



International Association of

Educating Cities

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Information
bulletin
2011

EDUCATING CITIES
FOR A BETTER WORLD



experience

The "Creative Orchestra" of Santa Maria da Feira, a social integration musical project

The City Council of Santa Maria da Feira and the Centre for Theatre and Street Art Creation (CCTAR) began in 2008 an innovative social integration and community empowerment musical project named the "Unstable Orchestra", which, at present, gains a new impulse under the name of the "Creative Orchestra".

The area of intervention chosen for the start up of this proposal was the district of Fiães, which, with its close to 9,000 inhabitants and an aging index of 78%, is one of the districts with the most economic and social problems in Santa Maria da Feira. This city, located in the Northern Region of Portugal,

has approximately 136,000 inhabitants and an economy based on the secondary sector, followed by the tertiary sector.

The objective of the initiative was to create an orchestra in the district made up of 100-150 people between the ages of 9 and 80 from different groups at risk of social exclusion that would be engaged in musical improvisation in order to strengthen creativity, self-esteem, the feeling of belonging to the community and cross-generational relations among its members. It is an unusual musical group not only because of its unique make-up but also for combining traditional instruments with others created from recycled materials.

Initially the initiative was presented to the schools, social welfare associations, music bands, etc. in order to foster community participation and elicit their direct involvement.

The artistic director of the Orchestra is the Serbian musician Aleksandar Caric, who is in charge, during his monthly visits, of guiding the Orchestra through the process of artistic creation and introducing its members to

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editorial

In 2011 municipal elections have been held in Italy and Spain, and will be soon held in Argentina. At present, these countries make up 53.3% of the cities in the IAEC. For this reason, we would like to welcome the new Mayors and their teams, and very especially the Mayor of Barcelona and new President of the Association, Mr. Xavier Trias Vidal de Llobatera.

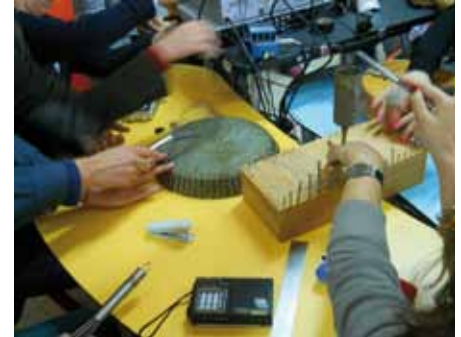
At this time 439 cities form part of the Association. The local governments of these cities have manifested their firm backing of and commitment to making education a fundamental, transversal axis of their political project, by mobilizing and organizing resources, in conjunction with various agents in civil society that play very often an implicit educating function in the city.

As stated in the Charter of Educating Cities: "The right to live in an educating city must constitute a relevant guarantee of the principles of equality for all, social justice, and territorial balance. This emphasises the responsibility local governments in the sense of developing all the educational potentialities that the city has within itself,

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The "Creative Orchestra" fosters social integration, community development, cross-generation relations and the value of recycling by the means of music.

The "Creative Orchestra" of Santa Maria da Feira, a social integration musical project



musical language. To do this he has a group of local teachers trained to provide continuity to the project between his visits.

The creation of the repertoire takes place through improvisation workshops, in which the creativity of the members of the orchestra is stimulated, no matter what their prior musical experience is. They are the ones who create the basic rhythms of the pieces, which are then finished by professional musicians.

Another of the features that characterizes this Orchestra is that a large number of the musical instruments are created by recycling

all types of materials: electrical conduits, traffic sign posts, bottles, tin cans, pails, etc. The families of the members of the Orchestra and the Municipal Brigade of Santa Maria da Feira are also involved in this process.

The first performance of the Orchestra took place at the Street Theatre Festival "Imaginarium" of Santa Maria da Feira in May 2008. This was followed by many others at the International Music Festival of Paços Brandão, the Music Cycle for Pinocchio, the Mask Biennale of Braganza, etc. During these events the Orchestra has had the chance to collaborate with artists from other disciplines.

After three years of existence, the City Council of Santa Maria da Feira and the CCTAR have decided to take a step forward and widen the focus of the project to the district of Milheirós de Poiares, as well as to work on a new show that will combine musical creation and the construction of a gigantic sound sculpture, including electronic effects. Accordingly, this initiative will continue to uphold the dialogue between tradition and innovation that has characterized the project since its beginning.

