



GOOD PRACTICES ON PARTICIPATION

BALLARAT (AUSTRALIA)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title :	Multicultural Ambassadors Programme
Main purpose:	Promotion political participation of migrants
Implementation period :	On-going, since 2009

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

The City of Ballarat launched its Multicultural Ambassadors' Program (MAP) in November 2009. This program was developed in order to provide leadership within the migrant community, therefore encouraging minorities to participate in the political life of the City.

Multicultural Ambassadors come from a multicultural, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island background although they must have lived in Ballarat for at least six months and be Australian citizens. When Ambassadors are elected, they are appointed for a two-year term and will undertake civic engagement and political participation activities. As part of their duties, Ambassadors will represent the multicultural community to schools, community groups, service clubs, industry groups and employers.

Ever since 2009, this program aims to enhance community awareness while fostering social cohesion and mutual acceptance. The objectives are:

- Enhance community awareness and foster inclusion of existing and new CALD communities in Ballarat
- Support leadership within the CALD community and to recognise the commitment and contribution made by migrants and Indigenous people to the Ballarat community
- Advocate for and promote the benefits of cultural diversity through learning, exchange and celebration
- Collaborate with the City of Ballarat in implementing its Cultural Diversity Strategy
- Promote the MAP as a platform for learning and exchange within the broader community.

Multicultural Ambassadors will be champions for their existing communities and will engage citizens' participation in workplaces, social, religious and recreation groups, as well as in schools and community groups. For example, Ambassadors tries to involve parents in the school life and those who are parents themselves give presentations about their respective countries to students and teachers. Another initiative is related to the promotion of the engagement of radio shows: Ambassadors, in fact, conduct a radio program in their language on a weekly basis.

Ambassadors share the same values and principles and they are all willing to make a positive contribution to their local community; hence discouraging discrimination while highlighting the positive contributions migrants and Indigenous Australians make to Ballarat.

More info: <http://www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/pc/cultural-diversity/multicultural-ambassadors.aspx>

BARCELONA (SPAIN)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title :	Government Measure to promote the participation of people with diverse cultural and native backgrounds in Barcelona participation areas.
Main purpose:	<p>The main purpose of this measure is to make active “citizenship” real, enabling participation for <i>all</i> inhabitants of the city.</p> <p>This action emphasises and draws attention on generating mechanisms to promote the participation of people with different and diverse cultural and native backgrounds in Barcelona’s different participation channels and areas.</p>
Implementation period :	On-going, until end of 2019

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

This new government measure is an action that emerges from a shared concern in relation to the possibilities to make traditionally excluded population(s) enjoying active “citizenship” and full participation, throughout the different participation channels or areas of work. More specifically, the measure applies when lack of participation is detected as a result of cultural power relations that surface different constraints at the time of determining an active, passive or banned role in the decision-making of the political and social life of the city.

The long-term goal is to ensure that the current cultural and religious diversity of the city, statistically defined as 25% of the population, is equally recognised and represented in the participation areas and channels of the City Council.

Areas of work and objectives:

Pillar 1: PARTICIPATION CHANNELS

Objective: Recognize and spotlight cultural diversity to strengthen the participation of people from different and diverse native and cultural backgrounds and their grouping in the channels of participation provided by the Barcelona City Council to the overall population.

Pillar 2: WORK WITH ACTORS AND REINFORCEMENT OF SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Objective: Deepen the knowledge about sociocultural realities and needs related to citizens’ participation and contribute to the promotion of autonomous and self-organized spaces for communities through joint work in collaboration with actors of diverse cultural and native backgrounds

Pillar 3: THE CITY COUNCIL OF BARCELONA

Objective: Strengthen the capacity of civil servants and other agents at the service of the City Council to actively incorporate the intercultural perspective in actions aimed at promoting citizens' participation and intercultural mediation.

Pillar 4: COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

Objective: Incorporate intercultural diversity criteria in the municipal channels and media.

Pillar 5: POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Objective: Facilitate the exercise of political rights of people residing in the city of Barcelona. This is an on-going programme with a variety of actions of which some have already been implemented while others are currently being carried out or will be developed as part of the 2017-2019 Work Plan.

The effective implementation of this government measure requires cooperation to achieve mainstreaming in the City Hall structure and in the city. In this sense, it is co-led by the "District and Participation Council" and the "Immigration, Interculturality and Diversity Commissioner".

The measure also foresees the involvement of many other different actors, from institutions and departments, such as the communication department and the city Districts among others, to civil society: citizens' councils and associative networks, grassroots organizations, NGOs, or any other kind of "grouping" modality.

The impact of the measure will be assessed based on three actions:

- A follow-up of the indicators for each work's axis that will allow acknowledging the degree of fulfilment of each objective;
- The segregation of all indicators by gender and age;
- A qualitative methodological approach in evaluating the work, and dialogue and informal interviews with grassroots organizations and other civil society (formal or informal) groups.

More information: <http://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/bcnacciointercultural/ca/content/mesura-de-participaci%C3%B3-diversa-2018>

BERLIN NEUKÖLLN (GERMANY)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title :	Schilleria Girl's Café - PolitTalk (Schilleria Mädchentreff)
Main purpose:	Promotion of the political participation of young women
Implementation period :	Six months from June to November 2017

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

The Schilleria Girl's Café is addressed at girls and young women, most of whom have a migrant background and are socially and educationally disadvantaged.

Due to the increasing success of right-wing parties and Europe-wide discrimination of Muslims, the girls involved urgently demanded to talk more intensively about political topics. The project "PolitTalk" therefore took the opportunity of the parliamentary elections to inform those interested about political topics and to motivate them further for the under-18 (U 18) elections.

The project combined political education and empowerment. Participants received training in communication and networking skills. Talks on political parties and the voting system were followed by creative workshops and the election event itself. Local schools and youth clubs were invited.

The action is implemented by the organisation Madonna Mädchenkult.Ur e.V. who will also evaluate it. It is financed through the European Social Fund and funded by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety in the framework of the programme "Jugend stärken im Quartier".

