



## **BOLOGNA'S PLEDGE ON THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS**

The Municipality of Bologna firmly believes that a truly strong, sustainable, socially and economically just Europe is possible by placing people and their wellbeing at the top of the agenda. Bologna endorses its responsibility to act in accordance with the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights and undertakes all feasible actions to put its principles into practice.

Bologna's territory, compared with other Italian areas, is quite rich in job opportunities and has always been a laboratory of social inclusion and promotion of people's rights, a city respectful of differences and active in fighting violence against women. In the last few years, however, along with the global trend towards urbanization, also our city is confronted with problems arising from the living together, issues that, if left uncontrolled, may lead to social conflict. Clearly, there is a growing need for a stronger management of urban policies, and social policies are naturally at the forefront.

In the Guidelines for the 2016-2021 Mandate Bologna has set its priorities to build a **community welfare system**, consisting in:

- the fight against poverty and the response to the different forms of social hardship, not only following the contingencies, but in order to build paths of autonomy;
- innovative development of policies and services for the elderly and for the people who are fragile and/or socially disadvantaged;
- reception and social inclusion of immigrants in a multicultural city;
- active employment policies and support to families in need

In this framework we would like to underline Bologna's efforts on **principle 2 and 19** of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

### **BOLOGNA'S COMMITMENT TO PRINCIPLE 2 ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

As the Deputy Mayor for Equal Opportunities underlines, by activating measures to combat gender stereotypes and violence, the community acquires a more equal system, with the female and male part of society progressing together, on equal footing, spreading a culture of mutual respect.

Since 2012 the Municipality has created a specific unit, firstly within the Mayor's Cabinet, then in its New Citizenships, Social Inclusion, Neighborhoods Area, coordinating and promoting projects aimed at implementing policies for equal opportunities and to enhance the value of differences. Through this specific unit, the Municipality is committed to coordinate a set of actions to fight gender stereotypes, to promote active policies focusing on equal opportunities for all, promoting women's work in companies, diversity management, corporate social responsibility and corporate welfare.

These actions are implemented through information campaigns and workshops in schools, through the active participation of the Municipality in local networks dedicated to gender issues and with the financial support to specific initiatives, also linked to fighting violence against women.

Since 2014, the Municipality of Bologna is an active member of *Gender Community*, a network of companies of the area that exchange on equal opportunities in terms of gender, enhancement of women's work in companies, diversity management, corporate social responsibility and corporate welfare. It promotes initiatives that lead to reflect on the issues of "women and work": good practices about women's employment, well-being in companies, gender pay gap, discrimination against women in the workplace.

In 2015, the Municipality of Bologna, in collaboration with the Metropolitan City and other local authorities and associations of the area, signed an agreement that outlines the reception system for women who have suffered violence on three levels: hospitality in prompt reception, hospitality in second reception (in shelters whose premises are assigned free of charge by the Metropolitan City), counseling, listening and support. The Municipality supports these activities with an annual contribution.

In addition, in 2017 the Municipality supported the creation of the "Centre without violence", a service managed by an association, to offer men who use or have used violence against partners or former partners free individual and/or group consultancy, aimed at supporting a change that leads to the cessation of their violent behavior and to a greater awareness of themselves and of the consequences that these behaviors produce on women, children and girls who are victims of it.

## **BOLOGNA'S COMMITMENT TO PRINCIPLE 19 ON ADEQUATE HOUSING**

The need for social/public housing in Bologna affects no less than 6.000 people that live on the edge or under the poverty threshold. Under current market prices, there is no chance for them to live in adequate housing: these families are exposed to a great risk of marginalization and social exclusion. An equal and inclusive Europe is possible when housing rights are recognized and promoted for all. Bologna considers the affordable housing issue a matter of citizenship and commits to diversify its planned actions to ensure access to adequate housing and thus contrast vulnerability and risk of social exclusion.

### **The plan for 1,000 houses**

By 2021, to meet the demand for accessible and adequate housing for families in state of social fragility, Bologna will provide 1000 new public houses, thus increasing its social housing assets, without increasing land consumption. The plan foresees a 60 million euro expenditure to renovate about 600 crumbling public apartments and to build about 400 new public dwellings on the city's brownfield sites.

### **Evictions protocol**

Evictions are a dramatic reflection of the economic crisis, since March 2017 Bologna signed the Evictions Protocol, incorporating the national legislation on arrearage due to loss of job owing to the financial and economic crisis. This protocol is an important tool to reduce housing eviction. Since the beginning of the protocol Bologna has supported 277 families who received an eviction notice and, thanks to these actions, there has been a substantial drop in eviction enforcements: from 1109 (in 2015) to 488 (in 2017). Until now the Municipality has provided grants for almost 1.4 million euros, and is working to maintain this protocol at least until 2021.



## **Co-housing**

After the inauguration of the first public co-housing in the city in 2017, Bologna is committed to the dissemination and implementation of this form of housing with great social impact, through a change in the urban plan (zoning laws) of the city that for the first time in Italy defines what is a collaborative housing and provides economic incentives for its implementation also to the cooperative and associative world. Moreover, given the success of the first experiment, Bologna will carry out other projects of public co-housing, looking for disused public buildings to be converted, continuing as in the pilot project, to offer a percentage of housing to families exposed to a serious risk of social exclusion. Pilot project, named "Porto 15", is one of the first entirely public co-housing projects in Italy, and consists of 18 apartments inside a building owned by a local public entity, located in the historic center of the city. The aim is to experiment a new form of collaborative living for young people under 35 years of age. The building renovation works were started in September 2015 along with the process of self-selection and training of the group of beneficiaries - activated with the definition of a "charter of values" that regulates the management of common spaces, times and activities. Currently 39 people live in Porto 15, paying a rent which is below the market threshold. Residents have signed a cooperation agreement with the Municipality and committed themselves to create networks of solidarity and to be open to the neighborhood - also using the common areas - with initiatives freely chosen by them. Services and spaces to be shared are distributed on each floor: living-dining areas with kitchen, laundry, leisure areas, etc. The project is carried out by a partnership between Municipality of Bologna and other public local Institutions (ASP and ACER) that have found a convergence of interests on this project: from the need to support the housing autonomy of young people, to that of innovating the models of public housing, and that of upgrading and enhancing the public real estate heritage, realizing works of social importance.

## **Housing Transition**

Bologna commits to face housing emergency also by the Housing Transition project, launched in 2014, consisting of about 300 public apartments where families in serious social fragility conditions are hosted and accompanied on a path to social and economic autonomy by a programme that includes orientation / work placement activities, educational and training support and help in searching for housing on the public or private market.

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