

Città sostenibile delle bambine e dei bambini

Ministry of Environment
Istituto degli Innocenti
Italian Committee for UNICEF
ITALY

<http://www.cittasostenibili.minori.it/>

Short description of the programme

The Project "Città sostenibili delle bambine e dei bambini" (*sustainable cities for boys and girls*) was started in 1996 by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with the Istituto degli Innocenti, Florence, the Italian Committee for UNICEF and with the network of Italian municipalities committed to implementing Agenda 21 and the commitments made at Habitat II. It is directed at commencing interventions in cities and is oriented towards sustainable development at both the national and international level. The project works for the betterment of children's lives and is based on the directions and commitments that originated from the conferences initiated by the United Nations in Rio de Janeiro and Istanbul. The objective of the programme by the Ministry of Environment, drawing on proposals already outlined by the Istanbul - Habitat II Conference on human settlements, was to give primacy to the subject of childhood. It is not only grand initiatives that are needed for children, but also a change in the prevailing policies of a city so that sustainable bonds are forged across the city-precinct-resources boundaries and with the needs of citizens. It is not a matter of intervening in isolated environmental problems in a city, but of researching solutions that will yield the optimal management of the "urban ecosystem". This will then prevent urban degradation and promote transformation processes in the urban environment which expressly incorporate forms of participation, expression and inclusion of children.

PARAMETERS

The indicators selected by the technical committee were contained in the technical annex to the decree of 3 August 1998, through which the Ministry of Environment established the recognition award "sustainable cities for girls and boys" to be given to worthy Italian communes.

To obtain the award, it is essential to have carried out actions in the **Environmental area**, within some specific fields of interventions have been identified (sub-areas):

- the reduction of air and noise pollution;
- the access and practicality of common spaces;
- the eco-management of waste;
- the elimination of architectural barriers;
- the reinforcement of green areas;

- environmental education programmes, especially in relation to waste recycling;
- mobility.

The relevance given to the **Cultural and institutional areas** aims at assessing the effective existence of a global and integrated strategy, in which the realization of environmentally relevant interventions are inserted in a coherent way. These initiatives furthermore, have to show that they meet the following requisites:

- the direct involvement of children in the assessment of the initiatives carried out or underway;
- the innovative character of the projects (i.e., an integrated approach to urban environmental problems, the use of new technologies or management systems, etc.);
- the demonstrative and pilot nature (an initiative to experiment advanced and not routine solutions);
- the potential for dissemination (a local initiative, but that can be reproduced in all cities);
- the capacity to dialogue with the city, the characteristic of general participation (actively involving different local subjects: businesses, associations, etc.);
- the positive effects on professional and labour requalification (to be documented quantitatively);
- the financial commitment and the actual political will of the administration to proceed with the initiative.

In the **Institutional areas**, new indicators have been introduced in the following sub-areas:

- commitment on the issues of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- adhesion to national or international “charters” or programmes;
- participation;
- workshops on participatory planning;
- examples of direct management of spaces by children;
- representative realizations with the contribution of children;
- training;
- number of studies on relevant issues.

The sub-area “monitoring and evaluation” for clarity’s sake, has been renamed “administrative organization” and includes some new indicators:

- establishment of an inter-sectorial coordination;
- municipal funds earmarked each year for activities in favour of children;
- the use of funds of the Law 285/97.