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://schilleria.blogspot.de/2017/09/schilleria-polittalk-madchen-werden-zu.html>

BILBAO (SPAIN)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title :	Local Council of immigration
Main purpose:	Promote political participation of immigrants
Implementation period :	Since 2011

The Local Council of Immigration is a collegial body that has consultative and informative natures. It has the vocation of guaranteeing the democratic participation of immigrant associations and their interaction with other agents involved in the development and promotion of the integration and coexistence policies in the different areas of political, cultural, economic and social life in the City of Bilbao.

Objectives:

1. To participate in the Integration and intercultural coexistence program led by Bilbao City Council
2. To promote access to information for the foreign population and improve communication.
3. To encourage the exchange of information, work in common and the coordination of activities between immigrant associations.
4. To strengthen immigrant associations
5. To become an interlocutor of the situation of the immigrant population and to communicate the information to Bilbao City Council.

20 associations of migrants, local political parties and the Councillor of Equality, Cooperation and Coexistence take part in the Local Council of immigration.

The Local Council of Immigration meets in plenary twice a year.

Activities to be realised in 2018

1. Meetings with neighbourhood associations to promote intercultural coexistence in neighbourhoods.
2. Two working seminars between neighbourhood associations and associations of immigrants.
3. Exchange of experience, promote intercultural perspective in neighbourhood associations, meeting space between immigrants and locals.
4. Co-organization of activities between associations to celebrate the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development | 21 May.
5. Informative workshops on municipal resources:
 - Resource Guide
 - Registering as a resident
 - Access and financial report of local grants.
6. Follow-up workshop on the Municipal Citizenship and Diversity Plan
7. Seminar on teamwork and democratization of associative internal access to information
8. Design of the protocol of internal and external communication of the Local Council of the Immigration

9. Seminar about inclusive and non-sexist language
10. Action against gender violence on the occasion of November 25, International Day against gender violence
11. Activities to celebrate International Migrants Day 18 December

More information: [Local Council of Immigration](#)

BOTKYRKA (SWEDEN)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title :	Women in Botkyrka – cooperation through partnership between civil society, the municipality and the state level to improve foreign-born women’s social and financial living situation.
Main purpose:	Capacity building and possibilities for foreign-born women to enter the labour market and/or education and thereby contribute to social and financial freedom.
Implementation period :	Three years, starting on 1 st March 2018

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

The action is based on the city’s intercultural strategy focusing on foreign- born women as a special target group in need of structural reforms to become a part of the labour- and/or educational markets. The primary focus is on empowering women. The responsibility for enabling the entrance of potential workers in the labour market lays on the Swedish National Labour Agency. But the latter does not have the capacity to reach out to foreign-born women with a short educational background. The municipality is responsible for enhancing social and economic rights for all its citizens and civil society organisations are grass-root movements that reach the target group through their activities. In order to speed up the process of finding structures that facilitate work and/or educational opportunities all three sectors have signed a partnership agreement that identifies the stakeholders (the municipality, the national labour agency and three different civil society organisations) primary identities. In addition, they have focused on what needs to be done differently and jointly in order to succeed with the mission.

Three things are fundamental for the partnership: 1. Experience based knowledge needs to be a priority when planning activities, courses and building structures to reach the wanted output. The target groups are those who have this knowledge. 2. The partnership is based on co-creation, mutual dialogue and equality between all stakeholders. 3. A researcher will follow the project in order to make sure that what is being done really matches with what needs to be done, and what needs to be done is something that the women primarily define themselves.

The main out-puts for the three year period are:

- To make the labour market available for foreign- born women.
- To make sure that the participants feel that activities that are being done lead to empowerment and increased life space.
- To make sure that the participants feel that they have choices in life and know how to use the possibilities that are offered to them.

Example of activities planned so far:

- Networking
- Language- courses

- Vocational training
- Psycho social support
- Training for staff working with the women about intercultural approach, value based policymaking and equal treatment.
- Basic training in civics for the women.

The activities will change during the three year period based on what the women want and need.

Follow ups will be done every three months. Common indicators and tools for measurement will be created by the joint board. The external researcher will provide assistance in this field so that the right indicators are set focusing on the wanted effects/outputs.

The action will undergo an evaluation process by the joint board and by the individual organisations/authorities.

The partnership was signed and the work has started thanks to cooperation with state, municipal and civil society. The activities will be co-created together with partners and the target group in order to ensure quality.

BRAGA (PORTUGAL)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title :	(RE)WRITING OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD
Main purpose:	Integrated Approaches for Active participation in social and civic life
Implementation period :	3 years (Mar2017/Feb 2020)

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

(RE)WRITING OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD is a 3 year project to be implemented in three neighbourhoods in the city of Braga, Portugal. In addition to the physical improvement of the social housing neighbourhoods of Enguardas, Santa Tecla and Picoto, the project will integrate 8 measures to be implemented in the field, among the communities.

1. TRANSCRIBE

Transcribe a set of cooperative actions to be developed over the 1st year by *Space Transcribers*, in the social housing neighbourhoods, aimed at raising awareness among the residents about their space characteristics and social and cultural values, through interacting with the residents.

In addition to the collection of photographic evidence and documents, the project includes the organisation of an archive, an international workshop, an exhibition and the publication of a book containing the results of the action.

2. WHO IS AFRAID?

This is an educational project implemented by the School of Nogueira whose goal is to promote a closer interaction between the Roma ethnic group and its culture, and the wider community of residents; the project aims to reduce early school-leaving and to promote values such as respecting others and valuing diversity, through dance, music and theatre programmes.

3. ENGUARDAS COMMUNITY CENTRE

The measure, to be implemented by Associação Famílias, will prioritise the Family and the Community, by developing integrated responses, aimed at mitigating social exclusion and isolation and enhancing civic involvement, social development and local solidarity.

4. CHOIR AND MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Action led by the Conservatório Bomfim, whose goal is to exploit the power of music as a facilitating instrument for the social integration of Roma children and teenagers, by creating a choir and a music ensemble.

The choir will be composed of 30 children and teenagers from the social housing neighbourhood of Santa Tecla; it is also foreseen to set-up an instrumental ensemble of 15 elements, as well as to organise several public performances.

