



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

January 2019

A stronger social Europe is only possible if it is inclusive for all. Milan is firmly committed to building a plural and inclusive society. We invest our efforts in ensuring equal access to social rights, services and opportunities for all, including migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees. Despite the increasingly hostile approach to immigration at national level, Milan is determined to keep playing a positive role in the management of migrant flows and protection challenges, by promoting an inclusive approach to access to services and participation in the city life.

### **Commitment to Principle 3 “Equal Opportunities”**

Cities play a fundamental role in ensuring that social protection and welfare systems are in place and equally accessible to all. Developing social inclusion strategies for people in vulnerable situations, including migrants, asylum-seekers, refugees and unaccompanied migrant minors, is at the very core of Milan's local priorities and policies.

Milan is a unique example in the Italian context, as the city has hosted thousands of asylum-seekers and refugees in its CAS (first-level Emergency Reception System) and SPRAR (second-level System for the Protection of Asylum-seekers and Refugees) centres since 2013, through investing its own resources as well as funds allocated by the Italian Ministry of Interior. In the last years, Milan has also furthered its commitment to promoting long-term integration solutions, by reinforcing the City's leading role in the area of social rights and inclusion. On the one hand, we strengthened the provision of integration services (such as Italian language courses, professional training, labour market integration support, volunteering activities, etc.) in both CAS and SPRAR centres. For instance, more than 600 vocational training and internship opportunities were activated for SPRAR guests between 2016 and 2018, with a 30% hiring rate by the companies involved in the job placement projects. On the other hand, Milan asked the Italian Government for an increase in the number of places available for adult refugees in SPRAR centres, from 422 to 1,000 places.

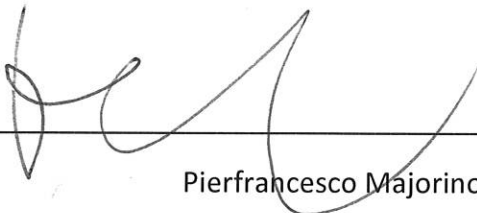
However, the new directives of the Government that took office in June 2018 led to the adoption of Law No. 132 of 1 December 2018, which determined a change in the Italian normative framework on immigration and international protection in a restrictive way. Changes include, inter alia, the revision of the SPRAR system and the abolition of the residence permit on humanitarian grounds, with the risk of considerable alterations in future reception and integration prospects. Even within this adverse national context, although it will not be possible to implement the ambitious expansion of the SPRAR project, Milan remains strongly committed to ensuring the provision of reception and inclusion services, particularly to those in vulnerable situations who will be most affected by the recent legislative changes.

Accordingly, Milan is committed to further advancing principle 3 of the European Pillar of Social Rights by investing over € 2 million, including national and EU funds, between 2019 and 2021 to

implement priority projects for the promotion of equal opportunities for migrants, asylum-seekers, refugees and unaccompanied migrant minors, such as:

- a renewed family reunification service, which includes pre-departure support and assistance to newly reunited families in Milan;
- an innovative and multifunctional Service Centre for Unaccompanied Migrant Minors;
- a centralized service to coordinate all the Italian language courses and training opportunities offered by various organisations in Milan;
- a collaboration with the healthcare system to address asylum-seekers and refugees' vulnerability to mental distress, through dedicated mental health and ethno-psychiatry services;
- an international Human Mobility Centre to support the development of Voluntary Assisted Returns and Reintegration opportunities;
- the creation of one stop shops and multidisciplinary mobile units for identifying and addressing situations of particular vulnerability, in close coordination with local welfare services.

By facts on the ground, solidarity and public initiatives, Milan will continue to be a city without walls, open to all those who wish to become Milanese.



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