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Arak ›

Arak, Iran, Islamic Republic of

City population:	City/Urban area:	GDP - country:	Average number of years of schooling:
145,600	n/a	USD$ 5,443	12

Empowering and educating citizens to face future challenges

A major industrial city, Arak is home to a number of factories both in and within a few kilometres of the city, including the Sazi Arak machine works and the Iranian Aluminium Company. These factories meet almost half of the country's needs with regard to the steel, petrochemical and locomotive industries.

Vision and Motivation

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is of the utmost importance in today's world. In Arak, these goals will be met by creating educational opportunities for local citizens.

Challenges and Goals

Arak's numerous industries have helped it to develop into the country's industrial heartland, at a time when

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ARAK
IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF

Mayor

Mr Mohammad Ebrahim Abbasi

Contact Person

Iran's main economic, environmental and cultural challenge has been to respond adequately to unexpected changes.
Citizens can help face these challenges more effectively by upgrading their skills, values, knowledge and behaviours throughout their lives.

Plan and Implementation

Arak is empowering its citizens through education in order to achieve sustainable social, economic and environmental development. It has implemented:

1. an opinion poll targeting specific population groups, designed to help determine Arak's educational priorities;
2. training opportunities centring on citizenship rights and life skills;
3. measures to define different target groups;
4. specific educational indicators;
5. measures to mobilize Arak's resources and facilities based on discussions to determine what is needed in order to realize the city's goals;
6. campaigns to inform potential beneficiaries of the educational programmes available to then, ensuring that they participate in realizing the city's goals; and
7. a citywide learning network to provide target groups with educational opportunities and public education.

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Ms Marzieh Shahbazi

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Contact language:
English

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Behbahan ›

Behbahan, Iran, Islamic Republic of

City population:	City/Urban area:	Population Density:	GDP - country:	Average number of years of schooling:
107,000	3,195	Less than 300 inhabitants per km²	USD 4,763	12

Extending the tradition of learning in a historical city

Behbahan's history reaches back to the Sassanian period, during which the ancient city of Arjan was built. The city of Behbahan, built on its ruins, still takes pride in its strong tradition of learning.

Vision and motivation

In building a learning city and increasing access to lifelong learning, Behbahan's major goal is to reduce violence, unemployment and social inequality.

Behbahan envisages a city that has quality teachers, continuous training programmes, early childhood education and equal learning opportunities for everyone.

Challenges and goals

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**BEHBAHAN
IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF**

Contact Person

Ms Parastoo Momeni
Behbahan Municipality

Email:

Currently, the city faces challenges with its further development. By joining the GNLC and taking a new approach, Behbahan will create entrepreneurial citizens, manage human resources and teach people to live peacefully, using modern technologies and materials to facilitate learning. The city aims to help citizens find mental, physical and cultural stability and to enhance social cohesion and individual empowerment.

Plan and implementation

Behbahan has adopted a detailed action plan that includes the following aspects:

1. Increasing teacher training programmes and access to lifelong learning tests using the Industrial Resources Budget;
2. Promoting cross-sectoral learning;
3. Fostering a strong partnership with local NGOs, learning organizations and institutions;
4. Organizing scientific, social, educational and cultural workshops to enhance people's living standards;
5. Facilitating equal access to learning activities;
6. Hosting workshops and classes in public places, primary schools, high schools and universities in collaboration with educational and scientific organizations.

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Kashan ›

Kashan, Iran, Islamic Republic of

City population:	City/Urban area:	Population Density:	GDP - country:	Average number of years of schooling:
500,000	4,400	Less than 300 inhabitants per km²	USD$ 4,763	12

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**KASHAN
IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF**

Restoring ancient culture and identity

Declared by UNESCO as a World Heritage site, the civilization of Kashan in the Sialk Hills is 7,000 years old.

Vision and Motivation

Kashan is one of the pioneer cities in Iran with an advanced education system. Kashan hopes that by being a UNESCO Learning City, the city will restore its ancient culture and identity create content to engage citizens in urban and social affairs promote a feeling of

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Mayor

Mr Mohammad Nazem Razavi

Contact Person

belonging among its citizens and achieve the goal of sustainable development.

Challenges and Goals

Despite the fact that Kashan has a well-established education system, the city faces challenges in building a learning city. Kashan expects that the learning city initiative will enhance its economic development and cultural prosperity, increase social cohesion and promote individual empowerment.

Plan and Implementation

To engage citizens in Kashan, the municipality has adopted a wide range of measures to promote a culture of lifelong learning. These measures include:

1. Organizing educational festivals covering a wide range of topics. The two most significant learning festivals in Kashan are the Mentha Festival and the Vital Citizen Festival. These festivals feature public lectures and learn-by-doing events to promote public engagement and raise enthusiasm for learning.
2. Promoting mental health education among citizens, especially for marginalized groups. Kashan pays special attention to citizens belonging to marginalized groups within the city, some of whom suffer from mental illnesses and may lack the ability to learn effectively. The city has adopted special provisions to encourage the integration of such groups.

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> **"** *Public learning environments such public buildings and open spaces (parks, pedestrian precincts, etc.) foster social and urban life. Through our "Citizen Vitality System", Kashan Municipality promotes a culture of social education and community.*
>
> Mr Mohammad Nazem Razavi

Mr Mohammad Ali Faraji

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Kashan Municipality
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Kashan
Iran, Islamic Republic of

Contact language:
English

RELATED CITIES by population

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Shiraz ›

Shiraz, Iran, Islamic Republic of

City population:	City/Urban area:	Population Density:	GDP - country:	Average number of years of schooling:
1,700,687	240	More than 500 inhabitants per km²	USD$ 5,443	12

Achieving peace, sustainability and harmony through learning

Known as the city of flowers and fragrant wine, Shiraz is considered one of the most beautiful cities in Iran. It is the birthplace of the famous Persian poets, Hafez and Saadi.

Vision and motivation

Shiraz believes that becoming a Learning City will help it to achieve progress in numerous important areas, such as civic engagement, quality of life, moral values

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**SHIRAZ
IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF**

http://www.accrp.org
(http://www.accrp.org)
http://www.shiraz.ir
(http://www.shiraz.ir)

Mayor

Mr Dr Ali Reza Pakfetrat

Contact Person

Mr Mohammad Reza Gol
Hamisheh Bahar

and community awareness as a catalyst for behavioural change. Its vision seeks to encourage citizens to voluntarily share their talents and skills, and expand their knowledge and experience.

Challenges and goals

The city faces various social problems such as violence, injustice and criminality.

Its challenges include spreading peace and fostering dialogue among different cultures and civilizations; establishing social discipline and the rule of law; protecting the environment; and instilling a sense of responsibility.

Plan and implementation

In cooperation with various government agencies, NGOs, the private sector, public institutions, the local university, and a number of educational and vocational organizations, the city plans to hold dedicated workshops to train people of all ages (including children, teenagers and the elderly).

It intends to promote and spread awareness of civic matters and sustainable development, in line with Shiraz's scientific potential and with the participation of its workforce.

Shiraz aims to raise awareness of environment-related jobs and the green economy.

It will also conduct scientific workshops; host student Olympiads; hold family festivals to promote health and raise awareness; and organize science and research festivals.

> " *Humanity, relying on divine nature and a respect for each other's rights and the protection of the environment, can witness a world of peace, friendship and justice.*
>
> Mr Dr Ali Reza Pakfetrat

Head of the Civil Rights Protection Association

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