5. QUALIFICATION OF LOCAL LEADERS

Project led by *BragaHabit* with the goal of building capacities to ensure the sustainability of any other measure to be implemented in the social housing neighbourhoods.

To this end, *BragaHabit* proposes the engagement of the local communities by qualifying local facilitators and leaders, as well as creating admission and residents associations.

6. CHILDREN'S BOOK

A project led by *Space Transcribers* whose final goal is to create an illustrated book of gipsy folk tales, in order to value the traditions and culture of Roma people and promote the fight against social and ethnic discrimination. The book will be presented and distributed in many elementary schools in the municipality of Braga.

7. CLOSER | THE PATH TOWARDS EMPLOYABILITY

The action is to be developed by *BragaHabit* with the aim to creating local dynamics that promote the effective improvement of skills, qualifications and possibilities of employability for the population of the three concerned neighbourhoods.

8. ACTIVE GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Project led by the Portuguese Red Cross (*Cruz Vermelha Portuguesa*) aiming at the creation of an active group of young Roma people who will receive intensive training that will allow them to develop their personal and social skills.

The impact of the action will undergo an evaluation process by all partners of the Municipality of Braga. It will be implemented thanks to a partnership with the several entities mentioned above and to Community Funds (PT2020 | FEDER/ERDF).

More information: [Link](#)

CASCAIS (PORTUGAL)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title:	Diagnóstico Social (Social Diagnostic)
Main purpose:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>An initiative to monitor citizens' well-being</i>- <i>Promotion of a participative and cohesive municipality</i>- <i>Networks that promotes social development fighting poverty and social exclusion.</i>
Implementation period :	On-going

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

The municipality of Cascais offers to its citizens a *Diagnóstico Social* (Social Diagnostic): this is an organization that regularly checks on residents' well-being. Its objective is to involve citizens and organizations in public discussions on living conditions in Cascais, stimulating good practices of citizenship while promoting a more participative and cohesive municipality. The Social Diagnostic has been combined with a Council of Europe methodology called Spiral (Societal Progress Indicators and Responsibilities for All) that aims to study social behaviours and citizens' well-being.

Social Diagnosis has been addressed to 240 residents, regardless their nationalities and ethnicities. Also, the project involves: secondary school pupils, young people followers of the youth associative movement, over 65, senior academies, people with intellectual/motor disabilities, immigrants.

The project develops in two steps. First, citizens answer questions on a wide range of topics, such as health, housing, culture and leisure, income, employment, education, etc. Secondly, the organization asks them what perception they had about well-being in Cascais; for instance: "What is well-being for you?" or "What would you do to ensure yours and everyone's well-being?".

The Diagnóstico Social is part of a "Rede Social" or "Social Networking" that actively promotes social development fighting poverty and social exclusion, raising awareness of social problems.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Quem Somos: <http://www.cm-cascais.pt/sub-area/diagnostico-social-de-cascais>

Rede Social: <http://www.cm-cascais.pt/area/rede-social>

DUBLIN (IRELAND)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title:	Public Participation Network (PPN)
Main purpose:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>A Network to enhance community participation in local government</i>- <i>Promotes social inclusion</i>- <i>Links citizens with local authorities</i>
Implementation period	Ongoing

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

Public Participation Networks (PPN) are a mechanism for greater community participation in local government and present opportunities for input into policy and decision making. The PPNs are independent structures with one network being set up in each Local Authority Area.

The Dublin City PPN is the main link through which Dublin City Council connects with the community and voluntary, social inclusion and environmental sectors. It is conceived as a formal structure for active citizenship and participation, providing a link for the Local Authority to connect with Community groups promoting consultation, as well as to facilitate and articulate a diverse range of views and interests.

The PPN will provide groups with:

- Opportunities to influence decision making
- Access to information – on finance, consultations, developments
- Training
- Opportunities to network with other groups
- Community representation and organised engagement with Dublin City Council

Each Local Authority is required to set up a Public Participation Network (PPN), source their community representation from the PPN, and provide resources and support to the PPN.

The PPN will enable residents and community organisations to influence plans and policies for the development of Dublin City. This will be mainly done through the Strategic Policy Committees (SPC) in Dublin City Council. These committees advise and assist the council in its work and provide councillors and sectoral interests and opportunity for full involvement in the policy-making process of the work of the local authority from the early stages. When the committee system operates satisfactorily, much of the preliminary and background work, discussion and recommendation should be completed at this level for final consideration and ratification by the Council at the monthly Council meetings.

Among the structures that members of the network have representation on are: Council's Local and Community Development Committees (L.C.D.C.), the 7 Strategic Policy Committees and The Joint Policing Committee.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Dublin City: <http://www.dublincity.ie/public-participation-network-ppn>

Dublin City Public Participation Network: <https://dublincityppn.ie/>

DUBLIN (IRELAND)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title:	Community Grants
Main purpose:	Encourage citizens' participation and involvement in the city through access to public grants for community projects
Implementation period	Ongoing

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

Community Development is a process where community members come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems. Dublin City Council aims to support community groups with their activities and projects by promoting participation and involvement in the city through the community grants scheme, which is run on an annual basis.

Under the scheme community and voluntary groups may apply for grants for activities which benefit the local community. The criteria required to receive support from this grant fund is that Groups are locally based, and contribute significantly to the local community development. Besides, applications must relate to at least one key priority area in order to be eligible for consideration.

The key priority areas are the following:

- Community Development
- Social inclusion
- Integration
- Local area issues

Dublin Council Community Development Officers are in charge of reaching out to community members, inform and assist them, and help to build strong social networks which are essential for viable, inclusive, sustainable communities. They work to give everyone in the community the opportunity to participate in the life of the city and have their voices heard.

ERLANGEN (GERMANY)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title :	Refugee Forum
Main purpose:	Promote political participation of refugees
Implementation period :	Every month since the beginning of 2016

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

Since 2016, a panel for refugees in Erlangen has been in operation. This panel represents a union of 15 persons who fled from different countries and who operate as multipliers between other refugees and organisations of Erlangen to promote the participation of refugees.

