9th Portuguese Intercultural Cities Network Meeting
Albufeira City Council, June 8, 2017

(SUMMARY)

Opening session

During his opening intervention, Carlos Silva e Sousa, welcomed all participants in the IX RPCI meeting. Afterwards, he briefly addressed the political approach of the municipality towards diversity, underlying the fact that school environments are highly diversified, in what can only be perceived as something that enriches the cultural atmosphere of the municipality. Additionally, the relevance of the RPCI to the work being made by municipal workers, concerning the valorization of diversity as an added value for local development, was also stressed.

Figure 1 - Opening session

André Carmo, started out by thanking the municipality of Albufeira for the organization of the IX RPCI meeting, and emphasizing the importance of the work carried out by the Albufeira local team, since the municipality became a member of the RPCI, in 2016. Moreover, all participants in the meeting, specially those that had to go through a lot of effort to find some time in their schedules, were also acknowledged and finally, the immediate availability of the colleagues presenting the STEPS project, an initiative that can be inspiring for RPCI members, was also pointed out.

Figure 2 – General view of the audience

Next, a brief presentation of the RPCI was put forth, underlining the following defining traits: i) initiated in 2012, the RPCI is one of the six national networks that are currently active within the ICC programme framework (Italy, Spain, Norway, Ukraine, Morocco), and it now includes 12 municipalities (Braga, Santa Maria da Feira, Viseu, Coimbra, Loures, Lisboa, Amadora, Cascais, Setúbal, Beja, Portimão and Albufeira); ii) the participation/membership in the RPCI is free of charge for all members and puts at their disposal a set of tools/opportunities, such as: a) the

intercultural index; b) the intercultural profile; c) a wide array of activities and events in the domains of diversity and interculturality. As a whole, these tools/opportunities help to improve the quality of the local policies and strategies for diversity and interculturality that are conceived by RPCI members.

The programme of the IX RPCI meeting seeks precisely to reflect about its most well known instruments - the ICC index – in order to evaluate its use within the Portuguese context, while puting forth some recommendations for its improvement. Furthermore, this meeting will also allow us to better grasp the particularities of Albufeira from an intercultural point of view, to get to know the STEPS project and also to discuss the Inclusive Integration Policy Lab. Immediately after the opening session, an artistic interlude was put forth by the Punjab students. This group entails students with an Indian background coming from Albufeira's basic and secondary education schools, performing Punjab folk dances.

Figure 3 – Punjab students

Interculturality in Albufeira

Paula Cunha initiated her presentation with some general remarks about Albufeira's intercultural profile, namely, the number and the geographical background of foreign students enrolled in public schools, as well as the institutional framework supporting the implementation of different policies in the city. She then moved on to describe a number of activities developed by the municipality, namely, an intercultural gastronomic event, a course in initiation to Portuguese, an Intercultural Training Cycle, and finally the 3rd Multicultural Encounter, a two day initiative mobilizing a wide array of stakeholders gathering around the common goal of promoting a more inclusive society. Afterwards, Joaquim Nunes focused on the issue of *roma* people, and the way Albufeira has been working in conjunction with *roma* communities and other stakeholders to overcome a series of problems that are faced by the former on a daily basis.

Figure 4 – Interculturality in Albufeira

Intercultural cities index: usefulness, challenges and problems

The presentations made during this panel were very different from each other. While some municipalities addressed in a more straightforward way the main theme that was proposed, other decided to present an updated overview of the various initiatives and practices that are currently unfolding in their territories. For instance, to Braga, the most relevant contribution coming from participating in the network has been the intercultural report elaborated by the international expert that visited the city. However, the importance of providing an adequate pretext to set up an inter-departmental local team that has been able to overcome some of the most usual obstacles faced when working in these kind of networks, was also highlighted. By the same token, the fact that the RPCI environment facilitated a shift in the political discourse, moving away from a focus on multiculturalism towards interculturality was also acknowledged as something that had immediate impacts in local policies and strategies dealing with ethnic minorities.

In the case of Cascais, the positive outcomes of filling the index are twofold: on the one hand, it provides the municipality with a chance to update information and data regarding the issues addressed in the survey, on the other, it facilitates communication between different departments and divisions operating within the city council, something that often doesn't happen without significant constraints. The main negative outcomes are directly related to concepts, data and scales, i.e. some of the concepts used in the index are different from country to country, by the same token, some of the questions are too subjective, depending on who is interpreting it, and its level of knowledge about the specific topics being addressed, etc., finally, a significant amount of data is not available at the local level. Moreover, the importance of the intercultural report stemming from the expert visit was also underlined, as well as the general quality of the ICC reports produced. In conjunction, the index report and the intercultural report facilitate dissemination of intercultural data, allow

for constant benchmarking between comparable cities, and put forth important recommendations.

