



International Association of

# Educating Cities

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EDUCATING CITIES  
FOR A BETTER WORLD



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## experience

### The Baana Project, a space for leisure and sports in the centre of Helsinki

**Helsinki has a population of 612,664 inhabitants, being the biggest city and the capital of Finland. It is situated in the south, on the coast of the Gulf of Finland. The city was founded on the mouth of the river Vantaa, moving in 1643 to its present location.**

In 1894, in the city of Helsinki a railway line was constructed that went from the outskirts of the city to the port. For its construction a rocky terrain was perforated, with the railway

line remaining at 7 metres below the level of the city. As the city grew, this line became a corridor that crossed the city and separated different districts. So as to connect the city, 7 bridges were built, transited by vehicles. Even so, the city continued to be divided both at a physical level, as well as socially, affecting the cohesion of the citizenship.

In 2008, the commercial activity of the West Harbour came to an end, leaving the railway line free for other uses. This 1.3 km long corridor that crosses the centre of the city provided the possibility of having a new urban space, unique both in structural and in landscaping terms. Within this context emerged the idea of the Baana Project, coordinated by the Municipal Urban Planning Department, that consisted of integrating the railway line into the city as a whole, turning it into a pedestrian way and bike lane that, moreover, is used for holding different events (cultural, sports, etc.). Furthermore, the areas of the city that had remained disconnected have a meeting point and a connection thanks to this new use of the corridor.

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**The Baana Project has enabled to recover an old railway line and turn it into the main artery of the centre: a safe space for pedestrians and cyclists that connects the city.**

## editorial

2015 is a year of municipal elections in Argentina, Colombia, Italy, Morocco, Mexico, Nepal, Spain and Uruguay and the Association, made up of local governments, is not detached from these.

A term is coming to an end that has been very complicated for many, given that its starting point was a full-blown world economic crisis, and one that has been characterised, in many countries, by the application of austerity measures and the cutbacks in public expenditure.

It is true that a period of uncertainty is opened up for many of you: both for municipal elected delegates and staff. Some of you are confident of revalidating the trust of the citizenship, others of you know that the result of this election will mark your work for the next few years. However, this is also a period of opportunities, both for making known the work that has been carried out, and at the same time for fixing the objectives that you want to achieve in the future.

Some of your cities have been committed towards the Charter of Educating Cities for many years, while others have done so during

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## The Baana Project, a space for leisure and sports in the centre of Helsinki

The Baana Project was born as a temporary solution, given that the original idea was to turn it, in the future, into an underground tunnel that would cross the centre of the city, and this is why the investment budget to implement the Baana Project had to be low. A design that was carried out in distinct stages and in which different departments of the City Council and various organizations were involved.

In this framework, different calls were opened with the aim of collecting proposals. Thus, a contest among students of architecture and of art and industrial design was organized, inviting them to make proposals on artistic aspects, lighting and functionality of the space. Also a public competition was launched to choose the name of the new route, being selected the proposal "Baana" that in colloquial Finnish means "way, track", and two international bids with the aim of selecting the artistic works to be included in the corridor.

The works for conditioning the corridor began in 2009 and finished in 2012 and the design has respected its original character, in combination with modern elements. In



addition to the bike lane and pedestrian area, the new space includes a basketball court, table-tennis tables, a pétanque court, a picnic area, benches for relaxing, etc. At the same time, artistic exhibitions are held under the bridges of the corridor.

The inhabitants have demonstrated their satisfaction for the project, since they have a new exclusive place where they can relax, go for a stroll or a bicycle ride, free from commercial activity. Thousands of people use this public space each day and the number of users is increasing. Furthermore, the success of the initiative led in 2012 to the launch of an integral project for enlarging it: the Baana

Network, which consists in integrating the new and the existing bike lanes.

In 2012, the Baana Project was awarded by the Urban Planning Society and by the Municipal Department of Culture for its design and for being the result of the cooperation between different municipal departments. Likewise, it received a mention of honour as the cultural event of the year, and, in 2014, it obtained a special mention within the framework of the European Prize for Urban Public Space.

You can find more information about this experience at the website: [www.edcities.org/en](http://www.edcities.org/en)

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## cities networks

★ **Toluca, venue for the 3rd Meeting of Educating Cities of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean**



More than 160 representatives from local governments and entities from the civil society met up in Toluca (Mexico) on the occasion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Educating Cities of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April. The theme was "Education in the City; a shared project for transforming the urban space into an educating space".

★ **Morelia chosen for the Presidency of the Mexican Network**



The General Assembly of the Mexican Network gathered in Toluca chose Morelia as the new coordinating city for the period 2015–2017. The cities of Guadalajara and Toluca will accompany Morelia on the Board.

