



## Title

### **Connections of Complicity Camargo Educating City**

## Basic data

**City:** Camargo

**Country:** Spain

**Number of inhabitants:** 32.000

**Topics:** Policy and administration, institutional coordination, good governance.

**Principles of the Charter of Educating Cities:** 1, 5, 6,

## Summary

The Camargo Educating City is a project started in 2006 to bring together local educational initiatives. To carry it out, all the local education agents were called to forums and assemblies to look at the education situation in the municipality, and the conclusion reached was that there needed to be a more thorough analysis of the reality of local education.

The most important conclusions of the analysis were:

- education agents do not know about the initiatives being run by the other education agents;
- the lack of coordination between the various local education initiatives.
- the lack of networks to facilitate inter-project connections; and
- many organisations were unaware of the educational value of their own initiatives.



**Opening of the exhibition "1st Meeting of Camargo Educating City "**

Using the analysis as a starting point, an Action Plan was drawn up involving a number of working groups that would last four years.

The group focused on the weaknesses highlighted here above was known as: Knowledge, coordination, transversality and acknowledgment of local education initiatives. Other areas focused on educational innovation, organisational aspects of educational institutions, aspects of methodology used and so on.

The intention of the programme is to provide a central focus and interconnections for those educative initiatives already running, complementing them with some activities that are not offered but for which there is deemed a need.

## Objectives

- To identify local education agents, both qualitatively and quantitatively.
- To publicise and inform about the municipality's existing education initiatives.
- To promote citizen participation in the evaluation and decision-making involved in the municipality's education.
- To create meeting spaces for local education agents where they can discuss, learn about and share their experiences.
- To plan coordinated activities and programmes among local education agents particularly between formal and non-formal education.
- To encourage coordination with other programmes, departments, organisations and so on, particularly with Local Agenda 21, because of certain similarities in terms of objectives.
- To create elements, events, principles and so on which can serve as hubs where numerous different local education agents cross each other.

## Methodology

A dynamic, action-research methodological model is used that feeds back on itself and allows for ongoing correction of processes. Creative resources are used and citizen participation is fostered.

### Activities:

In successive phases different activities have been carried along this line of action under the title "**Connections of Complicity**", the following of which are of special note:

- **Listing and Guide to Educational Resources:** an exhaustive study was carried out in order to make a list of all the educational activities, both formal and non-formal, in the municipality. The list was then used to write up and publish the Guide to Educational Resources, a document compiled and distributed to publicise all the local educational initiatives.

- The **Camargo Educating City Meeting:** in November 2008 a meeting was organised with the title "Show and share results, open new doors in a collective project". 80% of the local education agents (schools, cultural, sports and social associations and municipal departments involved in educational activities: culture, environment, sports, social services, local police, etc.) took part to present their initiatives. The meeting lasted a week, and included exhibitions, themed round tables, lectures, workshops and so on, in which more than 2,000 people participated directly.

- Under the title of "Seed Sowing", a number of education-related initiatives and events have been run over the four years, and shared with the population. These include: the **Shared Book**, which is a book that is taken around the municipality, in which citizens have been writing a common history; the **Collective Seed-Sowing Poem Book** which is an intergenerational creative space, an open book of poems created in different environments, which currently holds around 300 poems, and the **Camargo Diary** which is updated daily on the municipality website, and published in hard copy once a month.

- **Camargo Connects Meeting:** the continuing aim of learning about and connecting up the network of local initiatives gave rise in October 2010 to the "Camargo Connects" meeting, in collaboration with Local Agenda 21, somewhere for social and education agents to exhibit and share their initiatives, thoughts and ideas. A collective sculpture construction was made in the form of a net.

- Other initiatives: the coordination of all the intercultural actions run in 2010 in the municipality, coinciding with the **International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures** and the pilot initiative "**Open Classroom**" in order to strengthen the open environment as an education resource and to create a specific teaching unit.



The Shared Book



Construction of the collective sculpture during the Meeting "Camargo Connects"

## Social and urban context

Camargo has a population of 32,000, and covers 36 km<sup>2</sup>. It has 4 km of coastline, eight districts, a densely populated city centre of 18,000 of the inhabitants concentrated into two districts with the rest distributed among the other six, three of which are predominantly rural.

The initiative is aimed at all organisations, institutions and social collectives that provide educational services for the general public.



Views of Camargo

## Assessment

To monitor and assess the results of the initiative, a group of indicators have been taken into consideration:

- People/organisations participating in the events: a high level of participation and growing involvement in most initiatives and events.
- The number of initiatives that have been coordinated for joint implementation: slow but steady progress and growth.
- The increase in the level of coordination between education initiatives in municipal departments.
- A large number of educative actions have been agreed by the different municipal departments.
- Communication between the municipal educative agents improved acceptably.
- Increase in the social perception of the implementation of the program, which was lacking in the first phase and has been high in the final phase.

Evaluation is particularly high with regard to the directing and awareness of citizen participation and the feeling that they are beginning to be connected through a budding network.

### Strengths:

- The growing complicity between the municipality's education agents regarding the running of Camargo Educating City programme activities; they have confirmed the benefits of working together.
- The general public comes to the programme's centre as a local place where they can ask questions, spend some time in the library and so on.

### Weaknesses:

- Resistance to getting past the pre-existent "compartmentalized" model on the part of certain organisations and education agents.
- The limited human resources and materials to develop certain activities.

### Future proposals:

- To continue to participate as much as possible, and to encourage the complicity and synergy of all education agents to build the Camargo Educating City common project and to create a network of local education organisations, providing an organic structure.
- The project has a number of areas needing more detailed work as the basic guidelines have been drawn up.
- The Action Plan for the next four years is already being drawn up.

## Contact

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