



Pledge to the European Pillar of Social Rights

Employment and qualification are central aspects of an inclusive and social city for all. This is especially true in a rapidly changing world of work due to digital transformation. One of the main priorities of Berlin's labour market policies is the provision of active support for decent and secure employment. The Berlin Senate promotes the search for employment, the maintenance of jobs and the creation of new job offers through a variety of measures. These measures aim to support, for example, young people, the (long term-) unemployed and people with difficulties on the labour market. In Berlin - as a major city - processes of change are highly concentrated. In times of the COVID-19 pandemic it is even more important for the city to test new labour market tools.

Berlin's commitment to principle 4 - Active support to employment

Promoting employment: Solidary Basic Income for long-term unemployed

Berlin is committed to fight long-term unemployment and provide active support to re-integration on the labour market. We pledge to support 1.000 long-term unemployed Berliners to find work, improve their skills and benefit society. To guarantee this, we introduced the Solidary Basic Income. It was created by the Berlin Senate as an additional tool for promoting the development of the labour market, fully financed by the State of Berlin for a period of five years with a total budget of € 167 million. In the scope of this programme, 1.000 long-term unemployed Berliners have the chance to take up a job in one of eleven pre-defined areas. The jobs intend to serve the well-being of society and the public interest of the State of Berlin. If there is no transition to regular employment within the five years, the State of Berlin guarantees continued ongoing employment for beneficiaries.

The Solidary Basic Income meets three key targets: It provides work in the early stages of long-term unemployment. It helps participants build up key competencies and skills and promotes transition to the general labour market. And it also promotes permanent employment that benefits society. The offered jobs are bound by collective agreements, in accordance with the principle of "Decent Work".

In 2019, 214 prospective employers registered 1.760 jobs in the programme. Having validated these offers, the programme is now in the phase of matching the announced jobs with long-term unemployed Berliners. Currently, more than 500 of the 1.000 financed jobs have been filled. The full amount of 1.000 jobs should be achieved by the end of 2020.

Strengthening Youth Employment: Jugendberufsagentur (Youth Employment Agency) Berlin

Berlin is committed to support all young people under 25 to obtain a vocational qualification and get the support they need to enter the labour market'. In 12 local branch offices, young people are given comprehensive advice, individual goals and prospects are developed jointly with the young adults and realistic qualification programmes are offered. All available instruments are combined with coordinated support measures and used to support the young adults until they obtain a vocational qualification or in some cases, find long-term employment.

The Jugendberufsagentur Berlin is based on a State-level collaboration agreement between the Senate Department for Education, Youth and Families, the Senate Department for Integration, Labour and Social Services, the Federal Employment Agency Berlin-Brandenburg (regional head office) and Berlin's twelve district administrations (Youth Welfare and Social Services). All partners – who are present with six different services in every branch office - have a shared interest in finding ideal solutions to help young people find long-term gainful employment and lead independent lives. The concerted action and cross-legal cooperation of all players facilitates consensus. The Jugendberufsagentur is a "One-stop solution" – young people do not get lost going from one institution to another but benefit from more transparent processes of transition to the labour market.

The target group of the Jugendberufsagentur Berlin includes all young people, generally under 25 years old, who are about to finish school and enter the job market, and are Berlin residents. This transitional phase ends once the young people successfully obtain a vocational qualification. The target group also includes registered refugees who are under 25 years old, even those who (still) have no permanent registered address in Berlin.

In 2019 around 70.000 young people came to ask for advice in one of the 12 local branch offices of the Jugendberufsagentur Berlin. An additional 10.000 young people with multiple problems were contacted by outreach offers of the Jugendberufsagentur Berlin during the last year. A total staff of more than 600 experts is present on site - five days a week.

Outlook

The City of Berlin is convinced that a strong commitment to the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights is an important contribution to a more social Europe – especially in times of the Covid-19 pandemic. We will therefore continue to work at the local level for a stronger social dimension of the European Union.



Elke Breitenbach
Senator for Integration, Labour and Social Services

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