



International Association of

Educating Cities

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Information
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EDUCATING CITIES
FOR A BETTER WORLD



Authorities and workers at the Baucau plant

experience

A factory for Timor

In order to offer new jobs and development to the population of Baucau (East Timor), the municipality of Paredes (Portugal) has been pushing since 2006 for the creation of a furniture industry in Baucau, taking advantage of the great supply of quality raw materials in the region. In order to set up the project, the "Association for Cooperation with Timor" was created, made up of representatives of the City Council of Paredes, businesspeople of this city and the Parish of Baucau.

"The Portuguese City of Paredes is cooperating with the municipality of Baucau (East Timor) in the creation and development of the "Baucau Technology Centre - Furniture Area". Through this project it is expected that the Timorese will be given the tools to strengthen their own growth in the economic, social and educational spheres"

Paredes is a municipality in northern Portugal with approximately 86,000 inhabitants which has gone through tremendous socio-economic development due to its excellent geo-strategic location, privileged accessibility and its having opted for technology and innovation. At the economic level, it is the largest producer of furniture in Portugal, accounting for 65% of national production. The trademark "Paredes-Furniture Area" underlines precisely the quality and design of the furniture produced by the industries in an area that has known how to conserve its rural atmosphere.

Baucau is the second largest city in East Timor, one of the poorest countries in Asia. Located 129 km from the capital of Timor, Dili, it has a population of 16,000 inhabitants who are mainly young, living off subsistence agriculture. In Baucau, as in the rest of the country, the illiteracy rate is 55% amongst women and 46% amongst men; and unemployment is 43% of the youth population.

Invaded in 1975 by Indonesia after its proclamation of independence from Portugal, East Timor did not achieve national sovereignty until 2002. The road to independence chosen by the Timorese in a popular referendum in 1999 was marked by (continued on page 2)

editorial

The International Congresses of the IAEC have been consolidated as an indispensable occasion for learning, reflection and exchange amongst the member cities. They constitute a unique chance to learn about the diversity of cities through on site visits to the experiences and also a way of expanding the Association.

Organised around the theme: **"Sport, Public Policies and Citizenship. Challenges of an Educating City"**, the next International Congress will take place from 22 to 24 April 2010 in Guadalajara (Mexico).

In order to broadly develop the theme of the 11th Congress and involve different municipal departments, the lectures, round tables and presentations of experiences will be set around the following axis:

- **Sport, health, leisure and environment.** Doing sport as a factor in improving health, quality of life and the responsible use of free time; fostering sport as an environment friendly cultural practice.

- **Sport, social inclusion and citizen participation.** Sport as a part of the rights of citizens, paying social attention (continued on page 3)

A factory for Timor

the numerous losses of human lives and the destruction of a good part of its infrastructure and buildings.

The project "A Factory for Timor" emerged in the face of this reality and in order to provide the population of Baucau with the tools to strengthen their economic, social and educational growth. The idea was to take advantage of the abundant high quality timber available there and the experience of the municipality of Paredes in the manufacture of furniture. In order to make this initiative a reality, the City Council of Paredes and the Parish of Baucau have been able to coordinate efforts and will-power and have managed to involve the business world of Paredes in the project.

The businesspeople of the Paredes Furniture Area have donated machinery no longer



Plant opening

in use but in good condition along with the industrial material necessary in order to build the factory. The City Council was in charge of collecting and shipping this material to Timor. Since 2006, four containers have been sent. The Parish of Baucau has provided the premises for the factory and is in charge of its maintenance and power supply.

In March 2007, the works were finished and the "Baucau Technology Centre- Furniture Area" was opened. The factory has a large amount of machinery and 50 full time workers, as well as the support from other workers in metallurgy, electricity, mechanics, etc.

The main activity of the factory, initially centred on the manufacture of school furniture, has moved into the production of furniture of all types for several Timor government ministries, as well as for hotels and religious congregations. Beyond its use in large-scale productive activity, the machinery at the Technology Centre is also used to satisfy other specific needs of people in the community.

Once of the most important goals of the project is training. Three trainers went from Paredes to Baucau in order to teach the local population how to work the machines, but also

to train them in questions of management and sales. Thanks to the experience acquired by the people that have learned a trade, the goal is to professionally train 100 young people per year in the timber and furniture industry. Through this process of training/production, the idea is to turn this initiative in the near future into an operation managed by its beneficiaries.



Learning how to cut wood

The factory, which is unique in the country, has been producing furniture for more than two years, offering training and jobs and contributing to improving the quality of life of the population. All of this has made it into a major factor in the economic development of the city and region.

