

# MADRID'S PLEDGE TO THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

27 September 2018

*A stronger social Europe is only possible if people are at the centre of it. Social rights should be guaranteed for all in the EU, to build a more inclusive and cohesive Europe. In Madrid, we invest our efforts in ensuring equal access to and enjoyment of social rights by all, including those from low-income families or those in precarious situations.*

## **Commitment to principle 4 'active support to employment'**

Cities play a vital role in preventing and reducing long term unemployment at local level and in making labour markets more inclusive. For its part, Madrid provides valuable workforce development programmes and training services promoting the reintegration of the long term unemployed, particularly senior talent and experienced workers, into the labour market. We invest over €20 million annually in training and work experience programmes that reach more than 3,000 long term unemployed, to develop 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and to bring them back into the labour market.

We believe that, despite their age, all citizens have the right to timely and tailor-made assistance to improve employment or self-employment prospects. Accordingly, Madrid is committed to further advancing principle 4 of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

*We will continue with our budget and investment efforts over the next year and set up more programmes to implement employment policies. Our goal is to reduce long term unemployment in Madrid, by further investing €20 million to reach another 3,000 beneficiaries with particular focus on senior talent and experienced workers. We will thus contribute to European, national and regional strategies through provision of services at the local level.*

## **Commitment to principle 11 'childcare and support to children'**

We believe cities have a key role to play in ensuring social progress by promoting equal opportunities in education, starting from an early age, with access to affordable, accessible and quality early childhood education and care. For this reason, Madrid has built up a Municipal Nursery School Network, with 56 nursery schools and 13 under construction. We spent over €35 million in the 2018/2019 school year to improve access to high quality preschool education in the 56 nursery schools, in particular for children from low-income families, and we reduced childcare fees by 58% to 75%.

We believe all children have the right to quality, affordable early childhood education and care, so Madrid is pledging to make further progress on principle 11 in our city.

*We will build 13 more nursery schools next year and we will continue creating more places for childcare with the highest quality standards. Our goal is to increase nursery school placements by 10% by 2020, improving access to those from low-income or diverse backgrounds. This achievement will increase the employment opportunities of parents benefitting from affordable childcare service and for the staff hired by the Nursery Schools.*



Marta Higuera,  
First deputy mayor of Madrid