

# BUILDING INCLUSIVE Recovery Cities

## CHARTER

This charter describes the commitment of this city to focus on making recovery from substance use visible, as well as taking actions towards inclusiveness for people in recovery, following the principles of “Inclusive Cities”.

The idea of “Inclusive Cities” starts from the scientific fact that recovery is not only an issue of personal motivation but also about acceptance by family, friends and a range of organisations and professionals across the community that reduce exclusion and generate pathways to community resources that are generally needed to support recovery.

Recovery happens in the community, in our city. It does not happen in a vacuum. Therefore, to support pathways to recovery, structural and contextual endeavours are needed to supplement individually-oriented interventions and programmes. Further the victims of exclusion and marginalisation are not only those who are on their own recovery journeys, but also the affected others such as partners, parents and children of persons in recovery.

This Charter is developed by the International Community of Inclusive Cities, led by **Prof. David Best, Prof. Charlotte Colman, Stuart Green, Dot Smith** and **Mulka Nisic**.

In an Inclusive City, we bring the city council, private and public organisations, housing facilities, welfare and health centres, specialist treatment providers and recovery community groups, employers, neighbours, people in recovery and their families together to make recovery visible and to celebrate it.

Recovery involves a ritual and the role of such rituals is to foster social bonding, strengthen solidarity and social cohesion by bringing people together and celebrating success. Celebrating the change process of a person in recovery is beneficial, not only for the person in recovery, but also for the community as a whole. Visible people in recovery, spread the possibility of recovery among those who need it most: they are the living example that recovery is possible and that a life in recovery is a productive and successful life. We are committing as a city to promoting and supporting that process.

Charter continues, overleaf.



**Inclusive  
Cities.**



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### As such, the intended impact of Inclusive Cities is:

- To increase the knowledge about recovery within the community and awareness of the recovery community;
- To create new connections to community resources for people in recovery and to strengthen existing pathways;
- To encourage people struggling with addictions that recovery is possible and to promote and champion visible pathways to recovery;
- To challenge stigma towards people in recovery and exclusion of people at all stages of their recovery journeys;
- To engage and involve the wider public, policy makers and practitioners in making recovery visible and celebrate it;
- To contribute to the connectedness and wellbeing of the wider community
- To recognize the contribution of the recovery community to the wellbeing and vibrancy of the city.

*I, the undersigned Mayor, recognise and value the idea of Inclusive Cities and I aim to implement them in my city.*

### *I will:*

- Facilitate the work of the Inclusive Cities Council, which is the core group of people in the city who are leading the implementation process of “Inclusive Cities” in my city
- Support the mission and vision specifically developed for my city by the Inclusive City Council
- Support the activities, developed by the Inclusive City Council, to make recovery visible and to celebrate it in my city
- Facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of my Inclusive City
- Engage in a European and/or international exchange of good practices regarding Inclusive Cities. By building a learning set of cities across the world, the idea of Inclusive Cities might be implemented and tested in practice.
- Contribute to an international dialogue to promote the merits of Inclusive Recovery Cities

### *As the International Community of Inclusive Cities we:*

Assist in implementing the ideas of an Inclusive City  
in your city.

Share good practices from other Inclusive Cities  
Provide a forum to exchange insights  
and good practices

Champion the Inclusive Recovery Cities model



**Inclusive  
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