



MANIFESTO OF THE LEARNING CITY

Sustainability, learning and participation are now-a-day three highly important issues, generally considered in the conception of the territory.

Local communities need to join with other communities in terms of services, development, innovation and prosperity, preserving and enhancing their traditions, their history and their own specificities. .

Within the Municipality, local government authority, the utilities supplies and the territory development daily interact: all this is named “city” as well.

The Municipality is not merely a territory: as the direct expression of the contact areas, it acts as a guarantor, a glue.

Territory is a typically distinguishable place, it is the context in which a community lives.

A learning city is a community that can perceive, understand, prevent and actively influence the change. All members of a learning community are able to share horizons, programs and resources. Together and individually, they can develop the skills needed to promote learning and daily practice for exchanging, creating and renewing their knowledge.

“Learning” is an individual and collective process. It generate changes and it helps us to understand those continuous changes that affect people and places, and that may be hardly understood if not observed along long periods of times, often more than one generation.

The Manifesto of Learning Cities aims at being a guideline for communities who wish to walk along the path of lifelong learning. It is proposed as a tool for reflection, discussion and sharing for active people who looks for useful approaches to drive change and addresses on their territory.

A learning community is able to discern between the needs of competition and cooperation, it enhances its own resources (human, natural and economic), it is democratic and sustainable in the socio-cultural, environmental and economic sense. It adopts strategies to shift the product economy toward the well economy.

LEARNING CITIES strategy:

1. To make a sense of the community, recognizing its vocation and sharing its basic values;
2. To design the future in a participated way, collectively defining an inspiring vision;
3. To monitor the indicators of a learning city, and critically evaluate the quality of life;
4. To adopt methodologies and tools for a better sustainability, for a real participation, for a widespread learning culture, for the identification of specific roles;
5. To practice systemic thinking and combat wasting;
6. To set strategies for a collective learning, where the differences be considered as a value;
7. To create partnerships to co-design with the stakeholders, inside and outside the municipality;
8. To empower the centers of expertise for diffusing their knowledge;
9. To break down barriers existing among business, government and research;
10. To prepare sites for learning and participation and for activating the animation.

Essential part of the culture of Learning Cities is the self-generation of thought, especially if divergent, that stimulate reflection and action on specific issues.

However, to ensure the practice of the ten points of strategy, the Municipality must identify a sponsor (political) and a facilitator (technical) in the above process: these, together, will discuss the conditions of the Manifesto as aspects of a project implementation that will be formally drawn up, published and updated - progressively – in a continuous redesign (as above specified).