



The **International Association of Educating Cities (IAEC)** is proud to present its 2024 Activity Report. This report is a sign of our commitment to transparency and a key tool for showcasing the main initiatives carried out over the year by the Secretariat, the Executive Committee, and the different networks and delegations. This edition, besides detailing the most important actions, includes information on the characteristics of the Association, its organisational structure, its finances, and the publicity, advocacy, and institutional relations strategies that we implemented in 2024. This report gives a detailed insight into the evolution of our work and our guiding values. We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the cities and towns that supported our activities in 2024, as well as to all the people who — thanks to their active participation — contributed to bolstering our mission. Their involvement motivates us to make further headway in our work as a prominent international institution.

INDEX

3 About us
Our mission



4 Foreword

Jaume Collboni Cuadrado, Mayor of Barcelona and President of the IAEC



5 Organisation



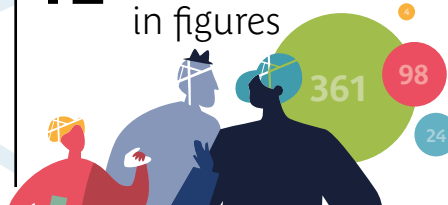
6 What do we do?



7 Networks



12 The Association in figures



15 International congresses



18

International Day of the Educating City



22 Educating Cities' Award



25 Other activities



27 Bank of Experiences



28 Publications and resources

30 List of member cities

ABOUT US

The **International Association of Educating Cities (IAEC)** is a non-profit organisation created in 1994 to act as a permanent bridge for participation between local governments that are committed to education as a tool for social transformation.

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@educatingcities

WHERE ARE WE?

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08002 – Barcelona

www.edcities.org/en/

Our mission

Bring together political and technical representatives of cities committed to the principles of the **Charter of Educating Cities** in order to foster bonds of solidarity and exchanges among them.

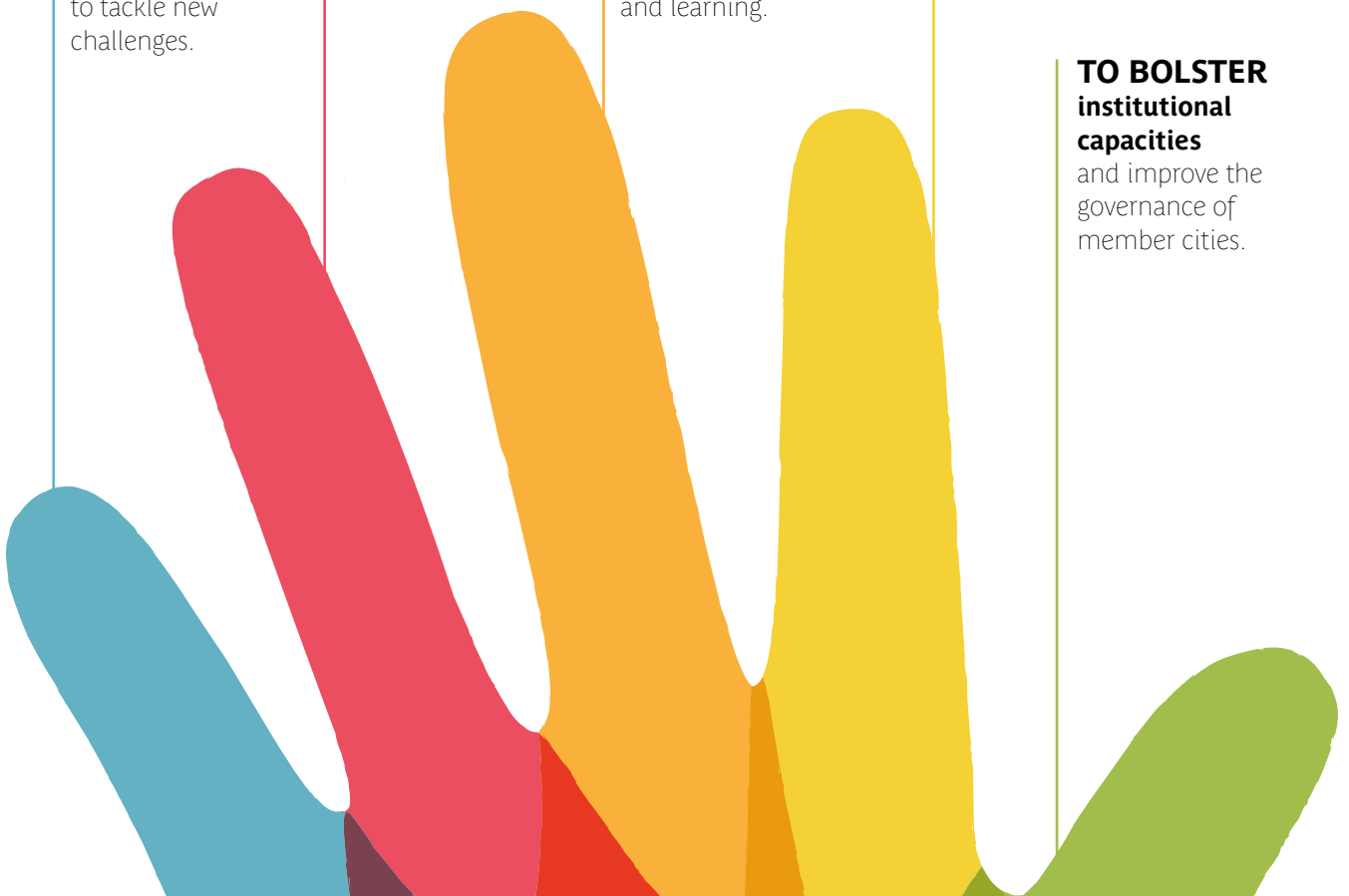
TO EMPHASISE
the role of local governments as educational agents and to promote their recognition as key players to tackle new challenges.

TO PROMOTE
education in the city.

TO BRING TOGETHER
political and technical representatives of the educating cities to foster mutual bonds of solidarity and learning.

TO RAISE THE VOICE
of local governments to international and national bodies on issues of interest to member cities.

TO BOLSTER
institutional capacities and improve the governance of member cities.



FOREWORD

Jaume Collboni Cuadrado
Mayor of Barcelona and Chairman
of the IAEC



I am honoured to present the 2024 annual report of the International Association of Educating Cities (IAEC).

The educating city is an ideal that is being built day by day. In fact, the IAEC has been building this ideal for thirty years based on projects in each and every one of our cities. We do so convinced that education is a tool for transforming our society and that we are helping change the world from each of the neighbourhoods where we act.

The big problems of our globalised world are found in cities, yet open and diverse cities are the best way to tackle the challenges of the future.

This report highlights the most significant events and initiatives implemented to advance our mission of building cities that are true **laboratories of learning, citizenship and social transformation**, as suggested by the theme of the 2024 International Day of the Educating City, which was endorsed by more than 155 municipalities. Within the framework of this celebration, the creation of the **Pilar Figueras International Education Award of Catalonia** was also announced, a tribute to the former Secretary General of the IAEC who served the IAEC for eighteen years and which will recognise the work of people and entities that have played a key role in the design of educational systems worldwide.

In 2024, various climate-related disasters highlighted the ever-growing vulnerability of cities to climate change, reminding us that this is a reality that we are already facing. I would like to take advantage of this report to show the IAEC's solidarity with the cities of Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil) and Valencia (Spain), with the hope that they will return to normal life soon. In today's context of climate emergency, education for sustainability has become a cornerstone for raising environmental awareness and learning how to respond in the face of possible disasters.

Furthermore, the city of Curitiba (Brazil), a paradigm of sustainable urban planning, hosted the 17th International Congress of the IAEC. A moment to share **good practices and learnings on sustainability, innovation, and inclusion**, which will help us better prepare our cities for current and future challenges. Curitiba passed the baton

to the city of Granollers, which will be hosting our International Congress in 2026. From here, my sincere congratulations and support to the entire team.