Closely followed by Santa Maria da Feira, Viseu pointed out issues such as the importance of a continuous assessment of the intercultural work carried out by the municipality, the development of new competences by institutional teams that have been set up, as well as the wide dissemination and sharing of good practices within the scope of the RPCI and the ICC network, as highly positive outcomes of its involvement in the RPCI. From a more strict point of view focused on the ICC index survey, the main difficulties found by the local team were the fact that: i) it is way too long, and takes too much time to fill; ii) its goals are not as concrete as they should be and, in some aspects, are not well adapted to local realities (in this regard, some of the data requested is not available); iii) different services involved in filling up the survey haven't been able to communicate and articulate properly, making it very difficult to obtain quality data.

STEPS project

Ana Magalhães started the presentation highlighting the main starting points and challenges of the project. Hence, it was argued that STEPS aims at building and strengthening community cohesion, promoting trust, dialogue and mutual understanding through participatory action plans based on cultural heritage. In this sense, based on the idea that urban identities, as opposed to national ones, have more potential for intercultural inclusion, urban heritage is conceived as an expression of identity of a given city. She then proceed to contextualize the geographical framework of the project, namely, the Arroios territory, focusing on the existence of a very significant and diverse foreign population (in 2011, nearly half the foreign population living in Lisbon, was located in Arroios, and this parish has around 80 different nationalities). As a consequence, the urban fabric of Arroios is a highly diversified and

complex socio-cultural polyhedron (e.g. visual landscape, music, gastronomic experiences). Afterwards, the methodological approach implemented in the STEPS project was presented, as well as the central role played by *groundstigators* in the way the project unfolds. Finally, a map with some preliminary results was displayed by Ana Pessoa and all participants in the meeting were invited to explore, navigate, and analyse the cartography that was collectively co-produced in a participatory process.

Inclusive integration policy lab

André Carmo opened this session, framing the debate, setting the main goals, and defining the methodology for the discussion. All participants where then remembered that, during the coordinators meeting that took place last September 16, the idea/process of an Inclusive integration policy lab was originally launched. Around the beginning of 2017, a conceptual document was circulated and afterwards, the idea was "tested" (February 18, Berlin), with the participation of various mayors, deputy mayors and ministry representatives. The information gathered through the multi-level governance survey was of utmost importance for this process. Furthermore, the lab main goal was outlined, namely, the need to strengthen the dialogue between local and national authorities, around migrant inclusion policies. Actually, the debate that took place in Berlin was enlightening and confirmed the need to foster more systematic, focused and constructive bilateral relationships.

With the goal of organizing a more fruitful relationship between the RPCI and national authorities, during the 1st semester of 2018, national networks were then summoned to work within this framework (on November 28-29, in Lisbon, a policy lab session will take place with the confirmed presence of various ministerial representatives and mayors).

During the 1st policy lab, in Berlin, it was decided that each national network should define a set of priorities, around which labs will be

structured. With this in mind, the contents of an e-mail that was sent to all participants about this issue before the meeting was restated, namely, the need to: i) discuss 2/3 priorities around which the policy lab will revolve; ii) identify what are the main national authorities to involve in the lab, while discussing the type of work that is possible/desirable to undertake; iii) think about dates and venues to hold the policy lab.

To support the debate, a document entitled Key Policy Areas for Multi-Level Governance of Inclusive Integration Across Europe, elaborated by the ICC, based on the recommendations made by the Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner, extensive research and visits to various member-states of the CoE, was distributed before the meeting amongst participants through e-mail.

Evidently, the outcome of the Policy Lab, will always depend on the country and municipalities involved. In some cases, a memorandum of cooperation between national networks and one or more ministries can be signed, in others, a compromise to have regular meetings (on a yearly basis, for instance) to exchange experiences and good practices can be formalized, etc. After putting forth the aforementioned framing ideas, the coordinator of the RPCI presented the methodology for the following debate.

Proposal 1: main themes should be nationality and residence, access to employment (recognition of qualifications), and access to language formation and training. Key stakeholders to involve are the Institute of Employment, and Professional Training (IEFP), the Immigration and Borders Service (SEF), the High Commissioner for Migrations (ACM), the Ministry of Education, Local Authorities and Universities. The policy lab should take the form of a regular working meeting, or a task force focused on addressing the aforementioned themes.

Proposal 2: main themes should be nationality and residence (need to tackle legal frameworks and arrangements), access to employment and formal recognition of academic qualifications, and social, civic and cultural rights, acknowledged as the basis for political participation processes.

Stakeholders to invite are the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the ministry of Employment and Solidarity, Parliament representatives, the ACM, among others. The policy lab should be materialized in the form of thematic seminars involving community members, municipal workers, decision-makers and scholars.

