

## Amsterdam's pledge to the EU Pillar of Social Rights

*Amsterdam has changed drastically in terms of population and economic development. It is not always easy to deal with the consequences. Sometimes the liveable inclusive city is more of an ambition than a reality. The City of Amsterdam aims to reduce inequality and structurally prevent that social status and the place where you are born determines the future of our citizens. One of the City of Amsterdam's main priorities is that all citizens have equal opportunities to participate in the city life.*

### **Amsterdam's commitment to principle 1: education, training and life-long learning**

#### **Vocational education**

Everyone has the right to quality and inclusive education, training and life-long learning in order to maintain and acquire skills that enable them to participate fully in society and manage successfully transitions in the labour market.

This is why Amsterdam invests €16.356.000 (2019-2023) in vocational education, to ensure that it's innovative and strong. Because of this the educational teams are experimenting and developing new educational content and forms of education to teach the students the skills that are desperately needed on the Amsterdam labour market. The cooperation with the business community is the key to success and therefore collaboration is intensive and interactive. In this manner Amsterdam supports young people and there is additional attention to all students in a vulnerable educational position. Our aim with this program is to reach 27,000 young people and 3,000 teachers.

#### **Adult education**

A good language proficiency is essential for optimal integration and participation in society. A lack of language skills can lead to a number of problems in areas like the labour market, health care and poverty. This goes for both immigrants and native citizens. In our increasingly more digital society the same can be said for a lack of digital skills. The City of Amsterdam finds it very important that all citizens have the same opportunities to participate and therefore aims to increase literacy in the Dutch language for its citizens. The policy framework 'A Language Offense' (2019-2022) offers a solid plan with different programs to reach its citizens with different, tailored language and digital skills programs.

In each of the years 2019-2022 the city invests €10,7 million euros in both formal education and informal learning (collaboration with civil society). Each year the city expects to reach around 5,000 people with professional courses and 560 with additional language practice with volunteers. On top of that the aim is to improve the network of stakeholders (language providers, community centers, libraries, employers, governmental bodies) to come to a shared, sustainable approach to improve Dutch literacy in Amsterdam.

Also on behalf of deputy-major Simone Kukenheim,  
Yours sincerely,