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

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cities networks

★ 10th Meeting of the Spanish Network

Representatives of more than 50 member cities participated in the 10th Meeting of the Spanish IAEC Network which, under the title of "Education and City, a Necessary Complicity", took place in Alcalá de Guadaíra from 30 March to 2 April 2011. The videos of the Meeting are available at:

<http://ciudadaseducadoras.ciudadalcala.org/> videos.

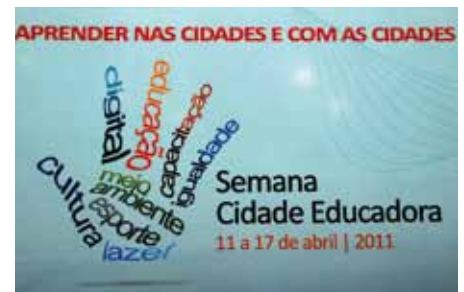


★ 4th National Congress of the Portuguese Network

Lisbon hosted the 4th National Congress of the Portuguese Network from 5 to 7 May at the Lusófona University of Lisbon under the theme of "Educating City and the Environment: Global Problems - Local Responses". More than 300 participants worked on the central issue of the 12th International Congress of the IAEC to be held in Changwon in April 2012.

★ Assembly of the French Network

The General Assembly of the French Network was held in Pessac on 1 and 2 July. As part of the meeting there was a debate on issues such as the Bobigny Initiative, which sets forth a national debate on education; the present and future of local educative projects; cooperation in policies on new technologies, among other.



★ 5th Meeting of the Brazilian Network

On the 13 and 14 April Sorocaba hosted the 5th Meeting of the Brazilian Network: "Learning in Cities and with Cities" within the framework of the Educating City Week of Sorocaba in which more than 40 municipalities participated. During the Meeting, it was agreed to set up a coordinating committee for the network.

More information at www.edcities.org

interview

Ms. Ana Olivera

Mayor of Montevideo, Uruguay



editorial

incorporating the principles of the educating city into its political project.”

Bearing in mind that this process of collective construction of an Educating city requires a long-term commitment, one of the requirements for joining the Association is precisely that adhesion and commitment to the principles of the Charter of Educating Cities must be adopted by the Municipal Council.

In those countries in which the local administrations have been professionalized, the process of change can be facilitated by their civil servants; but at the same time, civil society can play a key role. The cities in the IAEC will continue on their path with these changes, which, undoubtedly, will contribute new relationships, approaches, ideas and practices from which to learn and share.

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style of coordinated action jointly with other bodies. And we especially ensure that policies on gender, childhood, youth, the elderly, the disabled and on fighting discrimination are present as a necessary dimension of all our actions, because building a city is not only a physical activity, it especially involves building a complex network of economic, political, social and cultural actions of which the physical works are but the material support.



More information at www.edcities.org

Which are the major areas of action of your government?

Our main objective is to build a suitable city for all. The governing idea of our activity is to foster the right to the city. To install the third level of government by encouraging the broadest, most intense and effective participation possible, to foster permanent improvement of environmental quality and to ensure the development of the metropolitan transport system, so as to multiply the capacity for mobility and access of all the inhabitants of Montevideo to all points in the city, are the objectives that we are committed to for this period of time, which form part of a long-term effort that began 20 years ago.

To what extent can the idea of the “Educating City” contribute to meeting these challenges?

The Educating City is crucial. There can be no possibility of improving and permanently transforming a city without a better informed and educated citizenry committed to the daily city management and to driving changes.

How do district councils promote citizen participation in the management of public policies?

Firstly, through the process of the election of mayor and councillors itself, and the debates around public policy connected to this process. Secondly, through the existence and functioning of the neighbourhood councils. Thirdly, by means of the open district councils. Fourthly, thanks to the promotion of the participatory Budget. And finally, through a permanent presence in our neighbourhoods in order to inform, debate and listen.

To what extent does the urban mobility plan underway contribute to improving public spaces and winning them back for the citizenry?

The best policy for the management of public spaces is to promote their intensive use by many people. The collective public transport system makes it possible to access public spaces [...] therefore strengthening it is one of our essential objectives.

