



International Association of

Educating Cities

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EDUCATING CITIES
FOR A BETTER WORLD



Photo: Pere Cornellas

experience

Urban Transformation of the Granollers Old Town

As the capital of Vallés Oriental, Granollers is a city of 60,600 inhabitants located 25 km from Barcelona. It's geographic location has marked the evolution of the city as a stepping stone to the interior counties of Catalonia and France, and it is noted for having diversified industrial base and quality retail trade, as well as for the broad cultural, sport and recreational activities it has to offer. Granollers is a member of the Executive Committee of the IAEC and acted as coordinating city of the Spanish Network between 2007-2009.

The city began a process of citizen participation in order to transform its old town - main core of retail activity in the municipality and county - into a large pedestrian area. The goal was to close the city centre to car traffic and to create a quality urban space designed to foster coexistence and social cohesion, as well as to stimulate commercial activity and to provide space for cultural, sport and social events.

The City Council decided to carry out this urban transformation process with the involvement of all the municipal services and departments and by integrating proposals coming from the citizenry into the project. To do so it set up a Monitoring Committee made up of local elected politicians and technical experts, the construction company, representatives of neighbourhood associations, retail trade people and interested individuals. At the same time, various working groups were organized to keep the citizenry informed about different related initiatives and about the project progress, as well as to collect suggestions from the citizens.

Thanks to this participatory process, which
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editorial

Under the title "Imagine Society, Build Democracy" the 4th Congress of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the 2nd World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders was held in Rabat, Morocco. This Congress was an occasion for celebration, not only because it coincided with the tenth anniversary of the creation of the largest international organization of local and regional authorities, of which the IAEC is a member, but also very especially because we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the foundation of first international association of local authorities in Ghent, Belgium.

The **Municipal Movement** played a key role in opening the path to peace after the two World Wars, fostering local development and weaving the ties between cities that have now become the current source of international cooperation. During these past one hundred years of the movement, thanks to the commitment of local governments, major achievements have been made, but not without difficulty. Centralisation, the lack of resources or the scarce presence of cities on the international scene, continue to be some of the obstacles that we must face.

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Granollers has boosted the transformation of its old town through a participatory process that has allowed to reorganise this space for different uses by bearing in mind the needs of the residents.

Urban Transformation of the Granollers Old Town

took place during all phases of the project, the town planning action in the city centre has enjoyed a great deal of social consensus and satisfaction from all those involved.

Thus, for example, new car parks were allocated and new traffic routes were designed; the need to have free spaces for organising cultural events was studied; urban furniture and their location was chosen taking into account the needs of people with reduced mobility; quality pavement was chosen for events of different sort, and



Photo: Pere Cornellas

several children's play areas and green areas in different squares were created, whose maintenance has been taken on voluntarily by the local residents, amongst other actions. At the same time, this renovation has led to an appreciation of the city's heritage sites and contributed to its conservation.

The urban transformation that the city has lived through has been well noted and the participatory planning process has become a model of relational management to follow in all new town planning actions to carry out in the city. The centre of Granollers is now a lovely space for taking a walk, as well as a meeting point and a place for holding a large variety of cultural, recreational and sports events. A transformation which, moreover, has noticeably encouraged commercial activity and the restoration of the area. Today the pedestrian area in the old town comprises a surface of 36,000 square metres.

The goal is now to continue expanding this pedestrian area and to create others like it in different city neighbourhoods, in line with the educating city model that is based on



a friendly, balanced and cohesive city that places people at the heart of its priorities.

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

presented by:
The City Council of Granollers

contact: Albert Camps i Giró,
Deputy Mayor of public works and projects
e-mail: acamps@ajuntament.granollers.cat

cities networks

★ 11th Meeting of the Spanish Network

The 11th Meeting of the Spanish Network of Educating Cities (RECE) took place from 16 - 18 October in Gandia under the title "Education, a constant in life". The speeches and experiences presented centred on three thematic lines: encouraging reading; the new technologies and science for all; and health, healthy lifestyles and good habits. The new coordinating city for the coming period will be Rivas-Vaciamadrid.



