



International Association of

Educating Cities

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Information
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EDUCATING CITIES
FOR A BETTER WORLD



Meeting peers at the city parks

experience

Noz'Ambule, a risk-reduction proposal from the City of Rennes

Free time is an important moment in socialisation and values education, so it is necessary to counteract the current trend towards passive and uncreative leisure time, often connected with the consumption of alcohol and other drugs. The search for a cheaper alternative way of getting alcoholic drinks by young people has led to an increase in spontaneous parties in public spaces which are very annoying for the neighbours and where large quantities of alcohol are drunk.

Rennes is a university city, capital of the region of Brittany. It is situated 308 km east of Paris, and covers an area of 50.39 km². Rennes has 214,813 inhabitants, and is remarkable for the number of young people; people under 20 outnumber older citizens by two to one.

Faced with this reality, and with the aim of stopping the excessive consumption of alcohol, reducing dangerous situations and bringing some level of tranquillity back to the streets, the City of Rennes began the prevention project "Noz'Ambule" in 2008, operating directly at street level on Thursday and Friday nights, and forming part of a raft of measures which also includes a wide range of healthy, alternative youth-oriented night-time leisure activities.

One of the most important aspects of the success of this project is that it is the young people themselves who go to other groups in order to inform them and make them aware of the risks of excessive alcohol consumption. The Council receives support for the project from the LMDE (Students' Mutual Society), which was chosen for their strong involvement in questions of health prevention. The LMDE

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editorial

Nearly a thousand participants, representing 68 educating cities in 14 countries and a sample of Mexican civil society took part in the 11th International Congress of Educating Cities, held on the 22 - 24 April in Guadalajara (Mexico). This is the second Congress organised by a Latin American city, and was witness to a high degree of participation from cities in the region.

The Congress, which focused on "**Sport, Public Policies and Citizenship. Challenges of an Educating City**", provided an opportunity to approach and think about the importance of encouraging physical exercise and sport for all, not only for its health benefits, but also for the purpose of social inclusion and cohesion, citizen participation and values education.

Over three days, the attendees had the opportunity to listen to keynote speakers and round table experts, to present their experiences and learn from those of other cities through the stands, posters and numerous parallel workshops organised around four thematic axis: Sports, health, leisure and the environment; Sports, social inclusion, and citizen participation; Sports,

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"Noz'Ambule is a new way of avoiding conflict situations, caused by excessive alcohol consumption among young people. To implement it, there are two teams; one mobile team of young people, and another of health professionals in the city centre, giving information and raising awareness."

Noz'Ambule, a risk-reduction proposal from the City of Rennes

provides the project with a team made up of a coordinator and six students, specially trained in approaching their peers, and in first aid.

On Thursdays and Fridays between October and June, the Noz'Ambule partner students first make a round of the entrances to the institutes and universities (from 5pm until 7pm), and then move on to the streets and



Glasses that simulate the effects of alcohol consumption

parks in the city centre (from 8pm until 11pm), talking to their peers about the risks of excessive alcohol consumption. To help raise awareness, they give out alcohol tests and information leaflets and ask their peers to try to walk wearing glasses that simulate the effects of alcohol consumption. They also offer information on health services, the range of alternative night-time cultural or sports leisure activities available, and on the existing local associations.

At 10pm, a multidisciplinary group consisting of various health professionals from the ANPAA (National Alcoholology and Addictology Prevention Association) gets into action. The group operates until 2am on Thursday and 1am on Friday, from a van parked in a highly



Van of the multidisciplinary team

visible location in the city centre, in order to give advice, reduce risks, and manage any difficult situations that may arise as the party reaches its climax.

Thanks to this project, a large number of young people has been given advice and information. Over the nine months it ran in 2009, 5300 young people were contacted and 150-200 students were interviewed per week.

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



Giving out alcohol tests

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cities networks

★ Katowice, new headquarters of the Central European Delegation

The General Assembly gathered in Guadalajara select Katowice as a member of the Executive Committee. The Polish city accepted the Committee's proposal of becoming the headquarters of the IAEC's Central European Delegation, taking over from Budapest.



