



International Association of

# Educating Cities

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Information  
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EDUCATING CITIES  
FOR A BETTER WORLD



## experience

### Munich presents Buntkicktgut, an intercultural street football league

**The city of Munich is an important economic and financial hub, capital of the state of Bavaria. It is the third largest city in Germany, after Berlin and Hamburg, with 1,450,381 inhabitants. More than 50% of the children and youth in Munich have immigrant roots.**

Buntkicktgut is a non-profit German organization that works to improve the social expectations of children and young people, coming from different countries or German-born, through an inter-cultural street football league.

It is a pioneering pedagogical programme in Europe that uses the power of street football to reach these young people given

that football is a universal language. It seeks to combat aggression and frustration, and encourage interaction and cooperation, through team play. Football allows the cultural and language barriers to be broken down, by grouping together children and youth (from 7 to 22 years old) from different cultures, religions, ethnic origins, socio-economic profiles, etc., who participate in the decision-making and act as organizers and creators.

Buntkicktgut promotes fundamental values such as fairness, tolerance, participation and non-violence, through a recreational, competitive culture, where football is a tool that allows young people to experience success. The work done by the workers of street football, most of them of immigrant origin, is key spreading this philosophy. Furthermore in order to disseminate the inter-cultural league, training sessions in parks and public spaces are organized, and an open door policy prevails.

Besides playing to be classified in the Champions League children and youth can participate in different activities proposed

by the organization such as: training camps during holiday periods where football is combined with other activities (healthy cooking, German language classes, etc.); to receive training to be a referee; to participate in the edition of street football magazine; or even playing a part in the League Board which defines the rules, resolves conflicts and fosters a sense of belonging.

To spread the league, promotional teams made up of talented players who compete at events festivals and international tournaments have been set up.

This initiative has the support of different departments of the City Council of Munich (Sport, Immigration, Education, Youth, Health, Environment, Labour, etc.), as well as other local social institutions.

Since 1997 more than 40,000 children and youth from more than 100 countries have participated in the project. As well as Munich, where the head office of the organization is located, the project has expanded to other cities from Germany, Switzerland and Togo.

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**The power of street football to break down cultural and language barriers and to promote a good coexistence among different cultures.**

# editorial

As 2018 comes to a close the IAEC is nearing an important moment: defining its priorities for 2019–2022. In other words, it is the time to set the new road map that will allow us to focus our resources and efforts on achieving our goals as an organisation.

However, before looking to the future, it is indispensable that we share some of the elements that can help us to situate and draw the balance sheet of the work we have done so far, achievements attained throughout the 2015–2018 period, as well as the issues that will be worth reviewing.

No doubt the period that is closing has been intense and is marked by major milestones, which have been achieved thanks to the joint effort of many cities and people who make up the Association.

The organisation of the last two International Congresses, Rosario (Argentina, 2016) and Cascais (Portugal, 2018), have enabled us to present the work carried out by the IAEC to new cities and international and national organisations, as well as to offer opportunities for the exchange of experiences, reflection and learning to member cities.

New in 2016 was the first edition of the International Day of the Educating City, which had a solid impact on many cities. Since then, new cities and social agents have joined in this celebration and, accordingly, we can confirm that the Day has contributed to spreading the commitment to promote this city model and galvanize and build new alliances in the cities of the network.

Along these lines the two Educating Cities' Award calls have also contributed to adding value and making known the work of the Educating Cities. Likewise, we have continued to systematize and disseminate knowledge through our bulletins, publications, monographs and the experiences bank. Moreover, during this period 79 new municipalities have joined the Association.

However, this point of departure requires us to deal with the new period before us with a great sense of responsibility. We are faced with the challenge of defining a Strategic Plan that allow us to keep moving forward through the consolidation of our legacy, while, at the same time, continuing to be a place for reflection capable of pointing out and delving deeper into key issues that will impact on the future of our cities, from the perspective of the Educating City.

In order to achieve this we must reformulate old questions and pose new ones in an exercise that should enable us to revise and update our organisation and proposals for dealing with the emerging challenges and strengthening our commitment to the values of the Charter of Educating Cities.

Therefore, the updating of the Charter, adapting it to the new challenges that our cities face would contribute to revitalising and relaunching our founding mission in the long term. We think that this is the right time for this discussion, and, accordingly, we are throwing down the gauntlet.

