



Portuguese Intercultural Cities Network Action Plan

2015/2016

FRAMEWORK

The RPCI goal is to foster the development and implementation of migrant integration policies, and diversity management and intercultural dialogue, promoting the exchange of good practices between member cities in close relation to the ICC Network.

Created in 2012, the RPCI now includes eight member cities: Amadora, Beja, Cascais, Coimbra, Lisboa, Loures, Santa Maria da Feira and Setúbal. Portimão subscription is still pending, and there is also some uncertainty regarding the participation of Coimbra.

For the 2015/2016 biennium, the RPCI main goals are: i) to consolidate the work being made until now, filling the gaps that have been identified; ii) to promote new activities to develop by member cities; iii) to update information provided by member cities, improving its diffusion and giving more visibility to the RPCI.

1. CONSOLIDATION

1.1. ICC Index

Four cities have already filled the index: Amadora (2011), Beja (2012), Coimbra (2013) and Lisbon (2014). Of these, Amadora and Beja should initiate the necessary procedures to its update (with the goal of concluding this task until the end of the 1st semester of 2016). Loures, in turn, is now completing its filling, with the goal of delivering it until the end of 2015. Cascais, Santa Maria da Feira and Setúbal still haven't filled the index, and should initiate this task as soon as possible. Ideally, all member cities should have their indexes filled and updated until the end of the first semester of 2016.

1.2. Expert visits

Until now, Lisbon and Setúbal are the only member cities that were already visited by experts. Under normal conditions, visits should be preceded by the ICC index filling, in the sense that visits benefit from inputs provided by that tool, complementing and enrich it with a more qualitative understanding. Give the current state of development of indexes; Loures is the city in better conditions to start planning the visit, immediately after delivering the ICC index. Other visits should be planned after delivering the index by member cities that still haven't made it.

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1.3. Cooperation with the Alto Comissariado para as Migrações (ACM)

Find virtuous forms of promoting a more consistent articulation between the work developed by the ACM and that taking place within the RPCI. For that, in the beginning of 2016, a close dialogue between both entities should be carried out with the goal of identifying possible areas of convergence. This responsibility should be assumed, first and foremost, by the Council of Europe representative.

1.4. Enlarging the RPCI

Throughout 2016, the RPCI seeks to significantly enlarge the number of members, not only to face its needs in terms of organization and internal management, but also to strengthen the results of activities carried out. For that, each member city, in articulation with the CoE representative, should establish privileged contacts with municipalities considered more adequate. Additionally, an RPCI informative brochure should be produced, helping cities that are interested to understand better what the RPCI is all about, what are its goals and how they can participate and become involved.

1.5. RPCI Meetings

In order to promote geographical decentralization of the work done by the RPCI, meetings should be distributed accordingly. With this goal in mind, Santa Maria da Feira has already expressed the will to host the 6th RPCI meeting, taking place on the 1st semester of 2016. Furthermore, the RPCI should alternate between formal meetings and other, like workshops, with a more informal, operative and applied nature. This way, one promotes a more frequent exchange of good practices and experiences, thus contributing to strengthen the relationships between member cities.

1.6. Formalization of the RPCI

During the 1st semester of 2016, efforts should be carried out in order to formalize the RPCI as association of municipalities. This process is fundamental to endow the RPCI with more capacity to intervene, namely at the level of its articulation with the National Association of Municipalities, promote a better access to diverse sources of funding for activities to develop and, lastly, foster responsibility between member cities regarding its future development.

2. NEW ACTIVITIES

2.1. RPCI Launch

After the 6th RPCI meeting, approval of statutes, action plan and definition of its governing bodies, a public launch session should take place. This initiative should occur during the 1st semester of 2016.

2.2. C4I & DELI

During the last two years (2014-2015) C4i (Communication for Integration) and DELI (Diversity in the Economy and Local Integration) projects were implemented and developed in member cities. In the former case, Amadora and Loures, in the latter, Lisbon. Both having been positively evaluated by the CoE, an expectation was created around their continuity. One of the existing possibilities is to replicate (context-sensitive) the experiences

occurred in Amadora, Lisbon and Loures, in the other member cities. For that to happen, until the end of the 1st semester of 2016, two tutoring teams (one by each aforementioned projects), will be responsible for providing qualified information and guidelines for the development of the new municipal projects. If, in the case of C4i, the anti-rumour campaign was pivotal, in case of DELI, the creation of a local partnership platform played a central role. All in all, these can be the structuring axis for continuing both projects, during 2016, at the RPCI level.

2.3. The refugees reception issue

During the last couple of years, in the European context, one has been witnessing the re-emergence of the refugees reception issue as socio-demographic, economic, political and cultural problem. Although this is not a priority for some RPCI member cities, also at the ICC level this is a pressing matter that requires a more consistent and continuous work. Networks like the RPCI can provide an important contribution for a better understanding of this issue, as well as supporting a more adequate political intervention. Until the end of 2015, a meeting around this issue will be organized, thus promoting a qualified debate within the RPCI, helping to draw a common strategy in this field.

3. COMMUNICATION

3.1. RPCI website

With the exception of Lisbon, that displays a summary of its population and some context data, its ICC index as well as generic information about the ICC Network, other cities only provide the links for their institutional websites, with Loures link not working. In the beginning of 2016, in collaboration with each member city, the CoE representative, should review and update the information made available. Additionally, the website should be made more user-friendly and useful, with new functionalities and a configuration like an online community of practice.

3.2. ICC Newsletter

Since 2014, there were four cities sending relevant information that was published in the ICC Network newsletter (Amadora, Lisbon, Loures and Santa Maria da Feira). Beja, Cascais, Coimbra and Setúbal still haven't made it. Ideally, these cities should be capable of sending relevant materials (e.g. good practices on interculturality, events and initiatives) until the end of 2015. From now onwards, this information will be centralized by the CoE representative, which will also be responsible for sending it to the ICC newsletter.

3.3. Local/regional media

In order to make the activities developed by the RPCI more visible, increasing their potential impact, member cities should try to establish privileged communication channels with local/regional media. Information made available in the ICC newsletter could also be used at the local/regional levels.

4. RPCI SCHEDULE

	2 nd Semester 2015	1 st Semester 2016	2 nd Semester 2016
Consolidation	Amadora Beja Cascais Lisboa Loures (1.1) SM Feira Setúbal	Amadora (1.1/1.4/1.6) Beja (1.1/1.4/1.6) Cascais (1.1/1.4/1.6) Lisboa (1.4/1.6) Loures (1.2/1.4/1.6) SM Feira (1.1/1.4/1.5/1.6) Setúbal (1.1/1.4/1.6)	Amadora (1.2) Beja (1.2) Cascais Lisboa Loures SM Feira Setúbal
New Activities	Amadora Beja Cascais Lisboa Loures SM Feira Setúbal	Amadora (2.2) Beja Cascais Lisboa (2.2) Loures (2.2/2.3) SM Feira (2.1) Setúbal	Amadora Beja Cascais Lisboa Loures SM Feira Setúbal
Communication	Amadora Beja (3.2) Cascais (3.2) Lisboa Loures SM Feira Setúbal (3.2)	Amadora (3.1) Beja (3.1) Cascais (3.1) Lisboa (3.1) Loures (3.1) SM Feira (3.1) Setúbal (3.1)	Amadora Beja Cascais Lisboa Loures SM Feira Setúbal