Photo: Juanjo Peret

★ 5th Meeting of the Asian-Pacific Network

The 5th Meeting of the Asian-Pacific Network took place in the city of Suncheon (Republic of Korea) on 26 September, where it was adopted the 2014 Network's Action Plan and the new slate of members for the Coordinating Committee, agreeing that Changwon will remain the coordinating city assisted by the cities of Gunsan and Suseong.

★ 1st Latin American Regional Meeting

Around 120 representatives from 38 cities and 9 countries met in Rosario (Argentina) from 3 - 5 September for the First Latin American Regional Meeting of Educating Cities. In order to promote the 13th International Congress of Educating Cities, the guiding thread of the speeches, panel discussions and workshops was "The Role of Cities in Social Inclusion". Meetings of the different Latin American

territorial and thematic networks were also held.



Photo: Silvio Moriconi

★ General Assembly of the French Network

120 delegates attended the General Assembly of the French Network in Montpellier on 5 and 6 July 2013. There were discussions at the Assembly on issues such as early childhood, success at school or territorial education projects.

More information at www.edcities.org

interview

Mr. José Ulisses Correia e Silva Mayor of Praia, Cape Verde



What are the main potentialities and challenges facing the city of Praia?

The big challenge is turning the capital of a country with a per capita GDP of around USD 3,500 into a safe, organized, pretty, clean, cosmopolitan, competitive and dynamic city from the economic and cultural point of view.

This is a difficult challenge. There are not many examples in the world of poor countries, or even medium-income countries, that have organized, successful cities. What we see in many African cities is that individual low income levels and demographic pressures tend to hinder the structuring and organization of urban spaces. The consequences are well known in many cities in terms of the galloping growth of unregulated trade, transport, and the use of public thoroughfares, land occupancy, construction and sewage systems.

In Praia we are going to overcome this challenge precisely by focussing on the city's potentialities. We are a young country that is politically stable, open to the world and with a large diaspora, as well as being very malleable, adaptable and capable of overcoming obstacles.

What is the idea of the city towards which the current governing team is working?

Our idea is of an inclusive, entrepreneurial, cosmopolitan city, with responsible citizens who feel they are building the present and future of the city, guided by a motivating leadership.

We want people to identify with and have a positive attitude toward their city. That is why one of the main initiatives is to continue investing in public space and facilities, such as squares with free internet access for young people, children's parks, and facilities for doing physical exercise in the open air, paved and pedestrian streets. We will continue on this path investing in the renovation of infrastructures and spaces that have a strong identity-based link to the older generation. But the most important intervention in this second mandate will be the regeneration of the sea front, which includes the port and the beaches in order to make the city face the sea again.

What does being aware of the educating side of different municipal policies contribute to municipal management?

The City is first and foremost a major commitment of its citizens to the land where many were born or have adopted, where they live, work and struggle day to day. This commitment is only possible if in addition to the institutional tools, such as laws, regulations and authority, there is proper citizen education so that people can internalise the idea that they must lead the fostering and defence of the care required by public shared spaces. That is why the concept of the educating city must be present transversally in different municipal policies.

One of the difficult measures at the beginning of your mandate was the removal of street vendors in the Plateau area. What role did "urban pedagogy" play in this process?

Pedagogy was important. We had a meeting with a large number of the vendors and we showed that it was not possible to allow the Plateau (old town) to remain so run down in terms of sanitation; pedestrian mobility, transport of goods and by the image generated when the streets are occupied. At this meeting the vendors had no arguments to reject the need for organisation and compliance with the regulations. We renovated another market, in Sucupira, in order to accommodate more vendors... The vacating of the streets allowed us to rezone Julho 5th Street, which is now a quality pedestrian street.

Moreover, we trained more than 1,600 irregular vendors in two years in subjects related to public health, self-esteem and the management of small businesses, in order to improve their relationship with public spaces and the market, as well as allowing for an improvement in their businesses.

editorial

UCLG, as direct heir of the movement, wanted to celebrate this centenary with an exhibition that chronologically recreates the key moments of municipal exchange and cooperation, as well as by inviting internationally renowned speakers to the Summit to share their thoughts on the past, present and future of this movement. Thus, the Summit has been an opportunity for the analysis of the achievements and a chance for discussing and defining jointly the new priorities for cities and regions for the 21st century.

