



8th Portuguese Intercultural Cities Network Meeting D. Diogo de Sousa Museum, Braga, December 13, 2016

(SUMMARY)

Artistic prelude

The meeting opened with an cultural moment carried out by *roma* students from the Braga Secondary School EB 2/3 Nogueira, provoking the audience by making visible some of the most common prejudices that often target this particular socio-ethnic group.

General aspect of the audience



Official opening

Isabel Silva (D. Diogo de Sousa Museum Director) opened the session expressing her warm greetings to all participants, while underlining the privilege that hosting an RPCI meeting is for the D. Diogo de Sousa Museu. Furthermore, she also highlighted the universal nature of culture (i.e. no room for prejudice and xenophobia), and the central role that needs to be played by young people in the construction of a more diverse and just future.

Official opening, Isabel Silva, Ricardo Rio, André Carmo



André Carmo (RPCI coordinator) started his intervention by thanking the municipality of Braga, not only for organising the 8th Meeting but also for being so engaged into the RPCI and committed to its main goals. By the

same token, he also thanked the Museu D. Diogo de Sousa for supporting the meeting, expressed satisfaction with the presence of various municipalities in the audience, some already members other as observers, greeted all people contributing to the meeting's programme, and also to all other participants. Next, he briefly presented the RPCI and the ICC programme, highlighting the importance of the ICC index for improving the design of intercultural and pro-diversity policies at the local scale.

Ricardo Rio (Mayor of Braga) greeted everybody, and emphasized the fact that Braga is committed to the RPCI for a number of reasons, namely: i) the possibility to share good and bad experiences and practices, in order to replicate the good ones and constantly improve policy-making; ii) the need to further cooperate with all local development agents, opening to participation all projects that are promoted by the municipality; iii) the will to improve the general quality of life, foster social inclusion and economic development. With these goals in mind, he concluded his intervention, mentioning the importance of the current urban development strategic plan, which entails a very significant immaterial dimension with social inclusion being pivotal and the relationship of Braga to the RPCI of great relevance.

Urban Regeneration - Human Dimension

Isabel Viana (Minho University), professor and researcher with several years of experience working with people from deprived neighbourhoods in Northern Portugal, shared with the audience various ideas revolving around the interconnections between education, interculturality and social inclusion. In her presentation, she emphasized the need to prioritize one main question, namely: what is qualified human development, learning and developing skills in a globalised world dominated by the smart city paradigm? With this interrogation in mind, she sets of to discuss a humanist approach to urban regeneration, one that revolves around people, instead of having an instrumental view of their role in these

processes of urban change. In Isabel's mind, the goal is to achieve the sustainable smart city of tomorrow. For that, one needs: to foster a sustainable knowledge praxis (one that entails reflection, conception, intervention and evaluation); to build a transformative communication space (relying on a constant dialogue with different actors); to be ethical, i.e. to convert methods into ethics, based on clear co-responsibility principles; to trigger an inclusive attitude, bringing culture to people, creating conditions for them to fully participate and express themselves.

Isabel Viana (Universidade do Minho)



This understanding of what an educated, intercultural city should be, necessarily involves a transition from a passive, enclosed space to an authentic participation public space, where interaction, emotion, and affection are inscribed, and people pro-actively co-create and adopt the

concept of plural city. It requires us to conceive interculturality as reconciliatory politics. Moreover, she also emphasized the pivotal role played by education in the creation of an holistic approach through which social exclusion is minimized in a relational space that is culturally diverse. In fact, she concludes, inclusion, acknowledged as the essence of difference, is an answer to diversity, a creative-pedagogical process that is open and plural, while at the same time becoming a resource to future development. Citizenship, difference, and creativity become the central nodes around which the intercultural city of the future will emerge. The challenge, however, remains: how to create a sense of collective belonging in an intercultural society? Isabel Viana concluded her presentation with the visualization of a number life experience narratives, through which common sense understandings about life trajectories and path dependency were challenged, and even disrupted, in order to help us to grasp the complex dynamics of intercultural beings in urban spaces.