During the Congress, the **2024 Educating Cities Award Ceremony took place, which this time focused on "Education in Values"** to acknowledge cities that foster initiatives that educate in civic and democratic values. Congratulations to the three awarded cities: Mexico City, Santo André, and Odivelas.

Another important milestone was the **adoption of Portuguese as an official language of the Association**. With this step, we want to promote new exchanges, facilitate the participation of Portuguese-speaking cities, and ultimately increase the number of new member cities.

I would also like to highlight that the Assembly approved a new code of ethics, which will guide us in our future actions and decisions. What's more, the **Experience Bank** was revamped, a tool which is a driving force of partnership, a source of motivation and inspiration, and a showcase for successful initiatives.

Some territorial networks held enriching meetings, making the Association known in their respective geographical areas. As a result, twenty new cities from five countries applied to join the IAEC. These new members open up new opportunities for synergies and partnerships that can result on joint projects and innovative initiatives. Welcome to you all!

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the dedication and effort of many people and cities and express my heartfelt thanks to all the members of the Executive Committee, the Secretariat, the network coordinating cities, and the cities that have staged meetings and gatherings. Thank you for your hard work and support, without which we would not have been able to carry out all the activities described here. It is a true privilege to have such committed teams.

I hope that this report will arouse and renew the enthusiasm for sharing learnings and joining in with exchanges. And I hope that we will continue to move towards an even more educating, sustainable, and inclusive future.

Organisation

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
main body of the Association composed by all member cities.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
direction, management, execution and representation of the IAEC.



BARCELONA
Presidency
Mayor Mr. Jaume Collboni



GRANOLLERS
Treasury
Mayor Ms. Alba Barnusell



ROSARIO
Vice Presidency
Mayor Mr. Pablo Javkin

Vocalías



ANDONG
MAYOR
MR. KWEON
YOUNG-SAE



BRUSSELS
MAYOR
MR. PHILIPPE
CLOSE



CASCAIS
MAYOR
MR. CARLOS
CARREIRAS



CHANGWON
MAYOR
MR. HONG
NAM-PYO



CURITIBA
MAYOR
MR. EDUARDO
PIMENTEL



KATOWICE
MAYOR
MR. MARCIN
KRUPA



LEÓN
MAYOR
MS. ALEJANDRA
GUTIÉRREZ CAMPOS



LISBON
MAYOR
MR. CARLOS
MOEDAS



RENNES
MAYOR
MS. NATHALIE
APPÉRÉE



SEVILLE
MAYOR
MR. JOSÉ LUIS
SANZ RUIZ



TAMPERE
MAYOR
MR. KALERVO
KUMMOLA



SECRETARIAT

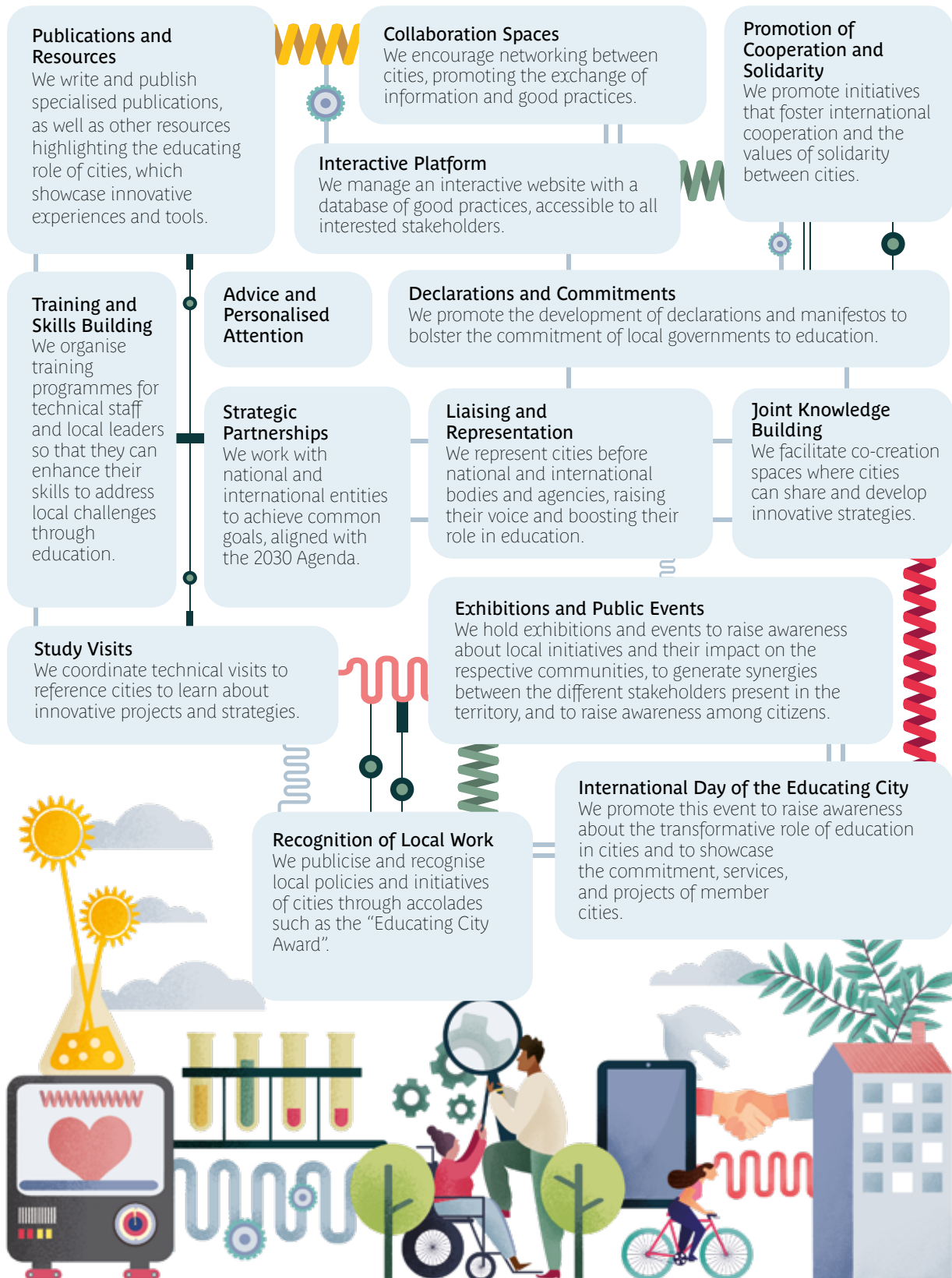
responsible of the day-to-day management.

NETWORKS

decentralized structures made up of IAEC member cities in a specific territory or that work together around a topic of common interest.

WHAT DO WE DO?

We boost the educational potential of cities and foster their sustainable development.



NETWORKS

The Spanish Network of Educating Cities (RECE) is the largest territorial network in the IAEC, comprising 239 municipalities. Since October 2023, the city of **Viladecans** has been coordinating this network.

The Monitoring Commission is made up of the following towns and cities: Argamasilla de Calatrava, Barcelona, Ciudad Real, Esplugues de Llobregat, Gijón/Xixón, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Lleida, Oviedo, Tomelloso, Viladecans and Zaragoza; Granollers, Málaga, Rivas Vaciamadrid, and Seville (as coordinating cities of Thematic Networks); and Avilés, Ibi, and Vitoria-Gasteiz (as guest cities).

This Monitoring Commission held five work sessions last year, four in virtual format and one face-to-face, in Viladecans.

In this period, the following thematic networks were operational:

- *“Education and Culture Strategies for the Construction of an Inclusive City/Community for the*

Development of a Critical and Creative Citizenship”. Coordinated by Granollers. Participants: 30 cities.

- *“Inclusion, Cornerstone of the Educating City”*. Coordinated by Málaga and Seville. Participants: 24 cities.

