support and empowering structures, the City of Leipzig commits itself to a more inclusive Europe for all citizens.

Commitment to Principle 16 "Health care"

The European Framework for Action on Mental Health and Wellbeing supports EU-countries to review their policies and share experiences in improving policy efficiency and effectiveness. The aim is to enhance the promotion of mental health services, to develop prevention and early intervention programmes, to ensure good comprehensive mental health treatment and to strengthen knowledge, evidence and best practice sharing in mental health.

Good and easily accessible care and support is necessary to prevent the exclusion of people with mental health problems. Leipzig has a well-established system of psychiatric and psychosocial care. Within the community-based care-network outpatient and inpatient psychiatric services work closely together.

The City of Leipzig coordinates, manages and finances psychosocial services for people with severe mental health problems, complementing psychiatric treatment. This approach follows Leipzig's long focus on social psychiatry. Since the 1960s, the community mental health services addressed needs for housing, employment and social support while at the same time offering medical-therapeutic treatment. In order to implement this holistic approach, the city created a Network of Community Psychiatry that provides psychiatric therapy and a day clinic in direct connection with social support. Many of the services are offered through outreach work. A special Socio-Psychiatric Service coordinates the different services and connects, for example, with employment measures. Additionally, people with mental health issues and their relatives have access to counselling, leisure activities and assisted living facilities in various psychosocial community centres. Service users are also encouraged to participate in shaping the support structures themselves.

In 2020, the City of Leipzig covers costs of 3.45 million Euros for these services. The financial means are available for municipal institutions and non-governmental organisations in the neighbourhoods. Since 2015, the budget has increased by almost 30 %. A new building for the community mental health centre will be constructed in Leipzig's Northeast for 1.9 million Euros. It will allow encounters in the neighbourhood and joint events of people with and without mental health problems and further strengthen inclusion.

The City of Leipzig commits itself to stabilising and to adapting the existing services to new needs. Our goal is to support and empower people who are among the most disadvantaged and marginalised in order to reach a more just and inclusive society.

Thomas Fabian
Deputy Mayor for Youth,
Social Affairs, Health and Schools

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