Closing session

Marlene Silva generously expressed her greetings to all participants, pointing out the success of the meeting, and the commitment of Albufeira to the ICC agenda, specially regarding the near future. Next, André Carmo reiterated his greetings to Albufeira for the organization, to all participants for attending, and addressed two relevant topics, namely: i) the process of legal formalization of the RPCI. In this regard, he argued that it didn't advance due to a severe lack of time since, as all RPCI members are well aware, the coordination of the RPCI is made in conjunction with other professional responsibilities that, specially during the last couple of months, have been very time consuming, thus reducing the level of activity of the RPCI; ii) the fact that, from 2018 onwards, the coordination of the RPCI will be carried out by a different person. In fact, the RPCI coordination is no longer compatible with the new professional activities that the current coordinator will deal with (in this sense, the November 30 extraordinary meeting, in Lisbon, will be used to present the replacing coordinator, the make a critical assessment of the 2015-2017 period, and discuss the next steps of the RPCI).

Annex I – Programme
IX Portuguese Intercultural Cities Network Meeting

June 8, 2017
Venue: Albufeira City Council

10:00-10:15h – Opening session
Carlos Silva e Sousa (Mayor of Albufeira)
André Carmo (Portuguese Intercultural Cities Network Meeting Coordinator)

10:15-10:30h – *Punjab Students*

10:30-10:50h – Interculturality in Albufeira
Paula Cunha / Joaquim Nunes (Albufeira municipal workers)

10:50-11:00h – *Coffee-break*

11:00-12:15h – Intercultural cities index: usefulness, challenges and problems
Braga Municipality
Cascais Municipality
Santa Maria da Feira Municipality
Viseu Municipality

12:15-13:15h – STEPS project
Ana Magalhães / Ana Pessoa (Arroios Priority Intervention Neighbourhoods
Support Office / Aga Khan Foundation)

13:15-14:30h – Lunch

14:30-17:00h – *Inclusive Integration Policy Lab*

17:00h – Closing session
André Carmo (Portuguese Intercultural Cities Network Meeting Coordinator)
Marlene Silva (Albufeira Deputy Mayor)

Annex II – Participants

Nome	Município	Tlm	E-mail
Dora Machadinho	Albufeira	968726546	dora.machadinho@sapo...
André Bispo	APCI	938552684	CARLO@CANPUS.V...PT
Cristina Palhares	Braga	967446102	cristina.palhares.an-braga.pt
Marta Tavares	BATCA	919702417	marta.tavares@cm-braga.pt
António Soares Direito	Beja	961916651	antonio.direito@cm-beja.pt
Isabel Afonso	Albufeira	917793958	isabelafo@gmail.com
Dina Bonne	Albufeira	963443555	dina.bonne@sapo.pt
Ana Pessoa	Lisboa	967006010	ana-pessoa@akiportugal.org
Ana M...	Lisboa	933924525	anamanjuelma@jfenario.pt
Joaquim Guilherme C. Nunes	ALBUF.	289996952	jnunes.1685@cm-albufeira.pt
Paula Alexandra Abreu M. Cunha	Albufeira	289959657	paula.cunha@cmalbufeira.pt
Elena Pimenta	C.M. Viseu	961605965	elena.pimenta@cmviseu.pt
Ricardo Pais	CM Viseu	967849622	ricardo.pais@cmviseu.pt
Fernando Santos	Município de Viseu	232494424	fernando.santos@cmviseu.pt
Maria Miguel Marinho	CM Viseu	964430992	mmarquivisen@hotmail.com
Alfredo Machado	ALBUFEIRA	919858585	
Sara Tunes	Cascais	214815777	sara.tunes@cm-cascais.pt
Helena Bernardino	Cascais	919577430	helen.bernardino@cm-cascais.pt
Rita Mendes	Amadora	919506361	ana.mendes@cm-amadora.pt
Isabel Luz	Cascais	938335883	ana.isabel.luz@cm-cascais.pt
Yaque Lacayen Huntley	Loulé	912461244	yaque.huntley@cm-loule.pt
Fernanda Bitencourt	C.M. Cascais	912262474	fbitencourt@cm-cascais.pt

REGISTO DE PRESENÇAS
IX Reunião RPCI (08/06/2017), Albufeira

Nome	Município	Tlm	E-mail
Mónica Martins Cabrita	Albufeira	961329870	monicacabrita553@hotmail.com
Ana Carente	Albufeira	965626407	ana.galante@cm-albufeira.pt
João Pedro Reis Ruiz	S. Marcos	965526355	roberto.reis@cm-faro.pt
Ana Sousa	Aveiro	968121163	ana-sousa1@ccu.pt
Ana Rita Santos	Albufeira	963358580	ana.santos@cm-albufeira.pt
Paula Pereira	Portimão	965930006	paula.pereira@cm-portimao.pt