★ **The Spanish Network carried out the balance for the period 2013–2015**

The Follow-up Commission of the Spanish Network met in Rivas Vaciamadrid to evaluate the work and the evolution of the 4 thematic networks; to give an account of the diffusion of the Manifesto about the Law of Rationalisation and Sustainability of the Local Administration;

and to agree the actions to be developed after the municipal elections of May 2015.

★ **The Portuguese Network renews its Coordination Commission**



In the Meeting of the Portuguese Network held in Miranda do Corvo on 6<sup>th</sup> March the Coordination Commission of the network was renewed. The new Commission for the period 2015–2016 is made up of the cities of Almada, Braga, Évora, Lisboa, Odemira, Paredes and Torres Vedras. Furthermore, the final date for the 6<sup>th</sup> National Congress was approved, which will take place on 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November 2015, and a working group was created on municipalisation of education.

# interview

## Mr. Dieter Reiter Mayor of Munich, Germany

### Munich is...

A sustainable city which offers a healthy and family-friendly living environment. An economically flourishing city that creates jobs and secures them and which is committed to solidarity and social inclusion. A beautiful city with a rich cultural life proud of its diversity and its commitment towards education.

### What are Munich's main challenges?

More than 300.000 people are expected to move to the region during the next 15 years. It will be increasingly difficult to provide affordable housing. More nursery places and school buildings with high quality and best-trained staff will be necessary as fast as possible to meet the needs of an inclusive educational approach.

The leitmotiv of the Munich City Development Strategy during the 1990's decade was "compact, urban, green". However, on-going population growth will make expansion into neighbouring areas necessary. The increase of individual traffic requires also innovative and sustainable mobility concepts.

### Which are the most relevant measures of Munich in sustainable development?

The City of Munich controls virtually all of public infrastructure utilities by City owned enterprises, like Stadtwerke Munich (SWM), which are responsible for electricity, gas, heating, water supply and sanitation and parts of the telecommunication grid, and which run most of local public transport (bus, tramways, metro).

Munich's strategy towards sustainable development centres on efficiency and substitution.

Our goal is to produce enough "green" electricity by 2025 to meet the requirements of the entire city.

The Munich Energy Saving Program spends 14 million Euros per year to retrofit private and public owned houses above compulsory standards. The municipal consulting agency Bauzentrum gives technical advice to investors and to the construction sector on energy saving and renewable energy.

As regards mobility, public transport systems are continually improved while car & bike sharing is being introduced and electric vehicle pilot programs are on the way. Since October 2012, all cars receive a sticker – red, yellow or green – in accordance to their level of emissions. Only green sticker vehicles are allowed into the inner city. The acceptance of this initiative is quite high by now.



### Could you explain some of the initiatives aimed at enabling access to the labour market?

The City operates more than 80 vocational schools with a long-term structural approach, which has proven to be very efficient as Munich has one of the lowest youth unemployment rates in Europe.

We are currently funding more than 110 projects and programs, to improving opportunities for those who are in a disadvantaged situation on the labour market. The City spends approximately 30 million € every year on these programs.

Another project worth mentioning is the AMIGA project which stands for "Active MIGrAnts in the Local Labour Market". It is a European cooperation project organized by the Department of Labour and Economic Development and the Centre for Migration Studies at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. This project helps qualified migrants to enter (or re-enter) the labour market and find employment in accordance to their qualifications.

### How do you promote harmonious coexistence between different cultures?

Munich is synonymous with diversity. More than 50% of children and young people have a so-called migration background.

Long time ago we realized that pedagogical approaches need to start as early as possible and that educational institutions at all levels play a significant role. The Pedagogical Institute devotes special attention to the subject of "Interculturality - Diversity - Anti-discrimination". Schools receive specific advice and conceptual support as well as training in issues such as anti-bias, intercultural communication, everyday racism, multilingualism, parent participation, etc.

Day care centres and schools embrace more

# editorial

this mandate. For each of you, the Charter has guided many of your educational policies and actions. For this reason, we urge each of you to take a step forward, by making explicit in the new municipal action plans the fact of the commitment towards working on making your cities more and more educating.

Governing the cities involves, first of all, being attentive to the expectations and needs of the citizenship so as to be able to tackle the new challenges of our century. It is, without doubt, a learning process that allows the commitment with the Charter to be turned into concrete results.

Advancing towards the Educating City cannot be achieved alone and when this commitment is shared, synergies emerge that allow a network of cooperation in the city to be developed. That is why we urge you to generate complicities so as to achieve the greatest number of people possible both inside and outside the city council to become new promoters of the Educating City, so that in this way the commitment is a lasting one, and one that can reach extraordinary transformations which are sustainable in time.

