



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

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**1<sup>st</sup> Plenary Session**  
Strasbourg, 14 – 16 May 2012

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## **Intercultural cities – Governance and policies for diverse communities**

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### DOCUMENT FOR INFORMATION

Item 5.2.4 of the draft agenda

*The Committee:*

- **noted** the progress of the Intercultural cities programme in relation to local policy review and tools development;
- **supported** the search for external resources with a view to enlarging the ICC network in the future;
- **encouraged** the Secretariat to prepare a draft Recommendation based on the results of ICC for discussion at its next meeting.

## BACKGROUND

Intercultural cities began in 2008 as a pilot joint action of the Council of Europe and the European Commission, with 11 member cities<sup>1</sup>. In 2011 it continued with an enlarged membership – 21 cities from 19 countries<sup>2</sup>.

In the period 2008-2010 the Intercultural cities concept and methodology were developed and tested by 11 pilot cities. The overall goal of the methodology is the development of local intercultural strategies to foster cohesion and help realise the diversity advantage. Such strategies require sustained joint efforts by many city departments and other local stakeholders and are complex and long to develop, in particular since elections lead often to the change of administration.

## PROGRESS

The new phase of Intercultural cities (ICC) aimed at providing continuous support to pilot and new member cities in the development of intercultural policies and strategies. The project had the following specific objectives during its second phase:

### **1. To reinforce the methodology by monitoring progress, accompanying implementation in old cities and testing again the model in new cities**

**Expert visits** took place **in 7 pilot cities** to meet actors on the ground, monitor progress and provide advice and encouragement. It has been decided to send mostly new ICC experts to these cities, as a means of testing their expertise and understanding of the ICC concept, their operational capacity on the ground, and their reporting skills.

- 24 May 2011 – Tilburg – expert – Phil Wood
- 15-17 June 2011 – Neukölln, Paolo Atanasio, Elena Dingu-Kyrklund
- 20 -21 June 2011 – Neuchâtel: Alessio Surian and Robin Wilson
- 22 -25 August 2011 – Izhevsk, expert Anja Gunjak
- 3 October 2011 – Patras – Bruno Ciancio and Monica Rossi
- 10-11 October 2011 – Lublin – Alberto Isetta and Oliver Freeman
- 8-10 November 2011 – Subotica – Robin Wilson

On the basis of the input by the new experts, the intercultural profiles of cities have been updated.

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<sup>1</sup> Berlin Neukölln (Germany), Izhevsk (Russian Federation), Lublin (Poland), Lyon (France), Melitopol (Ukraine), Neuchâtel (Switzerland), Oslo(Norway), Patras (Greece), Reggio Emilia (Italy), Subotica (Serbia), Tilburg (the Netherlands)

<sup>2</sup> Amsterdam South East (the Netherlands), Berlin Neukölln (Germany), Botkyrka (Sweden), Copenhagen (Denmark), Geneva (Switzerland), Dublin (Ireland), Izhevsk (Russian Federation), Lisbon (Portugal), Limassol (Cyprus), London Lewisham (UK), Lublin (Poland), Lyon (France), Melitopol (Ukraine), Neuchâtel (Switzerland), Oslo(Norway), Patras (Greece), Pécs (Hungary), Reggio Emilia (Italy), San Sebastian (Spain), Subotica (Serbia), Tilburg (the Netherlands)

The process of intercultural strategy development in **new member cities** involves expert visits to carry out an in-depth assessment, based on documentation, interviews and group discussions with various stakeholders. The visits are an opportunity to discuss with a wide range of stakeholders – policy-makers, officials, professionals, civil society activists; researchers etc. – their understanding of the achievements and challenges of the city in terms of diversity management. The visits result in a city intercultural profile which points out good practice and challenges and serves as a point of departure for internal discussions and strategy development activities in cities.

Expert visits have taken place in all of the 10 new cities and resulted in the development of city intercultural profiles and policy recommendations:

- Amsterdam South-East (10 May and 17 June 2011), profile [http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities/AmsterdamICProfile\\_en.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities/AmsterdamICProfile_en.pdf)
- Botkyrka (31 August – 1 September 2011), profile [http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities/BotkyrkaICProfile\\_en.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities/BotkyrkaICProfile_en.pdf)
- Copenhagen (21 – 22 June 2011), profile [http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities/Copenhagen-InterProfile\\_en.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities/Copenhagen-InterProfile_en.pdf)
- Dublin (7-8 June 2011), profile [http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities/dublin\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities/dublin_en.asp)
- Geneva (19 – 20 April 2011), profile [http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities/Geneva-InterProfile\\_en.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities/Geneva-InterProfile_en.pdf)
- San Sebastian (31 March – 1 April 2011), profile [http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities/SanSebastienInterCProf\\_en.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities/SanSebastienInterCProf_en.pdf)
- London Lewisham (7 – 8 March 2011), profile [http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities/LewishamInterCprof\\_en.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities/LewishamInterCprof_en.pdf)
- Limassol (16 – 17 June 2011), profile pending approval by the city
- Lisbon (2 – 3 March 2011), profile [http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities/LisbonProfile\\_en.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities/LisbonProfile_en.pdf)
- Pécs (2 – 3 November 2011), profile [http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities/pecs\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities/pecs_en.asp)

## 2. Study visits

Study visits are also an element of the Intercultural cities methodology and enable city representatives to become directly familiarised with approaches, initiatives and practice in other cities as a source of motivation, ideas and reflection for their own work, and as sources of critical feedback for the host cities.

