

City of Ljubljana

Zoran Janković
Mayor



LJUBLJANA'S PLEDGE TO THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

A strong social Europe means that it is inclusive for all. Ljubljana is a city where we respect diversity and live together. Ljubljana is a social city that promotes social inclusion and human dignity. Through numerous programmes, services and activities, we strive for social equality, solidarity and openness. To that end, we pay special attention to vulnerable groups.

Commitment to principle 17. Inclusion of people with disabilities

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 2006, was ratified by the Republic of Slovenia in April 2008, making it the third EU Member State and one of the first twenty countries in the world to do so.

In Slovenia the protection of persons with disabilities and their rights are governed by the laws of the State. On this basis and through numerous self-imposed measures and activities, we at the local level contribute significantly to a friendly living environment accessible to all, and to opportunities for the independent living, work and social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Pre-school learning and primary schooling

The City of Ljubljana is the founder of 23 public kindergartens (for children from 11 months to six years old) and 48 public primary schools, with around 5% of the children and youngsters with special needs.

Those with several or severe disabilities (in particular intellectual disabilities) who are unable to attend ordinary public kindergartens and primary schools are included in the Janez Levec Special Education Centre, the largest such municipal public institution in Slovenia. Three schools with a modified programme and broad range of support services, the educational unit 'Pika' and the labour and employment centre with so-called sheltered employment for persons with disabilities function under the aegis of the aforementioned centre.

Around EUR 2.5 million is allocated annually from the city's budget for the **inclusion of children and adolescents with disabilities** in public kindergartens and primary schools that are the city's responsibility, and for the smooth functioning of the Janez Levec Special Education Centre.

Over the past 12 years, the city has thoroughly renovated or newly constructed six public kindergartens and carried out the extensive renovation, rehabilitation and adaptation of public kindergartens and primary schools at a total cost of EUR 200 million. An additional EUR 28.2 million will be earmarked from the city's budget for investments in this area in 2019.

Employment

Measures aimed at vocational rehabilitation and the employment of persons with disabilities are set out in the law that lays down the **quota system for the employment of persons with disabilities**. Within the city administration and at public municipal institutions and companies, where around 12,000 people are employed, the quota is met in an exemplary manner and regularly exceeded within the city administration. The city also contributes to the activation of persons with disabilities on the labour market by supporting and co-financing State programmes from the active employment policy, which are implemented at various employers.

Housing

Through tenders issued by the municipal housing fund, **adapted non-profit rental housing** is available to adults with disabilities who wish to live independently. The city pursues a unique policy of positive discrimination in this area, as it meets the demand for adapted non-profit rental housing relatively smoothly in the context of a general lack of non-profit rental housing. Persons with disabilities are currently renting 164 adapted municipal non-profit rental units, and eight organisations of disabled persons rent an additional 25 such housing units, which are occupied by their members.

The municipal housing fund, which currently manages a fund of 4,250 housing units, is expected to provide around an additional 1,500 non-profit rental housing units by 2022. Of those additional housing units, at least 10% will be adapted or easily adaptable for disabled persons. Through planning according to the paradigm of *universal design*, the city will ensure an accessible and barrier-free lifelong living environment. Also taken into account to the greatest extent possible will be the principle of *flexible construction*, which facilitates the adaptation of units to the special needs of functionally disabled persons without major or expensive structural modifications.

Independent living

The city also contributes to the creation of conditions for independent living for persons with disabilities by co-financing **personal assistance** for those who are not entitled to the coverage of personal assistance costs directly from the State budget based on the Personal Assistance Act. Few hundred thousand EUR (around 400 thousand in 2018) is earmarked for organisations of disabled persons and other non-government organisations via regular public tenders for wide-ranging programmes in the areas of sports, culture, healthcare and social security. Those programmes contribute significantly to the strengthening of social inclusion and the active involvement of persons with disabilities in various areas of interest.

The City of Ljubljana earmarks more than EUR 10 million from the city budget annually for various forms of assistance and care to which the elderly and persons with disabilities in Slovenia are entitled under the law (this includes institutional care, family assistance at home and a family assistant service).

All measures implemented by the City of Ljubljana to respond to the needs of persons with disabilities are collected every two years in a special action plan that is discussed and approved by the Ljubljana City Council. We are committed to continuing our approach to work for full social inclusion of persons with disabilities and to provide a strong contribution to implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights in our city.

Ljubljana, 11 June 2019

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