



**REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
CITY OF ZAGREB
MAYOR**

Zagreb, 16 October 2019

ZAGREB'S PLEDGE TO THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

The City of Zagreb strives to provide all citizens with the opportunity to make use of the services which will help them live a quality life. With this in mind, we would like for all people to be able to live a life tailored to their needs, therefore we consider that European Pillar of Social Rights creates a great opportunity to achievement this goal. The city of Zagreb is committed to support to the implementation of the principles 16 on healthcare and principle 3 on equal opportunities at local level.

Within its competence, the city of Zagreb supports principle 16 on healthcare

The Croatian Constitution enforces to “accord particular attention to the protection of human health, nature and the human environment”. Within those goals set out by strategic documents and the institutional strategic City project Zagreb – Healthy City (*Zagreb – zdravi grad*), the City of Zagreb is focusing its actions on vulnerable age groups; children, women and the elderly, people with special needs, and on the protection of health for the working population or illness people. Therefore, the City of Zagreb is working to implement measures and procedures aimed at the protection of human health, in cooperation with health care institutions, concessioners, civil society organisations, including expert bodies, foundations and patient associations.

The City of Zagreb has created and implemented several efficient free programmes for its citizens. Some of them, have been recognised by the Government of the Republic of Croatia and integrated, entirely or partly, in the national health strategy such as:

- “Preventive mobile mammography for women over 40” (in 2017 60-70% breast cancers are diagnosed in early stage and mortality is decreased for 15-20%),
- “Prevention of cervical cancer and other diseases caused by HPV” (in 2018 vaccine coverage of targeted pupil population reached 32%),
- “Amblyopia in four-year olds in the City of Zagreb” amblyopia screening project (the biggest ophthalmology project in the world)
- “Programme for Promoting and Improving Breastfeeding Practices in the Community”,
- “preventive skin screening project Act now” (*Djeluj sada*) - a joint project by the Association for skin cancer prevention and the City of Zagreb
- community based testing centre “checkpoint Zagreb” - a joint project by the Croatian Association for HIV and the City of Zagreb (in 2018 included in WHO Compendium of good practices in HIV infections).

In 2017, the City of Zagreb also became the first Croatian city to be declared a dementia-friendly community and committed to act for a better life for its dementia patients.

For above health projects City of Zagreb provides funding in its budget approximately 500.000,00 EUR yearly.

In the next years, the city of Zagreb makes the commitment to further develop the aforementioned projects and to implement new projects, such as “Project for early detection of risks and intervention in early childhood, which is budgeted in 2020 with 160.000,00 EUR.

Within its competence, the city of Zagreb supports principle 3 on equal opportunities

The City of Zagreb is engaged to raise awareness of complying with human rights and equal opportunities, women rights and gender equality, combating racial, sexual and religious discrimination, ensuring freedom of speech and association. The City of Zagreb has signed an agreement with the Faculty of Law of the University of Zagreb, on 2014, to co-finance the Law Clinic of Faculty. The objective is to improve the standard of the legal protection of citizens by offering pro bono legal help to vulnerable person who are facing difficulties in exercising its legal rights, due to lack of knowledge of the legal system.

In line with the Constitutional Act on National Minorities' Rights, activities aiming at improving relations with national minorities in the City of Zagreb are continuously carried out. The local Act on the Election of National Minority Councils and Representatives guarantees to the members of national minorities the right to elect members of national minority councils and national minority representatives in the units of local and regional self-government so that they could take part in the public life and management of local activities. In accordance with the Constitutional Act, the Coordination of National Minorities was established in the City of Zagreb to represent common interests of 9 councils and 11 representatives of national minorities at the city level. The City supports the activities of 35 religious communities as well as projects related to further expression of religious beliefs. Via the Public tender, the City of Zagreb Budget finances associations carrying out activities promoting human rights. The city is also co-funding and allocating EU funds to support programmes promoting human rights and equal opportunities

The City of Zagreb is convinced that the aforementioned principles will contribute to enable all citizens of Europe to live a life of human dignity.

Yours sincerely,

Milan Bandić
Mayor of Zagreb

