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WARSAW'S PLEDGE TO THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

A Europe stronger in social terms is a Europe of active residents, open metropolises and places which are friendly to all. Warsaw is a city which makes all its residents feel welcome, irrespective of their place of birth and views. In the years to come, we will focus on the city's development understood as taking care of the quality of life. All the people who live in Warsaw should benefit from the opportunities created by the capital. This includes the more vulnerable individuals, for whom we must create conditions for the best-possible life. We have two fundamental goals – to invest for Varsovians and to invest in Varsovians.

Commitment to principle 11 Childcare and support to children

The demographic growth recorded in Warsaw makes the development of the early childcare system one of the principal objectives of Warsaw's family policy. Securing the residents' needs in terms of crèche care is a tremendous challenge. One of the paramount objectives of the City of Warsaw is to undertake measures aimed at improving the accessibility of public and non-public services in the field of providing care for children under 3, by increasing the number of care facilities for the youngest Varsovians, including non-public ones.

Starting from 2019 all children in Warsaw will benefit from free crèche care. If no place can be found in a public (municipal) crèche, the city will pay for care in a private one. At the same time, Warsaw will continue its programme of building new public crèches.

At present, the City offers 7389 places in 64 crèches and 12 mini municipal crèches. Furthermore, in December 2018, organising care for children under 3 was commissioned in 16 non-public entities with 469 places. There are also 27 day-carers who take care of 135 children.

4 crèches will be opened in 2019, and they will offer 560 places. At least 36 new crèches for 5000 children will be established between 2019 and 2023. These projects will be implemented in those districts in which the demand for care centres is the highest. The cost of these projects, including their launch, is estimated at PLN 306,000,000. Moreover, we are planning to buy 4000 to 6200 places in non-public facilities. The percentage of children benefiting from crèches in Warsaw will grow to reach at least 15% by 2023.

Also, one of the objectives of the City of Warsaw is to constantly improve the quality of service provided by the employees of public crèches. In the near future, we will organise training courses to improve the skills and competencies of crèche staff as regards the developmental problems observed in small children, building bonds and relations with children, preventing child abuse, and communication and support with parents. In addition, we will organise workshops in emotional intelligence for carers in crèches.

In relation to the development of crèche infrastructure, we will also focus on training people willing to work as carers and/or establish their own business in the field of care for children under 3. We will undertake to attract candidates for carers and conduct 280-hour training courses concluded with an exam.

The declared measures are consistent with the principles of the Family Programme – creating favourable conditions for the life and growth of families. Developing a network of care options for children aged 0-3 is a form of supporting their parents, which will make it possible for them to reconcile professional and private life.