



# Action Plan for Social Inclusion

Plan de Acción para la Inclusión Social  
Safe City Plan



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# What is social inclusion?

Social inclusion is the process of improving the terms on which individuals and groups take part in society.

It is also the process by which efforts are made to endure equal opportunities – that everyone, regardless of their background, can achieve their full potential in life. Such efforts include policies, and actions that promote equal access to (public) services as well as enable citizen's participation in the decision making process that affect their lives.



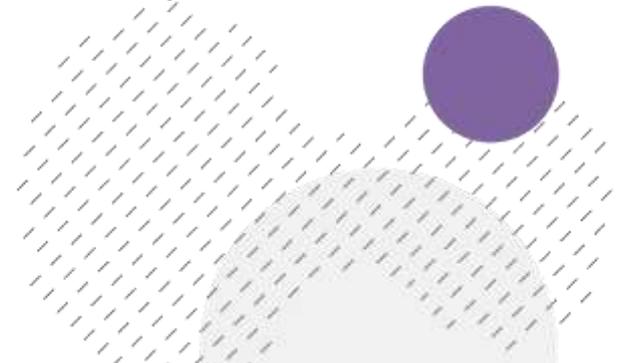
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# There are lots of different definitions, but basically it aims at reducing inequality.

When we refer to inclusion- is about making sure that the marginalised members of society (for example, those with disabilities or special needs, and minority groups) are not told they are included, but also *feel* like they are.





# Vulnerable groups

A vulnerable group can be defined as a “population within a country that has specific characteristics that make it at a higher risk of needing humanitarian assistance than others or being excluded from financial and social services.

In the context of our project, the key points is to make cities accessible to vulnerable groups of all backgrounds with a specific focus on families and education. |

Therefore, by providing the family coaches and inclusion experts with relevant knowledge, specific tools and right approaches, it is possible to overcome those issues and make European Cities safer, accessible and inclusive for all.

# People with Disabilities

- There are over 1 billion people with disabilities world. That's more than 15% of the worlds, population. Most live in developing countries.
- This number is expected to grow due to factors such as conflict, ageing, stunting and natural disasters.
- Persons with disabilities face higher rates of poverty compared with others.
- They encounter biases and barriers when accessing basic services.
- When they´re excluded, it's harder to escape the cycle of poverty and marginalization.
- That's why disability inclusive development is so important to promote shared prosperity.



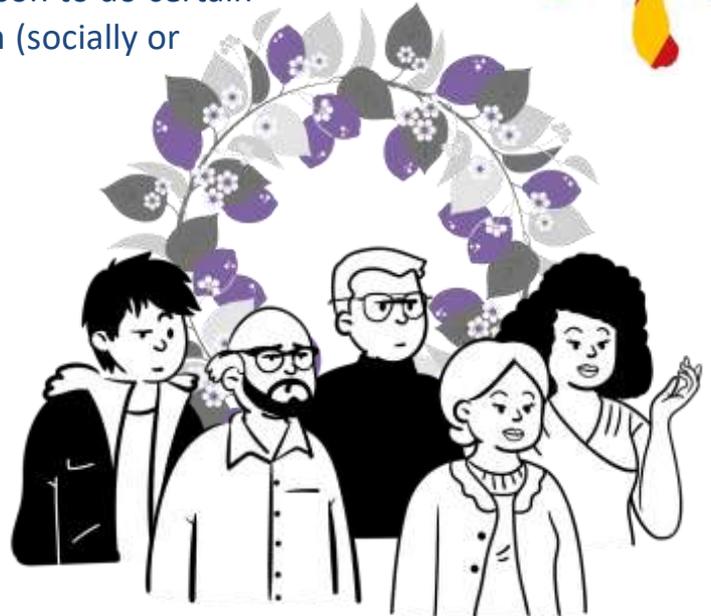
# People with Disabilities



A **disability** is any condition that makes it more difficult for a person to do certain activities or effectively interact with the world around them (socially or materially).

Causing factors can be:

- Cognitive,
- Intellectual
- Developmental
- Physical
- Or combination of some or all of those



# People with Disabilities

There are a number of stigmas towards people with disabilities that leads them towards social isolation. However, social inclusion of PWD, not only helps cities fulfill the human rights perspective, but it also allows for human capital for cities and countries, and eliminates unemployment and poverty.

Social Inclusion of PWD can be achieved via:

- Leveraged job opportunities,
- Provision of services needed for adequate life for PWD,
- Empathetic skills and equality education at schools,
- Supported political engagement for PWD and etc.



# COVID19 and inclusion

Some of the lessons learned from the COVID19 pandemic, which for example showed the vital role of migrant workers as well as the need to recognise their skills and provide them with better health care.





