

Vienna Pledge to the European Pillar of Social Rights

Short Political message/introduction

Commitment to Principle 11 “Early Childhood Education and Care”

In Vienna affordable early and high-quality childhood education and care are a reality. There are almost 58.000 kindergarten places for children from 3 to 5 years old corresponding to a coverage rate of more than 100 percent. For children between 0 and 2 years, there are nearly 28.000 places, representing a coverage rate of nearly 50%.

In Vienna an education plan for all kindergartens is mandatory since 2006. This plan provides binding guidelines for early education professionals while deliberately leaving a lot of pedagogical freedom in implementation. The plan supports activities related to communication, language, culture, technology and nature or conflict management. Compliance is checked and monitored by a municipal authority, and unannounced inspections also serve to monitor other quality aspects at kindergartens.

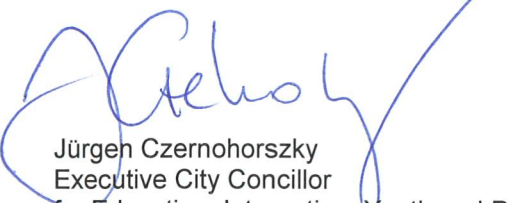
In autumn 2009, the city introduced a non-contributory kindergarten system, kindergarten places are free of charge for all children from 0 to 5 years old. The system is another milestone for the welfare of Viennese families relieving them from the financial burden and also facilitating holistic education and development for children. Vienna's non-contributory kindergarten system is unique in Austria not only in terms of quality, but also in terms of quantity. Since 2009 more than 250.000 children have benefited from the non-contributory kindergarten and parents have saved up to € 3.000 annually. Additionally, almost all kindergartens have opening hours compatible with full-time employment for parents.

The training of kindergarten staff has also been improved constantly. For example, new training models have enabled graduated adult to qualify as professional kindergarten teachers. In addition, a new pedagogical training programme for trained support staff has been launched. All of these measures have helped to improve educational opportunities for children with disadvantaged backgrounds.

Vienna will continue to adhere to the non-contributory kindergarten system. The education plan and training models will continue to evolve. Furthermore, the City of Vienna will rise efforts to create additional kindergarten places for children aged 0 to 2 in order to reflect the increasing care demand for this age group.

Good early childhood education builds the basement for a prosper educational career, which is a core concern of Viennese educational policy for the successful future of a growing city.

Vienna, 18th September 2019



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