The aim of this panel is to communicate with individual stakeholders and to integrate refugees into the planning and working of organisations, for example, companies like Siemens, the City Museum or the Bavarian Red Cross.

In 2016, the idea of a possible collaboration between the refugee panel, the Bavarian Red Cross and the Worker's Samaritan Foundation regarding the medical service at the Bergkirchweih emerged. The idea was for the refugees to accompany the high number of operations, helping as translators and acting as a hub for foreign visitors of the Bergkirchweih and the medical staff, the police or the organisers of the event.

The volunteers passed first-aid classes and received special and widespread information about the celebration, the location and the traditions, so they were able to play an important part in this year's Bergkirchweih.

The action is implemented thanks to co-operation between Siemens, the City Museum, the Bavarian Red Cross, the Police, the job centre and others.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.br.de/nachrichten/mittelfranken/inhalt/erlangen-bergkirchweih-fluechtlinge-rettungsdienst-sanitaeter-100.html>

FERMO (ITALY)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title :	Households welcome migrants!
Main purpose:	Promote political participation of a mixed group
Implementation period :	2 months, jan/feb 2018

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

The Protection System for Asylum Seekers and Refugees (SPRAR), created by Law No 189/2002, made up of the network of local institutions that implement reception projects for forced migrants in cooperation with voluntary sector organisations, undertake 'integrated reception' interventions going beyond the simple distribution of food and housing, providing services such as legal and social guidance and support in order to enable forced migrants to regain a sense of independence.

As an experiment of social innovation aimed at strengthening local community resilience and welcome skills, in the framework of SPRAR project called ERA DOMANI - COMUNE FERMO (IT WAS TOMORROW-COMUNE FERMO), for some of the hosted migrants there is the possibility of completing their own process of social integration by spending part of their stay within Italian households.

This is an attempt to move a step forward from concurrent-based integration model to a participative and inclusive process in which local population is directly involved. This kind of social innovation is working experimentally in only 5 Italian cities, including City of Fermo.

Households that show their willing to host migrants are provided with a training and support before and during the period of hosting. Main requirements for households are high motivation and adequate accommodation (individual room) for guests in order to grant privacy.

Transition to household hospitality takes place only after concluding regular reception in the SPRAR project. Families host migrants for 6-9 months.

Expected outputs concerning migrants are increased personal autonomy and greater self-esteem which, in turn, can have a positive impact on personal development, compliance with general rules and job search.

As to families, expected outputs regards enhancing self-consciousness concerning migrants conditions and culture the trigger of a dismantling process regarding stereotypes through more civic engagement. Moreover, as a result of this, sharing the social environment brings locals and migrants to collaborate in common activities, sharing goals and pooling skills.

In order to evaluate the action individual and group meetings are planned. As for the individual dimension: fixed meetings are scheduled with the coordinator and the psychologist of the project involving both the family and the migrant or one of the two. These are planned in 5 steps for a period of welcome of 6 months: initial, final and 3 intermediate meetings. Regarding the group dimension: meetings for families only or for the migrants to bring out problems and to promote the sharing of good practices such as tools for overcoming intercultural misunderstandings that occur during daily life.

The action was implemented thanks to a partnership with the Municipality of Fermo and the associations of migrant residents.

More information: <https://www.facebook.com/EraDomaniProgettoSPRAR/>

www.coopres.it

JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA (SPAIN)

Title :	Local Council for Women
Main purpose:	Promote political participation of women, including from a mixed group
Implementation period :	Ongoing

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

The Local Council for Women is a body which complements the work of the City Council of Jerez de la Frontera, whose purpose is to channel direct citizen participation in the management of the municipality. It is set-up with consultative functions carried out in a collegial manner and it is requested to put forward proposals and suggestions related to the public policies that the City of Jerez de la Frontera deploys in the field of Equal Opportunities.

The Mayor is the President of the Council, represented in this position by the Councillor for Equal Opportunities. Apart from the Bureau members, the Council is composed of one member for each of the political groups represented in City Council, and by representatives of the civil society, namely those working and operating in the field of Equal Opportunities. The latter include representatives of the *Fundacion Secretariado Gitano* (Roma Association), of the Association of LGBTi women, and of organizations that work for the inclusion of migrants, as long as they have a women's section in their operating structure.

The Local Council for Women carries out – inter alia - the following tasks:

- Advises the Municipality by submitting annual proposals in relation to the different programs and actions that may be developed in the area of Equal Opportunities and Gender Perspective;
- Raises awareness among citizens of the city policies related to equal opportunities and promote and encourage the public participation of civil society organisations, and their cooperation with the local government in matters of Equal Opportunities;
- Stimulates and monitor participatory processes that may be opened in relation to local public policies on Equal Opportunities;
- Promotes training and self-training programmes for the enhanced participation of its members and of the members of the entities they represent;
- Develops and apply self-analysis mechanisms and evaluation of their own performance as spaces for participation;
- Encourages actions that provide alternative strategies and positive policies to eliminate discrimination based on sex and gender identity ground;
- Ensures that the gender perspective is taken into account in all Municipal Plans and Programmes.

LOGROÑO (SPAIN)

Title :	URBAN TRENDS. OPEN MICRO
Main purpose:	Participation of diverse youth through rap and hip hop
Implementation period :	Ongoing since 2012

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

“Urban trends and open micro” is a space for participation of young people from different backgrounds in the city of Logroño. Despite their official status as citizens of Logroño, and the fact that these young people share common formal spaces in Secondary Schools, they kept separating in the non-formal spaces of relationship because of their origins, being them from Latin America, Romania, Pakistan, Morocco, etc.

To avoid segregation, the city proposed to find a common point of interest that could contribute to making youth converging, interacting and creating something together. Hip Hop was chosen as a tool to bring the youth together, and the city created a free meeting space for young people to promote participation and facilitate emotional expression through urban culture and its different disciplines: dance, music, plastic art, etc. Using the language of music, art, dance, and freestyle "rap battles", beat box, etc.

