

Focus Experience

#15

Educating Cities
International Documents Databank



Title

The Transparency in Contracting Fair in Medellin

Basic data

City: Medellin

Country: Colombia

Number of inhabitants: 2,393,000

Topics: transparency, governance, social and economic development, enterprise and information.

Principles of the Charter of Educating Cities: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 12, 19, 20

Summary

In order to guarantee the honesty and the integrity of each of its actions, and in compliance with the Transparency and Probity in Public Policy, the City Council of Medellin organises each year the **Transparency in Contracting Fair**, as a mass event open and free to all the citizens of Medellin, whose goal is to directly inform, communicate and socialise the city's purchasing plan, investment budgets and operations, the list of contracting and tendering processes, and financial, and, especially social, results, of their undertaking.

The Transparency in Contracting Fair is a space for contributing to the construction of the city from the point of view of transparency, legality and the public interest. As a pioneering project in Colombia, winner of the National Prize of the Successful Projects Bank of the National Government, the Fair is an opportunity to share spaces of dialogue with local, national and international guests, and to deal with issues such as transparency, trust, contract execution and contracting.



Fair Participants are informed on legal issues, best business practises, new markets, etc.

During the Fair, the City Council of Medellin renders accounts and shows the entire community how public funds are invested, through an exhibition of its purchasing plans. Moreover, the event fosters national and international relations and the exchange of experiences that lead to the strengthening and visualisation of the Transparency and Probity in Public Policy.

The City Council of Medellin has progressed in compliance with its commitments far beyond what legislation calls for, through this instrument of open government and the struggle against corruption.

Objectives

- To show the population of Medellin how the Transparency Act is being applied.
- To share spaces of dialogue.
- To foster national and international relations.
- To exchange experiences.

Methodology

During the Fair different informational and advisory sessions, among other activities are carried out, such as:

- Lectures.
- Rendering of accounts within the Local Planning and Participatory Budget Programme.
- Mentoring sessions addressed to businessmen and students through the different stands.
- Business formalisation sessions where citizens have the opportunity to receive information and perform various procedures.
- Business Transparency Awards.
- Specialised business consultations on topics such as legal issues, internationalisation, best business practises, marketing and sales.
- Receipt of Petitions, Complaints and Claims.
- Digital Circular: free Internet access, registration for a course in government contracting, inverse auction training, etc.

The Business Transparency Awards arose in 2010 and are used by the City Council of Medellín to publicise the honest, transparent work of the business sector. Companies in all the economic sectors with registered offices in the city of Medellín can stand for the awards, which, in the framework of contract execution, good corporate governance and corporate social responsibility, are designed to give visibility to the transparent practices of companies and set an example for others in the same area. Besides, in the second Awards ceremony, in 2011, the category was added for the Best Contributor to the on-going promotion of a prompt payment culture.

In 2012, the 8th Transparency Fair of the Municipality of Medellín was held in conjunction with the first fair of the Government of Antioquia as one of the activities for the implementation of the Medellín Antioquia Alliance with the aim to place the Fair as a great event at local, regional and national levels.

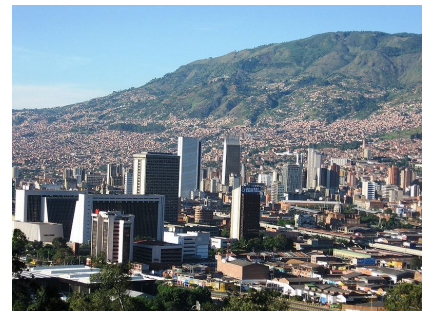
The city of Medellín is located more than 1,500 meters above sea level, in the Aburrá Valley. It has 2,393,000 inhabitants (2012), which break down by age groups as follows: from 0 to 19 years old, 26.8%; from 20 to 44, 37.2%; from 45 to 64, 26.7% and from 65 or older, 9.2%.

The largest industrial sectors are: textiles, chemical products and the food industry. In lesser proportion of special note are the metal-mechanical, electrical and electronic sectors.

Medellín is a city that has undergone an important urban and social transformation, which has led it to become a major host of international events, such as the Inter-American Development Bank Assembly (2009), the Organization of American States Assembly (2008), the 19th South American Games (2010), the 7th Iber-American Biennale of Architecture and Town Planning, the 3rd Iber-American Congress of Culture and the 11th Iber-American Conference of Digital Cities. Moreover, it has earned a triple A rating (Duff & Phelps) for its transparent public management and, recently, the Award for the Most Innovative City in the World given by the CitiBank, the Urban Land Institute and The Wall Street Journal.



A Conference during the Fair



View of Medellín

Assessment

The Transparency Fair is a place for sharing experiences and public contracting that allows the participants to learn close up about the tendering and contracting processes of the City Council of Medellín and the Government of Antioquia.

Some data coming out of the last Transparency Fair: 3,400 visitors, 91 special guests (24 Colombians and 67 international guests); 10 colleges (5 from Medellín and 5 from the Department of Antioquia); 50 suppliers registered (25 from the City Council and 25 from the Government of Antioquia); 1,300 registration forms delivered to suppliers (700 from the City Council and 600 from the Government of Antioquia); 371 business formalisation; 16 petitions, complaints and claims received (9 for the City Council and 7 for the Government of Antioquia).



3,400 people attended the last Transparency Fair

The Medellín Chamber of Commerce for Antioquia and the Medellín Cluster City Project provided 260 specialised business consultations.

37 groups of businesspeople, micro-companies and students from schools in the metropolitan area from the 10th and 11th grades belonging to entrepreneurial nurseries were provided with mentoring sessions through the stands that were of the greatest interest to these groups.

Future proposals:

- To decentralise the event and take it to the districts and the rural areas (*corregimientos*) of Medellín.
- To transcend the concept of transparency so that it is not only seen in the context of tendering but also to move forwards action that foster it as a public value and in citizen behaviour.
- To prepare the Purchasing Plan by sectors, public works, assets, services, technologies, in order to improve access to information and carefully guide possible bidders.
- To prepare an offprint about the contracting' state in the Municipality of Medellín; past, present and future contracting.
- To prepare press releases with a preview of the Purchasing Plan of the Municipality of Medellín in order to increase the participation of bidders in the selection processes.
- To simultaneously publish the information provided at the Fair on the Municipality's website.

Contact

Organization: City Council of Medellín
Contact: Mr Carlos Andrés Pérez Múnera
Secretary of Evaluation and Control
Email: carlos.perez@medellin.gov.co
Phone: + 57 43856437
Web : <http://www.medellin.gov.co>

You can consult more than 1.000 Educating Experiences in the website of the Educating Cities International Documents Databank (BIDCE):

<http://w10.bcn.es/APPS/edubidce/pubPortadaAc.do>

International Association of Educating Cities www.edcities.org