



OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Conference

Warsaw, 22 September – 3 October 2014

Working session 16 – Rights of migrants, including: Migrant workers, the integration of regular migrants

Contribution of the Council of Europe

Communication for integration (C4i)

Racism and intolerance are becoming rooted in European societies as the economic crisis gives strength to extremist messages. These negative phenomena have a direct impact on the public perceptions about migrants and their ability to fit into and function in the host community.

In cities, perceptions are an important element to facilitate a better coexistence and social cohesion. Many cities have detected that people without a proper understanding of the issues of diversity, migration and integration and lacking credible and balanced information raise questions about the role of diversity within society. Those questions, if left unanswered, result in misinformation and false perceptions, and ultimately undermine integration efforts and community cohesion.

The C4i project seeks to involve public authorities, NGOs and citizens - migrants and non-migrants - in mobilising social networks to foster well-informed public debate on migration and diversity and combat unfounded (but widespread) myths and misconceptions which undermine the integration strategies at the local level. To do so, the project aims to test the applicability of the social communication and networking method experimented successfully in Barcelona (anti-rumour campaign). It also aims to assess the impact of the method among the population in 11 European cities¹ in order to devise a methodology and tools that can be used more widely across Europe.

Specific local diversity and migration challenges are at the focus of attention. By involving migrants and non-migrants and their organizations in a joint initiative with local authorities, C4i helps build trust and lay the foundation for a continuous dialogue and further participation of stakeholders in the policy-making process and in local life in general.

The project specifically focuses on:

¹ The participating cities are: Amadora (Portugal), Barcelona (Spain), Bilbao (Spain), Botkyrka (Sweden), Erlangen (Germany), Limerick (Ireland), Loures (Portugal), Lublin (Poland), Nuremberg (Germany), Patras (Greece) and Sabadell (Spain).

- Identifying rumours and collecting objective data to provide - through social networks and viral information channels - correct information and explanations on migration and diversity and to combat unfounded (but widespread) myths and misconceptions that put social cohesion at risk;
- Defining a strategy, methodology and tools that can be applicable in the local context;
- Creating anti-rumours networks in each city, involving public administration, social organisations and citizens;
- Inviting and training citizens to become 'anti-rumours' agents to fight against stereotypes and prejudices in their daily lives;
- Assessing the impact of the project's actions among the population in the 11 cities in order to verify its effectiveness.

The project started on 1 January 2014 and its overall duration is 18 months.

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Diversity in the economy and local integration (DELI)

While it is recognised that the entrepreneurship is essential to economic growth and innovation, the impact of migrants on European economy remains the issue subject to many misconceptions and doubts. Nevertheless, migrants and people from ethnic minorities represent an important pool of entrepreneurs in Europe. At present there are around 24 million non-nationals living in the countries of the European Union. Their businesses - mainly small and micro enterprises - play an important role in the European society and in particular in urban areas

Co-funded by the Council of Europe and the European Integration Fund, the project "Diversity in the economy and local integration" (DELI) aims to foster more efficient local policies in support of migrant-owned SMEs and migrant entrepreneurship as part of wider diversity and inclusion policies. It is based on a partnership network of 10 cities², working towards systemic change in the economic integration of migrants and reducing gaps in access to rights.

More specifically, the project focuses on:

- Creating awareness about diversity and equality issues in economic policies and strategies by providing fora for multidepartment cooperation and public-private dialogue;
- Developing quality standards for supporting entrepreneurship and promoting "supplier diversity" approach in procurement;

² The participating cities are: Bucharest (Romania), Cartagena (Spain), Dublin (Ireland), Getxo (Spain), Munich (Germany), Lisbon (Lisbon), London Lewisham (United Kingdom), Reggio Emilia (Italy), Rotterdam (Netherlands), Vienna (Austria).

- Assisting cities in meeting those standards by self-assessment, setting targets, exchange of good practice and benchmarking.

With assistance of the technical team, and using specific indicators, cities will conduct self-assessment multi-stakeholders' reviews. Building on the gaps identified and recommendations made throughout the review process, the identification of follow-up activities will help local governments to incorporate support to migrant entrepreneurship in the local planning processes. The self-assessment will lead to a certification as well as a list of organisational changes (road maps) to be implemented to confirm certification in 2-year period.

The project started on 1 January 2014 and its overall duration is 18 months.

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Intercultural Cities: governance and policies for diverse communities

Widespread criticism of multiculturalism has encouraged the Council of Europe, in co-operation with the European Commission (DG EAC) to develop and test a **novel model of integration** at the local level called "Intercultural integration" which is presented in the publication "[Intercultural Cities: Towards a model of intercultural integration](#)" (2009) and [Step by step guide to building the Intercultural city](#) (2013). Focusing on diversity as an advantage and based on a wide range of European standards, the model involves the review of policies and governance from an intercultural perspective. **It offers a range of analytical and assessment tools**, including the very successful **Intercultural cities INDEX**. The model is now being **implemented by over 60 cities** in Europe and beyond (including Mexico city and Montreal).

The **adoption of the model** by major European capitals with a high level of policy sophistication (Copenhagen, Lisbon, Dublin, Oslo, Berlin Neukölln, London Lewisham...) is a sign of recognition of its validity.

The Intercultural cities model is **sustainable** because it mobilises various city departments, across administrative silos, as well as civil society organisations and professional groups, including media, and involves the development of comprehensive, multi-dimensional intercultural strategies.

'Intercultural cities' is **versatile** – the diversity advantage concept is applicable to various diversity contexts, including migration and the presence of national minorities. The cities which have adopted the model cover a pan-European area vary significantly in terms of demography, economy and political context.

Since its inception in 2008, the Intercultural cities model of diversity management and integration has been promoted through a pan-European pilot network, and a series of national networks (Italy, Spain, Norway, and Ukraine and Portugal). A national network exists in South Korea and another one is being set up in Japan.

National **networks** have adopted action plans and carry out regular exchanges of good practice, thematic meetings and policy initiatives.

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