A mix of young people of diverse origins participate and express themselves in a new language, their own and different ones, used to communicate their vision of the world and the emotional expression of their experiences. Hip Hop has proven to be an instrument that allows these young people to express them freely but also to develop an attitude of acceptance and respect for differences. Thanks to the specific focus on interculturality in the management of the space, the artistic results are very creative and are nourished by the influence of diverse cultural references that make them unique. The experience has become a good example of how diversity can be translated into greater creativity and cultural enrichment.

From this, and from the continued relationship of these young people with hip hop as a vehicle, other elements have been introduced to deepen aspects of democratic participation, citizenship, diversity, tolerance, anti-rumors, etc., increasing critical capacity and the commitment of youth.

There is an evaluation of this programme as a measure of the Intercultural Plan of the city and of the social and educational intervention projects with young people.

LONDON-LEWISHAM (UK)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title :	Young Mayor
Main purpose:	Putting power and responsibility in the hands of young people
Implementation period :	On-going since 2004

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

Lewisham Young Mayor is a robust attempt to put real power and responsibility in the hands of young people and treat them seriously. The Young Mayor is elected by direct ballot every year and – along with a cabinet of young advisors – is given a budget to initiate a programme of work, as well as to scrutinise the work of Lewisham Mayor and of the city Council.

The Young Mayor provides a focus and a channel for young people's views to be heard by decision makers. He or She is supported by young advisers and a Young Citizens' Panel and they have access to the full range of young people's forums, networks and school councils. The Young Mayor is democratically elected every year through Lewisham's schools and colleges.

The Young Mayor is chosen through a democratic election held in schools and colleges; the Young Mayor serves a one year term and:

- supports, and is a spokesperson for, the borough's young people
- informs and advises the current Mayor, Sir Steve Bullock, on issues relating to young people
- works with the young advisers and Young Citizens' Panel to inform the work of the Mayor, Council and other decision-making bodies
- oversees a budget of at least £25,000.

Most of the incumbents of the post of Mayor and advisors have been members of various of the borough's minority ethnic communities.

London Lewisham has the longest established Young Mayor programme in the country (it was started in 2004 by Sir Steve Bullock, Mayor of Lewisham). It is influential in encouraging other councils to provide this opportunity for young people.

LONDON-LEWISHAM (UK)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title :	Local Assemblies
Main purpose:	A network of citizen forums which empower local decision making and action
Implementation period :	On-going since 2008

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

This programme started in 2008 and consists in a forum during which the Council talks to the residents, community organisations, police and businesses in order to create a sense of ownership and improve areas and neighborhoods (the 18 wards). The local planning groups organise the meetings, deciding time and venue. Meetings are usually held in community centres, for example in sports grounds. Attendance is rising and the forum needs a team of 8 municipal officers to service them. This service has given great results and eight years later, the community is much more active in the integration process and in offering assistance to newcomers. Furthermore, community leaders and activists aim to engage people of underrepresented backgrounds in the social life and in the decision making process.

Each assembly has a budget of 15000£ to spend on projects which benefit the area. The assemblies are chaired by a councillor and they come up with a set of issues such as facilities for older people, programmes for younger people etc. and anyone can apply for the money as long as their initiative meets objectives and priorities.

There are different approaches to the budget: from small initiatives to strategic commissioning. It is the Community's job to include events in the area with biggest spending. It has been observed that this is the best way of bringing the community together and celebrating diversity and shared values.

A few examples of successful actions include:

- Evening parents' forum is linked to the assembly and it reaches out disadvantaged and isolated parents. In the forum, people meet and talk about their concerns which are then brought to the local assembly.
- Online engagement – an online platform, similar to an online forum, has been established. People log-in with their post code and talk to their neighbors, people living in the same street or area, and local area managers and councillors respond.
- Festivals are used to reach out minorities and those communities that are usually the hardest to reach. Organisers have tents to host people and they often use the word of mouth to spread the initiative, going around polling people.
- Community consultations are meetings where organisers talk about waste, recycling, or about which services should be cut.
- Local assemblies and other tools are a fabulous way of creating supportive communities for people who would have been on their own in the past, struggling with issues such as urban planning or services.

LUTSK (UKRAINE)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title :	"Culture is the basis of community sustainable development" - policy for promoting inclusive participation through culture (henceforth – Policy)
Main purpose:	to educate the tolerant society and to develop moral principles of common life in an intercultural environment through the creative self-expression, the experience exchange and mutual cognition through culture between different members of the community regardless of their origin, religion, gender or social status.
Implementation period :	Permanently

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

The Policy includes the creation of artistic platforms for interaction between different groups of the population and individual citizens such as: representatives of ethnic groups and different religions of Lutsk, internally displaced persons (IDPs) from the East of Ukraine and Lutsk citizens, children, youth and elderly people. The Policy encourages cooperation between NGOs and local authorities, social integration of children and youth with disabilities, international cooperation and cultural exchanges.

Lutsk citywide cultural and artistic events became the platforms for interaction and inclusive participation of Lutsk residents. These events include: "Christmas in Lutsk" and "Easter in Lutsk" Ethno-Festivals, art projects "Christmas workshop" and "Easter workshop", "CULTUREfest" Youth Festival and the Youth Day with the participation of foreign students, "*Hostyny na Veresnevomu*" Festival with the participation of Roma community members, Europe Days in Lutsk, days of local cultures etc. The city authorities hold regular thematic meetings and round tables with the participation of representatives of the local national-cultural associations, IDPs and NGOs. The Department for Culture, which is directly responsible for the implementation of this Policy, initiates free handmade master classes, exhibitions and fairs of folk crafts products, provides administrative, consulting and organizational support to cultural projects of IDPs, national minorities and NGOs.

The most striking outcome of the Policy is "Palette of Cultures" Intercultural Festival. The representatives of all nationalities living in Lutsk, children, young people and older generation, as well as IDPs became participants of this festival. The participants present their national identity and cultural heritage including traditional songs, dances, musical instruments, clothes, household items, craft products, and dishes of their national cuisines.

All citywide events include the participation of Volyn Council of Churches. It is the religious organization of representatives of all Christian confessions in Volyn region. It organizes joint religious and cultural events, such as the "500 Years of Reformation", "God is rich in mercy" Charity Concert, an interconfessional feast of the Bible.

