



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council

Nomination Package



**Global goals, local actions:
Towards lifelong learning for all in 2030**

**Third International Conference on Learning Cities
(Cork, Ireland, from 18 to 20 September 2017)**



Conference Brief

Global goals, local actions: Towards lifelong learning for all in 2030

- How lifelong learning supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals at local level.
- Promoting integrated governance and multi-stakeholder partnership for your city's sustainable future.
- Successful ways of implementing and measuring the impact of local actions for sustainable development.

Aim:

The aim of the conference is to guide cities in implementing lifelong learning to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals at the local level.

Participants:

- Representatives of member cities of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities.
- Representatives of UNESCO Member States (e.g. representatives of other cities, representatives of National Commissions for UNESCO, government representatives or experts).
- Representatives of international organizations, non-governmental organizations and private-sector partners, as well as experts in the field of education and lifelong learning.

Working languages: English, French and Spanish (with simultaneous interpretation)

Registration:

All participants will need to register via the conference website by 31 August 2017.

Cost arrangements:

While the host city will generously sponsor the cost of meals for all participants throughout the conference (a reception and a gala dinner will also be offered), participants (except those from low-income countries/cities) will need to bear their own costs for accommodation in a designated hotel. The delegations are also expected to bear their own travel and additional subsistence expenses.

Conference website: www.learningcities2017.org

Project website: www.uil.unesco.org/learning-cities

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Concept Note

Global goals, local actions: Towards lifelong learning for all in 2030

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Background

Lifelong learning is key in creating sustainable cities and societies. In the quest for sustainable societies, we must learn to live sustainably. People require certain skills, values and attitudes, such as critical thinking and global citizenship, if they are to contribute to the creation of sustainable societies and address the challenges to achieving this goal. In today's fast-changing world, where social, economic and political contexts are constantly being reshaped, learning must be continuous and lifelong. Lifelong learning and education must, therefore, become a main driver in developing the resources necessary for people to achieve sustainable environmental, cultural, social and economic advancement.

Cities are on the frontline of sustainable development. They are the scene not only of rapid economic growth and technological innovation but also of extreme poverty, socio-economic inequality and excessive consumption. It is in cities and other human settlements where people live, work and learn, and where the continuous exchange of knowledge and ideas takes place. As such, every city has enormous potential to stimulate and support learning among its inhabitants in ways that can help tackle existing issues, strengthen social cohesion and solidarity, and transform the prospects of urban communities for the better.

In the search for effective long-term solutions to these challenges, more and more cities are reinventing themselves as learning cities and taking concrete actions to realize that vision. In doing so, they aim to ensure that education and learning are accessible for all inhabitants, regardless of age, in formal, informal and non-formal settings.

Learning cities are a crucial driver in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This Agenda, adopted by the United Nations in 2015, includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be met by 2030. Based on five pillars – people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships – the 2030 Agenda focuses on eradicating extreme poverty, combating climate change and addressing inequality in all its dimensions. All countries and all stakeholders are called upon to act in collaboration and partnership to implement the 2030 Agenda. Recognizing the important role of education and lifelong learning for sustainable development and the success of all SDGs, the 2030 Agenda includes a strong goal on education (SDG 4) – 'Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all' – with seven targets and three means of implementation. With Goal 4 and its associated targets, the world has set an ambitious universal education agenda for the period 2015 to 2030 (Education 2030). The new education agenda is comprehensive, holistic and universal,



and is inspired by a vision of education that transforms the lives of individuals, communities and societies, leaving no one behind. Every effort must be made to guarantee that this time the goal and targets are achieved

To achieve this ambitious vision, cities and other human settlements must provide inclusive, safe, supportive and sustainable environments and lifelong learning opportunities for all. This will only happen if local stakeholders act together and form multi-stakeholder partnerships, and if we learn how to live sustainably, as individuals and within our communities. The challenges of today's fast-moving and uncertain world can only be met by individuals who are lifelong learners. These issues are stressed particularly in SDG 4 ('Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all') and SDG 11 ('Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'). Promoting lifelong learning for the sustainable development of cities is, therefore, fundamental to achieving all of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The International Conference on Learning Cities is an opportunity for the exchange of ideas and good practices, the creation and strengthening of partnerships, and the fostering of twin cities. It is also, and most importantly, a platform on which to build the future of learning cities. The first International Conference on Learning Cities¹ (ICLC) (Beijing, 2013) opened the global discourse on learning cities and defined the UNESCO concept of a learning city. The second International Conference on Learning Cities² in Mexico City was marked by the opening up of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC) to membership and defined the role of learning cities in achieving sustainable development. Today, the network consists of around 200 cities from more than 40 countries united in their determination to promote lifelong learning and, ultimately, achieve sustainable development in their cities.

