Special Issue Newsletter, Vol. 1: August 2019
UNESCO GLOBAL NETWORK OF LEARNING CITIES

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LEARNING CITIES
1 – 3 OCTOBER 2019, MEDELLÍN, COLOMBIA

SPECIAL WELCOME
UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning and the City of Medellín

To further advance progress made during the first three conferences, the fourth International Conference on Learning Cities (ICLC) will be dedicated to the theme of ‘Inclusion: A principle for lifelong learning and sustainable cities’, with a focus on specific target groups such as refugees, migrants, the digitally excluded and disabled populations.

The aim will be to identify, discuss and promote effective lifelong learning policies and practices that support the development of inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities.

The conference will provide the opportunity to discuss, through plenary sessions and thematic forums, the following key themes:

• Policies for inclusion at the local level;
• Governance structures to support inclusive policies;
• Monitoring mechanisms for learning cities;
• Implementation and best practice at the city-level;
• Work plan for the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities.

During this event, UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC) members from around the world will have the opportunity to exchange and discuss

David Atchoarena, the Director of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), together with the Mayor of Medellín, Federico Gutiérrez Zuluaga, are pleased to announce that the fourth International Conference on Learning Cities will take place from 1 to 3 October 2019 in the city of Medellín, Colombia.

Some 650 participants from all around the world are expected to take part in the conference, including mayors, city education executives, officials from ministries of education, representatives of UN agencies, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and private-sector representatives.

David Atchoarena
Director UIL

Federico Gutiérrez Zuluaga
Mayor of the City of Medellín

REGISTER

Further details on the registration process can be found here.
There is no registration fee for the conference.
Participants are expected to bear their travel and accommodation costs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: www.learningcities2019.org
effective lifelong learning policies and practices.

The UNESCO GNLC, with its 170 member cities from 53 different countries, supports the achievement of the United Nations’ seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 4, which calls on countries to ‘ensure inclusive, equitable and quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;’ and SDG 11, to ‘make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.’

Many cities around the world are facing acute challenges in managing rapid urbanization.

With half of humanity – 3.5 billion people – living in cities today and 5 billion people projected to live in cities by 2030, successful urban policy and planning and lifelong learning education policies are essential.

Cities can be key hubs of action in which local governments empower diverse communities and social actors to engage in the definition of policies and strategies that lead to inclusive and lifelong opportunities for all.

‘Learning cities are guided by the principle of inclusion: local governments have the power to engage diverse communities and social actors in the development of policies and strategies that lead to lifelong opportunities for everyone.’

David Atchoarena,
Director, UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL)

ABOUT MEDELLÍN

In 2018, Medellín was nominated in four categories – ‘Best leading business destination,’ ‘Best tourism promotion destination,’ ‘Best MICE destination’ and ‘Best city getaway destination’ – by the World Travel Awards, considered by the tourism industry as a recognition of excellence in the sector.

Medellín was also named the ‘second-coolest city to visit in Latin America’ by Forbes in 2018, and nominated as one of Lonely Planet’s ‘cities to visit’ in 2017. In addition, in 2019, the World Economic Forum chose Medellín to represent South America as a Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Medellín has left behind its hard past, and has become, in less than a decade, one of the most innovative and attractive cities in the world.

In addition to boasting attractive landscapes and pleasant weather, the city is known for demonstrating how education is a vehicle for transformation, through initiatives such as Buen Comienzo and El Colegio Cuenta con Vos. This year, the fourth International Conference on Learning Cities promises to set another milestone in ensuring lifelong learning for all and promoting the UN Sustainable Development Goals at the local level.

VISA PROCEDURES

Depending on your country of origin, visa applications may be required. Participants are invited to read information on visas contained on the conference website well in advance of their visit.

TRAVEL

The city of Medellín will provide local transportation during the conference, as well as transit to and from the airport. In addition, note that travel options from the José María Córdova International Airport to the city of Medellín include bus, taxi, and shared taxi. For more information, please visit the conference website.

ACCOMMODATION

A number of hotels near the conference centre are available for booking. For information about hotels, visitors are invited to consult the conference website and to use the code ‘ICLC participant’ during their booking process to benefit from discounted rates.