★ General Assembly of the French Network

Grenoble will host the French Network's General Assembly on the 2nd and 3rd of July. The meeting will look at the work done by the network and the future of the Local Education Projects. The French sociologist Camille Peugny will give a lecture, and the participants will have the chance to exchange educating experiences.

★ Thematic Working Groups of the Spanish Network

The Network's national meetings take place every two years; the next one will take place in Alcalá de Guadaíra in 2011. Various thematic working groups provide continuity to these exchanges. There are currently six of them running: Education, peace culture and democratic construction; Participation and civic education of children and adolescents; City, education and heritage values; Dropping

out of compulsory education; Education for sustainability, and Returning to education and professional training in the municipality.



★ 2nd Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Network

The 2nd Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Network will take place on the 25th of October in Gusan and all IAEC member cities from the region as well as new ones will be invited. The meeting will be a chance to agree on an action plan and to extend the Association on the Asian continent.

More information at www.edcities.org

interview

Vitor Lippi Mayor of Sorocaba, Brazil



Sorocaba's strategic plan takes on board the Educating City and the Healthy City principles: What does it contribute to municipal management?

Sorocaba was looking for international urban development models which could open up opportunities in terms of a city fully committed to education, health, quality of life, participatory democracy, inclusion, social justice and environmental sustainability. Those models are Healthy Cities and Educating Cities. We saw how they complemented each other, and that they had a great deal in common.

This strategic plan has given us the possibility of applying public policies that are more directed, more holistic, aiming at a higher level of interrelationship between the departments, a wider vision of the future, working not only on the results of problems, but also mainly on their causes.

Is there any kind of coordination of Educating City public policies?

Coordination is the responsibility of the Education Department, but there is a Municipal Committee which coordinates the work of other City departments, collaborators and the civil society. This is a high priority for the government, with direct involvement from the Mayor, because I understand how important it is. One of the most significant legacies that we can leave to our children and to the future of our city is the total transformation of the urban area into an educating City, committed to the quality of education, values and citizenship.

Can you explain us some good practices being carried out in the city?

An important programme is the "NAIS Club". The City Council hired a space with all the

facilities a good club needs. Young people who have committed an offence go there to take part in a variety of activities, guaranteeing them opportunities for training, qualification, culture, leisure and sports, and significantly reducing the chance of these young people re-offending.

"Learn it All" (Sabe Tudo) is another significant programme which consist of buildings specially designed for the digital inclusion, with high-quality free courses in computers and citizenship, increasing thereby the population's job opportunities.

Another important project is the "Cycle Lanes". We are connecting the city up through cycle lanes; we currently have 65 km, connecting 60% of the city, and we hope to get 100 km in the medium term. It has provided an opportunity for the authorities to revitalise spaces, particularly the edges of the Sorocaba River.

The "Back and Forth" (Vai e vem) programme to encourage reading should be also mentioned, in which the Council lends books free of charge to the population. We have seen that 90% of people bring back the book they took, and that they actually bring others they do not need. This means that the available collection has grown. Now the Council intends to set up a mobile distribution system for various neighbourhoods.

Can you give us an example of a successful citizen-participation experience?

We have designed two programmes that deal with the matter of the participatory budget. In the "Citizens' Plenary Sessions - The Neighbourhood Budget" programme, the Mayor and the heads of the departments gather with

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public policies and the urban space, and Sports, peace culture and values education.

The participants were able to visit a number of the city's educating experiences such as the Sports Crossroad and the RecreActive Route, both initiatives aimed at recovering public space and bringing sport and physical exercise closer to inhabitants. Participants could also visit the exhibition "Educating Cities: Local Actions, Global Values", which collects experiences from seven cities illustrating values included in the Charter of Educating Cities.

At the closing session, the Congress final Declaration was proclaimed (www.edcities.org), through it the educating cities made a commitment to the democratisation of sporting activity, seeing it as a citizen's right that contributes to the building of citizenship and to improving the quality of life. The meeting ended with the baton being passed to the South Korean city of Changwon, who will organise the Association's 12th International Congress, scheduled for 2012, under the title "Green Environment, Creative Education".