In defining our new Strategic Plan we would like to include as many voices as possible. That is why we count on the contributions from the cities, the Executive Committee and the networks for its preparation. For this reason we invite you to share with us your thoughts, expectations and needs in this regard.

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## did you know that...



★ The cities of **Gunsan, León and Setúbal** have been the **winners of the Educating Cities' Award 2018** on Good Practices on Civic Education through Participation for their initiatives entitled, respectively: "Urban Centre Regeneration Project", "Networks of Women without Violence" and "Our Neighbourhood, Our City". The award ceremony will be part of the 15<sup>th</sup> Congress of the IAEC, where a diploma will also be awarded to the seven finalists: **Barakaldo, Medellín, Rennes, Rosario, Río Cuarto, Viladecans and Vitoria-Gasteiz**.

★ The **15<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Educating Cities** under the theme: "**The City Belongs to its Citizens**", will take place in Cascais (Portugal) from 13–16 November 2018. New to this Congress is that it will include the participation of a selected group of young people from member cities who will take part in specific workshops on the themes of the Congress and in the study visits with the rest of the delegates as well. These young people will present the results of their work and their proposals in a plenary session of the Congress.

★ The **Latin American Delegation** has launched a pilot programme for **virtual training** for cities in the region. To date, the courses delivered have been: "Introduction to Educating Cities", "Youth and Public Policies in Educating Cities" (two editions), "Childhood and the Educating Role of Cities" and "Living Together and Citizen Participation - Towards the Construction of Comprehensive Participatory Systems".

★ On **30 November** the **International Day of the Educating City** will be held under the theme **Building a Network of Shared**

**Commitments**. Amongst the initiatives proposed, of special note is the song written for the occasion that we encourage you to rehearse with choirs, orchestras, bands and local singers and sing in a well-known place in the city on 30 November. The Educating City Pact, the photography competition or the campaign #ICommitTo are other proposals for the Day. For more information please go to: [www.edcities.org/international-day-2018/](http://www.edcities.org/international-day-2018/)



# interview

## Mr. Juan Espadas Cejas Mayor of Seville, Spain



### Which features of your city would you like to highlight for us?

Seville is a modern city with deep historical roots, having played a very important role through the centuries. Its heritage sites and culture have made Seville a benchmark for being internationally popular with tourists, a splendid calling card to the world that we must take advantage of in order to attract investment and, as our goal, make 21st century Seville innovative, smart, sustainable, habitable, social, inclusive, intelligent, and tailored to this role.

### Is education a priority of your municipal programme? If so, why?

Without a doubt. Education is not only an excellent path to changing the world; it is also the only path for achieving such change. In 1990, during the 1st International Congress of Educating Cities in Barcelona, the City Council of Seville was a signatory to the Charter of Educating Cities and it has henceforth subscribed to its principles.

The City Council of Seville, which, under the banner "Seville, Educating City", fosters and encourages coordination amongst the different areas and entities of the municipality. The Education Action Plan of the City Council of Seville is the result of this.

It provides a broad municipal education policy that is both transversal and innovative, including within it all forms of formal, non-formal and informal education.

### Could you explain to our readers a best practice showing how Seville educates its citizens?

A good example would be our Family School programme. Since its beginning in 1999 until today the programme has worked with 336 schools, reaching a population of around 10,000 participants. These family schools are free of charge and cover all stages of education.

When dealing with the not-so-easy task of educating our children, on most occasions we are not, or we do not feel, up to the task, given that educating a child not only comprises meeting their basic needs, but also involves guiding the development of all their faculties. Seville families were asking us for a participatory space where they could deal with and think about issues related to the education of their children, aware as they were of the challenges faced by today's society, which is constantly changing. Only by properly educating the new generations of Sevillians, only by providing them with the means for them to benefit from a critical attitude and the knowledge required for achieving maximum personal growth, will we be able to ensure a better future for everyone in relation to these issues.

### What mechanisms are there in Seville that the citizens can use to contribute to the co-construction of their city?

Our governmental action is based on constantly listening to people. It could not be any other way in a city with so many and such a diverse network of vibrant associations.

