



## **Charter of São Paulo**

The 10th International Congress of Educating Cities, held from 24 to 26 April in Sao Paulo, Brazil, under the theme *Building of Citizenship in Multi-Cultural Cities* was inspired by the principles of promotion of global citizenship and the consolidation of democracy in relation to the plurality of different socio-cultural manifestations, principles expressed in the charters of prior Congresses of Educating Cities and in other declarations of human rights.

This Congress was attended by seven hundred participants, bringing together representatives from 62 Educating Cities and more than 50 cities who are not members of the International Association of Educating cities (IAEC), as well as many organisations from civil society. During the Congress around 250 experiences were presented. The debates, structured around the lectures and the exchanges of experiences, were organised around three axes: The City as a Learning Space; Identity, Diversity, Citizenship; Inclusion, Equality, Rights. A series of 27 questions opened the debate on the concept of the Educating City and its relationship to democracy, with the accent on multi-culturalism.

The concept of the city, expressed in the Charter of EC, has been reaffirmed through proven principles and practices that show the importance of the recognition of education in different spaces of the city (rural and urban), as an exercise in universal citizenship, intentionally, in the search to make democracy and sustainability effective in accordance with the UN's Education Decade for Sustainable Development 2005-2014, and the recognition of and respect for cultural diversity.

We have defined a concept of humanist, autonomous education that bears in mind the expansion of the scope of public government and non-governmental policies related to the different dimensions of culture: symbolic, economic, social and political. We have reaffirmed respect for and given value to multi-cultural coexistence from a cross-cultural, cross-breeding perspective that can build new human and social relations based on the affirmation and creation of new identities. This defence seeks to promote, at the same time, a citizenry that is manifest in the daily life of the city by strengthening the creative use of the knowledge that is created through the integration of reason and emotion.

Amongst other aspects highlighted as being necessary for the construction of an Educating City is the appropriation of the city as a public space that can take into account identities as historical constructions that materialize in its territory. Therefore, the Educating City welcomes and recognizes different cultures.

The Congress highlighted the need to create consistent policies that include the review of the current legal frameworks of cities, in order to create channels of active participation in decision-making that can make it possible to build social relations, and which see the individual as the central axis, thus legitimating the principles of Educating Cities.

Transversality, cross-institutional and cross-departmentality articulation foster the construction of networks that can integrate the different subjects in the planning and development of activities to guarantee social, political, economic and cultural rights, bearing in mind ethical-racial, gender, affective-sexual orientation issues as well as matters relating to creed, cross-generationality, youth, the disabled, adolescence, and the elderly; as well as encourage the exercising of citizen responsibility.

The complexity of the educative process, which transpires in different spaces and times, in informal, non-formal and formal dimensions, shows the pertinence of integral, lifelong education, in line with the specific socio-cultural, socio-environmental dynamics of the city.

The Educating City is the space of democracy at the base of society and in the daily life of the citizen; in the art of coexistence amongst the different differences and multiple similarities, of diversity, respect, construction and sharing; of the importance given to urban architecture, local power, territoriality, care for the environment and the humanization of social relations.

São Paulo, 26 April 2008  
Scientific Committee of the Congress  
Palácio das Convenções do Anhembi