

Citizenship, Collaborative Networks and Special Projects Division

A Cidade das Crianças



Serras do Porto
VaLongo
A logo for VaLongo Serras do Porto, featuring the word 'VaLongo' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'V' and 'L' are dark green, while the 'O' is a lighter green. Below the text is a horizontal row of eight small, colorful circles in shades of grey, orange, pink, green, and blue.

Participatory processes with children and young people in Valongo Municipality

Valongo Children's Council



Participatory Processes with Children and Young People in the Valongo Municipality

Over the last few years, various participatory processes have been implemented in Valongo as a result of the municipality's commitment to stimulating and promoting civic participation.

- » Valongo Youth Participatory Budget;
- » Valongo 4.0 "The Future Built by the Children and Young People of Valongo";
- » Network of Enquirers;
- » Elections of the Little Big Ones;
- » Valongo Children's Council.

City of Children

Many authors state that in order to work with children, we have to reconnect with the child we once were, with moments we've been through, emotions, feelings, etc.

"If we really want to listen to children, we need to open up these spaces of listening and self-knowledge within each one of us"

Adriana Friedmann



City of Children

Based on the idea of the psycho-pedagogue Francesco Tonucci, with a specific objective: "to promote a change in the dynamics of city governance, which should start from the child's perspective rather than the adult's".

- 3 main axes:
- » Restoring children's autonomy of movement;
 - » Ensuring the right to play;
 - » **Promoting children's participation:**

→ The creation of the **Children's Council.**

Valongo Children's Council

How the Children's Council works.

- » Participants are chosen by **lottery**;
- » We take into account the criterion of **representativeness**;
- » **Duration**;
- » **Counsellors of the Mayor**;
- » **Relationship with schools**.



Valongo Children's Council

In practical terms, the Children's Council works as follows:

- » Fortnightly meetings;
- » Children receive a Letter of Invitation to each meeting;
- » Sessions organised by the project coordinator in the municipality;
- » Initial questionnaire;
- » Session plan:
 - **Creative reception;**
 - **Icebreakers;**
 - **Break;**
 - **Feedback.**

Valongo Children's Council

In practical terms, the Children's Council works as follows:

- » Session report sheet;
- » Art-Based Methods;
- » Discussion and debate.



The Children's Council's First Mandate

As well as discussing issues about the city and children's lives in the city, different activities were organised with the aim of developing the children's skills.

The Council met with the mayor three times. At the end of the mandate, were presented 28 proposals to the mayor and councillors of Valongo municipality.



The Current Mandate

The children took office on October 21st. There are 23 children from all the parishes of the municipality aged between 8 and 9.

Two very productive meetings have already been held, where the children brought up important topics related to their lives in the city, such as:

- » Spaces to play, good attitudes in traffic, safe streets to walk on, creating spaces to play, autonomy to go to school alone, safety, housing, emergencies in hospitals, among others.



What we want to improve?

————— Fundamental steps to strengthen and maintain the Children's Council.

- » Join the full programme;
- » Greater interaction with the school community;
- » Monitor the project;
- » Carrying out concrete actions during the process;
- » Sensitising council officials and other players involved in the project.

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