

Why a Learning City?

The influence of cities in national and world affairs has increased considerably in recent years. This is partly due to the growth in the number of city dwellers. Since 2008, the majority of the world's population lives in cities.

As cities expand, municipal governments face challenges associated with social inclusion, new technologies, the knowledge economy, cultural diversity and environmental sustainability.

In response, a growing number of cities are developing innovative strategies that allow their citizens to learn new skills and competencies throughout life, thereby transforming their cities into 'learning cities'.

The UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) has taken the initiative to further develop the concept of a 'learning city' by creating a dynamic international platform that allows cities to exchange ideas and good practices on building learning cities.

Given the challenges cities face, UIL has adopted the following working definition:

A Learning City is a city which effectively mobilizes its resources in every sector to

- promote inclusive learning from basic to higher education;
- re-vitalize learning in families and communities;
- facilitate learning for and in the workplace;
- extend the use of modern learning technologies;
- enhance quality and excellence in learning; and
- nurture a culture of learning throughout life.

In so doing, it will create and reinforce individual empowerment and social cohesion, economic and cultural prosperity, and sustainable development.



If you are interested in joining the GNLC and participating in the conference, please visit the GNLC website

learningcities.uil.unesco.org

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Global Network of Learning Cities

Second International Conference on Learning Cities



Key Features of Learning Cities

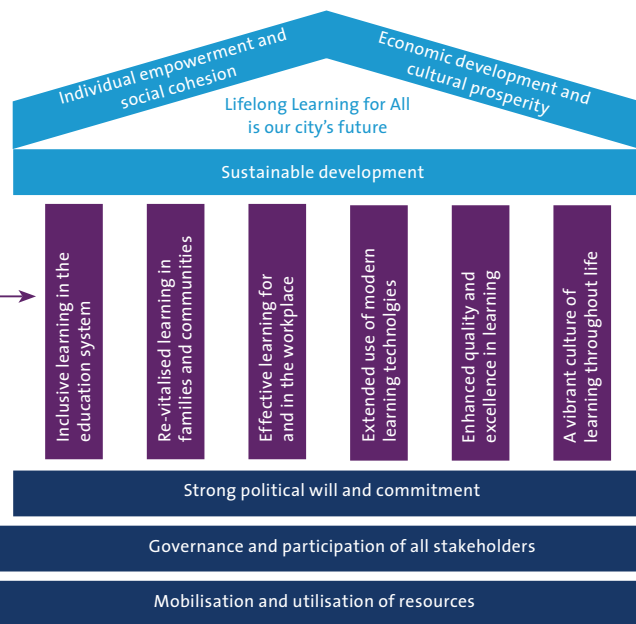
In order to help member cities measure progress and transform political discourses into concrete strategies for building learning cities and regions, UIL developed the Key Features of Learning Cities.

The Key Features of Learning Cities serve as a comprehensive checklist of action points to help stakeholders build learning cities.

Wider benefits of building a learning city

Major building blocks of a learning city

Fundamental conditions for building a learning city



Purpose of the GNLC

UIL, as UNESCO's centre of excellence for promoting lifelong learning for all, initiated the establishment of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC).

The overall purpose of establishing the GNLC is to create an international exchange network to mobilise cities to optimise their learning facilities, and demonstrate how they can use their resources more effectively in every sector.

Benefits of Membership in the GNLC

Membership of the GNLC bestows the following concrete benefits:

- Being part of a vibrant network of cities with common interests, tackling similar issues/ challenges, and envisioning similar development agendas;
- Communicating with a network of experts and professionals specialised in the field of lifelong learning for sustainable development;
- Accessing a global repository of know-how and best practices in developing learning cities; and
- Showcasing the city, its concrete actions, innovative measures, best practices and lessons learnt in developing a learning city through the communication channels of the network.

Second International Conference on Learning Cities

To take stock of achievements and lessons learned in building learning cities and the progress made in establishing the GNLC, UNESCO has decided to convene the second International Conference on Learning Cities. Mexico City has been selected to host this Conference in 2015.

This event will provide a splendid opportunity for all stakeholders to meet and share experiences, forge partnerships and develop synergies. It is expected that more than five-hundred delegates from over one-hundred UNESCO Member States and collaborating partners of the GNLC will participate in the Conference.

We invite you to participate in the Conference to make it a resounding joint success!

