



International Association of

Educating Cities

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Information
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EDUCATING CITIES
FOR A BETTER WORLD



Workshop of the 7th Popular Legal Promoter Course in Santo André

experience

Popular Legal Promoters in Santo André: boosting the recognition of women's rights.

In order to struggle against the high rate of gender violence and sexual discrimination and to supplement the activities of the women's care centres and consolidate a network of support for the defence of the women's rights, the Municipality of Santo André, a city of more than 670,000 inhabitants in the metropolitan region of São Paulo, set up a free legal training project for the "Popular Legal Promoters" in 2001.

The courses, introduced in Brazil in the mid-90s by the União de Mulheres de São Paulo and the Themis advisory group on gender and rights, are designed to provide legal training to representatives from women's rights defence organisations. To do so, through some 25 weekly 3-hour meetings, the students receive training on issues such as labour law,

widowhood pensions, gender violence and sexual harassment, family planning and health policies, etc. In order to obtain the Diploma as a Popular Legal Promoter in Santo André, the participants must also visit at least two women's social services.

In respect of the preparations for the project, in 2001 the Department of Legal and Consumer Affairs of Santo André contacted the three non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that set up the first experience in these courses in the São Paulo region: the União de Mulheres de São Paulo, the Instituto Brasileiro de Advocacia Pública and the Movement for Democratic Public ministries. The result of these working meetings led to a collaboration agreement signed by these organisations in the preparation of the content, presentation and evaluation of the course. Thus, for example, a large number of the teachers of these courses are volunteers from these NGOs.

The second phase of the program focused on the development of a preparatory course to advertise the courses amongst the women involved in community work in Santo André and to make the civil servants aware of the objectives of the course. **(continued on page 2)**

editorial

Representatives of cities from around the world and organisations from civil society committed to diversity, co-operation and cross-cultural dialogue are travelling to São Paulo to participate in the 10th International Congress of Educating cities to be held on 24, 25 and 26 April.

São Paulo, a city with a multicultural, multiracial population of 11 million people is the ideal scenario for a meeting centred on the "Building Citizenship in Multicultural Cities" revolving around 3 thematic axes: Identity, Diversity and Citizenship; Inclusion, Equality and Rights and the City as a Learning Space.

During three days a large number of workshops, round tables and lectures by experts are held along with a forum of best practices and guided tours of educating experiences in the largest city in Brazil. On the other hand, **(continued on page 3)**

"The Brazilian city of Santo André is promoting an initiative in order to improve the social condition of women by providing them legal training and information on citizen's rights and duties"

Popular Legal Promoters in Santo André

During the first year of the course a large number of requests from feminist community entities to participate in the project were received. In the following years, the City Council of Santo André has worked constantly in order to reach the representatives of all women's rights organisations in the city.

After the course, the students have sufficient training to provide advice and guidance to women who are not familiar with the



Class in the Popular Legal Promoter Course, Casa da Palavra, Santo André

women's social services and/or have difficulties in accessing the legal system due to problems that range from basic administrative matters to domestic violence. By fostering the real exercising of the rights and duties of other women, the participants have become multiplying agents of citizenship.

Since its implementation, the project has had an energising effect on the civil society of Santo André as shown by the more than 240 women that have already obtained the diploma as a Popular Legal Promoter in its first 6 years. As a result, the women's rights movement has been consolidated. A large number of activists from organisations of the civil society, such as Fé-minina, Negra Sim, and the Viva Melhor Association have been trained and the joining of new members has been stimulated.

Another impact of the program has been the creation, by the students participating in the courses, of a non-governmental organisation, the Popular Legal Promoters of Santo André-PROLEG, whose mission is to develop



Transmitting legal knowledge in order to foster citizenship

the potential of the women trained by the project.

At the institutional level, the commitment to the women's rights has led the municipality of Santo André to join the Popular Legal Promoters Co-ordination body of the State of São Paulo and to participate in the annual state-wide meetings of this network.

You can find more detailed information about this experience at the website www.edcities.org

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city networks

★ On 25 and 26 October 2007, the city Santa Maria da Feira hosted the **2nd National Congress of the Portuguese Network "Educating, Multicultural Municipalities"** at which 140 representatives from 23 municipalities in the network participated, and which also attracted the attention of a large number of Portuguese educational institutions and organisations.