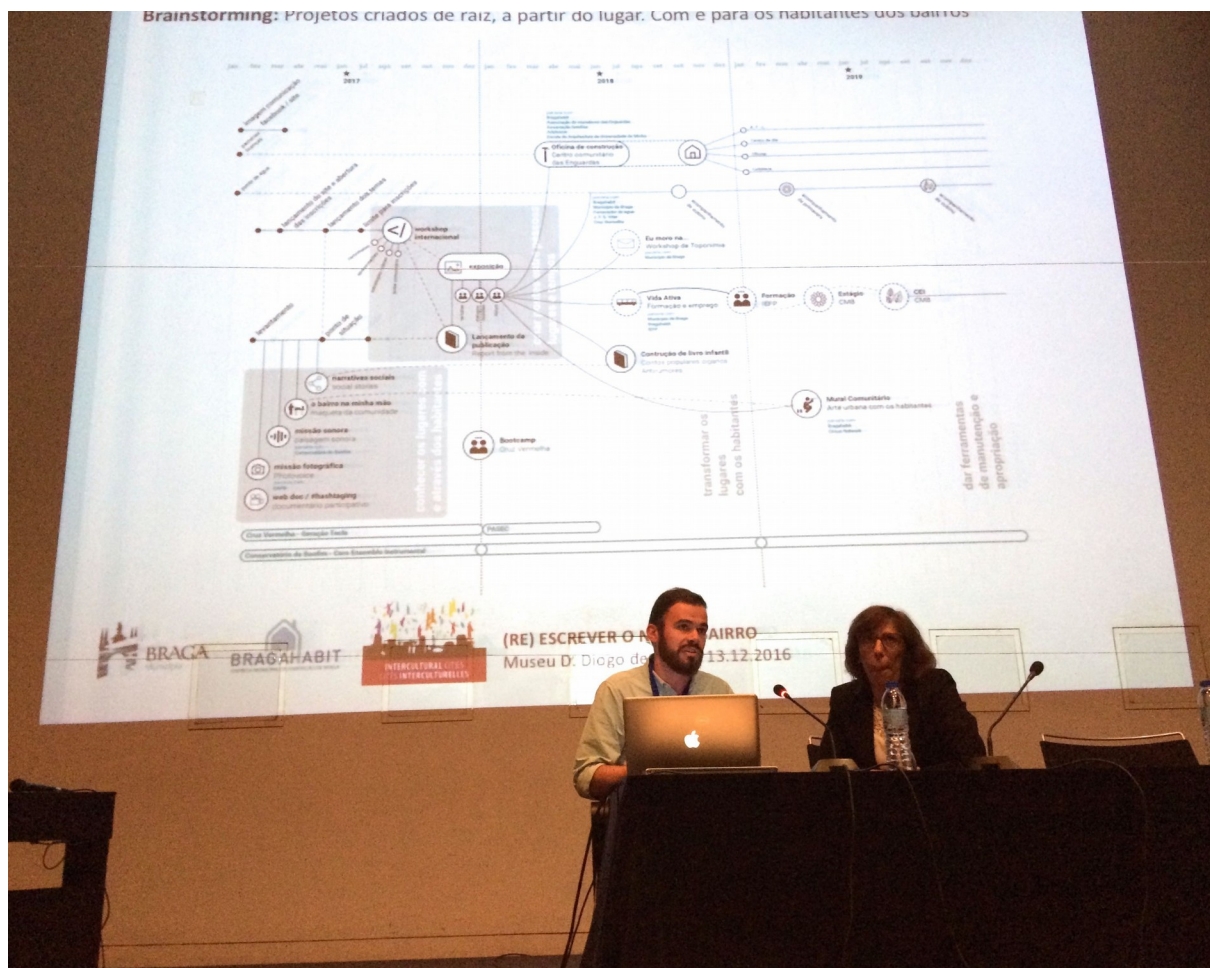
After lunch, a guided tour to the D. Diogo de Sousa Archaeological Museum took place, focused on the Roman heritage of Braga (Bracara Augusta), and its geo-historical transformation. Immediately after, Amadora, Santa Maria da Feira and Viseu, shared the initiatives they are carrying out framed by the anti-rumour campaign that is currently under development in Portugal. Amadora, presented three projects through which the intercultural+diversity agenda has been promoted, namely: C4i (Communication for Integration), Arrival Cities, and the Municipal Plan for Immigrant Integration. Moreover, a show cooking activity that will take place on December 18 (International Migrants Day), the production of a brochure, and other public activities were also presented. Santa Maria da Feira, in turn, shared the “Feira without Prejudice: united by diversity” campaign, an initiative that is guided by the following motto: «Santa Maria da Feira, an intercultural municipality, a place of encounter, sharing of ideas, defending values of diversity, inclusion, and tolerance. Together we’ll win!». This initiative includes the following activities: i) publishing news in local media; ii) dissemination of a Declaration of Principles 2015;

iii) anti-rumour agents training sessions; iv) anti-rumour campaign. As a whole, the Feira without Prejudice initiative offers a wide array of complementary activities aimed at raising awareness to manifold advantages of fostering and embracing an intercultural environment. Finally, Viseu's project focused on mapping roma families living in the municipality, their needs and hopes. This has allowed the municipality to acknowledge the resilience of stereotypes and strong negative labelling of roma people living in Viseu. In order to overcome this structural constrain to the development of a more socially cohesive local community, the municipality sought to train roma school mediators, as the potential levels of conflict in school environments were very significant, and undertake a number of other complementary activities.