- *“Children and Adolescents: Transforming their City”*. Coordinated by Rivas Vaciamadrid. Participants: 28 cities.

Each of these networks carried out about four work sessions, alternating virtual and face-to-face formats.

The outreach of the Spanish Network was also enhanced by:

- The creation of a profile on X: RECE (@SomosRece)
- The publication of a monthly newsletter.
- A specific communication campaign to show that cities educate beyond the school setting, transforming the city into a huge space for learning.

The 17th meeting of the network will be held from 1 to 3 October 2025 in the city of Viladecans and will be themed: **“Zero School Dropouts”**.



The **Network of Educating Cities of the Region of Girona** held its 7th Annual Conference in **Castell-Platja d'Aro**. During the meeting, Girona took over as coordinating city of the network.

Meanwhile, the **Portuguese Network of Educating Cities (RTPCE)**, coordinated by **Lisbon**, held two National Meetings in 2024: on 10 May in Albufeira, focused on *“Strategies to Involve all Stakeholders in the City’s Actions”*, and on 25 October in Braga, under the theme *“Playing, Playing...”*, with the participation of more than 140 attendees.

Currently, the following thematic networks are operational:

- *“Play in the Educating City”*: two meetings were held, one in February in Oeiras and another in July in Porto. What’s more, an event was held on the International Day of Play, with the participation of 54 partner cities and 160,000 children.
- *“Inclusive Cities”*: Meetings were held in April in Porto, focusing on inclusive education, and in October in Almada, dedicated to education through the arts.
- *“Local Educational Project”*: Three meetings in total: in January in Odemira, with the theme *“Strategies to Improve the Internal and External Communication of the Local Educational Project”*; in May in Albufeira, with the theme *“Everyone in the Local Educational Project”*; and in October in Santa Maria da Feira, where the theme *“Monitoring and Evaluation”* was addressed.
- *“Lifelong Education”*: in March, the publication *“Lifelong Education: Perspectives, Reflections and Proposals”* was reissued, and in November, the third national meeting was held in Loures, under the title *“Lifelong Education: Interconnection between Education, Training and Work in the Era of Artificial Intelligence”*.

The Portuguese Network published three bulletins (numbers 51, 52 and 53) and the travelling exhibition visited Entroncamento, Soure, Lagoa, Setúbal, and Vila Franca de Xira.

Meanwhile, the Coordination Commission, composed of Águeda, Lagoa (Algarve), Santo Tirso, Torres Vedras, Valongo, and Vila Nova de Famalicão, met on three occasions to address strategic issues.



The IAEC is decentralised and works in territorial and/or thematic networks

The next Portuguese Congress will be held in Santo Tirso from 21 to 23 May 2025, under the theme **“Innovation, Inclusion and Sustainability”**.

The **Latin America Delegation**, based in the city of **Rosario**, leads the coordination of municipalities and networks in the region. In 2024, it intensified its work to welcome new cities and bolstered the membership of educating cities through numerous work meetings.

Over this period, new **thematic networks** were launched and various workshops and meetings were organised in cyber c@fé format:

- Nature-Based Solutions
- Cities, Technology, and Social Inclusion
- People with Disabilities

Each network has a virtual space for consulting materials and exchanging information.

In the training field, the following courses were offered through the virtual classroom:

- Principles and Values of an Educating City (two editions, aimed at new members or at cities with new councils)
- “Public Policies and Youth Engagement in Educating Cities”
- Nature-Based Solutions

Additionally, the following dialogues were organised:

- “Community Sport as a Way of enjoying Public Spaces”
- “Sustainable Tourism”
- “Role of Educating Cities in the Promotion of Diversity and Intercultural Respect”

- *“The Educating City as a Laboratory of Learning, Art, Science and Technology”*

Awareness-raising sessions were also held in the cities of Zarate, Rosario, El Trébol and Playa del Carmen, focused on further exploring the concept and principles of the Charter of Educating Cities.

What’s more, the Delegation signed a partnership agreement with the Faculty of Humanities and Arts of the National University of Rosario and cemented its relationship with entities such as CLACSO, the Global Alliance for Peace Ministries and Infrastructure (Latin America and Caribbean Chapter), Mercociudades, and Scouts Argentina.

Finally, key communication tools were renewed, such as the **website** and the Latin America Experience Bank, and the Delegation boosted its social media presence, reaching more than six thousand followers on various platforms.

The **Argentinian Network (RACE)**, coordinated by the city of **San Justo**, held its **7th Meeting** in Córdoba in September, under the theme **“Educating Cities: Learning Ecosystems to Live and Feel the City”**. The meeting reflected on the importance of strengthening education; education in values, and the promotion of innovation and creativity in cities. The General Assembly of the Network met in Córdoba, where a review of the period was shared and the city of San Justo renewed its position as coordinating city of the network, while the cities of Córdoba, Venado Tuerto and Malabrigo were elected as members





of the Monitoring Commission. New cities such as Despeñaderos and Bell Ville were also advised and mentored in their process of joining the network.

The **Brazilian Network of Educating Cities (REBRACE)**, led by Curitiba with the support of Guarulhos and Passo Fundo, held monthly virtual meetings between March and November. These meetings discussed actions related to the 17th International Congress of the Association, addressed relevant issues for cities in the network, and presented educational projects and policies undertaken in several Brazilian cities.

Throughout the year, Curitiba, as coordinating city, carried out continuous outreach actions, publicising the Association and the principles of the Charter at local, regional and state events, resulting in ten new cities in Brazil signing up. These new cities took part in formal welcoming events to the network and were also offered training aimed at their council leaders and civil servants.

The network coordinator encouraged the active participation of the member cities in IAEC and Delegation activities, as well as awareness-raising and training days in Palmeira, Curitiba, Canela, Ibituva, Passo Fundo, Quitandinha, Nova Prata, and Fagundes Varela. What's more, it welcomed delegations from several cities interested in the Educating City model.

In October, municipal elections were held in Brazil. As a result, changes were recorded in twenty-one municipalities. The new authorities took office on 1 January 2025.

In December, a virtual training session was held, focusing on the principles of the Charter of Educating Cities and its implementation in municipal policies and projects. 2024 ended with the launch of the **2nd Brazilian Network Bulletin**, entitled *"Intersectoral Experiences in Educating Cities"*, which compiled ten experiences from Brazilian cities, highlighting the role of

intersectoral approaches and collaboration among civil society actors.

Municipal elections were also held in Mexico in 2024, leading to changes in many municipalities. The transfer time between council teams slowed down activity a bit. However, the **Mexican Network of Educating Cities (REMCE)**, under the coordination of **Guanajuato**, accompanied by León and Playa del Carmen, convened its **16th National Meeting** in Oaxaca de Juárez in November, precisely as an opportunity to publicise the Network to new councils. This event, with the theme **“Care for Heritage as an Educational Agent”**, featured the presentation of panels where member cities shared experiences around the themes *“Education and Awareness”* and *“Heritage and Social Cohesion”*. All the detailed information about this meeting is available in the [General Report of the event](#).

Additionally, in June, several virtual meetings were held, aimed at exchanging experiences on educational tourism. Working meetings were also held between the Network coordinator, the IAEC Secretariat and the Latin America Delegation, with the aim of planning and bolstering the activities carried out over the year. Finally, the Mexican Network intensified its efforts to increase its social media presence.


In 2024, **Bologna** took over the coordination of the **Italian Network of Educating Cities**. The main actions of the year include the distribution of the *International Day of the Educating City Activity Guide* and the *Code of Ethics* in Italian, as well as the promotion of coordination meetings among member cities. What’s more, Bologna hosted a network meeting entitled **“The City: An Educational Space for Transformation”** in November.

Meanwhile, the **Northern Europe Working Group**, led by **Brussels**, carried out various initiatives to promote new memberships in the region. In addition, its members were invited to a virtual event at the beginning of 2025, under the slogan **“Physical Activity and Movement as a Learning Support”**.