Given the need for urgent intervention to ensure a safe, liveable planet for future generations, we must develop a concrete action plan. The third International Conference on Learning Cities will therefore move from global discourse to local implementation in implementing lifelong learning to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

1. Place and date of the conference

The conference will be held in Cork City, Ireland, from **18 to 20 September 2017**.

The venue will be Cork City Hall and accommodation will be provided in a number of hotels, as selected by Cork City Council in agreement with UNESCO.

¹ The conference resulted in the adoption of the [Beijing Declaration on Building Learning Cities and the Key Features of Learning Cities](#).

² The conference resulted in the adoption of the [Mexico City Statement on Building Sustainable Learning Cities](#).



2. Organizers and hosting organizations

(a) Organizers:

- UNESCO
- Cork City Council

(b) Hosting organizations:

- UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL)
- Cork City Council
- Irish National Commission for UNESCO

3. Aim and objectives

The aim of the conference is to guide cities in implementing lifelong learning to support the achievement of the SDGs at the local level.

More specifically, the objectives of the conference are to:

- develop an understanding of the role of lifelong learning in achieving the SDGs;
- propose actions for implementing lifelong learning in cities for the achievement of the SDGs;
- enable peer learning by showcasing best practices;
- forge links and partnerships (e.g. twin cities) among member cities and partners of the UNESCO GNLC.

4. Theme and sub-themes

The overall theme of the third International Conference on Learning Cities is: **Global goals, local actions: Towards lifelong learning for all in 2030.**

The following critical subthemes will be discussed in pursuit of the objectives of the conference:

(1) How lifelong learning supports the achievement of the SDGs at local level

Lifelong learning and the development of learning cities are crucial to the achievement of the SDGs. We have a global agenda to meet and we know that all Sustainable Development Goals are, ultimately, local goals. We know too that it is at the local level that poverty and inequality need to be tackled, health and education services provided, ecosystems protected, and human rights guaranteed. A set of actions to address local challenges is therefore required. This necessitates, first and foremost, the empowerment of citizens to respond to challenges and lead change in their individual environments. We know that education and lifelong learning are key to empowering citizens; however, we need to clarify how lifelong learning supports the achievement of specific Sustainable Development Goals and what actions can be taken to implement lifelong learning for this purpose. In striving to implement lifelong learning to support the achievement of specific goals related to sustainable development, this session will address the following critical questions:



- What role does lifelong learning play in contributing to achieving the SDGs?
- How can cities tackle specific development challenges through lifelong learning?
- What are the main elements in a local action plan to implement lifelong learning for achieving the SDGs?

(2) Promoting integrated governance and multi-stakeholder partnership for your city's sustainable future

Promoting lifelong learning to tackle development challenges in cities requires the breaking down of traditional sector-based governance structures and the promotion of multi-sector planning and actions to adopt learning as a fundamental and sector-wide approach for sustainable development in all its aspects. We know that learning not only concerns the department of education, but must also be a fundamental principle across departments concerned with urban planning, technology, family, employment, health, and so on. We know that government alone will not be able to address all the learning needs implicit in the realization of all the SDGs and that multi-stakeholder partnerships are critical to success. We know too that success depends on the effective integration of the efforts of different government departments in promoting lifelong learning and bringing about transformation. We also need to understand which stakeholders need to be involved in order to achieve specific Sustainable Development Goals and how to involve them. Through sharing and discussion, the session aims to find answers to the following questions:

- How can cities build an integrated governance structure to implement lifelong learning for sustainable development?
- How can cities establish accountability in using a multi-stakeholder approach for implementing lifelong learning to achieve the SDGs?
- What are the challenges and how can cities tackle them in order to deliver integrated governance and multi-stakeholder partnerships?

(3) Successful ways of implementing and measuring the impact of local actions for sustainable development

Localized actions and ensuring that those actions have impact are crucial for the successful implementation of lifelong learning to achieve sustainable development. Cities need to localize the SDGs and targets according to the specific challenges they face. Cities also require lifelong learning policies and strategies that address their particular local challenges, goals and objectives. In implementing those strategies, impacts and outcomes of actions taken need to be monitored and evaluated to ensure long-term success. Cities must also reflect on what did and did not work well in order to improve. *Key Features of Learning Cities*³ provides a monitoring framework and a set of indicators to guide cities in measuring progress in building learning cities. Defined action lines that enhance local monitoring approaches in cities also need to be developed. To better understand how to monitor actions, this session will be guided by the following questions:

³ This document provides an overall framework of the key features of learning cities and a comprehensive checklist of action points to enhance and measure the progress of learning cities.