After, Cristina Palhares (Braga Municipality) and Daniel Pereira (Project team) presented the (Re)write our neighbourhood project. This highly innovative project involves three neighbourhoods characterized by the socio-economic composition of their inhabitants, as well as their peripheral location in relation to Braga's historical centre: Bairro das Enguardas, Bairro do Picoto e Bairro de Santa Tecla. Right from the start, the whole project was conceived in conjunction to residents, local actors and public authorities. The success of its implementation, was based on that fundamental assumption. The project involves eight dimensions: i) transcribe - involving the gathering of socio-spatial life stories, photo-voice neighbourhoods by children, built a collective urban model of the neighbourhood, register soundscapes, build a social archive, organize an international workshops about artistic and social integration strategies, an exhibition displaying all data collected during the project's lifetime, and publish a book with the main results; ii) development of "who's scared?" activity with roma students from Braga (see above); iii) Enguardas Community Workshop - a space dedicated to after school activities and community support; iv) choir and musical ensemble; v) capacity building for intelligent inclusion communities; vi) production of children's book to challenge rumours among young people; vii) Closer - paths to a

sustainable employment/working in my neighbourhood; viii) bootcamp and active development workshops. This overarching project will be developed during the next two years, and sought to inscribe into its “genome” an anti-rumours orientation, as the description above clearly illustrates.

Cristina Palhares and Daniel Pereira



Next, André Carmo (RPCI coordinator) shared his thoughts about the RPCI next steps. Before that, however, he underlined some 2016 achievements, namely that: i) the RPCI moved from 8 to 12 members; ii) three workshops, three meetings, and a meeting with the ACM were organized; iv) an expert visit was held by Santa Maria da Feira; v) four municipalities have already updated ICC indexes (Beja, Braga, Santa Maria da Feira and Viseu); vi) several municipalities have shared news and good practices in

the ICC website. Regarding 2017, the RPCI coordinator emphasized the following ideas: i) it will be a consolidation year for the RPCI since most municipalities will have their indexes updated and some will organize expert visits (Braga, Cascais); ii) it is necessary to restart the discussion about the legal registration of the RPCI as an association of municipalities (central goal for 2017); iii) the ICC website has been subject to a series of improvements, making it much more intuitive and user-friendly; iv) recently the Council of Europe together with the European Union launched a project called STEPS that is open to all ICC members, and all RPCI members are invited to apply; v) finally, Lisbon will organize the ICC Programme Milestone Event (10th Anniversary Celebration) between 28-30 November, 2017. The 8th RPCI meeting ended with another performance by the roma students that had opened the day, during the morning period.

Who's scared? Artistic performance, roma students



Annex I - Programme
8th RPCI Meeting
D. Diogo de Sousa Museum, Braga, December 13, 2016

09:30h - Reception

10:00h - Official opening

- Isabel Silva, D. Diogo de Sousa Museu Director
- André Carmo, RPCI coordinator
- Ricardo Rio, Mayor of Braga

10:15h - "Who's scared?", EB 2/3 Nogueira - Braga Secondary School Students

10:30h - "Urban Regeneration - Human Dimension", Isabel Viana, Minho University

11:15h - Coffee break

11:30h - Practical session, Isabel Viana, Minho University

12:30h - Free lunch

14:00h - Guided tour to the D. Diogo de Sousa Archaeological Museum

14:30h - Community of Practices

- Amadora
- Santa Maria da Feira
- Viseu

15:00h - BRAGA "(Re)write our Neighbourhood"

- Cristina Palhares, Braga Municipality
- Daniel Pereira, Project Team

15:30h - RPCI Next Steps, André Carmo, RPCI coordinator

15:45h - "Who's scared?", EB 2/3 Nogueira - Braga Secondary School Students

16:30h - Closing session

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Intercultural cities
building the future of diversity

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



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