In December 2024, the city of **Changwon**, coordinator of the **Asia-Pacific Network**, with the support of the coordination commission formed by

Spanish Network

Coordination: Vildecans
www.edcities.org/rece


 @somosRECE

French Network

Coordination: Rennes
www.edcities.org/reseau-francais/

Portuguese Network (RTPCE)

Coordination: Lisbon
www.edcities.org/rede-portuguesa

 @RTPCE

Italian Network

Coordination: Bologna
<https://www.edcities.org/rete-italiana/>




North European Group

Coordination: Brussels
www.edcities.org/northern-european-group/

Asia-Pacific Network

Coordination: Changwon
www.edcities.org/asia-pacific/

Delegation for Latin America

Head Office: Rosario
www.ciudadeseducadorasla.org
   @ciudadeseducadorasla

Argentinian Network


Coordination: Sant Justo
www.edcities.org/race/


Brazil Network


Coordination: Curitiba
www.edcities.org/rede-brasileira/

Mexican Network

Coordination: Guanajuato
www.edcities.org/remce

 @remce_2025

 @remce2025

 @remce23

Andong and Gunsan, held a Technical Meeting, which was attended by thirteen member cities. During the meeting, good practices from Changwon and Gunsan were shared, and an overview of ongoing IAEC programmes was provided. What’s more, ways of designing programmes were discussed and new proposals for action were explored.

The network’s annual newsletter was published in 2024 and can be found [here](#).

The **12th Regional Meeting** of the Asia-Pacific Network will be held in 2025 in Daegu Dalseo-gu.

THE ASSOCIATION IN FIGURES

WELCOME!

In 2024, 20 new cities in 5 countries joined the Association, making a total of 487 cities in 28 countries.

We welcome the following new cities:

ARGENTINA:

Bell Ville.

BRAZIL:

Fagundes Varela, Ipecaetá, Morretes, Pontalina, Quitandinha, Rio Brilhante, São Caetano do Sul, São Vicente do Sul, Tijuca do Sul and Três Palmeiras.

SPAIN:

Ondara, Pilar de la Horadada, San Fernando de Henares, Sant Vicenç dels Horts and Ugena.

MÉXICO:

Irapuato

PORTUGAL:









Arganil, Figueira da Foz and Portimão.

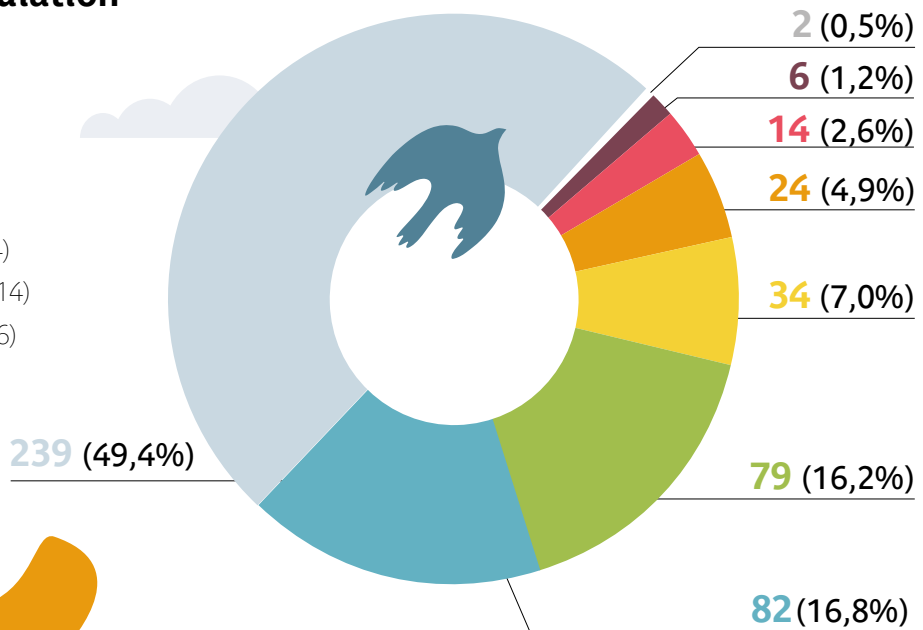
A further 9 cities in 6 countries started the necessary procedures to join the Association.

20 new cities in 5 countries joined the Association in 2024



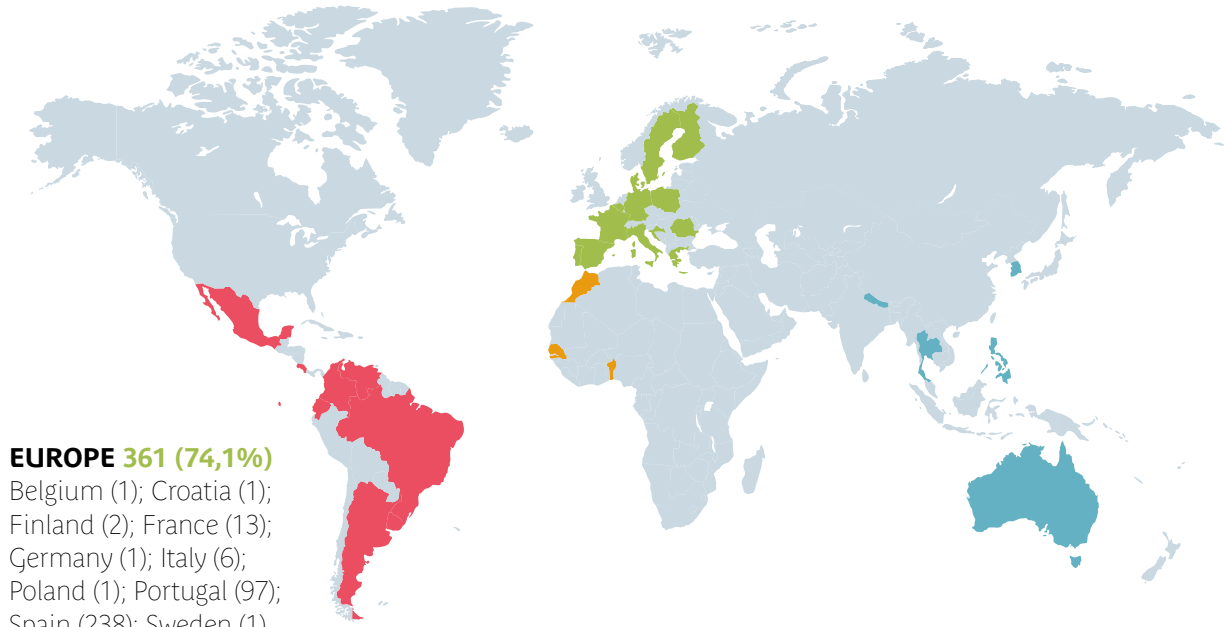
Member cities classified by population

-  < 50,000 (239)
-  50,000 > 100,000 (82)
-  100,000 > 250,000 (79)
-  250,000 > 500,000 (34)
-  500,000 > 1,000,000 (24)
-  1,000,000 > 2,000,000 (14)
-  2,000,000 > 5,000,000 (6)
-  > 5,000,000 (2)



487 cities in 28 countries are members of the Association

Member cities by continent



EUROPE 361 (74,1%)

Belgium (1); Croatia (1);
Finland (2); France (13);
Germany (1); Italy (6);
Poland (1); Portugal (97);
Spain (238); Sweden (1)

AMERICA 98 (20,1%)

Argentina (29); Bolivia (1);
Brazil (41); Colombia (4);
Costa Rica (1); Ecuador (1);
Mexico (18); Puerto Rico (1);
Uruguay (1); Venezuela (1)

ASIA-PACIFIC 24 (4,9%)

Australia (1); Palestine (1);
Republic of Korea (21);
Thailand (1)

AFRICA 4 (0,8%)

Benin (1); Cape Verde (1);
Morocco (1); Senegal (1);

