



Join the EURO CITIES launch of new initiative 'Inclusive Cities for All: Social Rights in My City'

City politicians will present pledges to implement the Pillar and hold a political debate with MEPs on the future of social Europe



[Register here](#)

Introduction

Following the first anniversary of the European Pillar of Social Rights, EUROCIITIES is organising a political event with the support of the European Parliament and the European Commission to present the cities' commitment to transfer the Pillar's principles into actions.

Cities have already taken action in recent years by collaborating through the EUROCIITIES Declaration on work to create conditions for more and better jobs and to make labour markets more inclusive. In October 2017, EUROCIITIES adopted a statement ['Social Rights for All: Cities are committed to deliver on the European Pillar of Social Rights'](#).

To follow-up on this commitment, EUROCIITIES is launching a political initiative to show the cities' concrete contributions to a more cohesive and inclusive Europe starting from local level. EUROCIITIES mayors and deputy mayors will present their pledges to act on the principles of the EU Pillar for Social Rights through dedicated investments for city measures.

Examples of city pledges

Madrid was the first city to join this EUROCIITIES campaign on social rights for all. Deputy Mayor, **Marta Higuera**, signed a pledge to principle 4 'active support to employment' and principle 11 'childcare and support to children' committing to:

- reduce long-term unemployment in Madrid, by further investing €20 million to reach another 3,000 beneficiaries with a focus on senior talent and experienced workers;
- build 13 more nursery schools next year and further increase the nursery school placements by 10% by 2020 to improve access for low-income or diverse backgrounds.

Stuttgart is the second city to sign a pledge to implement the Pillar. Stuttgart will invest €3 million a year to meet principle 17 on the inclusion of people with disabilities:

- €1 million in suitable housing for disabled persons and seniors
- €110,000 each year on equal participation in recreational, sports and cultural activities
- €1 million in barrier-free mobilities
- €860,000 in inclusion in schools
- €53,000 each year to promote political participation of people with disabilities
- create new jobs to employ people with disabilities
- as a first step, the city council appointed an officer for people with disabilities.

The event

Title: From principle to action: How to implement the EU Pillar of Social Rights at local level

Date: 21 February 2019, 10.00 - 12.30

Venue: **European Parliament** (Altiero Spinelli room A3G-2)

This high-level political event will consist of two policy debates on how to boost support for the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights at local level. It will also feature the launch event of the new EUROCIITIES political initiative committing city politicians to pledge to act upon Pillar's principles. The event will focus on city pledges and will discuss active support to employment and social inclusion through affordable housing.

Objectives

- launch EUROCIITIES political initiative **'Inclusive Cities for All: Social Rights in My City'**
- present the results from EUROCIITIES 2018 report on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights at local level (focus on principles 1-4)
- discuss cities' commitments to transfer the Pillar principles into actions at local level
- showcase innovative measures at city level in line with Pillar's principles
- discuss ways to boost cities' cooperation with national & EU institutions and civil society
- formulate policy recommendations for delivering social rights for all at local level
- reflect on the upcoming EP elections and how to ensure a socially sustainable Europe

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Audience

We invite 120 policy-makers from all government levels active in employment & social policy

- Members of European Parliament
- mayors, deputy mayors and policy-makers from the biggest cities in Europe
- European Commission representatives
- policy-makers from national authorities and Permanent Representations in Brussels
- representatives of EU-level civil society NGOs active in the field of social rights

Expected outcomes

- **15 city pledges** to transfer principles of the EU Pillar of Social Rights into actions and improve the lives of thousands of people across the EU
- The outcomes of the discussions will feed into the **EUROCITIES recommendations for the future of a social Europe**

Draft agenda

09.30 - 10.00 Welcome coffee and registration

10.00 - 10.30 Opening remarks

- **Maria João Rodrigues**, MEP vice-chair of S&D
- **Katarina Ivanković-Knežević**, Director for Social Affairs, DG EMPL, European Commission
- **Andreas Schönström**, Deputy Mayor of Malmo & Chair of EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum

10.30 - 10.45 Launch of EUROCITIES campaign **'Inclusive Cities for All: Social Rights in My City'**

10.45 - 11.30 High level panel debate: **How to ensure equal opportunities with active support to employment for all people, including the newly-arrived refugees and migrants?**

- **MEP Brando Benifei**, MEP in EMPL committee (TBC)
- **Jiří Švarc**, Head of Unit Social Investment, DG EMPL, European Commission
- **Lefteris Papagiannakis**, Vice Mayor of Athens for migrants and refugees
- **Marina Johansson**, Deputy Mayor of Gothenburg
- **Eugenio Ambrosi**, Regional Director, International Organisation for Migration (TBC)

Q&A with audience facilitated by Anna Lisa Boni, Secretary General of EUROCITIES

11.30 - 12.15 High level panel debate: **How to support access to affordable housing at local level to ensure social inclusion and cohesion in our communities?**

- **MEP Agnes Jongerius**, MEP Vice-Chair of EMPL committee (TBC)
- **MEP Jan Olbrycht**, President of Urban Intergroup (TBC)
- **Katarina Ivanković-Knežević**, Director for Social Affairs of DG EMPL
- **Laia Ortiz**, Deputy Mayor of Barcelona
- **Cédric Van Styvendael**, President of Housing Europe (TBC)

Q&A with audience facilitated by Silvia Ganzerla, Policy Director of EUROCITIES

12.15 - 12.30 Final remarks by Anna Lisa Boni, Secretary General of EUROCITIES

12.30 - 14.00 Networking lunch



This event has received financial support from the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation "EaSI" (2014-2020). For further information, please consult: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/easi>