★ Within the framework of the Extraordinary General Assembly of the IAEC held in Lisbon on 16 November 2007, the thematic networks on **Early Childhood and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)** held meetings and set down their Action Plans for 2008. At the ICT meeting there was discussion on the development of e-government while the Early Childhood Network discussed the organisation of a training seminar on quality indicators.

★ On 23 and 24 November 2007, the **7th Meeting of the Central European Network of the IAEC** was held with the participation of 91 people from 10 countries. During the two days of meetings the participants exchanged experiences on a series of issues such as coexistence amongst different cultures, the teaching of local history as a tool for the construction of identity and citizen participation in urban renewal.



★ On the other hand, between 3 and 5 December 2007 the **Meeting of Latin American Educating Cities** was held in Belo Horizonte, which dealt with the following issues, amongst others: the participation of the different social actors in the construction of the educating city; security and democratic coexistence.

interview

Miguel Lifschitz

Mayor of Rosario, Argentina.



Rosario has been putting into practice for more than 18 years a city management project linked to the concept of Educating Cities. Which have been their objectives?

The objectives are clearly linked to the improvement of citizen awareness, the construction of a different type of citizen-based culture and the installation in the heart of the community of a series of values and principles. In other words, each of these objectives has a clearly educating aspect: to expand the basis for local democracy, to foster citizen participation, to build identity and citizenship, to foster social cohesion and equal opportunities, and to develop local economy and public-private co-operation.

How do these objectives materialise in concrete projects?

There are three general projects, that are related to the objectives of transmitting, but they have a lot to do with the objectives of transmitting, educating and building a different type of citizen awareness. The first has been the process of strategic, participatory planning of the city, in order to involve all citizens, institutions and the private sector in the tasks of imagining and building the tools for the city for the next 20 years. The second has been the municipal decentralisation. A project that had and still has the goal of bringing the administration closer to the people, closer to the districts, allowing the creation of a new, more fluid and interactive relationship between the government, the administration and the citizenry. The third project is the Participatory Budget, the most powerful tool of citizen participation, which is designed to build a democratic culture amongst all citizens and to provide them with the opportunity to intervene in the administration of the city, to be able to contribute, express opinions and decide.

You wanted to place special emphasis on childhood...

Indeed, The first project has been the city of Children, based on the ideas of Francesco Tonucci. It has been based on the very innovative idea of thinking the city through the eyes of the child, not through a narrow perspective quite the contrary, but from the perspective that children have in seeing the good and the bad in their city. If a city is adapted to its children it will be adapted to all the citizens as a whole, to people that have disabilities, to the elderly, to all those that are in an underprivileged situation from the point of view of social integration. The City of Children has allowed thousands of children in primary school to participate in Children's Councils and to plan, express opinions and take initiatives concerning the city. Another project addressed to children has been the Children's Brochure, which includes recreational and didactic activities carried out in three different areas. This is a project with tremendous capacity for innovation from the recreational and non-formal education perspective, which has allowed building links among children and adults and the city through the combination of learning and participation in the construction of public space. Finally, we have the Growth Centres, a network of pre-schools, offering educative contents and support to children (2 to 5 years old) living in poverty.

Can we move forward in the development of citizen rights on the basis of strategies in which the educative focus plays a major role?

Yes, in the area of collective awareness, for example, through projects such as the Human Rights Bureau and the Memory Museum, addressed to restoring the most recent history of Argentina, the stage of dictatorship and the violations of human rights that took place in our country during that time. We can prepare teachings based on innovative criteria for children and youth and for society as a whole, using these events in the recent history of our country as a lesson for the future. In a broader area, we have also created the Equality Plan between men and women with the conviction that a modern, participatory democracy requires necessary the equal participation of women. Finally, in the area of economy, we are fostering the development of a social, cooperative economy and an urban agriculture. These strategies have allowed us to guarantee and materialise the right to work for broad sectors of the population that were ousted from the labour market living in poverty and unemployment.

editorial

the Congress also hosts the General Assembly of the IAEC and meetings of the Executive Committee and the different territorial and thematic networks of the Association.

