

## OP. 215 HOW TO GUIDE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TOWARDS TERRITORIAL SUSTAINABILITY?

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**Abstract:** With the awareness of the multiplicity of crises and disasters of an environmental and social nature, with strong territorial consequences that hinder sustainable development, educational initiatives are emerging that attempt to form society in general towards the prevention, mitigation and resolution of these problems, with a view to territorial sustainability. However, who are the key agents for promoting and implementing these dynamics? What role do children and young people play?

We are facing an incisive theme, Environmental Education for Citizenship, with a history that spans more than four decades, as it was launched at the end of the 1960s and the beginning of the following (INCN, 1971). These roots have deepened through successive international conferences, as it remains incisive and detectable at different scales of analysis. By way of example, refer to the Intergovernmental Conference on Environmental Education (Tbilisi, 1977), the Moscow International Congress (1987), the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992) and the focus on Sustainable Development (Rio de Janeiro, Rio +20, 2012).

This communication is based on semi-structured interviews with those responsible for three public and associative institutions, in addition to two private business units. We complement this collection with information existing in the documentary records and websites of each institution covered here, in addition to the sectoral bibliographic analysis. We are facing an increasingly disturbing and complex issue that we urgently need to confront.

The results prove that, in addition to School and Family, there are several intervening agents associated with the implementation of effective environmental education among younger people, and that, only by combining synergies, the sustainable, inclusive and responsible territorial development will, in fact, be implemented.

**Keywords:** environmental education; sustainable development, children and young people, public and private institutions