



DECLARATION

2025 International Day of the Educating City

On this special day, I'm addressing you all as a member city of the International Association of Educating Cities, a network that includes around five hundred local governments committed to education as a catalyst for social transformation, inclusion and harmonious living.

Today, we're celebrating the **2025 International Day of the Educating City**, under the slogan "**Children's Participation in the Educating City**", an opportunity to recognise the key role of children and adolescents as active citizens with the right to have their say, to be heard, and to play a part of the decisions affecting them.

Principle 8 of the Charter of Educating Cities states that children, adolescents and young people have the right to participate in the management and improvement of community life on equal terms with adults. To achieve this, Educating Cities undertake to provide the necessary channels and tools. This commitment aligns with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which enshrines children's participation as an essential right.

Furthermore, principle 20 of the Charter of Educating Cities establishes that the educating city should provide the entire population with education in the values and practices of democratic citizenship that foster respect, tolerance, participation, responsibility, interest in public life, and commitment to the common good.

In the Educating Cities, children are not just recipients of services, but key actors in the present and builders of the future. Their involvement, far from being symbolic, has a real and transformative impact on city life. On the one hand, their proposals influence municipal decisions by enriching them with their views, ideas and energy and, on the other, participation helps them learn how democracy works, from a more immediate reality, such as school or their neighbourhood.

Therefore, in [CITY'S NAME], as an active member of the International Association of Educating Cities, we commit to:

- Bolstering spaces and tools for child participation, recognising their voice as essential in local democratic life.
- Ensuring that these participation channels incorporate children in vulnerable situations in the construction of more inclusive and equitable cities that embrace all perspectives.
- Promoting training spaces for children and adolescents to develop social skills, learn about their rights and know how to exercise them actively and responsibly.
- Fostering intergenerational dialogue as a way to build a more cohesive, more inclusive and more caring community.
- Encouraging educational, cultural and recreational initiatives with and for children and adolescents that raise awareness of their rights and foster their active involvement as well as promoting children's self-managed spaces.
- Coordinating efforts between departments, public authorities, social entities, schools, families and other educational agents to work together for well-being, equal opportunities and active citizenship from childhood on, making our city a dynamic learning environment.

The 2025 International Day of the Educating City is an opportunity to renew our commitment to education and the promotion of children and to celebrate our progress, because an Educating City is one that listens, learns and grows with its children.

Today, [CITY'S NAME] is enthusiastically joining in with this celebration and reaffirming our passion to build a more participatory and more educating city committed to children's rights.

Happy 2025 International Day of the Educating City!