



UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Institute
for Lifelong Learning

What is a learning city?

'A learning city promotes lifelong learning for all'

UNESCO defines a learning city as a city that:

- effectively mobilizes its resources in every sector to promote inclusive learning from basic to higher education;
- revitalizes learning in families and communities;
- facilitates learning for and in the workplace;
- extends the use of modern learning technologies;
- enhances quality and excellence in learning; and
- fosters a culture of learning throughout life.

In doing so, it will enhance individual empowerment and social inclusion, economic development and cultural prosperity, and sustainable development.

Key features of a learning city

Wider benefits
of building a
learning city

Individual empowerment and
social cohesion

Economic development and
cultural prosperity

Lifelong learning for all
is our city's future

Sustainable development

Inclusive learning in the
education system

Revitalized learning in
families and communities

Effective learning for
and in the workplace

Extended use of modern
learning technologies

Enhanced quality and
excellence in learning

A vibrant culture of
learning throughout life

Major
building
blocks of
a learning
city

Strong political will and commitment

Governance and participation of all stakeholders

Mobilization and utilization of resources

Fundamental conditions for building a learning city

Why build a learning city?

‘Lifelong learning lays the foundation for sustainable social, economic and environmental development’

Change begins with the citizen

Citizens must be empowered to anticipate and tackle constantly changing social, environmental and economic challenges.

Lifelong learning is an important way of empowering citizens

Providing citizens with a broad array of learning opportunities helps them develop the skills, competences and attitudes needed for sustainable development.

Implementation happens at the local level

Cities have the facilities and potential to motivate and enable citizens to learn.

What is the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC)?

'The UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities is an international policy-oriented network for inspiration, know-how and best practice'

Every city is unique. Yet when it comes to learning, cities share certain characteristics. Learning cities at all stages of development can benefit greatly from sharing ideas with other cities, as solutions for issues that arise as one learning city develops may already exist in other cities.

The UNESCO GNLC supports and improves the practice of lifelong learning in the world's cities by promoting policy dialogue and peer learning among member cities; forging links; fostering partnerships; providing capacity development; and developing instruments to encourage and recognize progress made in building learning cities.

Join the UNESCO GNLC and enjoy the following benefits:

Receive guidance and support

- Access tools and strategies for developing learning cities.
- Keep up to date on learning city developments.

Be part of a dynamic network

- Exchange information with other learning cities.
- Communicate with a network of experts and professionals.
- Build partnerships.
- Host conferences and meetings.

Enjoy recognition for your efforts

- Share your milestones and inspire other cities.
- Showcase your city.
- Apply for the UNESCO Learning City Award.

DIALOGUE
RESEARCH
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT
BEST PRACTICE
TOOLS
PEER LEARNING
ADVOCACY

For more information on the UNESCO
GNLC's work and joining the network,
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