



## City of Leipzig

### Pledge to the European Pillar of Social Rights

Like many European cities, Leipzig is facing both population growth, increasing social segregation and a changing age structure of its residents. The number of under-18-year-olds has grown by 40 % in the past 10 years. This increases the demand on the city's educational infrastructure. Similarly, new pedagogical approaches and the need for architectural flexibility and sustainability require new ideas for facilities for children and young people. With its new building strategy for childcare centres and schools, the City of Leipzig commits itself to investing heavily into a futureproof education and care infrastructure that meets the needs of all children and young people in Leipzig.

#### **Commitment to principles 1 „Education, training and life-long learning “ and 11 “Childcare and support to children”**

As a city, Leipzig is responsible for building and maintaining the local educational infrastructure as well as providing sufficient places in childcare. Accordingly, the city has been investing substantially in its educational infrastructure for many years. However, the population continues to grow dynamically and a considerable part of the facilities are in need of modernisation. In order to meet this challenge in a more strategic manner, in 2022 the city adopted an ambitious strategy for building, maintaining and upgrading its infrastructure for children and young people. According to that, Leipzig is planning to invest on average 200 mio. € into its schools and another 40 mio. € into childcare and youth work facilities every year. This constitutes a major financial commitment within the city's annual budget of 2 bn. €.

The investment into schools focuses primarily on building new and enlarging existing schools all over the city in order to meet the growing demand. While the city can already provide enough places in childcare centres, many of them need to be renovated and updated to modern standards. Additionally, several facilities for open youth work and youth welfare require structural renewal. Concretely, this means that every year on average more than 20 new projects will be started. This large number requires a prioritisation of projects within the strategy. Furthermore, projects are grouped into clusters, that take into account the need for temporary interims and a realistic allocation of human and financial resources.

The strategy allows for a systematic handling of investment needs and creates transparency for schools, citizens and political actors alike. Its citywide focus is on strengthening equal care-, learning- and teaching conditions for children and young people in all neighborhoods. This includes better conditions for the inclusion of students with disabilities, room for teaching across classes and grades, facilities for extracurricular educational programmes for children and families as well as the opening up of schools to the whole neighborhood. In selected neighborhoods, different types of schools are also combined in new school campuses to allow for greater cooperation and permeability within the school system. The city thus uses the necessity for large-scale infrastructure investments as an opportunity to implement innovative approaches for educational equality.

The strategy is accompanied by a programme to equip communal schools and child care centres with up-to-date digital technology to facilitate learning and teaching as well as working with parents. It also feeds into Leipzig's efforts to become more energy efficient. Until 2030, the modernisation of school buildings is expected to be completed. This will add significantly to the modernisation of communal building stock. Renewable energy sources are used to reduce carbon footprint in new and renovated buildings and some new buildings are built with climate-friendly materials such as wood. From 2030 to 2036, the focus will be on a continuous cycle of renovations to keep existing buildings in shape. The strategy is monitored every three months and updated every year to account for new developments and demands.

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