



## Stuttgart's Pledge to the European Pillar of Social Rights

A strong social Europe is a Europe with the same chances for everybody. Europe's strength lies in its responsibility for peace and social justice. Living up to this responsibility means to take in people fleeing from war and displacement, to offer protection and support in finding a new home. A strong Europe welcomes newcomers in local communities and encourages their integration and participation in social and economic life. A proven instrument of the state capital Stuttgart is to empower the refugees as soon as possible. This means that the city offers support right from the beginning so that they can contribute to and actively take part in society with their competencies and potentials.

### Commitment to principle 3 "Equal Opportunities"

„Everyone that lives in Stuttgart is a Stuttgarter, no matter what passport, ethnical background or residence permit they have". People from more than 180 different nations live in Stuttgart. The refugees that have been living here since 2015 and have become a part of our city society also belong to this open-minded and diverse Stuttgart. The integration policy concept "Stuttgart Bündnis für Integration" (Stuttgart Pact for Integration) is the foundation for successful integration and participation in our international and inclusive community. Hand in hand with our alliance partners in politics, administration and civil society we are responsible for living peacefully together and on equal terms.

Among all the refugees living in Stuttgart still approximately 6,000 live in 100 accommodations in 23 city districts organized by the city. People seeking protection from violence and persecution will be staying with us for a longer period of time. Therefore it is all the more important to facilitate arriving and participating in the social life in a new city and to accompany the new fellow residents. The admission and integration of refugees is based on the model "Stuttgarter Weg" (Stuttgart Model of refugee integration). This concept comprises coordinated measures for accommodating and supporting refugees and is jointly organized by the city and welfare organisations. We focus on decentralized accommodation in all city districts and well-connected infrastructure. We support the people with offers for all areas of life e.g. kindergartens, schools, language courses, shopping opportunities, health care, cultural and leisure activities. We consider the integration of the refugees as a macro-social task of administration, politics and civil society. We count on voluntary "circles of friends" as a vital pillar of our refugee work. And we also count on the empowerment of refugees for refugees to help them to help themselves to promote their competencies and potentials. We spent 57 million euros in 2015 and 77 million euros in 2019 for this cause.

One of the most important topics is the integration into the labor market. Next to securing subsistence the Jobcenter Stuttgart offers individual, holistic and family-centered consulting at eye level with a specialized and interculturally trained team.

Equality of women and men is consistently assured. The approximately 7,000 supported refugees are advised with regard to their individual education perspectives and labor market opportunities and have access to numerous vocational language support offers, tailor-made education and integration measures. Accompanying offers e.g. language learning and interpreter modules help in accessing and participating successfully. The integration rate in labor or vocational training regularly lies above the federal average. Especially innovative approaches e.g. the European model project "FIER" (Fast Track Integration in European Regions) or "Netzwerk ABC" achieve integration rates of over 60 %. The Jobcenter Stuttgart spent 195 million euros for the described measures from 2015 to 2019. Approximately 50 million euros were municipal expenses, the rest were administered federal funds.

We guarantee to constantly shape the future of the refugees in Stuttgart for a successful integration in the city society. As the capital city of Baden-Württemberg we will also fulfill our humanitarian responsibility and support the Initiative SEEBRÜCKE and will take in refugees from Moria.

Integration is a permanent task and a process that still needs to be skillfully mastered considering the current global political challenges, rising immigration figures and especially the time of pandemic. Integration also means that city society will continue changing. Stuttgart's strength lies in supporting and consolidating social cohesion for a stronger Stuttgart and for a stronger Europe.

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