



INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
**Educating
Cities**

DECLARATION
**2021 International Day
of the Educating City**

“The Educating City leaves no one behind”



In recent decades, inequalities have increased in many urban spaces in the globalised world. Economic growth and social development have been unevenly distributed and have generated ever-increasing processes of urban fragmentation and segmentation. This fragmentation, which characterises 21st-century cities, has multiple dimensions (spatial, social, economic, political, cultural, relational, digital, generational and gender-related) and is expressed in different ways in cities and municipalities across the world. The COVID-19 pandemic has only accentuated pre-existing inequalities and added new barriers and obstacles to equity.

This results in unequal access by the population to urban facilities, public spaces, and the knowledge and skills necessary for social, educational and professional inclusion. Faced with the challenge of these new and old forms of social exclusion, education is one of the cornerstones for the development of strategies which favour inclusion and avoid social segregation. Education is also seen as a process with the capacity to foster cultural changes which help deconstruct stereotypes that trigger the rejection and stigmatisation of certain groups and individuals, and which help critically combat inequalities and the relations of domination that cause them.

We the **Educating Cities** are convinced of the transforming potential of education, for this reason we implement proactive and preventive policies to favour inclusion and equity, and we make specific proposals to focus on the causes of exclusion. Due to our strategic position of proximity and knowledge of the community's needs, we are key players when it comes to identifying and critically reviewing these spaces and contexts that generate inequality and neglect. During the pandemic, the Educating Cities have responded with flexibility, creativity and assertiveness to answer the new social and educational needs, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable population.

This is why, the theme chosen for this year's International Day of the Educating City is "**the Educating City leaves no one behind**", and we undertake the following commitments:

We the **Educating Cities** are committed to providing innovative and multidimensional responses that help develop the personal and social skills of all citizens, without exclusions. This is achieved by mobilising all municipal departments and local resources, creating partnerships with civil society, fostering participatory and deliberative procedures, and providing lifelong learning opportunities, with

special attention to the groups at the highest risk of social exclusion.

We the **Educating Cities** are committed to enhancing the quality of the school system, tackling dropout rates, fostering co-education, and ensuring the educational success of all citizens, as school plays a key role in reducing inequalities. A school that needs to continually reinvent itself in order to respond to new challenges. Similarly, we incorporate care as a core strategy to ensure that all people have the necessary support to tap into their potential with fullness and dignity throughout the different stages of life.

With this, we the **Educating Cities** aim to create an accessible and interconnected municipality free of segregation and of physical and mental barriers, and to create spaces for harmonious living in which very diverse people can interact.

[NAME OF CITY] will be joining in with the celebration of the International Day of the Educating City with the firm commitment of "**Leaving no one behind**".