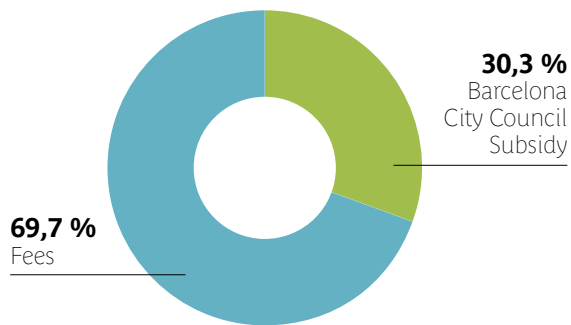


Financial details

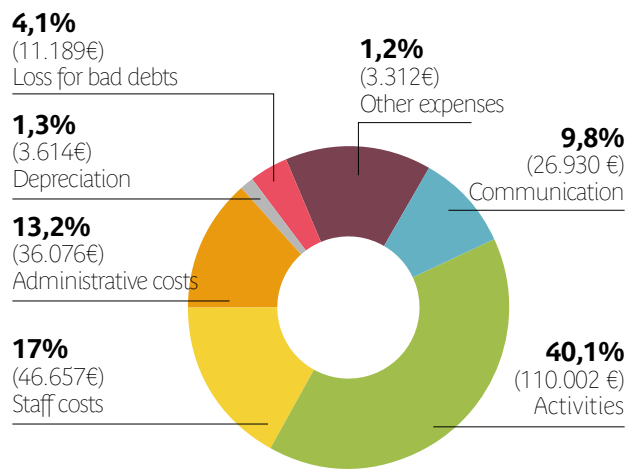
In accordance with article 32 of the IAEC Statutes in its condition as an international non-profit organisation, it is financed by *“the fees paid by its members, through subsidies and special contributions to projects by other public and private entities, by donations, inheritances or legacies, and from the revenues from its own capital”*.

In 2024, the expenditure of the Association amounted to 274.207,24 €
The fees are established according to the number of inhabitants of the cities and the Gross National Income per capita of the countries in which they are situated.

Revenues



Nature of the expenditure



National Income per capita

Number of inhabitants	Group I* 0 US\$-1000 US\$	Group II* 1001 US\$-3000 US\$	Group III* 3001 US\$-10000 US\$	Group IV* más de 10.001 US\$
<50,000	70€	104€	160,50€	220€
50,000 a 100,000	100€	156€	214€	330€
100,000 a 250,000	250€	338€	481,50€	715€
250,000 a 500,000	350€	520€	749€	1100€
500,000 a 1,000,000	500€	780€	1070€	1650€
1,000,000 a 2,000,000	650€	1040€	1605€	2200€
2,000,000 a 5,000,000	800€	1300€	1872,50€	2750€
>5,000,000	1000€	1560€	2140€	3300€

(*) GNI per capita according to world development figures from the World Bank (Atlas methodology).

Other contributions

- Barcelona City Council: offices of the General Secretariat and human resources.
- Latin America Delegation and coordinating cities of the Networks: operation of the various networks and working groups; contribution of financial and human resources.
- Host cities of the different meetings and encounters: payment of the corresponding costs

Transparency

Transparency, access to information and good governance are cornerstones of the Association’s activities. In compliance with Spanish Law 19/2013, the IAEC has a specific **Transparency section** on its website that includes the Activity Report, the annual accounts, agreements, and the rules governing the IAEC, among others. This allows for better monitoring of activities and helps build confidence. In addition to internal controls, the IAEC’s activities are subject to regular external controls by Barcelona City Council. What is more, Auren Auditores SP SLP-Uniaudit Oliver Camps SL UTE also conducts an independent external audit.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES

CURITIBA 2024

Curitiba hosted the **17th International Congress of Educating Cities** from 21 to 24 May, an event that brought together 17,000 participants from 136 cities in twelve countries, including Argentina, Belgium, South Korea, Spain, Finland, Latvia, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, and Uruguay, in addition to more than sixty Brazilian cities.

The theme of the Congress, “**Sustainability, Innovation and Inclusion in the Educating City: Transforming the Present**” was structured around three axis: (1) **Social Sustainability:** Inclusion and Cultural Pluralism; (2) **Environmental**

and Economic Sustainability: Innovation and Transformation of Territories; and (3) **Education for Sustainability.** In total, **102 good practices** were presented in three different modalities: workshops (50), direct dialogues (27), and posters (25).

The Congress addressed key issues such as equal opportunities, care, environmental and economic sustainability, urban gardens and healthy food, sustainable agriculture, circular economy, cultural pluralism, anti-racism and mediation, sustainable mobility, diversity and social inclusion, urban transformation, citizen participation and the SDGs, environmental education from the perspective of water resources, non-formal education and urban learning, the participation of children and young people, and school spaces and nature, among other issues relevant to city life.



The programme included study visits to local projects aligned with the principles of the Charter of Educating Cities, such as the Lighthouses of Knowledge and Innovation, the Municipal School of Sustainability, and other reference spaces. What's more, visits were made to iconic spaces of Curitiba, such as the Botanical Garden, Tanguá Park, and the Oscar Niemeyer Museum, promoting the relationship between education and the urban environment.

Within the framework of the Congress, the Educating Cities Award for Good Practices in Values Education

was handed to Mexico City, Santo André, and Odivelas. And the event concluded with the **reading of the Declaration** and the ceremony of handing over to Granollers as the venue for the 18th International Congress of Educating Cities, in 2026.

The Congress was held at the Positive Event Centre in the natural setting of Barigui Park. Parallel to the Congress, the 7th International Education Expo 2024 – Pedagogical Studies Week took place, an interactive fair organised by the Municipal Secretariat of Education of Curitiba.





Granollers will host the 18th International Congress of Educating Cities in 2026. The objective of this Congress will be to share and reflect on cutting-edge strategies in the field of **education and culture and community development.**

In 2024, significant progress was made in preparations for this international meeting. In this regard, the Secretariat team met with the Mayor of Granollers and the organising team to forge ties and lay the foundations for this joint project that will last many months.

Since the Congress is intended to have a major local impact, the Mayor publicly presented it in September in order to invite citizens to join the local commissions that will shape this collective project. In addition, the organising team is committed to promoting the participation of young people and children in a special way, so both groups will have specific forums.

The Scientific Committee has already been formed and has met on three occasions to start defining the agenda of the Congress. Development is underway for a website, which will initiate reflections before the Congress and become a resource once it is over.



2024 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE EDUCATING CITY

The Educating City as a Laboratory of Learning, Citizenship and Social Transformation

The ninth edition of the International Day of the Educating City took place on **30 November** with the tagline **“The Educating City as a Laboratory for Learning, Citizenship and Social Transformation”**.

The idea for this edition was to highlight that the city itself a huge classroom and a laboratory for experimentation, experiences, and knowledge. A classroom shaped by its streets, squares, parks and educational, cultural and sports facilities, all of which are meeting places where human relationships are forged and where we can learn from the diversity of people, cultures and generations present in the same space.

Member cities carried out a wide range of activities, such as exhibitions, inclusive artistic actions, intergenerational activities, learning fairs, citizen science projects, and awareness-raising actions on various topics such as the environment, first aid, or civil protection and workshops on topics like anti-racism, mental health or digital skills.

Institutional celebrations included the reading of the manifesto, the raising of the flag, and the playing of the official anthem. Discussions were also held around the Charter of Educating Cities and the theme of the celebration, as were presentations of good practices and municipal educational programmes. Other key activities were open days, which included guided tours, meetings of the children’s and youth councils, and recognition ceremonies for educational agents, as well as radio programmes, projection of videos about the educating city, and education galas or exhibitions on the theme with photographs taken by local children.