You can find more detailed information about this experience at the website www.edcities.org

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city networks

★ Activities of the Portuguese Network

From 7 to 9 May 2009, Évora hosted the 3rd National Congress of the Portuguese Network, centring on the issue of "Education as heritage and heritage as an educating agent". The conclusions of the Congress highlighted the fact that "the city is a cultural, civic, functional space, a guardian of memory, in freedom and democracy."



Afterwards, on 26 June, 17 municipalities in the Network participated in the National Meeting, held in Esposende, which was kicked off by the lecture "Education is the City: globalisation, local policies and educative processes", focusing on non-formal education. You can look up

these activities and examples of best practices in the bulletins of this Network available on the IAEC portal.

★ 9th Meeting of the Spanish Network

Under the theme "Education as an axis for the transformation of cities", on 12-14 May 2009, the city Granollers hosted the 9th Meeting of the Spanish Network, which highlighted the idea of "placing education at the centre of policy focus as a condition for ensuring the quality of participatory democracy in a city which teaches and learns".

★ Creation of the Asia-Pacific Network

On 29 June, as part of the 1st Asian Regional Meeting of the IAEC, the mayors of Changwon and Gunsan and official representatives from Gwangju, Gumi, Guro-gu and Suncheon signed the founding document for the creation of the Asia-Pacific Territorial Network of the IAEC. The network will be coordinated by the city of Chan-

gwon with the support of Gunsan and Gwangju, and will respond to the needs and challenges of member cities in this region and consolidate the growth of the Association in Asia.



★ General Assembly of the French Network

On 3 and 4 July, Toulouse hosted the General Assembly of the French Network and representatives from 21 cities dealt with the economic matters of the Network and the action plan. Moreover, as part of this meeting lectures and debates were organised on the following issues: success in education and the rhythms of childhood and education.

For more information go to: www.edcities.org

interview

Mr. Josep Mayoral Mayor of Granollers, Spain



In May Granollers hosted the 9th Meeting of the Spanish Network. Why did you choose the theme "Education as an axis for the transformation of cities"?

Granollers was one of the first signatory cities of the Charter of Educating Cities because we learnt that while the school is essential for the education of citizens, education is also present in every street, square, and facility, in each look and conversation that we exchange when we learn from each other. It is the city that can and must educate. And Granollers has a strong, diverse, mature fabric of associations, which have been capable of initiating decisive processes in the construction of the city, with cohesion as the pole star and participation as an indispensable guideline.

The theme of our meeting was to express a deep conviction. Only education can transform the city, but the city that we want is necessarily a shared project. The major objectives of the city must be defined through dialogue and participation. Granollers is being built through daily, often discreet, silent efforts of thousands of citizens.

The conclusions of the Meeting noted the importance of placing education at the centre of politics. How is this principle taken to the heart of the City Council of Granollers?

When we talk about placing education at the centre of politics we refer mainly to giving an educating intention to each and every city project. We know that everything we do in the city has an educating or de-educating effect, and so our responsibility is huge. In each project that the city carries out, in any sphere [...] we try to evaluate what its educative impact will be, and approach it from a holistic and transversal perspective. Everything we

do must have an educative value. But it also depends on how we do things. That is why we have devoted a great deal of effort to developing projects through participation, with the support of the citizenry. [...] we are working co-responsibly with the other government administrations and city agents, in order to build the educating project in Granollers jointly.

How do you make the different members of the governing team aware that the policies of the different areas have an impact on citizen education?

I have a fantastic team with whom I share the project, objectives and methods. We have learned together that our office is in the street, listening to the citizens, talking to them, sharing with people their problems and aspirations. Municipal policy only makes sense in terms of proximity. And it is through proximity that education takes shape. It is also necessary to break with the logic of an administration structured into air-tight compartments which often lose sight of the essential objective of political action, which is nothing other than improving the quality of life of people.

How do small and medium-sized cities benefit from working in national and international networks?

Belonging to a network made up of different cities allows you to know about other realities, share ideas and projects, find a common ground for reflection on the same political and educative practices. [...]

Moreover, in cities the size of Granollers the impact of projects is certainly easier to perceive. We have the chance to transform ourselves into laboratory cities where we can experiment with projects which imply the participation and involvement of all the agents. The network makes us strong.

Is the current international crisis only an economic one or is it also a crisis of values? What role can local governments of Educating Cities play to take on the crisis and propose new models for action?