### The Secretariat of the IAEC

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and more language and cultural diversity and no longer consider diversity to be a problem, but an opportunity for all those involved.

The Pedagogical Institute also coordinates a student project titled "School without Racism - School with Courage", a network of schools who take action against discrimination, racism and violence.

### What is the added value of belonging to the International Association of Educating Cities?

Being part of the IAEC allows us to collaborate with partners all over the world and exchange best practices on certain challenges that we share. Another very important benefit is that the comprehensive understanding of education, like it is also formulated in the Charter, offers new opportunities for cooperation not only on an international level but also on the local sphere.

More information at [www.edcities.org/en](http://www.edcities.org/en)



# experience

## Morelia promotes the Culture of Peace

**Morelia, capital of Michoacán, is the most extensive and populated city of the state. It has a population of more than 729,000 inhabitants, of which 57.5% are between 15 and 29 years old. In 1991 its historic centre was designated as Cultural Heritage of Humanity by the UNESCO.**

This project, developed within the framework of the National Programme of Prevention of Violence and Delinquency, sows the seeds of new attitudes, hopes and examples of integration whose aim is for the youths to adopt and replicate behaviours of respect which will be translated into the improvement of the school, family and social dynamics, as well as in the enhancement and re-appropriation of the public spaces in the areas surrounding their schools and neighbourhoods.

The project has identified 40 actions based around the values and principles of the Earth Charter so as to promote the Culture of Peace, which are the basis for the holding of workshops and the carrying out of actions aimed at improving public spaces, for secondary school students aged 13 and 17. This group of age was chosen for various reasons, among which, because they are models of reference for younger children and due to the fact that they find themselves in a period of



personal development in which they are more susceptible to being involved in violent actions in their neighbourhoods.

The methodology used in the project is based on a socio-educational approach. The project is made up of six inter-related stages, in which 14 public secondary education schools from these areas have participated during the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years.

In the first stage a diagnosis was carried out in which the concerns, dreams and hopes of adolescents, families, teachers and directors of the schools for a healthy coexistence were collected. Later, a camp was developed in La Planta Ecological Ranch, which allowed the youths, teachers and families to participate in

**“Promoting the Culture of Peace through the Earth Charter” emerged with the intention of fostering healthier relations of coexistence between people and for the respect of the environment.**

awareness-building activities related to the respect for others and for the surroundings. In the third stage the youths carried out various community actions proposed by they themselves: reforestation, clean-up actions in public spaces of their neighbourhood, collective murals with reference to the values of the principles of the Earth Charter, etc. Next, a massive event was organised that allowed more than 2,500 participants of the project to get to know each other and share experiences. The fifth stage was a contest called PlantArte that consisted of the writing of stories for peace by the youths. In the end a group of young leaders was constituted and trained in community awareness-building by means of various workshops so as to carry out activities of community integration, enhancement and re-appropriation of public spaces in their streets and neighbourhoods.

Thanks to this project it has been noted that the signs of violence and aggression between youths have decreased and that the presence of positive leadership within this group has increased. It has to be pointed out that the resulting group of leaders continues to carry out specific actions for the social benefit of their neighbourhoods and in favour of a culture of peace.

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## did you know that...

- ★ Braga will host a new Meeting of the Portuguese Network on 3rd July.
- ★ The next 7th Regional Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Network will take place in Gumi (Republic of Korea) on 3rd November.
- ★ The IAEC Latin American Exhibition has started its tour. The first cities to receive the exhibition have been Totoras and Rosario.



- ★ The 14<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Educating Cities was presented to the civil society and to the communication media of Rosario on 26<sup>th</sup> April.
- ★ Portuguese will be an official language of the 14th International Congress of Educating Cities. Consult the information about the 14th Congress in Portuguese at [congresoaiace2016.gob.ar/site/?lang=pt](http://congresoaiace2016.gob.ar/site/?lang=pt)

- ★ The city of Turin will host the 3rd edition of the World Forum on Local Economic Development from 15th to 18th October 2015.
- ★ The archeological remains of a Roman *domus* from the 1st century situated in the basement of the building of the headquarters of the IAEC have been opened to the public.



- ★ The IAEC Delegation for Latin America participated in the Annual Meeting of CIDEU that was held from 25th to 27th February 2015 under the theme of “Inclusive Urban Planning”; in the annual meeting of Metropolis “Living the City”, held in Buenos Aires and in the 4th Latin American Forum of Sustainable Development that took place in Rosario.