The older generation also becomes the active part of the community through participation in the city cultural life. 4 choral groups of veterans are created and perform in Lutsk. There are universities of the Third Age and a club of veterans of war and labor "Restless hearts". Also the project "Accessible cinema for pensioners" is launched.

Children and youth with disabilities are encouraged to participate in cultural life through the implementation of social projects such as "Children of the Sun. One day at work" which provides young people with Down syndrome with an internship in different institutions, including cultural ones; children festival "Special Baby has Special Talent"; film festival "ChildrenKinofest" etc.

Anti-cafe "Innerspace", created by the family of settlers from the East, became an area for inclusive participation and cultural expression for all Lutsk residents and city guests, without exception. "Innerspace" is a place where many socially useful activities take place, such as: exhibitions, concerts, parties, master classes for adults and children, art therapy.

The city authorities are interested in expanding the international participation of Lutsk through cultural diplomacy. The best platforms for the experience exchange and the search for partners in various fields of culture were: the festival "Polissia Summer with Folklore", theatre festival "Mandrivnyi Vishak", the poetry festival "MERIDIANLUTSK", pianists competition "Chopin Spring", "Art Jazz Cooperation", the festival "Stravinsky and Ukraine", the art project "Music Beyond the Borders", intercultural art-show "Night at Lutsk Castle", and many others. In turn, local creative groups successfully present Ukrainian culture abroad.

Follow-ups for further Policy implementation are: improvement of existing platforms for inclusive participation, creation of Intercultural Center that would bring together representatives of all Lutsk cultures, improvement of conditions for intercultural mixing by modernizing cultural institutions and public spaces, and further expanding the international partner network of Lutsk.

The indicators related to the positive impact of the Policy implementation are the following:

- the level of positive acceptance of the Roma community representatives is increasing;
- the number of conflicts between representatives of different ethnic groups, religions and races is reducing;
- the majority of Lutsk inhabitants has overcome stereotypes about residents from the East Ukraine;
- the pace of integration of internally displaced people into the Lutsk community is accelerating;
- the number of people interested in the cultural life of the city is increasing;
- every activity increases the number of Lutsk international partners and the international visibility of the city;
- the number of joint cultural projects organized by Lutsk NGOs and national minorities with the support of city authorities is increasing.

The Policy is implemented by Lutsk cultural institutions and other public organizations. Besides the Department for Culture, the main activities and projects within this Policy are carried out by the following executive bodies of Lutsk City Council: the Department of Social Services for Families, Children and Youth, the Department for Family, Youth and Sports, the Department for Education, the Department for Tourism and City Promotion. The organizers of different projects within the policy are often the Volyn Regional Scientific Library named by Olena Pchilka, Lutsk City Employment Center, national cultural societies, NGOs such as: "Stendal", "Garmyder", "Settlers from Crimea and Donbas", anti-cafe "Innerspace", Lesya Ukrainka Eastern European National University, Volyn Youth Center, Center for Children and Youth Creativity "Dyvo". Local entrepreneurs often are sponsors of the events.

More information: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1cCJVKBwOIkqmEOeAlrkRgHvTci05YQis> – Presentation of Policy main activities and outcomes.

NEUCHÂTEL (SWITZERLAND)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title :	Renewal of the CICM
Main purpose:	To boost the Integration Commission and consult on its composition
Implementation period :	18 months with the appointment of members in November 2017

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

The members of the Community for Integration and Multicultural Cohesion (CICM) must be reappointed by the State Council (Executive) for the next four years (2018-2021). Following various discussions and a consultation with the CICM, it was decided to reduce the number (from 41 to 25), whilst keeping a high proportion of representatives from migrant communities (about 10).

For the first time, a wide consultation was conducted with regard to the representation of migrant communities with the aim of establishing diversity criteria beyond the question of geographical origin. This took place in different stages. Firstly, discussions on representation in general (criteria and method of designation):

- Workshops during a CICM Plenary;
- Open discussion during a session of the platform of Latin American communities;
- Workshops during a session of the platform of African associations and personalities

Subsequently, proposals were drawn up (terms of reference, a list of diversity criteria, proposal of a selection method - the appointment being the responsibility of the executive) and sent to more than 700 associations and resource persons. The proposals were discussed in the form of three workshops (agree/disagree/other proposals) at three open evenings.

Although the discussions on the terms of reference and the selection criteria proved to be rather consensual (with modifications on which the great majority agreed), the question of the method of designation proved to be more delicate. Many felt that the best solution would have been broad consultation or a general election that cannot be held for lack of time. Some wanted only associations to nominate candidates while others preferred individual applications.

Finally, the option that met with the greatest support was that which allows the submission of applications from associations or individuals.

The proposal was made that a jury be appointed for the selection of applications (individual or via associations). This jury will be composed of people drawn at random from among those who participated in the consultation. The selection of the ten candidates (three for Europe, the Balkans and Turkey; three for Africa; two for Asia and the Middle East; two for the Americas) will be based on the application forms and the defined criteria, in order to ensure a balance in terms of diversity. At the level of the criteria, the most important for all the people consulted was the motivation and the network (whether via a migrant association or another way). This was followed by aspects related to gender, age, occupation or reason for migration.

The result (will a jury be formed? will there be a sufficient number of quality applications from candidates?) will enable a first evaluation. The functioning of the CICM in 2018 will make it possible to assess whether the new dynamic is working.

It should be noted that several current members of the CICM (representatives of migrant communities) have opposed the changes (namely the decrease in the number of members, modification of the selection methods - until now mixed, some having been designated by associations, platforms, others identified by the COSM), at each stage of the consultation. This did not meet with favourable feedback from other participants who spoke to the media to express their dissatisfaction. The echo was quite significant (on the first page of the regional newspaper), with a very negative presentation of the consultation and some false information. Several factors explain these reactions: lack of renewal of members for several years (some have participated since 1991, many for more than 12 years); difficulty in explaining the process and depersonalising it; documents sent for consultation which were too complicated and misinterpreted; power struggles within some communities, etc.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.ne.ch/cicm

PARIS (FRANCE)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title :	Participatory Budget
Main purpose:	Enhancing the participation of citizens in the decision-making process
Implementation period :	On-going since 2014

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

Launched in 2014 to implement actions of participatory democracy in Paris, the Participatory Budget aims at mobilising all actors on the making of their city (public agents, professionals, citizens...). Using an online platform as well as polling stations to reach as many people as possible, it constitutes a simple opportunity for Parisians to get involved.