In the educational and recreational field, there were science and robotics fairs, outdoor classes, creations of collaborative murals, activities with resources such as origami and the

IAEC memory game, as well as actions to promote play in public space, treasure hunts (mathematics or other topics) and orienteering games, dances, inclusive events such as football for the blind, and other sports activities. Finally, publicity about the International Day of the Educating City through social media, the traditional media, and advertising placards was key to giving visibility and relevance to the event.

EXPERT PERSPECTIVES

As a new feature, this edition provided cities with inspiring videos by leading experts who explored the theme of the day (see Publications section).

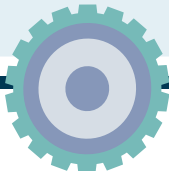




Activities programmed in each city

 Videos of member cities

Declaration of the International Day





More than 155 cities from ten countries joined in with the event. Thank you to everyone who took part in the event and made it a huge success!







EDUCATING CITIES AWARD

The **Educating Cities Award**, which is given out every two years, is the **highest recognition** of the International Association of Educating Cities for **successful innovative experiences** with measurable results of their impact on improving the living conditions of citizens, in keeping with the principles of the **Charter of Educating Cities**.

The Award sets out to recognise and give international visibility to the work of member cities, as well as to highlight best practices that can be a source of inspiration for other cities in the construction of more educating environments.

In its fifth edition, the Educating Cities Award focused on the theme of **“Education in Values”**, covering the following themed cornerstones: Promotion of Institutional Values; Culture of Peace, and Co-Creation and Participation in Community Values. The Award recognised initiatives that promote civic and democratic values to foster

harmonious living and respect for the planet, and on practices that nurture solidarity, the culture of peace, social justice, participation, environmental awareness, and commitment to the common good.

Sixty-six applications were submitted from **fifty-five cities in eleven countries**. The finalist and winning experiences were selected by an international jury, made up of experts in the field (Philippe Merieu, Alicia Cabezudo, and Joan Manuel del Pozo) and representatives of the IAEC Executive Committee (Brussels and Cascais). Given the relevance, quality, and plurality of the experiences analysed, selecting the winning experiences was no mean feat.

 [VÍdeo | Jury Impressions](#)



Winning Experiences



MEXICO CITY: Community Education Subsystem PILARES

PILARES centres are open public spaces that promote the inclusion of the most vulnerable social groups, and are based around four main components: education, culture, sport, and economic entrepreneurship.

ODIVELAS: Interreligious Dialogue

The initiative sets out to promote exchange, knowledge and respect, both between different religions and beliefs and between them and citizens in general, thereby nurturing social cohesion and peacebuilding.



SANTO ANDRÉ: Water, Camera and Action – Socio-Environmental Educommunication

The goal of the project is to heighten critical awareness of environmental and social issues and the citizen participation of young people aged 15 to 29 in city issues, based on their perceptions and at the same time valuing the specific features of each territory.



Finalists Experiences



APUCARANA, a City that Includes, Welcomes and Embraces

This initiative aimed at reducing the barriers suffered by people with hearing disabilities also sets out to give them the chance to interact with the population and enhance their sense of belonging to society, as well as encouraging schoolchildren to learn how to respect differences.



BUENOS AIRES, Sustainable Ministry Programme. A Path to Sustainable Transformation.

The programme sets out to promote a new environmental culture among the staff of the Ministry of Education of Buenos Aires, incorporating sustainability criteria into their management practices and processes.



MANRESA: Flors Sirera House for Solidarity and Peace

This is a space for citizen representation that offers a wide range of awareness-raising activities on the culture of peace, solidarity, and international cooperation, participatory processes, participation in festivals and fairs in the city, and teacher training.



SANT BOI DE LLOBREGAT: Commemoration of World Refugee Day

Educational proposal aimed at the upper cycle of primary education in which a space for reflection, action and joint and community commitment in favour of refugees is created through awareness and artistic languages.



PLAYA DEL CARMEN: Sargassum and City Resilience

Series of programmes for the maintenance, preservation and conservation of beaches, which promote social and workplace inclusion, culture and environmental education, and the care and preservation of ecosystems, in favour of economic and social development.



PORTO: Aconchego Programme: Sharing a Home and Company

Programme aimed at nurturing intergenerational relationships. Young university students stay with elderly people living in the city of Porto. The senior citizens provide accommodation, and the students offer companionship and symbolic financial support.



RAUL SOARES: Agricultural Clubs

The initiative sets out to empower rural people by providing tools and knowledge to enhance agricultural practices, foster innovation, boost resilience in an ever-evolving agricultural environment, and cultivate community values.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Two General Assemblies were held in 2024: an Ordinary Assembly in March, held virtually, and an Extraordinary Assembly in May, which took place in Curitiba.

In addition, Curitiba hosted two meetings of the Executive Committee in May. This body also met virtually in March, April, and November.



Portuguese, official IAEC language

The Portuguese and Brazilian Territorial Networks asked the Executive Committee to call an Extraordinary General Assembly in 2024 to decide on the official status of the Portuguese language. A commission was formed to assess the costs and impacts of this request and explore funding options. Throughout the year, various meetings and cost studies were carried out on the incorporation of a new language. As a result, it was decided to take this issue to the Assembly and sign a partnership agreement between the Executive Committee and the concerned networks

to establish a three-year transition period, during which **services will be offered in Portuguese** without membership fees going up. At the end of this period, the economic impact of adding a new language and the possible increase of new Portuguese-speaking cities in the IAEC will be evaluated. For its part, the Assembly agreed to modify Article 36 of the bylaws at its meeting in Curitiba.

New IAEC Code of Ethics

Within the framework of this Extraordinary Assembly, the new **IAEC Code of Ethics**, which defines the key guiding values of the organisation, was presented and approved. The Code was co-constructed with the contributions of member cities through the resolution of practical cases and ethical dilemmas, with the support of Dr Begoña Román, Professor of Ethics and Bioethics at the University of Barcelona and President of the Social Services Ethics Committee of Catalonia.



Tribute to Pilar Figueras

The IAEC Secretariat, together with Barcelona City Council and the Government of Catalonia, jointly organised an institutional event for Catalan member cities to celebrate the International Day of the Educating City. The event included a roundtable with the participation of the mayors of Granollers, Reus, and Olot.

At the same event, the Minister of Education and Vocational Training of the Government of Catalonia

announced the creation of the **Pilar Figueras International Education Award of Catalonia**, an accolade aimed at recognising the work of individuals and entities that have played a key role in favour of education. This award pays tribute to Pilar Figueras, who was Director of the 1st International Congress of Educating Cities (Barcelona, 1990) and General Secretary of the IAEC for eighteen years.





Network training and expansion

In 2024, training sessions were held in Barakaldo (September) and Dos Hermanas (November). What's more, the Secretariat took part in the 10th Annual Education Conference of Setúbal and the 7th Annual Conference of the Network of Educating Cities of the Regions of Girona, held in Castell-Platja d'Aro. It also took part in the 7th Meeting of the Workspace and Exchange in International Strategy, staged by the Regional Council of Barcelona in October.

As part of the actions to expand the network, in collaboration with Brussels, the IAEC's work was presented to a group of Belgian cities, with a view to extending its presence in Belgium. At the same time, the Secretariat worked together with the territorial networks to restore their activity, with special emphasis on the Northern European group and the Italian network. Significant efforts were also devoted to organising the 17th Curitiba International Congress in 2024.

Bilateral partnerships and meetings

Over the year, the Secretariat held bilateral meetings with various cities, including Andong, Barakaldo, Bologna, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Changwon, Cochabamba, Curitiba, Dos Hermanas, Granollers, Guanajuato, Manizales, Quito, Sant Vicenç dels Horts, São Paulo, and Toledo. It also received delegations from Seoul, Bilbao, Lisbon, and Chile (University of La Frontera).

In 2024, partnerships with entities such as UCLG, CIDEU, and Metropolis were also stepped up. In particular, meetings were held in October between the teams of the IAEC and Metropolis, a network formed by large cities and metropolitan areas from around the world and which shares twenty members with the IAEC. Thanks to this, challenges and good practices were shared, thereby consolidating the ties and the knowledge exchange between the two entities.

