



THE CURITIBA MANIFESTO: FOR AN INCLUSIVE CITY

The complexity of cities with rampant urbanization and its resulting exponential growth of urban people raise serious questions about the human living conditions, in a context of diminishing resources.

In 2019, our planet counts 7.8 billion inhabitants and, for the first time in human History, more than 50% of them live in cities (in Europe, it goes up to 77%).

In 2030, with 8.3 billion people, estimations are that more than 5 billion will live in urban areas. Meanwhile, 12% of the world's population lives today in the 28 largest cities of the world.

This irreversible urban tropism poses the fundamental question of a new future for humanity in cities.

One of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations in 2015 aims at making "cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" (SDG 11).

In Habitat III, held in Quito, focused social inclusion and the "right to the city and cities for all", especially access to basic necessities and participatory democracy to allow inclusive cities for the future.

The Venice declaration sets out the challenges of social, urban and technological innovation in terms of city governance: housing, new technologies, education, health and safety, air quality, public transport, accessibility, leisure and tourism and vulnerable families are the major indicators of inclusive cities for sustainable families.

Cities are the future of Humanity, a solution and a problem at the same time.

It is therefore necessary to outline the model of an inclusive city, the city of tomorrow that places the citizen at the center of its concerns and that becomes responsive to the many challenges of the urban future.

The three pillars of an inclusive city are:

1. An inclusive city is a shareable city, that makes human being to play a pivotal role in all its projects.

Creativity and imagination of citizens should be the first resource, the main energy that becomes inexhaustible and endlessly renewable, from one generation to another.

Citizens, users, political and socio-economic actors, municipal staff, all of them should interact, based on the share of information and a co-construction process. This new form of governance is needed to test and implement genuine ways of citizen participation, including the voice of the most deprived. This co-construction will make it possible the establishment of new methods to meet urban challenges, thanks to a cross-sectoral partnership: public and private, citizens and associations working together to set up collaborative, open-ended strategies to find innovative and non-discriminating responses for the urban future.

A shareable city is therefore a city that:

- stimulates citizen participation aimed at the co-construction of urban policies;
- mobilizes innovative actors and interdisciplinary researchers;
- opens up the space for listening to the families and allows them to have a voice;
- supports and strengthens the culture of innovation in all sectors;
- recognizes the capacity to propose and participate in governance decisions to everyone, without discrimination;
- ensures equitable development socially effective, a reduction in social inequalities and access to health, housing and work;
- creates opportunities for all, access to education and continuous training;

- develops intergenerational relations;
 - improves access to essential services: housing, health, culture, sport, leisure, etc.
2. An inclusive city is a sustainable city and it should:
- implement the energy transition while building smart networks and systems;
 - develop the territory to the service of the sustainable city, without weakening an environment already considerably affected;
 - strengthen the place of environment in the city;
 - make mobility accessible to all and eco-friendly;
 - recycle and consume more responsibly;
 - be every day more resilient.
3. An inclusive city is a connected city and it should:
- create digital opportunities for everyone and make sure they have access to them;
 - fight against the digital divide;
 - develop a digital media infrastructure;
 - design and offer new services of general interest ;
 - make data and information accessible to all.

The 21st century will be the century of cities. Intellectuals, scientists and researchers recall the transition from the Anthropocene Era to the Urbanocene Era.

The future of mankind is closely linked to the future of cities, metropolises and densely populated conurbations.

In 2020, the planet will have 15 billion connected devices that will produce an extraordinary impact on human relations, as well as economic and political models.

Thanks to these new models and to innovations in all fields, inclusive cities can find new opportunities to reduce inequalities while pursuing a more harmonious, more ecological and more resilient development for the future.

An inclusive city offers to all its residents and families, without discrimination, the same good living conditions and positive prospects for the future. Whatever the geographic, ethnic, social, cultural origins, whatever the level of professionalization, purchasing power and social status, everyone must be able to express their needs and the challenges they face.

According to this historic evolution, governance and the way to do politics in cities, metropolises and densely populated conurbations must change. Solidarity, participation, and moreover, co-construction are the new pillars of urban democracy together with commitment, civic identity, and the cultural and economic dimensions.

At this time of climate change, energy transition, new mobilities, circular economy, and pollution, innovation, inclusion and resilience should be the driving forces of the city in the 21st century.

Scientific progress and technology offer awesome tools for social progress if they are well managed and well shared in the economic, cultural and ecological fields, in order to ensure a development that has the person as its center.

These values of cohesion, solidarity, co-construction and living well together are beyond all ideologies.

With their universal dimensions, inclusive cities are the best assets to face any type of contraction or crisis in an urban future that remains uncertain, as part of a constantly changing world.

Jean-Max Trouillet
Président du Comité Directeur du Réseau des Politiques Sociales Européennes ELISAN
1st annual meeting for the project members and conference on 'Family and Social Innovation'.
(Curitiba, November 2019).
