



## **Declaration International Day of the Educating City, 2018**

On the occasion of the celebration of the International Day of the Educating City, our City endorses the Final Declaration of the 15th International Congress of Educating Cities, recently held in Cascais (Portugal), by making the public reading of the considerations and commitments made.

### **We, the Educating Cities have ascertained that:**

1. Contemporary cities are facing complex problems, due to an accelerated daily life rhythm and the flux of people and all types of products and tangible and intangible assets. One of the effects of this acceleration is the creation in the minds of our cities' inhabitants of a "culture of the moment" marked by the precarious nature of interpersonal bonds and the lack of commitment. This situation questions public democratic space and the social and territorial cohesion of the city.
2. The challenges facing local governments centre on the reconstruction of public space as a place that makes it possible to create and reinforce the links and bonds between people and groups, in order to foster social harmony, cooperation, as well as the development of the personal potential and talents of people, and promotion of progress and social cohesion.
3. Reactive political decisions are not efficient to solve the current challenges that cities face; while the anticipation of future scenarios on the basis of the knowledge of the local milieu contributes to provide better answers to people's needs.
4. Educating Cities have a large variety of tools with which to impact public space, especially through the creation of conditions for the participation of the citizenry in plans and projects, which makes consensus and progress possible in forging an active democratic citizenry in pursuit of social cohesion.

### **Taking into account these considerations, we, the Educating Cities are committed:**

1. To articulating proposals, promoting agreements, establishing commitments and coordinating efforts in order to deal with problems that threaten social cohesion and the values and practices of democratic citizenry in the cities, such as participation, equality, respect, tolerance, responsibility and interest in the public sector.

2. To ensure a collective policy of transformation of city space, where town planning is aimed at the creation of accessible public space that fosters creativity, experimentation, play and being in contact with nature, thus promoting sustainability and a healthier life-style for all generations.
3. To foster citizens' participation so that each individual who lives in the city feels that they are legal subjects with real possibilities of fully developing their skills and exercising their right to participate; as well as to involve citizens, specially the younger generations, in the City projects and decisions.
4. To create an urban environment that involves people by prioritising public space as a citizen meeting point, creating conditions for stimulating cooperation and social harmony amongst people of different ages, cultures, backgrounds, socio-economic conditions, etc., so that everyone can feel that they are participants in their city.
5. To pool our efforts in order to maintain and strengthen community links, making possible the interaction between people and institutions, associations, companies, groups... of any type, in order to create a climate of civic quality in which everyone can find their place in society.
6. To foster dialogue and inter-generational cooperation in order to best take advantage of the knowledge and exchange of information between generations for the sake of the integration and inclusion of all.
7. To boost the learning capacity of all the city's inhabitants and develop their potential and personal and collective projects.
8. To foster consensus amongst different social actors in the promotion of lifelong learning and education that fosters a spirit of citizenship and that allows for the acquisition of the talents, skills and aptitudes required to face the challenges of our societies.
9. To enable people to enjoy, under conditions of equality and fairness, the opportunities that the city provides in the area of training, leisure, work, provision of services and personal growth.
10. To share with other cities the best practices that enable us to move forward in the construction of more educating cities as domains of social cohesion.

The IAEC is calling on all public, international, national and regional actors, and on the citizenry, to contribute in a co-responsible manner to achieving all these objectives. We wish to ensure that we believe in, safeguard and respect the spaces of and opportunities for participation in which the voice of all generations can be heard in the construction of the cities of today and the future.

Finally, in this centenary of the end of World War I, we want to transmit a message of hope and peace for a better world.