The decision-making structure itself in the city is pluralistic and participatory. The 11 districts have their own participatory mechanisms operating through the Municipal Councils, in which a movement of associations and their democratically elected representatives participate and where the issues of greatest interest and of the most concern to people are discussed and approved, including the allocation of investments to improving our neighbourhoods. Numerous sectorial citizen councils (women, consumer issues, children and adolescents, etc.) are also operating, and through which the city's decisions governing social harmony must be channelled. During this term a platform for voting on proposals and preparing citizen consultations has also been set up.

### Along this line, how is the preparation of the 2030 Strategic Plan coming along?

This is an open, invigorated planning process using a participatory-based methodology that has been generating listening, interest

and needs detection processes, along with processes for generating agreements and consensus on the main challenges facing the city and how to confront them. And this is how it must be, given that this document will mark the path toward our becoming the city that we want to be, setting ambitious goals, keeping the Sevillians of today in mind but also, and especially, the future generations that will inherit the city that we can build together. That is why so much weight in the strategy is given not only to the productive economic sectors or the city's intelligent specialization in order to be able to compete from the best vantage point possible in the world market, but also to those social and human pillars, keyed to equality, that will also make us a society based on values and social harmony.

### Your city has recently made a major investment in training and employment plans for underprivileged neighbourhoods. What does the Integrate Plan (Plan Integra) comprise?

For our government the generation of job opportunities is an indisputable priority. That is why we decided to tackle this challenge on different fronts. One of these is our own innovative programme we call 'Integrate', which, in its first year, managed to surpass expectations and the minimum targets that we set for labour insertion and the scope of the projects.

In this second year we have begun with higher targets that we expect to achieve in collaboration with all the entities involved.

The target population of these programmes comprises jobless individuals registered as residents in Seville who are active job-seekers and who, due to various economic, social and personal circumstances, are socially very vulnerable, to wit: young people under 30, people over 45, the long-term unemployed, the disabled, persons subject to physical or psychological abuse, immigrants and people in the process of rehabilitation or social reintegration. This is a jobs programme in which we have placed many hopes and which is positive in many facets of the prism: it is participatory, collaborative and stands out in terms of results.

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More information at [www.edcities.org](http://www.edcities.org)

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# experience

## Night-time Picnics: A proposal from Rosario to fight citizen insecurity

Located in the heart of the humid Argentine pampa and with more than one million inhabitants, Rosario is a thriving and creative city that stands out in the fields of culture and public space. Rosario has one of the highest ratios of public green space per inhabitant in Latin America (12.5/m<sup>2</sup>) and has 24 parks.

In Rosario, as in other Latin American cities, the lack of safety in the streets is one of the greatest concerns, especially at night. Fear has kept people away from public spaces. In order to bring people back to use and enjoy outdoors spaces, the City Council of Rosario implemented this initiative aiming at the re-appropriation of the public spaces by the citizens at night.

As part of the summer agenda, the Department of Environment and Public Space, with the support of the Department of Culture and Education, launched an innovative collective experience: the Night-time Picnics. A free of charge initiative that consists in inviting the citizens some Thursdays during the summer months (January to April) to meet, enjoy and share the public parks, from 8pm on.

People of all ages, with family and/or friends, without socio-economic discrimination, come to these open air spaces to relish a night-time picnic, with live music to spice up the evening. Each encounter takes place in a different city park and a different cultural activity (tangos, Columbian cumbias, jazz, etc.) is offered.

The municipality publicises the schedule of the picnics on social networks and other media.



It is possible to book healthy meals online (sandwiches, fruit, juices, etc.), thus collaborating in helping to promote local businesses and generating employment in the city.

In the publicity emphasis is placed on caring for public spaces. That is why there is a staff of promoters that communicate directly with the citizens. With their support, a process of environmental awareness is generated regarding the treatment of waste in order to leave the park clean after each event. The promoters also welcome the citizens, talk to them, address their doubts and handle any problems that may arise.

This is a simple, fun and low-cost activity that promotes the gathering of citizens, enabling to forge bonds amongst them, being in touch

with nature and unwinding from routine. It is an opportunity to meet and talk to family, friends and other fellow citizens in a relaxed atmosphere.

So far, two editions have been successfully held, involving more than 50,000 people each year. As a novelty of this year's edition, it is to note that, in addition to being held in large parks, the picnics have moved to some neighbourhood squares of the six districts of the city.

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