

Central Administration

30.1.2019

Turku's pledge to the European Pillar of Social Rights

A stronger social Europe is only possible if people have equal opportunities to health and well-being. In Turku, we invest our efforts in making our city a good place to live and succeed together. Our special attention is on participating young people, vulnerable groups and neighborhoods.

Commitment to principle 3. "Equal opportunities"

The overall status of health and well-being in Finland has improved over the past decades. However, this improvement has not led to a decrease in health inequalities among socio-economic and other subgroups of the population. There are also big differences between the neighborhoods of the city.

The key elements of improvement are participation and community involvement. In Turku we have three main approaches: communication, cooperation and interaction between citizens, city officials and decision-makers.

From 2019 onward Turku has decided as a strategic objective to focus on promoting equal opportunities of young people and neighborhoods. The city will find and test new operating models for narrowing the welfare gap and preventing social exclusion. Promoting participation and involving people is many times more a question of will than skills. The city officials are provided tools, training and means of motivation to take people as part of the planning and decision-making.

Commitment to principle 4. "Active support to employment"

Unemployment is a major challenge for Europe and its cities. Turku provides unemployed people with individual assessment and personalized support for job search, training and re-qualification with the aim of ending unemployment at the earliest possible stage. The service point includes a centre of excellence on employment services for immigrants. It works in a close cooperation with a broad network with other authorities, enterprises, service providers and NGOs. Turku invests 20 million euros on the employment service point and reaches 2.000 persons per year.

Turku is a pioneer in establishing comprehensive youth guarantee schemes and is committed in continuing this effective work. The youth guarantee means that each young person under 25 and recently graduated people under 30 will be offered a job, a traineeship, a study place, or a period in a workshop or rehabilitation.

City of Turku, 30 January 2019



Minna Arve
Mayor of Turku