



# STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE (CDCPP)

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1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Bureau  
Paris, 20-21 September 2012

Council of Europe Offices  
55 Avenue Kléber, 75016 Paris

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## Intercultural cities progress review

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DOCUMENT FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

### Draft decision

*The Bureau:*

- **took note** with satisfaction of the progress and forthcoming activities in the context of Intercultural cities and underlined its strong support for this priority programme;
- **supported** the further enlargement of the Intercultural cities network ;
- **encouraged** the Secretariat to search for additional funding for the Intercultural cities programme;
- **decided** to present the draft recommendation on intercultural integration to the CDCPP at its next plenary session (Appendix I)

## BACKGROUND

Widespread criticism of multiculturalism and other integration approaches 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”. Focusing on cultural 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** (a policy audit tool, step-by-step guide, an INDEX, study visits, thematic events, good practice database), a well-functioning network offering peer support, a team of specifically trained international experts and experienced staff. The model is now being **implemented by over 60 cities** in Europe and beyond. [www.coe.int/interculturalcities](http://www.coe.int/interculturalcities)

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** since 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.

## PROGRESS

Cities applying the model advocate the adoption at the national level of the intercultural approach to integration as it addresses most adequately the challenges of diversity management in all European countries. In order to review achievements and challenges ahead, reach out to new candidate cities and to national policy-makers in the field of integration, a major conference will be held on 6-8 February 2013 in Dublin under the Irish Presidency of the European Council.

Participants will be city officials, national politicians, EU and CoE officials, experts, NGO representatives from the 60 member and associated ICC cities, and from new candidate cities.

In addition to the national ICC networks in Italy, Spain, Ukraine and Norway, national networks are being set up in Poland and Portugal. An initiative has been taken for the setting up of a US Intercultural cities network. Regular high-level events are held in Japan to facilitate the transfer of the ICC methodology, a Mayors’ summit will be held in Hamamatsu on 25-26 October 2012.

## NEXT STEPS

28 cities have expressed interest in joining the network and receiving support to apply the intercultural integration model, and some of them will join in 2013. However, the EU funding is ending in February and DG EAC do not foresee a renewal of the joint action. Other resources are being sought from the European Commission or other partners.

## APPENDIX I

**Recommendation CM/Rec(2013) XXX  
of the Committee of Ministers to member states  
on intercultural integration**



*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on XXX 2013  
at the XXX meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve greater unity between its members and that this aim may be pursued, in particular, through common action in the fields of migration, integration and community relations;

Having regard to the pioneering work of the Council of Europe in the field of intercultural dialogue, in particular the "White paper on intercultural dialogue" which underlines the importance of creating spaces for cross-cultural exchange and debate, facilitating access to and exercise of citizenship and fostering intercultural competence, particularly at the local level;

With reference to the report of the Group of Eminent Persons of the Council of Europe "Living Together: Combining Diversity and Freedom in 21st-Century Europe" which emphasises the key role of cities in managing diversity and fostering a pluralistic identity and creating open societies by bringing members of different groups into close and constructive contact, and showcases cities that have adopted an intercultural approach to integration;

Underlining that the management of diversity in full respect for the principles of democracy and human rights is a common challenge for European societies, and indeed world-wide, and that migrant integration strategies are ineffective and unsustainable without adequate diversity strategies;

Noting that access to citizenship, education, public services, the labour market and cultural life can only be equitable if governance and institutions are designed for culturally diverse communities and managed by culturally competent individuals and teams;

Recognising that a solid body of research both in Europe and worldwide has demonstrated the value of diversity for human and social development, economic growth, productivity, creativity and innovation and that these benefits of diversity can be realised on condition that adequate policies are in place to prevent conflict and foster equal opportunities and community cohesion;

Emphasising that the Council of Europe supports and facilitates the search for novel approaches to diversity management that remedy shortcomings of past policies and enable the realisation of diversity advantage and that such an approach has been developed through a process of structured policy review, peer learning and evaluation in the context of "Intercultural cities" – a joint action of the Council of Europe and the European Commission, and has been called intercultural integration;

Considering that the intercultural integration approach builds upon Council of Europe instruments and standards in the fields of cultural diversity, the protection of minority cultures, intercultural competence, multi-lingualism, intercultural education, the fight against racism and xenophobia, the prevention of hate speech, the role of media in fostering of a culture of tolerance, the interaction between migrants and receiving societies, and the intercultural competence of social services;

Acknowledging that cities are at the front line of integration and diversity management and laboratories for policy innovation, and that they make an important contribution to social cohesion by adopting an intercultural approach to integration and diversity management;

Noting *Recommendation 261 (2009)<sup>1</sup> Intercultural cities* of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities which points that strong inclusive intercultural cities, which have succeeded in encouraging citizens of diverse origins to identify with their city, demonstrate a capacity for innovation and are able to use the resources, skills and creativity of their populations to raise the city's attractiveness and to bring new investment and job opportunities;

*Recommends to member states to*

Bring the intercultural integration model, and the tools which have been designed to facilitate its implementation and measure impact (available on [www.coe.int/interculturalcities](http://www.coe.int/interculturalcities)), to the attention of local and regional authorities, as well as relevant national and local institutions, organisations and networks, via the appropriate national channels;

Facilitate the dissemination of the "Step by Step Guide to the intercultural city" appended to this Recommendation, including via its translation into their official languages;

Encourage the implementation of the intercultural integration model at the local level and support the setting up of city networks for the exchange of experience and learning in this respect;

Take the intercultural integration model into account while revising and further developing national migrant integration policies, or policies for intercultural dialogue and diversity management.