



**PREZYDENT  
MIASTA KATOWICE**

**Commitments of the City of Katowice to Implement the European Pillar of Social Rights**

**Commitment to Principle 12: "Protection from being very poor"**

"In 2024 and 2025, the City of Katowice will ensure the operation of social shops for people facing life difficulties due to unforeseen circumstances such as illness or sudden job loss."

Anyone who lacks sufficient resources has the right to adequate minimum income benefits, ensuring a dignified life at all stages of life and effective access to goods and services. The City of Katowice, responding to people in difficult life situations, has partnered with the non-governmental organization Fundacja Wolne Miejsce to establish social shops in Katowice. Currently, there are two shops like this operating in the city. The authorities of Katowice aim not only to make life more affordable and convenient for those who come and shop at these stores but also to genuinely and permanently improve their quality of life.

The first social shop in Katowice was opened in December 2020. Currently, two such shops are operating in Katowice. The first is located at Tysiąclecia Street 82, and the second is at Świdnicka Street 25. The shops are run by the Katowice-based non-governmental organisation Fundacja Wolne Miejsce, which received premises from the city for renovation, and funding in the form of grants.

The offer of "Spichlerz" is primarily directed at people who find themselves in material hardships and are at risk of social exclusion. The main principle of the shops' operation is to sell products where the total cost of goods in the shopping basket does not exceed 50% of the market price. The shops are accessible to people with special referrals issued by the Municipal Social Welfare Centre in Katowice or by Fundacja Wolne Miejsce. As of 31 July 2024, the social shops have been visited 165,768 times.

The two social shops operating in Katowice contribute to improving the quality of life for people in difficult situations. This project was awarded in the "The Innovation in Politics Awards 2021" competition and won the first prize in the "Innovative Local Government 2022" poll.

The initiative to run social shops in Katowice is an important step towards supporting people in difficult financial situations. These shops not only lower the cost of purchases but also offer a wide range of support that can contribute to improving the quality of life for their clients.

The operation of such shops aims not only to meet basic food and material needs but also to create a space where these people can feel supported and integrated into the local community.

It is worth emphasising that the goal of these activities is also to promote social solidarity and counteract social exclusion. Social shops have become places where not only shopping is done but also interpersonal relationships are built, and a sense of community belonging is fostered. Additionally, in times of crisis and in line with the zero-waste idea, the creation of these shops was aimed at reducing the massive scale of food waste and the widespread bad habit of throwing away good products that are still fit for consumption. In this way, we want to show that our consumption can be different, more responsible.



In 2024, Katowice will allocate PLN 130,000.00 for this purpose.

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Marcin Krupa

