

Barcelona's Pledge to the European Pillar of Social Rights

A strong social Europe is a Europe of equity and solidarity. Barcelona is a social city that promotes openness, inclusion, social justice and equal opportunities. In all our programmes and services, we promote equality, human dignity and participation of people in policies that affect them. We strive to help everyone in our city as well as also welcome refugees and migrants to achieve their potential and become active members of society.

Commitment to the principle 14 on Minimum Income

Cities are gaining importance in providing people a decent life, and thus urban social policies, such as skills training, education and life-long learning, childcare, long-term care, minimum income and housing support, are turning themselves into the last resort in assuring people's welfare. Within this scenario, the EU Pillar of Social Rights sets out some common basic standards. In accordance, Barcelona is piloting a new minimum income scheme to mitigate poverty and social exclusion that simultaneously aims to reduce means-tested entitlements and bureaucratic expenditures, as well as the non-take-up and poverty traps associated to the traditional conditional cash transfers schemas.

Barcelona is taking an active role in reducing poverty and social exclusion, particularly, since the last economic crisis. Long-time unattended problems such as unemployment, poverty and social exclusion, have turned ten of the most deprived neighbourhoods of Barcelona -the Eix Besos- into the first-intervention area of the City Council. To address poverty and social exclusion, Barcelona is conducting the B-MINCOME project, a € 17 million pilot co-funded with € 5 million by the EU programme Urban Innovative Action. We wish that this two-year pilot combining a minimum income scheme and active policies will help 1.000 vulnerable households of the Eix Besos area to get out of poverty by the end of 2019. We are supporting people increase their income, labour skills and participation in the community as well as their ability to design their own strategies to improve their wellbeing in the long-term. Barcelona will apply the lessons learned from the B-MINCOME pilot, which is testing conditional and unconditional minimum income modalities, to collect information to improve its social policies to address new forms of urban poverty.

We believe the implementation of the EU Pillar of Social Rights should rely on a mid and long-term strategy where all urban actors are involved to contribute. Hence, B-MINCOME is not an isolated project, nor was designed exclusively by the municipal government. Rather, it is part of a four-year strategy over the Eix Besos where multiple a private, public and community actors are involved. Within this strategy and pursuing the EU Social Pillar recommendations, Barcelona is working to reduce social inequalities in the city by implementing three complementary programmes:

- The 2016-2020 Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development Strategy (EDUSI) for the Eix Besos, co-funded with €15 million by ERDF programme, aiming to fight socio-economic inequalities within different areas of the city and overcome environmental, social, demographic and climate problems through the intensification of integrated and sustainable development, altogether along with the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy.

- The Barcelona Neighbourhoods Plan 2016-2020, a 4 year and €150 million programme funded by the City Council, through which the 16 most deprived neighbourhoods, including the Eix Besos, are receiving social programmes investing both in their inhabitants' human capital and in the regeneration of the area.
- Barcelona is leading a partnership of nine European cities, the URBinclusion Network within the URBACT programme, whose goal is to disseminate knowledge about how to co-create social policies fighting poverty and reinforcing social cohesion in deprived urban areas, such as the Eix Besos.

We believe that all human beings have the right to a decent life. Barcelona is committed to promote the principle 14 of the European Pillar of Social Rights to improve the current minimum income policies and ensure that all people can have an adequate minimum income to lead a life in dignity at all stages of life.

Signature and date



Ms. Laia Ortiz
Deputy Mayor for Social Rights
Barcelona City Council

Barcelona, January 19, 2019