# Cities and Refugees- The Ukrainian challenge

According to the United Nations, at least 12 million people have fled their homes since Russia's invasion to Ukraine. More than 5 million have left for neighbouring countries, while 7 million are thought to be displaced inside Ukraine itself.

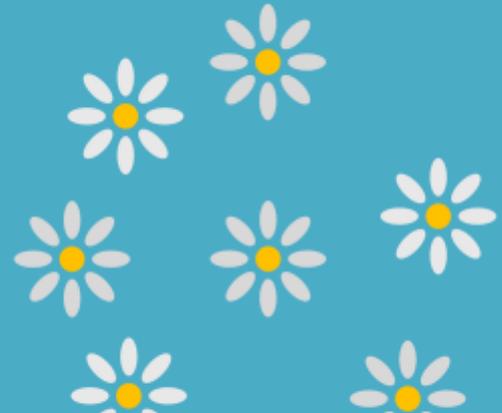
Supporting the inclusion of displaced children from Ukraine in education. - • According to the Temporary Protection Directive activated in March 2022, displaced children under 18 have access to education in the EU under the same conditions as EU citizens.



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# Prosperity- Why does this matter?

When people feel included they are better able to contribute to the group and their society without fear of being ostracised or rejected. By bringing their ideas forward, they are offering a particular perspective, which stems from a completely different background. This makes space for further inclusivity and creates a cycle of growth and acceptance.





# Why is social inclusion important?

**Social inclusion is important for a person's dignity, security and opportunity to lead a better life.**

**The goal of social integration is to create a “more stable, safe and just society for all”, in which every individual, each with rights and responsibilities, has an active role to play.**





# What does inclusion mean in the EU?

When we refer to social inclusion, in the context of EU within the framework of 2020- 2027, refers to providing full support for people of disadvantaged backgrounds, such as ethnic minorities, younger and older workers, migrants, single parents, people with disabilities and people who live in deprived areas in order to secure their wellbeing, dignity and social equity.

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# How can cities foster social inclusion?

Successful integration and inclusion depends both on early action and long-term commitment.

Investing in integration policies and practices will contribute to making European society a more prosperous, cohesive and inclusive society in the long run.



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# The whole community

Communities are the base of society that provide individuals with medium, resources and rules that enables common development. However, in today's world where the social mobility of individuals is relatively high, there is a strong need for setting up inclusive societies and as many reports suggest the more inclusive a society is, the more economic and social benefit they yield.



# European cities and human rights

Even though the rights of young people are equal to those of non-youth people, young people, just like any other vulnerable groups, are in need of support systems to fully participate in the society and actualize themselves. As they are the future of the societies, their education, wellbeing and active participation bears an utmost importance for cities, countries and the World in general.



# European cities and human rights



Therefore, youth rights, as any other human right, should be not only protected by the cities, but also fostered through:

- Youth centers and activities,
- Youth-friendly infrastructures,
- Fostered political and social youth participation,
- Support for labour-market integration





# What is the most important step for making a city more inclusive?

People are at the heart of every city.

The first step towards building a more inclusive city is involving communities in the process of developing new tools that ultimately make the city more livable for more people.





## How to make cities more inclusive



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When each individual in the community has the ability, resources and opportunity to:

- **LEARN-** Participate in Education or Training
  - **WORK-** Participate in paid & unpaid work (volunteer opportunities)
  - **ENGAGE-** Participate with others, connect with local services or engage with cultural or recreational activities.
  - **HAVE A VOICE-** Do they have an opportunity to influence decisions that affect them.
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# Moving Forward- Recommendations

The economic and social situation is very different in each of the 275 regions of the European Union. The main objective of the EU's policy is to reduce these differences by:

1. Develop participatory platforms so all voices can be heard.

This can be an important game changer to ensure that policymaking meets ground reality. These platforms can come in many forms- round tables, discussions, workshops or formal meetings- the important thing is that a space is provided for new and different voices from underrepresented groups to be heard by city authorities.

1. Ensure that budgets also include disadvantaged groups

Budgets are complex, but special attention needs to be made to ensure budget allocations address the great diversity.



# Moving Forward- Social cohesion in Europe

## 3. Encourage Volunteering

It can show a purposefully contribution to society, a pathway to employment and social inclusion. Volunteering is also linked to employment and income. It can also be a participatory model for solving social local problems.

## 4. Empower neighborhood partnerships

## 5. Building local government - NGO cooperation

## 6. Welcome international talent

For example welcoming students and expanding support for professionals.

# Sources:

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**Thank you!**



# Action Plan for Social Inclusion- European Union Strategy

School for Families. Safe City Plan"