On the occasion of the 2016 edition, 3,200 projects were submitted, 624 were selected to be proposed to the voters. Votes were opened from 20th September to the 2nd October 2016. Since the 2016 edition, a special focus has been made on deprived/sensitive areas that benefit from 30% of the allocated budget. For the first time this year, 66,155 children voted in the frame of the new schools Participatory Budget between May and June 2017.

Results

For the 2014 first edition, proposals were only made by the City's departments themselves. Since 2015, the application is widely open to all contributors. The adopted projects covered a wide range of topics from public spaces to culture or digitalization.

The Participatory Budget is making steady progress: 9 projects were adopted in 2014, 188 in 2015 (8 for the whole city and 180 for specific districts), and 219 in 2016 (11 for the whole city and 208 for specific districts).

The quantity of budget allocated has significantly increased as well: 17.7M€ in 2014, 75M€ in 2015, and 100M€ in 2016. So did the number of voters: 40,754 in 2014, 70,000 in 2015 and 92,809 in 2016 (158,964 taking into account the Schools Participatory Budget launched this year).

Examples of implemented projects

1. Co-working spaces for entrepreneur-student

From the 2014 edition, its objective is to create a co-working spaces network in publicly owned buildings, universities and student halls. 6 spaces were already created out of 8. Cost: 2M€.

2. Green walls

From the 2014 edition, it aims at "greenifying" roughly 40 walls all around the city to improve the environment and biodiversity. 22 walls were already realized and 19 are ongoing. Cost: 2M€.

PAVLOGRAD (UKRAINE)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title :	Successful Roma of Pavlograd
Main purpose:	Integration of Roma population into the city's social life; encouraging Roma community, fighting negative stereotypes
Implementation period :	5 years

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

Pavlograd has a large community of Roma people, who enrich the city's life with their great cultural heritage, music and traditions. At the same time housing, access to education and stereotyping are still an issue in the city. Indeed, one of the main problems the city faced a few years ago were the stereotypes and negative attitudes that the local population held about the Roma people. Roma people were often associated with negative images and prejudice such as theft, reluctance for work, study, etc. This is regardless the fact that Pavlograd city has many examples of bright personalities- representatives of the Roma community - cultural workers, artists, journalists and poets.

In 2012, Pavlograd city authorities supported local Romas' initiative to create a public organization "Amaro Kher", which allowed Roma representatives to participate directly in the life of the city through their community organization. The City Council also provided free premises for the work of the organization. Since that time "Amaro Kher" organized a number of events with the participation of Roma people ; the organisation is also in charge of the annual International Roma Day celebration and a number of Roma culture festivals. Today "Amaro Kher" is an active participant of the Intercultural Cities initiative in Pavlograd and its representatives are regular attendees of the Intercultural Living Room. Members of "Amaro Kher" are conducting lessons of tolerance in city schools and work to create a community of Roma memory.

It is noteworthy that the Head of the organization "Amaro Kher", Mr. Kertulay Ogly, is a member of the Pavlograd Community Council, and Ms. Salavatova Bilyana from "Amaro Kher" is a member of the Youth Council of the city.

The empowerment of a Roma organisation is a great example of successful cooperation between the City Council and the Roma community in Pavlograd. Thanks to this joint initiative, Roma of Pavlograd are not only organizers of numerous city actions, they are also the initiators of new projects for the development of the city as a whole, of their culture, identity and traditions. Reviews of "Amaro Kher" activities are conducted annually by the Pavlograd Community Council

The action is implemented in cooperation with public organization "Amaro Kher", the Community Council, the Intercultural Living Room, schools and cultural institutions of the city, as well as with the main enterprise of the city DTEK Pavlogradugol.

More information:

<http://pavlogradmrada.dp.gov.ua/interkulturnijj-pavlograd>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1379812542260017/>

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100007510929878&fref=gs&hc_ref=ARQXKccNmVni27X FuPZmEH_8qY19boKhb6ua7maakjpVzXgdNX9WPNSRipoxjtj9gkWE&dti=1379812542260017&hc_location=group_dialog

<http://legalspace.org/ua/napryamki/posilennya-romskikh-gromad/item/10611-romiv-dnipropetrovshchyny-zhurtaie-kulturno-osvitnii-pravovyi-tsentr-vid-amaro-kkher>

<https://www.facebook.com/pavlograd.dp.ua/posts/1546140352113001>

<http://xn--80aafeg3bveo.dp.ua/36050>

<http://xn--80aafeg3bveo.dp.ua/tag/ansambl-chergenya>

<http://pavlogradmrada.dp.gov.ua/kulture/10-letie-cyganskogo-ansamblya-chergenya.html>

REGGIO EMILIA (ITALY)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title :	Mondinsieme' Assembly
Main purpose:	Citizen engagement and citizen participation
Implementation period :	On-going since 2011

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

Citizen engagement and citizen participation are key elements for the Municipality of Reggio Emilia. Calling itself "*La Città delle Persone*" (the City of the People), the City administration has always addressed people's needs, concerns and interests, by collecting their views and proposals through formal and informal actions and initiatives.

Immigrant communities, about 17% of the city population with their 40 associations, have their own say but, for various reasons, they are not always able to directly and equally participate in this process. In the frame of the city's intercultural strategy, in 2011 the administration transformed the existing intercultural centre Mondinsieme (until then a municipal office) into a Foundation with own administrative bodies. With this decision the Municipality intended to strengthen the immigrant associations' sense of ownership and active participation within the City. The associations are no longer considered as only beneficiaries, they also contribute to shape public policies and actions, in particular through their participation in Mondinsieme' Assembly.