As part of the Congress, the Secretariat of the IAEC will be presenting the English, Spanish and French versions of a book entitled: "Education and Urban Life: 20 years of Educating Cities". The publication examines the processes of urban transformation and its effects on the collective life of the cities, the evolution of education from multiple points of view and, finally, presents a brief review of the history of the International Congresses of Educating Cities since 1990.

The 10th International Congress and the interest that each of the meetings of the IAEC generates shows the value of the International Congresses as in-person encounters and how irreplaceable they are in the development of the activities of the Association. In 2010, Guadalajara, Mexico, will be organising the 11th Congress, which will be focused on "Sport as a Tool of Individual and Collective Integration".

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10th International Congress. Building Citizenship in Multicultural Cities
From April 24th to 26th 2008 www.aice2008sp.com.br

experience

Volunteers in Environmental Education for the elderly at the Parque Grande in Zaragoza

Located in a privileged spot on the Iberian peninsula, between Madrid, Barcelona and France, the city of Zaragoza (654,000 inhabitants) has a major city park, the city's lungs, if you please, called the Parque Grande. Inaugurated in 1929, it measures almost 400,000 hectares and contains a Botanical Garden, a Museum of Ethnology, the Rincón de Goya open-air theatre, the municipal tree and plant nurseries, numerous ponds, fountains and promenades, etc.

Since 2004 it has been a place for field trips for schoolchildren and citizens of the city who, in addition to enjoying nature, learn through games and routes about the park's history, flora and fauna. All this is possible thanks to the efforts of very special park guides, the elderly volunteers of the municipal program entitled "Would You Like to Be a Park Guide?"

Through this project two objectives can be achieved: encouraging the elderly to participate in the social and cultural life of the city and to spreading the values of respect for nature amongst the citizens, especially children.

Each year the activity is publicised amongst people over 65. Once the registration process is over, between 15 and 20 volunteers receive a training course on the history of the park and its fauna and flora, techniques for encouraging free time activities and environmental education techniques in the Nature Classroom located in the park itself. At the end of the course, the volunteers receive a diploma and badges that accredit them as official guides. Then, from November to July each year, they begin guiding tours mainly addressed to schools. Visits are carried out by 2 or 3 volunteers always accompanied by an environmental specialised.

The success of this activity lies in two areas: the creation of a space for cross-generational relations and the exchange of experiences between the elderly volunteers and the children; and the contribution to an active and healthy ageing.

Since the start-up of the program in 2004, 74 schools and 7,480 students have participated in the program. The interest and response of the schools have been so positive that the activity has spread to different sectors and age groups,

"Zaragoza offers people over 65 the unique chance for personal development and social participation through an environmental volunteer program called "Park Guides". A training and cross-generation exchange initiative in the city that will host this year's International World's Expo devoted to the issue of Water"

broadening its radius of action amongst the citizens of Zaragoza every year.

You can find more detailed information about this experience at the website www.edcities.org



Story-teller in Parque Grande

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the voices of the cities

1. L'Hospitalet de Llobregat (Spain) wants to convert **access to art and artistic education** into a factor of inclusion and a right of the citizenry. In order to achieve this goal, the City Council offers art training courses for all age groups and a supplementary program for schools as well as artistic activities at cultural centres and other spaces in the city.

www.l-h.es

2. The Municipal Civil Protection Service of Lisbon (Portugal) is offering a program called the **Safety Adventure** to schools in order to foster risk prevention habits amongst children at school, at home and in public spaces in the face of any contingency (fire, earthquake, flooding, traffic safety, etc). To do so, this entity has developed specific pedagogical tools such

as an exhibition, prevention workshops, files and a website.

www.tinoni.com



3. In order to **reduce the digital gap** between the elderly and other age ranges, the City Council of Geneva (Switzerland) has been organising since 2000 computer and cyber-

browsing courses addressed to the elderly. At 2 city centres, the elderly have the chance to learn about the practical basics of the information era thanks to the support of volunteer personnel trained for this purpose.

www.ville-ge.ch/dpt5/social/aines_nt_f.php



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