



Gothenburg's pledge to the European Pillar of Social Rights

A stronger social Europe is a more equal Europe where everyone has the right to inclusive education throughout their life cycle to be empowered to participate fully in society. In Gothenburg, we invest our efforts to create equality through our initiative **Equal Gothenburg** with lifelong learning for all people. In our city, equality means leaving no one behind and providing support to people who need it the most to build a city of well-being for all people.

Commitment to principle 1 'education, training and lifelong learning'

In Gothenburg, we offer a good start in life to all children and lifelong learning at all ages to ensure everyone can achieve their full potential in education, work and well-being, regardless of socio-economic or other background. We take three steps in lifelong learning:

- From an early age, we provide parenting support to all families and early reading to ensure language development for all children. Our Gothenburg initiative 'The City where we read to our children' helps children thanks to early reading and storytelling to have had a good linguistic start in life, preventing gaps in child development and ensuring equal opportunities for schooling and work later in life. Within that program we also have a special initiative in the most deprived areas called 'Book start' where the unexperienced parents are offered two visits and 4 books per family. Under the pilot we worked in three areas and reached 480 families. We will continue now with 11 deprived areas, all children that are born from 2017 and coming years will this offer, and it's financed until 2021. What we have seen so far is that most families accept this offer and therefore we have the goal to reach up to 80 % this year and by 2021 up to 100 %.
- For young people, the city of Gothenburg creates the conditions to complete studies with a qualification. We invest efforts to prevent dropout and ensure tailored learning pathways to meet the learning needs of each student. In 2018, 2953 students (92 %) completed their studies in the national programs after three years and 326 students (8 %) had dropped out. Our ambitions are to reduce the number of drop outs even more.
- For adults, we will continue to ensure opportunities for adult education. Our goal is to reduce inequalities in living conditions by giving adults a good 'second chance' to finalise incomplete studies and obtain qualifications needed to enter the labour market. The city of Gothenburg works closely with employers to offer people in difficulty of finding a job, especially migrants, programmes that combine language skills and technical training with work experience in a company. We will continue to invest in this 'step-by-step job and knowledge ladder'. In the next years, we will work with employers to adapt the requirements to ensure reasonable conditions for workers to enter the labour market. We will invest in validation of learning and professional skills and stimulate the creation of social enterprises and cooperatives.
- We believe that all our residents have the right to reach their full potential in society. It is our goal in Gothenburg to give all residents equitable conditions for inclusive education, training and lifelong learning, to prepare for entering the labour market and leading a healthy life and well-being. We aim to achieve equal living conditions based on education.

The Political Committee on Social Welfare, The City of Gothenburg 11th of December 2018

Marina Johansson

Deputy Mayor and Chair



City of
Gothenburg

Kristina Bergman Alme

Vice Chair