

# RoSaCe European Conference shows encouraging results

The Road Safety Cities for Europe (RoSaCe) project concluded its two-year experimental phase on Friday 13 March with a conference in Barcelona to present the initial results. We would like to thank all the cities, policy-makers and road safety and education professionals who attended and shared their enriching experiences with us.

*“RoSaCe has demonstrated that it is a strong instrument to facilitate reflection on safety by children. They have adopted a more realistic attitude towards the dangers and risks in their city, and have greater awareness of their own abilities”,* noted Jeanette Magne Jensen, who works for the Danish School of Education and is in charge of evaluating RoSaCe.

Preliminary results demonstrate a high level of activities and creativity in schools (discussions, drawings, story-telling, posters, questionnaires, exhibitions and building of models). Pupils (helped by other city actors such as council officials, architects, parents, etc.) have undertaken a broad variety of actions to change conditions related to safety at school and in surrounding streets.

RoSaCe, promoted by the Directorate-General for Energy and Transport of the European Commission, is an experimental project that has created a new educational approach based on the concept of **street safety education** to improve the safety and quality of life of city inhabitants.

At the RoSaCe European Conference, the institutions in charge of the initiative (the Danish School of Education, ABCittà and P.A.U. Education) presented the final outcomes. A series of experts in child participation and school-community collaborative initiatives, as well as city networks, presented their own visions on the further implementation of RoSaCe.

Joining them were the cities involved in the project and leading road safety and education councillors from other European cities. Xavier Almirall, who is responsible for the Catalan Road Safety Plan, and Maria Teresa Sanz-Villegas, from the Directorate-General for Energy and Transport of the European Commission, put the implementation of RoSaCe into context.

*“The interest shown by the conference participants, including city officials in charge of road safety education in other cities, such as Oviedo, Seville, Perpignan, Lisbon, Bilbao, Vitrolles and research institutes, has been outstanding. They left Barcelona not only with the intention to study the RoSaCe approach in depth, but also with a great deal of enthusiasm to be part of our network”,* noted Tatiana Mora, the RoSaCe coordinator from P.A.U. Education.

A new methodological guide and implementation toolkit were also introduced during the conference. The aim of these materials (available at [www.rosace-europe.net](http://www.rosace-europe.net)) is to describe and discuss the main concepts, ideas and values underpinning the RoSaCe approach and to provide practical support, guidance and inspiration to the teachers, local coordinators and all other participants seeking to implement the methodology. Specific case descriptions of the work carried out in the six participating cities are illustrated.

The participatory action-oriented approach of RoSaCe has been applied among pupils in schools from Athens (GR), Madrid (ES), Rome (IT), Tarragona (ES), Vilnius (LT) and Warsaw (PL), and has provided **evidence** on how children, the protagonists of the project, can reflect upon the concept of **safety in their lives, at school and in their environment**, and **promote changes** to improve their safety and quality of life.

 is generously hosting the RoSaCe European Conference at the Auditorium Caixa Catalunya on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

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