

16th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF EDUCATING CITIES

“City of change as a space for creativity and innovation: music, environment, leisure and participation”

Katowice, 30 September to 2 October, 2020

Definition of the Congress sub-themes

On the topic of the congress: **“City of change as a space for creativity and innovation: music, environment, leisure and participation”**, we would like to relate the aspects which contribute to the unique features of Katowice and are part of the city’s DNA, i.e. the change that is possible mainly thanks to the talents, imagination, enthusiasm and creativity of its residents. Such a change is not a goal that we are trying to achieve but can be regarded as something of a value. The factors that contribute to the city’s strength - diversity, interaction and synergy - are created only through constantly redefining and deconstructing all elements that build the city.

We firmly believe that “city of change” is not just a process that can fit into a certain framework or limits, but is also an inherent cycle that creates an intelligent, “self- educating” city that constantly develops and takes advantage of its potential.

In keeping with this concept, “an educating city” is an open, multidimensional and diverse space that creates conditions for development of pluralism, building a dialogue community, strengthening social potential and creating new ideas. The most valuable resources of any city are its residents. This is why we believe that a modern educating city is principally about community, which is a combination of actions of many different entities that accept multiplicity and diversity and give everyone the right to participate in public discussion, regardless of age, religion or economic and social status. It is a space that is constantly changing and, thanks to the continuous flow of knowledge and information, enables its residents to become global and active citizens.



Sub-theme 1 Education for sustainability & a green environment

Initiatives which empower citizens to take informed decisions and responsible actions for environmental preservation and sustainable lifestyles. Caring for the economic and social development while respecting the natural resources and opportunities of present and future generations. Fostering a fair society and repairing the damage made.

Principle 11 of the Charter of Educating Cities states that: *“The city must guarantee the quality of life for all its inhabitants. This requires creating a balance with its natural surroundings, providing the right to a healthy environment, as well as the right to housing, employment, leisure and public transportation, amongst others. At the same time, the city shall actively promote health education and the participation of all its inhabitants in the best practices of sustainable development”.*

Within this axis, we are looking for innovative initiatives which promote:

- Creating friendly attitudes towards the environment.
- Changing habits to promote sustainable lifestyles.
- Raising energy saving awareness.
- Taking informed decisions thanks to consumers' education.
- Green mobility (eco-friendly alternatives versus the use of motor vehicles).
- Green schools and green municipal buildings.
- Green and circular economy.
- The collaboration of the financial sector and other stakeholders in the application of sustainability clauses.
- Reducing, reusing and recycling initiatives.
- Voluntary work and active citizenship in the preservation and maintenance of the environment.
- Fighting energy poverty.
- Reducing inequalities in the right to live in a quality and healthy urban environment.
- Environmentally focussed education for a deeper and better understanding of climate changes.
- Conscious and eco-friendly city-designing processes.
- Citizen-based science initiatives to foster collective actions and awareness to local and global environmental challenges.



Sub-theme 2

Leisure: Fostering healthy lifestyles and quality of life

Healthy and educational leisure pursuits contribute to lifestyles and alternative recreation experiences that go beyond purely consumer, individualistic and sedentary options. What's more, through this type of leisure it's possible to educate people in values and to promote opportunities that bring people from different backgrounds together, thereby fostering the social inclusion of vulnerable groups.

Principle 8 of the Charter of Educating Cities states that: *"The organisation of the city's physical urban space shall meet the requirements of accessibility, encounter, relations, play and leisure as well as a greater closeness to nature"*.

Within this axis, we are looking for innovative experiences which promote:

- Leisure as a way of social inclusion.
- Education in values through sports and leisure.
- Proposals for healthy leisure to combat sedentary lifestyles and reduce health problems.
- Alternative leisure proposals managed by young people themselves or other groups.
- The opening up of municipal spaces and facilities for multiple uses and to host leisure proposals.
- Urban design and remodelling projects with citizen engagement to offer meet-up spaces and foster healthy leisure.
- Urban remodelling projects which allow for greater contact with nature and sustainable lifestyles (physical activities in parks, green areas for walking and running, closing off of avenues to cars on a regular basis to enjoy recreation time, etc.).
- Leisure for all: leisure proposals which set out to reach vulnerable groups and to allow them to enjoy quality leisure.
- Leisure as a space for active citizenship (volunteering).
- Educational proposals to foster a critical approach to the use of screens and unhealthy consumption.
- Leisure during holiday time - designing possibilities for young people in the city.
- Leisure activities as an opportunity for building skills for social groups at risk of exclusion.
- Promoting eco-friendly tourism in the city.
- Cross-generational and cross-cultural leisure time initiatives to better cope with the increased complexity of city life (use of information and communication technologies, amongst others).
- Rethinking historical urban areas to enhance the quality of life of inhabitants and their leisure time: alternatives to gentrification.



Sub-theme 3 Música y otras artes

Music and other arts offer a magnificent opportunity for developing a better understanding of the human experience, both from a reflective and an expressive viewpoint. They also empower individuals and communities to raise their own voice and to become an active part in the transformational processes aiming at co-creating better cities for everyone.

Principle 2 of the Charter of Educating Cities states that “*the Educating City will foster freedom of expression, cultural diversity and dialogue in equal conditions. It will also avail itself of both avant-garde initiatives and those of popular culture, no matter what their origin. It will contribute to correcting inequalities that arise from cultural production based solely on mercantile criteria*”.

Therefore, this axis includes innovative initiatives which foster:

- Equitable access to culture for people at risk of exclusion or with special needs.
- Social inclusion, feeling of belonging and citizen engagement through music and other arts education.
- The use of artistic languages to critically reflect on contemporary issues that impact the city and the world.
- Positive values of citizenship through music education and other arts.
- Harmonious living together among citizens from diverse backgrounds and ages through music or other arts.
- The development of lifelong artistic sensitivity as a way to boost citizens' wellbeing, creativity, self-esteem and engagement, with a specific focus on people and groups at risk of exclusion.
- The development of talents as a way of offering professional opportunities.
- Cultural and artistic projects which involve the local community as creators (not only as an audience).
- The development of creative and artistic tours at a local level to actively engage local creators.
- The engagement of local associations and groups in planning and organising artistic and cultural festivals.
- The inclusion and recognition of the diversity of cultural and artistic voices in the city.
- Allowing art into public space: including artists into city-designing processes.
- Urban sounds: conscious acoustic design of public spaces.