



Düsseldorf's pledge to the EU Pillar of Social Rights Commitment to the principle 19 "Housing and assistance for the homeless"

As the capital city of the most populous federal state in Germany, we aim to follow the objective of the European Platform on Homelessness "to overcome homelessness by 2030." Therefore, we will continue to focus on the vulnerable group of homeless people in the future. In order to achieve this, suitable accommodation and housing options need to be created and provided to homeless individuals. Currently, the capital city has: 240 individuals living on the streets, 300 individuals in emergency shelters, 1,400 individuals in municipal shelters and 1,800 individuals in refugee accommodations with a homeless status.

To adequately support these groups of people, the city of Düsseldorf offers and finances the following services and projects:

Housing First – Placement and support in regular housing for individuals living on the streets. Funding provided by the city of Düsseldorf: 90 hours per week of social work. In addition, acquisition and coordination are provided by the registered Housing First society.

State initiative *Endlich ein ZUHAUSE!* (translated: Finally A HOME!) – Placement and support in regular housing for individuals transitioning from the homelessness system who meet the requirements as leaseholders. Funding provided by the city of Düsseldorf: Two full-time positions for acquisition and project coordination. Additionally, one full-time position for acquisition and two full-time positions for social work are supported by the European Social Funds and co-financed by participating organizations.

Probewohnen (translated: Trial Living) – Placement and support for individuals with long-term stays in homeless shelters, in housing initially rented by the city of Düsseldorf, with the aim of taking over the lease agreement. Funding provided by the city of Düsseldorf: One full-time position for acquisition and building maintenance, as well as two full-time positions for social work.

Until these individuals can be placed in housing, it is necessary to provide dignified accommodation that preserves and promotes their self-efficacy. This is reflected in the occupancy of single individuals with a maximum of two persons per room in emergency shelters and single occupancy in homeless shelters. Couples and families are generally provided with separate housing units. Additionally, a majority of the emergency shelters offer daytime stay for the individuals.

In addition to the common services provided for the homeless (e.g., street work, counseling centers, daycare facilities, specialized assistance facilities, and social services in shelters), the city of Düsseldorf offers the following specialized services for particularly vulnerable individuals:

Düsseldorfer Obdach Unterstützung (translated: Düsseldorf's Support Shelter): Long-term accommodation for older and/or somatically ill individuals with medical support needs.

Düsseldorfer Obdach Plus (translated: Düsseldorf's Shelter Plus): Long-term accommodation for individuals with a chronic mental illness.

Friedrich-Ebert-Straße 55 (address): Especially protected short- and long-term accommodation without access for men, for single women and mothers with children.

Humanitarian Aid for EU Citizens: Year-round overnight accommodation and counseling for EU citizens who have been residing in Düsseldorf for a minimum of three months and do not have entitlement to benefits in Germany.

Sector Plus: Outreach social psychiatric service for individuals living on the streets and in emergency shelters.

The municipal accommodation and placement of particularly vulnerable individuals continuously presents new challenges, which is why needs must be assessed periodically to create tailored services. Under current conditions, the establishment of daytime stays in existing emergency shelters would be particularly helpful, especially as part of the humanitarian aid for EU citizens. Furthermore, a regulated support structure is needed for individuals with somatic, mental, and substance use disorders, including those with comorbidities and individuals without entitlement to benefits.

Experience has shown that municipal, intensive, resource-oriented social work with homeless people enables successful placement in regular housing and ensures sustainable housing stability. That is why the city of Düsseldorf continues to acknowledge the need for social work in this field and promises increased support to bring us closer to the goal of the European Platform on Homelessness to "overcome homelessness by 2030."

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