Mobility is a right. Access to the enjoyment of public facilities in the city is a right. In order for everyone to be able to exercise these rights we must build a series of infrastructures, services and policies that encourage their use.

How can being aware of the educative aspect of different policies and municipal actions contribute to city management?

It enriches city management; it challenges it to constantly improve, and it gives it value and makes its protagonists feel they are of value.

How do you promote a greater transversality in the municipal actions?

There is a permanent tension between the integral nature of problems and the real challenges involved in the daily management of a city and their traditional sectorial treatment, usually reinforced by the sectorial or departmental organisation of our institutions. In order to overcome this inertia we have organised operating cabinets through which various sectorial departments work together and simultaneously in the resolution of a problem or the definition of an institutional policy. Likewise, we promote this

experience

The "Changwon Academy": investing in lifelong learning

In order to meet the challenges posed by globalization and to create a society based on information and knowledge, the City Council of Changwon, through the Department of Lifelong Learning, has promoted the "Changwon Academy" since 2006.

The South Korean city of Changwon, capital of the province of Gyeongsang South, has 1,081,499 inhabitants after merging with two neighbour cities: Jinhae and Masan. Its current status as an industrial and residential city, and provincial capital, dates back to 1974. Since then it has chosen to stand out in areas such as the economy, education and the environment. A sign of this choice is the fact that Changwon will host the 12th International Congress of the IAEC in 2012 under the theme: "Green Environment, Creative Education".

The "Changwon Academy" is a new opportunity for learning outside the formal education system that consists of a programme of free lectures open to the general public. The programme is aimed especially at young people who have not yet decided what to study, and to housewives

and workers, in order to guide or foster their lifelong learning.

The lectures are held twice a month and are given by well-known experts, in response to issues of interest to citizenry in areas as varied as culture, education, the economy or health. In order to make the lectures more attractive, they are preceded by cultural performances by groups from the Changwon Lifelong Learning Centre.

A survey is used to find out what the issues of interest are for the participants as well as their training needs. In these cases, citizens are guided to take a more specific six-month course at the Lifelong Learning Centre in order to acquire the knowledge and skills required by the labour market.

The Academy is also a channel for funnelling proposals and suggestions to the Mayor, thanks to which new initiatives have been implemented, such as the female entrepreneurs support system or the multi-cultural family support centres.

In the almost 6 years of existence of the programme, around 42,500 people have

The city of Changwon fosters knowledge in very different areas thanks to a programme of lectures open to all the citizenry: the "Changwon Academy".



participated in 87 sessions of the Academy. At present the City Council is proposing to extend the programme to the former Masan and Jinhae municipalities, in order to clearly support lifelong learning. Thus, the idea is not only to increase learning and training of all citizens, but also to foster their participation in improving the quality of life and the construction of a more competent, educating and sustainable city.

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

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did you know that...

- ★ The Training Seminar "Educating City and Local Governance" was held in Montevideo and Sorocaba in April.
- ★ The City Council of Medellín and the IAEC organised a seminar on "School, Art and City: Polyphonic Construction of Citizenries" from 13 to 15 June.
- ★ The website of the 12th International Congress of the IAEC: "Green Environment, Creative Education" (Changwon, 2012), is already up and running at: <http://www.iaec2012.go.kr>
- ★ More than 100 cities have responded to the evaluation questionnaire on the services offered by the IAEC, which will help define the 2012 Action Plan.
- ★ The 4th National Congress of the Mexican Network is expected to be held in Tenango del Valle on 4 and 5 August, which will work on the theme of the 12th International Congress.

the voices of the cities



1. Thanks to the **Foot in the Park** initiative of the City Council and the Integrated Faculties of Santo André (Brazil), open air sport lovers now have the chance to receive free classes in the municipal parks from physical education professors and students.

2. The volunteers in the **I'll Lend You My Eyes** programme, set up by the Padre Salmerón Library and the Department of Social Welfare of the City Council of Cieza

(Spain), provide access to reading to people who for different reasons cannot or have reading difficulties.



3. Mexico DF is working on the integration of youth at risk of social exclusion through the **Youth in a Corner** programme, which offers a different use for public space by organizing sport, cultural and training activities.