**Study visits to Izhevsk** and Dublin also took place. Apart from the learning impact on the participants to the visit, the examples presented were included in the **good practice collection of ICC**.

[http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities/guidance\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities/guidance_en.asp)

The good practice collection is currently being updated to include examples from all city profiles, visits, and examples included in the ICC newsletter.

### **Thematic workshops**

To help cities review their policies from an intercultural perspective workshops were held on different policy areas. As a result, policy guidelines will be included in the ICC Handbook

A **Think Tank on Schools as Intercultural Communities: towards indicators for successful intercultural education** took place in Oslo on 4-7 October with the participation of teachers and headmasters of most cities members of the network. The participants focused on the elaboration of a list of indicators for successful intercultural education covering a variety of aspects of teaching and learning of intercultural competence across the curriculum as well as appropriate whole-school policies. The indicators will be incorporated in the final Handbook of the programme.

A **Summer School** took place in Reggio Emilia on 5-7 October with the participation of the cities from the Italian network, some European cities and the new ICC experts. The thematic sessions on **Language and Multilingualism, Second Generation and Intercultural mediation** produced interesting examples and insights which will enrich the final ICC handbook. The event was also a second module of the training for new experts.

## **II. To develop an evidence base to demonstrate the benefits of the intercultural approach**

A research project was launched within the framework of Intercultural cities in order to verify whether the concept of diversity advantage is supported by evidence. In other words, evidence is being sought as to whether intercultural policies are beneficial in terms of (perceived) social cohesion and social justice (employment and salary differences between migrants and indigenous citizens), political stability and conflict, perceptions of safety/crime, educational achievement, lower levels of discrimination etc.

A research steering group has been established and held two meetings. A review of literature related to the impact of diversity in cities. A correlation study was carried out to verify the existence of a relationship between level of interculturality (as measured by the INDEX) and policy outcomes for cities in relation to education, employment, growth, safety etc.

Two case studies based on the results of the correlation analysis have been commissioned.

A research section has been included in the ICC web site.

## **III. To standardise the methodology and build pedagogical tools enabling new cities to enter the process**

### **1. The Intercultural cities INDEX**

[http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities/Index/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities/Index/default_en.asp)

is the key "standard" tool available so far. It is used as a first tool to "diagnosis" for new member cities, cities members of national networks and any other cities wishing to participate.

45 cities are now included in the INDEX database. The on-line graphs will be updated to include the latest cities shortly.

**33 analytical reports** (using a standard form) of the INDEX results have been produced or updated since January 2011. They are very appreciated by the cities as they provide a graphic overview to the performance of cities overall and with regard to each policy area, as well as

recommendations and examples for development. The reports are available on-line on the above-mentioned page. Reports are currently being produced for the remaining 15 cities.

**2. The ICC good practice collection** is another pedagogical tool which is now being updated (see page 3 above). The document (of 160 pages) is available upon request.

**3. The Step-by-Step guide** which was developed in 2010 is being constantly enriched on the basis of new insights, examples and analyses following city visits. It will eventually be transformed into an on-line Intercultural cities Handbook.

#### **4. Community-based results accountability**

An important aspect of the Intercultural Cities approach is the commitment to increasing the effectiveness of public policies and services through the inclusion of citizens in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies and service provision. Very often policies are decided "in vitro" within city departments, or through consultation processes that leave large parts of the population, especially the newcomers, out, which lacks democratic legitimacy, compromises their effectiveness and contributes to the vicious cycle of exclusion and disempowerment.

The CBRA approach is being tested in three cities members of the Intercultural cities network – Tilburg, Lisbon and Melitopol.

### **IV. To broaden the scope/disseminate through training and national networks**

1. The assumption behind the current phase of Intercultural cities is that it will be continued in a certain format which will enable a larger number of cities to benefit from the methodology. Working with a larger number of cities requires also a larger pool of experts. For this reason, a call for expressions of interest was launched in early 2011 and 15 experts selected.

A training session took place in Brussels on 16-18 March (agenda: [http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities/meetings/ICCTrainingAgenda16032011\\_en.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities/meetings/ICCTrainingAgenda16032011_en.pdf))

The training of new experts was completed through their participation in expert visits to pilot or new member cities and their participation in the Reggio Emilia Summer School.

Four National Intercultural Cities Networks have been created in Italy, Spain, Norway and Ukraine and have carried out policy review meetings, study visits and other activities.

### **NEXT STEPS**

In most cities, follow-up expert and peer visits will take place in 2012 to support the discussions around cities' intercultural strategies and take stock of progress.

The following thematic events have been planned:

- Mayors' round table "Building an inclusive city identity, 21 March, Strasbourg, during the Congress session;
- Study visit to London Lewisham, 9-11 May;
- Intercultural urban design and place-making, 21-22 June, Venice;
- Safety and neighborhood development in the intercultural city, 17-18 September, Lisbon;
- Mayors' meeting "Engaging cities in building the intercultural city", 28-29 June, Copenhagen;
- Summer school with the Spanish ICC network, 21-22 September, Barcelona;

- Business partnerships for the Intercultural city, October, San Sebastian

The Intercultural cities INDEX will be applied again to the first-wave cities in order to review progress

The Community-based results accountability work will continue and a set of guidelines will be developed.

The Step-by-Step Guide to the Intercultural city will be developed into a comprehensive Handbook

New National Networks will be set up in Poland and Portugal.

The Research agenda will be completed

Preparations will be carried out for the future enlargement of the network (over 50 expressions of interest so far), in particular in terms of fundraising.

A draft Recommendation based on the experience and lessons from the ICC programme will be prepared for the attention of CDCPP.