



Brainstorming on the setting-up of an Intercultural Integration Academy

23 May 2016

European University Institute

Villa La Fonte, Seminar Room Third Floor

Via delle Fontanelle 18, San Domenico di Fiesole, Florence- Italy

Launched in 2008, the Intercultural Cities (ICC) is a capacity-building programme that provides assistance to municipalities across Europe and beyond to apply a policy model for inclusive integration called “intercultural integration”. The diversity advantage concept, at the heart of the programme, implies that cities which embrace the intercultural integration approach to diversity management benefit from increased economic competitiveness, attractiveness and prosperity, as well as from social cohesion therefore a better quality of life. Today, the Programme involves 99 cities members of the ICC network and has developed significant know-how on urban diversity policies which has proved to be effective at the local level.

One of the goals for the further strategic development of the network is to shape new partnerships and alliances in order to make the intercultural integration policy model more influential at the regional and national levels as well. Reaching key actors in academia, civil society and regional/national governments seems at this stage crucial to accelerate the outreach and take-up of the intercultural integration model but also help to further develop and enrich it.

This brainstorming meeting is a first opportunity to discuss what models, strategies, and tools could help the ICC programme reaching its new development goals.



Draft agenda

9 May

10h00 **Opening and round of presentations**

10h15 Introduction to the objectives of the meeting

10h30 Presentation of the ICC Programme

11h00 **How the ICC policy paradigm could reach towards higher levels of governance?**

- Is the intercultural integration policy paradigm applicable/replicable at the national, regional (or both) levels? Under what conditions? What are the obstacles to achieving this? What would be the intercultural integration paradigm's added value for the national/regional levels of governance?
- Is a think-tank/academy an adequate approach to reaching out to a higher level of governance?

Whole group discussion

12h00 **Outreach and partnerships**

- Is the ICC policy paradigm relevant for academia? How can the intercultural integration approach be used by academia? What could be the contribution of academia to the further development and outreach of the model? Is there scope for a win-win partnership between ICC and academia?
- What could be the role of the civil society in the further development of the ICC policy model? What can civil society do for mainstreaming the model on the ground? How can it contribute to enriching the model?

Whole group discussion

13h00 LUNCH at the European University Institute

14h30

Intercultural integration academy - methods and process

- Relevance of the think-tank/academy format vs. others (suggestions?) to address the objective of introducing intercultural integration at higher levels of governance and enlarge partnerships with academia and civil society;
- What should be the working methods of the think-tank/academy (or other formats)?
- How to identify the “right people” (influencers) which would be involved in this initiative? How to motivate them to engage – what is it in for them?
- Potential topics to be addressed by the think-tank/academy (or other formats)
- Next steps in the process of developing an outreach/partnership framework for intercultural integration

Whole group discussion

15h45

Conclusions

16h00

Closing