Making the voice of the cities heard at international negotiations is vital for giving continuity to the achievements of the municipal movement. Along this line, UCLG is working on redefining the Objectives of Development for the post-2015 Millennial and on preparing the road to the 2016 Habitat III Conference.

The Secretariat of the IAEC

c/ Avinyó 15, 4th floor
08002 Barcelona (Spain)
Ph. + 34 93 342 77 20
Fax. +34 93 342 77 29
E-mail: bidce@bcn.cat

What issues would you like to work on with other cities in the IAEC?

The role of the media in changing attitudes and social behaviour inspired by the concept of the educating city.



More information at www.edcities.org

experience

Learning to Take Care of our Elderly, a proposal from Montevideo

The ageing of the population poses the growing need to deal with the matter related to the care of the elderly. According to a report of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for 2000, almost half of all families in Uruguay had at least one elderly person living with them.

Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay, is one of the cities with the highest ageing population in Latin America. With a population of 1,350,000 inhabitants (2011), people over 60 make up 19% of the total. This figures correspond mainly to women, who, in most cases, were not in the labour market and, therefore, do not have a retirement pension.

The elderly are in general a self-sufficient population group, but when situations of dependency arise, their care often falls on the family, and it is mainly the women who bear this responsibility. However, families do not often have specific training to take on situations of dependency, which can generate over-burdening and stress for the caregiver.

In view of this situation, the Department of

the Elderly of the Montevideo City Council began a Program in 2010 called **Learning to take care of our elderly**, which consists of offering training courses that provide tools for improving the care and quality of life of the elderly, fostering the acquisition of skills based on theoretical knowledge and the sharing of experiences.

A multi-disciplinary team is in charge of giving the course-workshop, which is made up of psychologists, social workers, geriatric doctors, nurses, nutritionists, dentists, physical education teachers, etc. Thus, the 30-hour course offers knowledge on nutrition, personal hygiene, dental health, mobility, physical activity, administration of medicines, prevention of illness, etc., and tools for detecting, preventing and dealing with the stress of the caregiver.

The Program is provided free of charge to all those interested in the matter and takes place at different municipal facilities in the city in order to encourage participation. Various municipal departments, as well as different institutions participate in its implementation:

The City Council of Montevideo offers training courses for improving the home care provided to the elderly and responding to the needs of their caregivers.



the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Social Welfare Bank, the University of the Republic, etc.

To date 250 people with a very heterogeneous background have been trained, ranging from people with primary school studies to those with university degrees. The assessment indicates that 98% of the participants had a positive view of the course, both in terms of curriculum and exchanges with the rest of the group and the staff.

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

presented by: The City Council of Montevideo,
Department of the Elderly

contact: Ms. Susana Rodríguez
e-mail: secretariaadultomayor@gmail.com

did you know that...

- ★ Sorocaba will host a new **meeting of the Brazilian Network** on 28 November 2013.
- ★ The next **meeting of the Executive Committee** will take place in Barcelona on 15 and 16 November.
- ★ We invite member cities to participate at the **World Educasport Forum**, that will be held in Paris from 26 - 28 November and at which the IAEC will coordinate a panel discussion.
- ★ The period to present **candidacies** to opt for the organization of the **14th IAEC International Congress**, to be held in 2016, will remain open until January 15th.
- ★ Lisbon, with the experience "Sport Inspires Me" and Madrid, with "The City of Children", have won the **2012 Dubai Prize for best practices**.
- ★ The City Councils of Munich and Mexico City have been awarded the **C40 Siemens Prize for climate leadership** for their initiatives in green energy and improving air quality.

the voices of the cities

1. Malargüe (Argentina) fosters social inclusion for the disabled through the **Cümelén** protected productive workshop, which provides job opportunities to this group, reinforcing their self-esteem and social recognition.



2. Playa del Carmen (Mexico) is promoting the respect for the environment, through the **Green Kilo program**, which consists of a swap of kilos of recyclable waste for native

regional plants for one's yard and gardens or community green areas.



3. Through the initiative "**Today I'm going to the café... to listen to poetry**" the City Council of **Trofa** (Portugal) is trying to bring poetry to the population and throw off the elitist connotation associated with it. Once a month the cafés hold poetry recitals of Portuguese poets.