



### **Timisoara's Pledge to the European Pillar of Social Rights**

The EU should take into account requirements linked to the guarantee of adequate social protection and the fight against social exclusion. In Timisoara we strive for adequate social assistance measures for people of all ages with special attention for the most deprived ones like homeless.

#### **Commitment to principle 11: Childcare and support to children**

In Timisoara live around 52.000 children and the municipality is aware of its key role in ensuring access to childcare, education and social services for them. Children are a princely resource and efforts are made to increase participation in education for children coming from disadvantaged families and deprived areas. Day care centers and support and counseling centers for children and families are financed from the local budget because of their positive effects on children and their families: support for cognitive and social development, enhancement of their learning outcomes, prevention of early school-leaving and preparation of young adults to enter labor market.

The Local Strategy for Social Services Development 2017– 2022 includes general objectives as increasing the capacity of families in order to prevent child separation from family, identifying and providing support for children with parents working abroad. The objectives will be attained by improving children's access to quality services, developing working methodologies with stakeholders from community for a systemic approach, developing support services for children and families. The municipality is spending about 1 million euro/year for social services for children provided by the local public social assistance department and local NGOs.

Timisoara aims to improve social infrastructure in regarding support services for children and families by year 2025 with special emphasis on deprived neighborhoods. In the next years we plan to implement projects with an estimated value of 5 million euro in this direction.

#### **Commitment to principle 18: Long-term care**

The near future will confront a large ageing population since the life expectancy is increasing coupled with the decreasing number of birth rates. In Timisoara live around 47.000 elderly representing over 15% of Timisoara's population. Citizens in a rapidly ageing population are at greater risk of cognitive impairment, frailty and multiple chronic health conditions with considerable negative consequences for their independence, quality of life and for the sustainability of health and care systems. Many of Timisoara's elderly are confronted with the lack of family support because their children are working either in Timisoara, either in other EU countries. They become even more vulnerable after the death of one partner.

Municipality of Timisoara is aware and concerned about elderly in need for long term care and the Local Strategy for Social Services Development 2017-2022 has the objective "Diversification of support services and activation of elderly in order to increase their life quality". The objective will be attained on one hand by development and diversification of available care services and by increasing number of elderly who receive social services and on the other hand by supporting active involvement of elderly in community life. Currently Timisoara is spending around 1.500.000 euro/year for social services that provide care for elderly (residential care, day care centres, home care, teleassistance). Projects with a total budget of 1.500.000 euro aiming to improve care services for elderly will be developed in the next five years.

Timisoara aims to improve access to care services for elderly by year 2025. This will be achieved by setting early detection activities for elderly at risk, investments in existing and new services, developing and implementing efficient systems to provide inexpensive but superior monitoring services for the ageing population, involvement of elderly in community life.

#### **Commitment to principle 19: Housing and assistance for homeless**

Timisoara is the largest and most developed city in West of Romania. Like other socioeconomically developed cities in EU Timisoara is facing a large number of homeless people and a growing need for social housing. The municipality,

taking into account both National Strategy on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction and the local specificity, allocates annually public resources to cover part of the basic homeless needs.

At present, Timisoara municipality administrates a number of 1519 public houses (including social houses, public houses and public houses for young) with an estimated annual budget of 3.300.000 €. Municipality's Social Assistance Department coordinates a homeless shelter, a temporary shelter during the winter and a social canteen that provides up to 100 portions of daily meal for homeless. Also, public funds are allocated annually to local NGO's providing shelter, food and clothing for homeless. Around 1 million euro is allocated from the annual public budget for this support services.

Timisoara aims to further develop services for homeless with special emphasis on emergency intervention by year 2025. This will be done by improving the mobile intervention service, investments in specially equipped vehicle, including medical equipment and multidisciplinary team for interventions in socio-medical emergencies. The aim is to facilitate access to support and to provide an initial response to situations out of existing social centers and standard social services hours. Also we will make efforts to increase accommodation capacity for homeless by placing mobile houses resulting in an increase by 25% for homeless people that can get support.

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