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the citizens at meetings in various parts of the city and we listen to their demands without intermediaries. An explanation is given as to why certain requests will not be dealt with, either because they are not a neighbourhood or city priority, or because, sometimes, there are other places whose needs are greater. We always manage to give an immediate answer, frankly and honestly. The "Mayor in the Neighbourhood" programme is aimed at people living in the most needy areas.

This commitment guarantees the citizen the chance to set more than fifty percent of the Council's investment capacity, which represents more than 5% of the Council's entire budget. The two programmes have been continued under the title "The Mayor Back in the Neighbourhood", in which we show the population the results of the work done.

More information at www.edcities.org

experience

“Everybody’s Library, Libraries for Everybody”; a city of Genoa venture

In 2008, the City of Genoa, located in the North of Italy with a population of 610,307, signed a Protocol of Understanding with the Ministry of Cultural Goods and Activities to promote access to cultural heritage for disabled people. In 2009, this led to the signature of a Citizens’ Protocol and the construction of a network of agents, cultural institutions and disabled people’s associations.

It was in this context that the project “Culture beyond limits” was begun, in order to coordinate the existent initiatives, some of which have been running since the 1990s, and to promote the lessening of architectural barriers, the training of staff and best practices access to cultural events and services for the disabled. One of these practices that is already



Books adapted to special needs

consolidated is “Everybody’s library, libraries for everybody”. The initiative begun in 1996 in the Berio municipal library and later was extended to another 4 in the Urban Library System.

The library services and activities for the hearing impaired include: guided tours of the libraries, computer literacy and internet courses, use of the catalogue, exhibitions, talks and poetry workshops in sign language.

For the visually impaired, there are programmes of voice substitution, and the offer ranges from Braille publications, large print and audio books, to courses in recitation and thematic meetings on Braille. Agreements have been made with voice donor associations to make audio recordings of books that users request but are not in the catalogue. These books are also a resource for people with dyslexia, besides the texts with a special typography and the courses on dyslexia for teachers and families.

For some years, a service has been provided to schools and families to promote reading among children and young people with disabilities. The initiative is known as “Special

“As part of an effort to guarantee equal opportunities, the libraries of Genoa provide a variety of services and proposals to facilitate access to culture for the hearing or visually impaired.”



Poetry workshop in sign language. © Pietro Bagnara

books for special children”, and has become a referential resource.

To be able to provide all these services, special attention is paid to the ongoing training of library staff, for those who run awareness-raising courses on disabilities and sign language.

Thanks to this initiative, which enjoys civil society’s support, there has been a notable increase in library attendance by hearing or visually impaired people. The forecast for this initiative is that it will continue to spread to other libraries, forming a service network that reaches a far wider public.

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

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did you know that...

- ★ The Monograph “**City, Sport and Education**”, published for the 11th IAEC Congress, is available online (www.edcities.org).
- ★ From the 15th to the 30th of June, Dakar (Senegal) put on the exhibition “**Educating Cities: Local Actions, Global Values**”, closing the pilot phase of the exhibition, financed by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation. At the same time, there were training activities and a meeting with cities from the region.
- ★ From the 20th to the 22nd of July, Chacao (Venezuela) is hosting a new session of the Training Seminar “**Educating City and Local Governance**”, and there will also be an information meeting with cities from the area of Caracas.
- ★ The call for experiences on “**Culture as a factor for Development**” for the Contemporary Issues section is open until 24 September.

the voices of the cities

1. To commemorate World AIDS Day, the City of Lomé (Togo) is holding the **Marathon of Hope**, which consists of a race through the city’s main streets, as well as games and activities to raise awareness of how to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, and the importance of early detection. The local artists and the media collaborate in the initiative.



2. The City of Reus (Spain) is promoting the integration of foreign young people through the programme **The City Where I Live**. This is a workshop to learn about the surroundings and to acquire language skills, consisting of making a video in which they describe important places in the city.



3. The Cascais **Time Bank** (Portugal) is a platform for the exchange of knowledge, mutual support and dialogue in educational and social areas, between professionals, institutions and collectives involved. Its members provide or receive services at an individual level or as a group.