

Creating better cities with children and youth

A manual for participation

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<http://www.unesco.org/most/guic/guicmain.htm>

Short description of the manual

This book is a practical manual on how to conceptualize, structure and facilitate the participation of young people in the community development process. It is an important tool for urban planners, municipal officials, community development staff, non-governmental organizations, educators, youth-serving agencies, youth advocates, and others who are involved in the community development process. It offers inspiration to all who believe in the value of community education and empowerment as a fundamental building block of a vibrant and resilient civil society, and who feel concern for young people and the quality of their lives. The manual's core ideas and methods have been field-tested in a wide range of urban settings in both developing and industrialized cities through the work of the UNESCO Growing Up in Cities project. Case studies from project cities help to demonstrate the methods in action and show how they can be customized to meet local needs. They provide lessons and insights to help ensure a successful project, and highlight the universal applicability and value of young people's participation. The ideas and results from the country studies of the Growing Up in Cities project are presented in the companion volume "Growing Up in an Urbanising World".

PARAMETERS

Child-generated indicators of a good place:

- Social integration
- Variety of interesting activity setting
- Safety and freedom of movement
- Peer meeting places
- Cohesive community identity
- Green areas

Negative characteristics:

- Stigma and social exclusion
- Boredom
- Fear of harassment and crime
- Racial or ethnic tension
- Heavy traffic
- Uncollected rubbish and litter
- Lack of basic services
- Sense of political powerlessness

Definition of children's participation

Participation is:

- Local
- Transparent
- Inclusive
- Interactive
- Responsive
- Relevant
- Educational
- Reflective
- Transformative
- Sustainable
- Personal
- Voluntary