A delegation from the Global Education Compact team was also received with the aim of exploring synergies.

Meanwhile, contact was maintained with the IMCITIZEN project team of the Faculty of Education, University of Barcelona. Three IAEC cities took part in this project, which is aimed at raising awareness about children's rights and promoting co-design processes with children. In the near future, the tools developed within the project framework will be shared with cities in the network.

The Secretariat worked on the preparation of a guide to evaluate the educating impact of municipal projects and programmes, with Dr Sheila González, co-author of the Methodological Guide from Reading the Charter to Constructing an Educating City, and with Mr Francesc Arolas, Councillor from



the city of Granollers.

This guide has been designed as a self-assessment tool, which may be applied to projects in the design, implementation or completed phase, and aims to be a useful tool to identify the progress made in the construction of an Educating City, point out aspects with room for improvement, and provide ideas for increasing the educating impact of public policies. The cities of Rosario, Tampere and Brussels were invited to participate in a pilot test by applying the guide in two projects in their cities, following which it was tweaked prior to its digital development. The tool was improved with their contributions. Work is now underway to adjust the platform's IT development prior to its launch.

BIDCE

Educating Cities International Documents Databank

WHAT IS IT?

It is a **virtual platform** that features about **550 initiatives of Educating Cities** from around the world, which reflect good practices in the rollout of public policies that promote education in the city, in a broad sense, led by local governments themselves, or in partnership with many other local stakeholders.

WHAT DOES IT PROVIDE?

- **The opportunity to share learning**, generate inspiration and foster cooperation between cities.
- **Innovative solutions** to urban, social, cultural, economic, environmental, and educational challenges based on criteria of innovation, transferability, relevance, sustainability and transformative impact, taking the principles of the Charter of Educating Cities as a framework for action.
- **Recognition and a platform** for member cities to make their work known.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- The Document Bank has a **new systematised web directory** with search categories (by geographical area, city, descriptors, target age groups, or keyword).
- It also has a regularly updated **“Focus Experiences”** section that showcases initiatives on a topic. This section is periodically updated.
- The Document Bank can be consulted in **Spanish, English, French, and Portuguese**, with more content in this language being added little by little.

In 2024, **twenty new experiences** were published, addressing issues such as: gender equality; education for sustainability and sustainable mobility; the fight against ageism and intergenerational relations, and the fight against racism and discrimination. In the field of schooling, good practices were published regarding the prevention of bullying, the inclusion of communities of diverse ethnic origin, and students



The Bank features more than 500 good practices led by local governments around the world that promote education in the city.

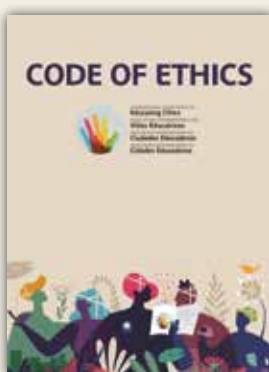
with functional diversity. Other initiatives included public policies focused on heritage promotion, agriculture, or biodiversity conservation. Among the published experiences were the three winners of the **2024 Educating Cities Award**, plus the seven finalists. The Secretariat collaborated in the analysis and selection of the experiences submitted by cities to take part in various meetings organised by the territorial networks and for the 17th International Congress, held in Curitiba in May 2024. All this material is of great value to continue feeding the database, based on criteria of innovation, impact, and transferability.

In 2024, the final touches were given to the **new platform** developed at the end of 2023, which was presented within the framework of the 17th International Congress. The new portal has a revamped image and a complete and more intuitive search engine for experiences.

What's more, work was carried out on a new computer development for the **Latin America Experience Bank**, as well as on the expansion of the Educating Cities International Document Bank to **receive and publish experiences in Portuguese, along with and a new tool** for the call of proposals of **International Congresses, network meetings, and award nominations**, which will make it easier to send, manage, and publish the experiences received.

PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

New Publications and resources



IAEC Code of Ethics
Code that defines the fundamental guiding values for IAEC operations and the conduct of everyone linked to the IAEC.



Video
Presentation of the Code of Ethics by Dr Begoña Román, Vice-Dean of Research at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Barcelona, and Professor of Ethics, specialising in ethics applied to professional settings.



Report on the 17th International Congress of Educating Cities, Curitiba 2024.
“Sustainability, Innovation and Inclusion in the Educating City: Transforming the Present”



Book of Experiences of the 17th International Congress, Curitiba 2024.



IAEC Digital Newsletter.
Distributed on a monthly basis. Published in: EN ES FR PT

Networks



Asia-Pacific Network Newsletter
Highlighting good practices from cities in the region and the activities carried out in 2024.



Newsletters of the Portuguese Network
Publication of good practices in member cities, opinions, reflections and news of interest for the Portuguese Network.

Videos



The Charter of Educating Cities
Using universal language and without the need for words, this video presents the key values of the Charter of Educating Cities.



Brazil Network Experiences Newsletter

Selection of local initiatives that show how an intersectoral approach, from the perspective of the Educating City, can help enhance urban education and the construction of a fairer and more sustainable society. Actions developed by the cities of Apucarana/PR, Carazinho/RS, Curitiba/PR, Guarulhos/SP, Horizonte/CE, Palmeira/PR, Passo Fundo/RS and São Paulo/SP were shared.



Digital Newsletter of the Latin America Delegation



2024 Report of the Latin America Delegation



Report on the 7th Meeting of the Argentinian Network of Educating Cities



2024 Report on activities Brazil Network



Report on the 16th Meeting of the Mexican Network

Expert Insights | International Day of the Educating City



Video summary: In a video summary, Philippe Meirieu (researcher, educationalist, and writer); Yayo Herrero (anthropologist, social educator, teacher, and ecofeminist activist), Blanca Valdivia (sociologist and member of Col·lectiu Punt 6), and Tim Gill (specialist in childhood, mobility, and play) share reflections on the theme of the International Day **“The Educating City as a Laboratory of Learning, Citizenship and Social Transformation”**.



Philippe Meirieu reflects on the importance of prioritising education, care and collaboration, underlining the need to work together for the common good.



Tim Gill underlines the urgent need to redesign urban spaces, reduce the dominance of the car, and incorporate more nature and play-oriented areas that encourage children’s exploration.



Blanca Valdivia analyses how public spaces are a reflection of inequalities, but also convey values and act as scenarios for learning and community creation.



Yayo Herrero addresses how the current polycrisis is affecting our lives and highlights the need to build cities that respect diversity and promote social justice and equity.

IAEC MEMBER CITIES

ARGENTINA

Alejandro Roca
Armstrong
Avellaneda
Bell Ville
Buenos Aires
Cañada de Gómez
Ceres
Córdoba
Cosquín
El Trébol
Esquel
General Alvear
General Cabrera
General Deheza
Godoy Cruz
Malabrigo
Pergamino
Río Cuarto
Rosario
San Francisco
San Justo
San Vicente
Santa Fe
Totoras
Venado Tuerto
Villa Carlos Paz
Villa Constitución
Villa Ocampo
Zárate

AUSTRALIA

Adelaide

BELGIUM

Brussels

BENIN

Lokossa

BOLIVIA

Cochabamba

BRAZIL

Apucarana
Araraquara
Camargo
Carazinho
Concórdia
Curitiba
Fagundes Varela
Florianópolis
Guaporé
Guarulhos
Horizonte
Ipecaetá

Marau
Mata
Mauá
Monte Horebe
Morretes
Nova Petrópolis
Olinda
Palmeira
Passo Fundo
Piên
Pontalina
Porto Alegre
Quitandinha
Raul Soares
Rio Brilhante
Santiago
Santo André
Santos
São Bernardo do Campo
São Caetano do Sul
São Gabriel
São José dos Campos
São Paulo
São Vicente do Sul
Sarandi
Soledade
Tijucas do Sul
Três Palmeiras
Vitória de Santo Antão