It is evident that the crisis has gone beyond the economic sphere; moreover, it is possible that the crisis of values that the world has been going through for some time has led us to the current economic-financial debacle. [...] I am convinced that only through proximity and constant dialogue can we articulate alternative, more sustainable, shared models of coexistence.

editorial

to vulnerable groups. Sport as an instrument of mobilisation and citizen participation.

- Sport, public policy and urban space. Boosting physical activity in public urban spaces, construction and conservation of these spaces, facilities and resources.

- Sport and peace culture. Sport as a means of fostering coexistence and social cohesion, peace, solidarity, cross-generational relations and a means for preventing conflicts.

- Sport and values education. Sport as a tool for transmitting values, such as self-esteem, mutual respect, effort, discipline, teamwork, commitment, friendship, etc.

We encourage IAEC member cities to participate by sending in their experiences for Workshops or Posters by 2 November. Innovative initiatives that can generate valuable learning for other cities will be selected in these two categories. Both modalities will count with translation service and specific times will be assigned for them in the program.

For more information on the 11th Congress go to: www.guadalajara.gob.mx/cdeducadora

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The future is being written in the squares and streets of our cities, in its schools and civic centres. These are the spaces where a new citizenry is being formed. At times of tremendous complexity, a new society is being sketched out, one that is very different from what we have known in the last few decades. And education is the key to making a more just, solidarity-based future.

For more information go to: www.edcities.org

experience

Poland and France join hands at the Saint-Etienne House in Katowice

The city of Katowice, with approximately 370,000 inhabitants, is the capital of the region of Silesia, one of the largest political, administrative, economic, scientific and cultural centres in Poland.

Since the middle of the 90s Katowice, which, because of its mines and steel industry, has a lot in common with the French City of Saint-Etienne, has had encounters with delegations from the latter, leading to the creation in 1992 the Saint Etienne-Katowice Association. Thus, the first steps were taken towards the sister-city agreement signed in 1994, and the opening of the Saint-Etienne House in Katowice four years later.

The main mission of the Saint-Etienne House is to provide counselling and guidance to French companies interested in the economic and industrial development of Silesia, as well as to provide support to Polish companies that are seeking French collaborators and who want to enter the French market. To do this the Saint-Etienne House organises meetings, lectures, workshops, professional training courses for French and Polish businesspeople and employees in different sectors. Moreover, it offers help in finding

industrial and commercial partners through databases, market studies, management of bi-lateral encounter programs, as well as assistance in implementing and financing, or by participating in International Trade Fairs in Poland.

On the other hand, the Saint-Etienne House also contributes to the promotion of the French culture, organising exhibitions of paintings, sculpture, photography and concerts, such as the Ensemble de Musique Nouvelle de Katowice, francophone evenings, petanque competitions and other events, such as the Francophone Festival or the Encounters with France.



Painting and sculpture exhibition

“The Saint-Etienne House in Katowice facilitates economic, cultural and social exchange between the inhabitants of both cities, creating networks of collaboration for the entire population”



Traditional petanque

In addition to the intense cultural program, the Saint-Etienne House works with schools and universities, making students aware that they can participate in workshops and professional training courses, seminars and lectures, which can offer them jobs or learning opportunities and new perspectives, which are opening up in Poland in a European context.

Thus, commercial, industrial and social networks involving companies in both countries are being consolidated, French-Polish friendship is being developed and cultural exchanges are being promoted.

You can find more detailed information about this experience at the website www.edcities.org

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did you know that...

Within the framework of the pilot training program **“Educating City and Local Governance”**, carried out in collaboration with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), the **final seminar** took place last March in Santa Cruz de la Sierra. The objective of the seminar was to evaluate the contents and the methodology, the global assessment of the pilot phase, to disseminate the outcomes and to discuss future perspectives.



The participating cities (Budapest, Genoa, Medellin, Rosario, Quito and Santa Cruz de la Sierra) declared that the goals proposed had been successfully fulfilled, to wit: rethinking the educational dimensions of the city from a broad perspective; generating knowledge of the concept of the educating city; remembering, reactivating and specifying the contents of the Charter of Educating cities in each municipality and in a precise way, and, increasing transversality both in the heart of municipal governments and amongst the different agents in civil society, fostering at the same time greater cooperation between both spheres.

These cities suggested to the IAEC that it offer this training course as a permanent service and that it set up a team of experts to do so.

The Secretariat has taken note of these suggestions and it will soon present a proposal to the Executive committee.



See the Declaration of the participants at the final seminar in the IAEC portal: www.edcities.org