

30 November
**International Day
of the
Educating City**



International Association of
Educating Cities
Association Internationale des
Villes Éducatrices
Asociación Internacional de
Ciudades Educadoras

DECLARATION 2019

Nobody questions the fact that cities, both large and small, are key scenarios in which the challenges facing humanity have a huge and complex impact. Many of the problems that test our survival as a species are present in cities, such as the pollution that affects climate change or the social inequalities that affect the development of people's potential, thereby reducing their life options and, consequently, making the population collectively more vulnerable.

The **Educating Cities** are committed to tackling these challenges by placing education as the key driving force behind the creation of more sustainable, inclusive, cohesive and committed urban contexts. We're committed to sharing a broad vision of lifelong education and to maximising the educational impact of our municipal policies, rethinking the city as an inclusive, dynamic and permanent form of dialogue with the people who live there.

What's more, the **Educating Cities** are aware that the challenges we face cannot be tackled with unilateral and straightforward solutions, but call for spaces that accept the contradiction and puts forward processes of knowledge, dialogue and participation as the best way forward of living and coping with uncertainty, as is expressed in the preamble of the Charter of Educating Cities.

As a result, the slogan of this year's International Day of the Educating City is particularly relevant: "**Improving the City by Listening**". We're on a two-way road that must be travelled both by local governments and by all local social actors (the community, the private sector, citizens, etc.) on a constant, participatory and inclusive journey.

In this sense, as an organisation with close links to citizens, we undertake to establish and bolster various channels for communication and engagement channels with the aim of advancing together towards the construction of a more people-centred Educating City, which provides innovative and effective responses to the challenges of the twenty-first century.

[NAME OF THE CITY] celebrates the International Day of the Educating City as a sign of our belief that active listening helps us strengthen community bonds, bolsters the sense of belonging and guarantees that all parties actively contribute to the co-construction of the Educating City, each one from our respective responsibilities.

As official representative of this city, I am firmly committed to the philosophy of "**Improving the City by Listening**", with the aim of opening up spaces of democratic and participatory construction that include all voices and help us create a city that leaves nobody behind.

To celebrate this event, we've prepared a citizen-focused programme of activities to showcase this collective commitment and share it with all our fellow citizens. That's why we've signed up to the worldwide celebration of the International Day of the Educating City, truly convinced that working alongside many other cities will help us confidently move forward and make our voice heard in favour of this city model.