COLOMBIA

Manizales
Medellín
Neiva
Sabaneta

COSTA RICA

San José

CROATIA

Osijek

ECUADOR

Quito

FINLAND

Espoo
Tampere

FRANCE

Angers
Aurillac

Barentin
Besançon
Bordeaux
Frontignan
Grenoble
Lattes
Lille
Nantes
Paris
Rennes
Strasbourg

GERMANY

Munich

ITALY

Bologna
Busto Garolfo
Genoa
Ravenna
Siracusa
Turin

MÉXICO

Celaya
Chihuahua
Colima
Guadalupe
Guanajuato
Irapuato
Juárez
León
Mexico City
Morelia
Oaxaca de Juárez
Playa de Carmen
Purísima del Rincón
Rayón
Salvatierra
San Cristóbal de las Casas
San Pedro
Tlaquepaque
Tenango del Valle

MOROCCO

Rabat

PALESTINA

Bethlehem

POLAND

Katowice

PORTUGAL

Águeda

Albufeira
Alcochete
Alenquer
Alfândega da Fé
Almada
Almodôvar
Amadora
Anadia
Angra do Heroísmo
Arganil
Arruda dos Vinhos
Azambuja
Barcelos
Barreiro
Benavente
Braga
Câmara de Lobos
Cascais
Chaves
Coimbra
Condeixa-a-nova
Covilhã
Entroncamento
Espinho
Esposende
Estremoz
Évora
Fafe
Figueira da Foz
Funchal
Fundao
Gondomar
Guarda
Guimarães
Horta
Lagoa – Açores
Lagoa do Algarve
Lagos
Lisbon
Loulé
Loures
Lousa
Lousada
Macedo de Cavaleiros
Machico
Maia
Marco de Canaveses
Matosinhos
Mealhada
Miranda do Corvo
Montijo
Moura

Odemira
Odivelas
Oeiras
Oliveira de Azeméis
Oporto
Paços de Ferreira
Palmela
Pampilhosa da Serra
Paredes
Penafiel
Penalva do Castelo
Peniche
Pombal
Ponta Delgada
Portalegre
Portimão
Porto de Mós
Póvoa de Lanhoso
Reguengos de Monsaraz
Rio Maior
Sacavem
Santa Maria da Feira
Santarém
Santo Tirso
Sao João da Madeira
Sesimbra
Setúbal
Sever do Vouga
Silves
Sobral do Monte Agraço
Soure
Tábua
Tomar
Torres Novas
Torres Vedras
Valongo
Vila do Bispo
Vila do Conde
Vila Franca de Xira
Vila Nova de Famalicao
Vila Real
Vila Verde
Viseu
Vizela

PUERTO RICO

Caguas

REPUBLIC OF CAPE VERDE

Praia

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Andong
Buk-gu
Changwon city
Dalseo
Damyang
Gangseo
Geochang
Gimhae
Gongju city
Gumi
Gunsan
Gwangju metropolitan city
Gyeongju
Gyeongsan
Hoengseong-gun
Jecheon
Jincheon
Pohang
Suncheon city
Suseong district
Yongsan-gu

SENEGAL

Dakar

SPAIN

A Coruña
Adeje
Adra
Alaquas
Albacete
Albalat de la Ribera
Alboraia
Alcalá de Guadaira
Alcàsser
Alcázar de San Juan
Alcobendas
Alcoi
Alella
Alfafar
Algaida

487 cities / 28 countries

Algeciras	Ciutadella de Menorca	Lliçà d'Amunt	Premià de Mar	Sant Vicenç dels Horts	Ugena
Algete	Cordova	Llíria	Puertollano	Santa Coloma de Cervelló	Valdemoro
Alguazas	Cornellà de Llobregat	Lloret de Mar	Quart de Poblet	Santa Coloma de Farners	Valdepeñas
Alhama de Murcia	Cubelles	Logroño	Reus	Santa Coloma de Gramenet	Valencia
Alicante	Cuenca	Los Barrios	Ripoll	Santa Cristina d'Aro	Valladolid
Almoradí	Donostia-San Sebastián	Los Corrales de Buelna	Riudellots de la Selva	Santa Cruz de Tenerife	Vic
Alovera	Dos Hermanas	Lucena	Rivas-Vaciamadrid	Santa Marta de Tormes	Vícar
Alzira	Eivissa	Lugo	Roquetes de Mar	Santa Perpètua de Mogoda	Viladecans
Andorra	Ejea de los Caballeros	Maçanet de la Selva	Rubí	Santander	Viladecavalls
Argamasilla de Calatrava	El Masnou	Madrid	Sabadell	Santiago de Compostela	Vilafranca del Penedès
Arganda del Rey	El Prat de Llobregat	Majadahonda	Sagunt	Santomera	Vilanova i la Geltrú
Arroyomolinos	El Puig de Santa María	Málaga	Salamanca	Sanxenxo	Vila-real
Aspe	El Vendrell	Manlleu	Salou	Segovia	Villanueva de la Torre
Astigarraga	Elche	Manresa	Salt	Seville	Villaviciosa de Odón
Ávila	Ermua	Maó	San Cristóbal de la Laguna	Silla	Villena
Avilés	Erandio	Mataró	San Fernando de Henares	Sitges	Vitoria
Azuaga	Es mercadal	Medina del Campo	San Pedro del Pinatar	Soria	Xàbia
Badalona	Esplugues de Llobregat	Meliana	San Roque	Tarazona	Xàtiva
Banyoles	Estella-lizarra	Mérida	Sanlúcar de Barrameda	Tarragona	Zaragoza
Barakaldo	Estepa	Mislata	Sant Adrià de Besós	Tavernes de la Valldigna	SWITZERLAND
Barberà del vallès	Ferrerries	Molina de Segura	Sant Boi de Llobregat	Terrassa	Geneva
Barcelona	Ferrol	Molins de Rei	Sant Cugat del Vallès	Toledo	THAILAND
Benetússer	Figueres	Mollet del Vallès	Sant Feliu de Guíxols	Tomelloso	Phuket
Bilbao	Foios	Montcada i Reixac	Sant Feliu de Llobregat	Torrelló	URUGUAY
Binissalem	Fuenlabrada	Montmeló	Sant Hilari Sacalm	Torrent	Montevideo
Boadilla del Monte	Gandía	Montserrat	Sant Joan d'Alacant	Torrevieja	VENEZUELA
Borriana	Gavà	Móstoles	Sant Joan Despí	Tudela	Chacao
Burgos	Getafe	Murcia	Sant Julià de Ramis		
Burjassot	Gijón/Xixón	Mutxamel	Sant Just Desvern		
Cáceres	Girona	Nàquera	Sant Quirze del Vallès		
Cádiz	Granada	Olot			
Caldes de Montbui	Granollers	Ondara			
Camargo	Ibi	Ordizia			
Cambrils	Igualada	Orihuela			
Campos	Illescas	Oviedo			
Canovelles	Jaén	Palafrugell			
Cassà de la Selva	L'Alcora	Palamós			
Castellar del Vallès	L'Alfàs del Pi	Palma			
Castelldefels	La Bisbal d'Empordà	Palma del Río			
Castellón de la Plana	La Garriga	Pamplona			
Castell-platja d'Aro	La Nucia	Parets del Vallès			
Catarroja	La Roda	Parla			
Centelles	La Vall d'en Bas	Paterna			
Cerdanyola del Vallès	La Vall d'Uixó	Peligos			
Ceuta	Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	Petrer			
Chiclana de la Frontera	L'Hospitalet de Llobregat	Picassent			
Cieza	Lleida	Pilar de la Horadada			
Ciudad Real		Pineda de Mar			
		Pinto			
		Pontevedra			
		Pozoblanco			





Ajuntament
de Barcelona

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