



Stuttgart's Pledge to the European Pillar of Social Rights

A stronger social Europe is an inclusive Europe. Social rights should be guaranteed for all people in the EU in order to consolidate a united Europe. An inclusive Europe has the objective of one open society that addresses the needs of all people: differences are perfectly normal, barriers are eliminated and we construct a society, to which each and every one can contribute their skills. In the State Capital Stuttgart, we strive for barrier-free and self-determined access for all people equally, including people with disabilities.

Commitment to principle 17 "Inclusion of people with disabilities"

Cities play an important role in including people with disabilities at a local level. In Stuttgart, we take the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) very seriously. The participation of disabled people has been at the heart of the municipal council and the administration for years. The State Capital Stuttgart especially advocates the development of the urban society towards an inclusive community according to the CRPD, in which people with and without disabilities quite naturally live and work together and learn from each other.

44,000 people with severe disabilities live in Stuttgart. In 2015, we developed an action plan to implement the CRPD involving the citizens. The results are gradually being implemented by means of specific measures and resolutions. This is supported, promoted and accompanied by the city council that also incorporates inclusion into its political actions. The city council agreed on a guiding principle, which provides a framework for political actions considering the upcoming change processes in the State Capital Stuttgart. We consider it very important that people with disabilities have the opportunity to participate in urban life and shape the urban society self-determined. We advocate processes, structures, offers, services and institutions that are accessible and suitable for all, also for people with disabilities. To boost the city's development towards an inclusive urban society, Stuttgart invested in a variety of measures. With a budget of 1 million euros, we will fund suitable housing for disabled persons and seniors over the next years. Additionally, we will spend 110,000 euros per year on equal participation in recreational, sports and cultural activities. We invest over 1 million euros in barrier-free mobility as well as an additional 860,000 euros in inclusion in schools. We promote political participation of people with disabilities with 53,000 euros annually. The municipal administration created several new jobs to employ disabled persons and appointed an officer for people with disabilities.

We believe that all citizens, independent of their disability or their age, ethnic origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation or ideology, have the right to timely and individual support in order to improve self-determination and participation. For this reason, the State Capital Stuttgart strives for promoting principle 17 of the European Pillar of Social Rights. We will continue our budgetary and investment efforts over the next years and introduce further inclusion programmes focusing on people with disabilities. It is our goal to boost self-determination and participation of disabled people. Due to our efforts at a local level, we will support the European, national and regional strategies.

Werner Wölfle
Deputy Mayor for Social Affairs and Integration

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