



Final Declaration **9th International Congress of Educating Cities**

In line with the Genoa conference, which in 2004 dealt with the theme "Another city is possible. The future of the city as a collective project" and which led to the new Charter of Educating Cities, the Lyon conference worked on the necessity of promoting "People's place in the City". In our discussions, exchanges and debates, we have reflected up on what could and should be "the new urban humanism" likely to give political meaning to city development and to outline future paths to give our children and our young people the place they deserve.

In a context of globalisation too often little regulated and badly controlled, against intensified competition between the big urban areas, the cities and towns of the International Association of Educating Cities reaffirm the urgency and the necessity:

- to defend, promote and commit to shared values (equality, solidarity, peace, respect to human dignity,...)
- to undertake the necessary initiatives to give concrete expression to these values in local policies,
- to develop cooperation, exchanges and to undertake joint actions to provide training for elected representatives and staff, aimed at the adoption of these human values.

Among the aspects to favour, three main priorities seem to have emerged from the proceedings of this conference in Lyon.

- In the framework of all educating initiatives that member cities develop, they have reaffirmed their desire to give priority to children and youth. This affirmation is one of the pillars of the existence of our Association and Charter. This is expressed: by a specific declaration on (0-6 years) Children's Rights and the Place in the City; by the commitment to develop local educational projects; by taking into account lifelong education; by affirming the importance of non-formal education in all our policies; by the desire to



promote co-education; by the decision to fight against all forms of discrimination; by demanding policies to foster young people's training and to make employment more accessible.

- The second aspect we advise favouring is the reinforcement of participatory democracy. Citizens' participation in all urban projects must be taken into account; as well, priority must be given to respecting sustainable development principles in all political initiatives.

In this sense, the Educating Cities will reinforce their exchanges and their experiences of city time managing (family, education, leisure, work, transport); this issue will be a transversal working axis, a global educational approach aimed at improving living conditions, favouring equality between men and women, reinforcing local democracy and bringing together social agents.

- The third working line focuses on developing cooperation between cities and towns and other city networks. Regarding this matter, several aspects were pointed out during the Congress workshops:
 - The need to reinforce educational cooperation,
 - The need for under taking initiatives aimed at fighting against the digital divide,
 - Developing basic local public services and the provision of training for managers, staff and elected representatives
 - The promotion of peace education, within the city as well as internationally.

We are calling on the members of the International Association of Educating Cities and on all those who will join us to translate these commitments into action.

Lyon, September 2006