- What steps do cities have to take to establish a robust mechanism to monitor the impact of lifelong learning?
- Which elements for monitoring cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches are important?
- How can cities monitor the impact of lifelong learning with regard to specific SDGs?

5. Participants

The conference will bring together around 650 participants from all around the world.

UNESCO is inviting member cities of the UNESCO GNLC to form a two- or three-member delegation comprising mayors, city education executives and experts who are leaders and stakeholders in developing learning cities to participate in the conference.

UNESCO will also extend the invitation to its Member States to form a two- or three-member delegation selected from among national educational executives and experts, as well as representatives of cities that have interest in joining the UNESCO GNLC.

In addition, UNESCO is inviting representatives of international organizations, non-governmental organizations and private-sector partners, as well as experts in the field of education and lifelong learning to participate in the conference.

Cork City Council is inviting mayors, city education executives and experts from Ireland, as well as partner cities, to join the conference.

6. Working languages

English, French and Spanish (with simultaneous interpretation)

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Provisional Agenda (10 May 2017)

Third International Conference on Learning Cities
Global goals, local actions: Towards lifelong learning for all in 2030
 18 to 20 September 2017, Cork, Ireland

17 Sept.		18 Sept.	19 Sept.		20 Sept.
Morning	Arrival	Opening	Plenary session (III): Successful ways of implementing and measuring the impact of local actions for sustainable development		Cork Lifelong Learning Festival
		UNESCO Learning City Award Ceremony	Mayors' forum	Parallel thematic forums	
Plenary session (I): How lifelong learning supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals at local level		Regional meetings			
Plenary session (II): Promoting integrated governance and multi-stakeholder partnership for your city's sustainable future		Experience space: Exhibition, learning corner, story stage, conference art	Partner workshops		
Afternoon		Matchmaking session: Promoting partnerships	Closing		Cultural visit



Nomination form / Formulaire de nomination / Formulario de nominación

Third International Conference on Learning Cities
(Cork, Ireland, from 18 to 20 September 2017)

Troisième Conférence internationale sur les villes apprenantes
(Cork, Irlande, du 18 au 20 septembre 2017)

Conferencia Internacional sobre Ciudades del Aprendizaje
(Cork, Irlanda, del 18 al 20 de septiembre de 2017)

Please fill in this nomination form and send it back to the Conference Secretariat by 15 July 2017
|→ Prière de remplir ce formulaire de nomination et de le retourner au rétarat de la Conférence d'ici le 15 juillet 2017 |→ Favor de llenar este formulario de nominación y enviarlo al Secretariado de la Conferencia hasta el 15 julio 2017

E-mail: learningcities@unesco.org
Fax: +49 (0) 40 4107723

Note: All member cities of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities will be invited to attend the event |→ Toutes les villes membres du Réseau mondial UNESCO des villes apprenantes seront invitées à participer à la Conférence |→ Se invitará a todas las ciudades miembros de la Red Mundial de Ciudades del Aprendizaje de la UNESCO a participar en la Conferencia

Please also note that all delegates must register via the conference website at |→ Merci de bien vouloir noter que tous les délégués devront s'enregistrer à l'adresse suivante |→ Favor de tener en cuenta que todos los delegados deberán registrarse a través de la página web de la conferencia en www.learningcities2017.org

Member 1 / Membre n° 1 / Miembro no. 1

Mr / M. / Sr. Ms / Mme / Sra.

Family name / Nom de famille / Apellido(s) _____ Title / Titre / Título _____

Given name / Prénom / Nombre _____ Country / Pays / País _____

Institution / Institution / Institución _____

Address / Adresse / Dirección _____

Phone number (international format) / Numéro de téléphone (au format international) / Número de teléfono (formato internacional) _____
Telefax number / Numéro de fax / Número de Fax _____

Cell phone number / Numéro de portable / Número de celular _____

E-Mail address / Adresse électronique / Correo electrónico _____

Member 2 / Membre n° 2 / Miembro no. 2

Mr / M. / Sr. Ms / Mme / Sra.

Family name / Nom de famille / Apellido(s) _____ Title / Titre / Título _____

Given name / Prénom / Nombre _____ Country / Pays / País _____

Institution / Institution / Institución _____

Address / Adresse / Dirección _____

Phone number (international format) / Numéro de téléphone (au format international) / Número de teléfono (formato internacional) _____
Telefax number / Numéro de fax / Número de Fax _____

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E-Mail address / Adresse électronique / Correo electrónico _____

Member 3 / Membre n° 3 / Miembro no. 3

Mr / M. / Sr. Ms / Mme / Sra.

Family name / Nom de famille / Apellido(s) _____ Title / Titre / Título _____

Given name / Prénom / Nombre _____ Country / Pays / País _____

Institution / Institution / Institución _____

Address / Adresse / Dirección _____

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