Convened at least once a year, the Assembly formulates advisory opinions and proposals on Mondinsieme' activities, programmes and objectives (art. 23 of the Statute). Its meetings are always chaired by the Municipality, in the person of the Mayor and/or his Deputy. It is, therefore, a key opportunity for an open dialogue between the Administration and its citizens with a migrant background. The Assembly also elects its representative within Mondinsieme' s Board of Director. The Board maintains constant exchanges with the administration, with which it co-designs the City' s intercultural strategy.

To better structure the dialogue between the associations and the Municipality and to better organise their proposals around specific policy issues, a new participatory methodology was adopted during last Assembly (December 2, 2017). Participants were divided into four work groups, according to their personal interests and to the Association they belonged to. Each group was facilitated by a Mondinsieme' staff member and by an "expert" on each specific topic. Three of the four themes corresponded to Mondinsieme' s main programmes: Education, Migrant Reception and Neighborhoods. The fourth theme was proposed and voted by participants and was "Art and Culture" (other topics highlighted by the participants were: bureaucracy, training for newcomers, places of worship). Each group was asked to identify: - weaknesses (-); - possible improvement actions (+).

Aside of this important action based on the representativeness of the foreign communities through Mondinsieme, being an open city requires also broadening the debate and consultation to the city at large. Many other stakeholders encounter, work and manage at the city level intercultural aspects. The need to engage in an open consultation re-positioning and re defining the meaning of being and intercultural and open city was very high, especially at this time in Italy, following the recent negative debate on newcomers and inclusion.

For this reason a broader consultation process based on the same methodology was launched in January (a month after the consultation with associations) through a two day public meeting open to the whole Citizenry ("Noi Altri", 31 January-1 February). 72 organisations (civil society associations and public institutions) and individual participants (185 participants in total) brought their input on the same topics, adding new perspectives to the vision provided by the Mondinsieme associations. All involved parties welcomed the initiative, which resulted in a true success, addressing the deepest challenge posed to the city at large: in an atmosphere mixing hate and path of closeness, many stakeholders needed to express and give new meaning to their integration/intercultural job and faith. The conference and debate welcomed the difficulties, highlighted the problems of today recommitting the city to guide an intercultural dialogue process in a hard and opposite moment.

The Municipality is now committed to translate such proposals into policies and actions. The Mayor intends to visit the most engaged migrant communities in order to give continuity to such a dialogue, and will call for another important city initiative on openness and intercultural relaunching.

The Administration will report the adopted decisions and actions in a second edition of this event, planned for the beginning of 2019.

Once concluded this first pilot year, the process will be assessed and eventually structured as a standard approach.

This initiative is still in a phase of implementation. Two detailed reports collecting respective outcomes have been written. The first report, related to Mondinsieme's Assembly, has already been published, while the second one will be soon available. An assessment of the whole process will be carried out at the end of this first pilot year.

REYKJAVIK (ICELAND)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title :	Class in politics for immigrant women
Main purpose:	Promote political participation of women of foreign origin
Implementation period :	7 weeks, October/November 2017

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

The Human Rights Council of the City of Reykjavik has granted a financial support to the project "Class in politics for immigrant women" organised by the Icelandic Women's Rights Association. The project was fulfilling the aims of the City's Human Rights Policy and both working against gender inequality and supporting the city intercultural approach.

The school took 7 weeks and the programme consisted of: basics of political system in Iceland both on municipal and governmental level, "unwritten" rules of politics, empowerment training for women, and training in making speeches, contacts with media and interview skills. The participants had the opportunity to meet representatives of all political parties represented in the Icelandic Parliament and visit Alþingi guided by parliament members.

Class on politics was advertised on social media and on the home-pages of immigrant associations. The teacher of the class was Ms Sabine Leskopf - substitute in the City Council of Reykjavik. She is herself an excellent example of the possibility for foreign women to take an active part in political life.

Twenty women from different countries took part in training. Women Rights Association will submit the closing report and the evaluation to the Human Rights Council.

The action was implemented thanks to the cooperation between the Women Rights Association, W.O.M.E.N. - Association of foreign women in Iceland, and the Human Rights Council of Reykjavik

Information about the class can be found on the home page of Women Rights Association:
<http://kvenrettindafelag.is/2017/a-class-in-politics-for-immigrant-women/>

REYKJAVIK (ICELAND)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title :	Actions of the City of Reykjavik to improve participation in local elections 2018
Main purpose:	Improve the participation of young people, disable people, women older the 75 years, and immigrants in the municipality elections 2018
Implementation period :	From February to May 2018

At the end of 2017 Reykjavik City set up a task group to explore ways to improve participation in local elections. The data showed that specific groups are taking less part in elections than others. These groups are mainly: young people, disabled people, women older than 75 years, and immigrants.

Participation of immigrants in local elections has been very low, according to data provided by the Statistic Office of Iceland – in 2006 - 40,4% of citizens with voting right took part in local election in Iceland (62,5% from Nordic countries and 34,4% from other countries) and in 2014 – just 21% of citizens with voting right took part in local election in Iceland (56,7% from Nordic countries and just 17% from other countries).

After consulting with representatives of all the above mentioned groups (representatives of grass root movements) the task group came with actions that has been accepted and financed by the City Council of Reykjavik.

The main obstacle for the mentioned groups in taking part in elections appeared to be the lack of accessible information about the elections. There is a need to spell out this information in a much more clear and simple language and to make it available in open and accessible places. Also, people had difficulties with understanding the difference between local and state elections, and where and how to vote. The main aim of the actions is therefore to properly inform them about the election process.

The City of Reykjavik decided to introduce actions targeting immigrants. At first, information will be gathered together and set in simple and accessible language, in Icelandic and at least English and Polish. The mentioned information will be published on the web page www.egkys.is. The information campaign will be launched and directed to specific groups on social media. The information campaign will be also visible on the boards in the city, at bus stops, shopping centres and companies where immigrants work. Moreover, an official letter will be sent to immigrants getting their voting right for the first time to inform them about their rights and orientate them to the polling station. NGOs and civil society associations will be also involved in the information campaign. Last but not least the City is going to make a specific service on the day of elections more accessible for immigrant groups, for example by advertising the info-line in other languages than Icelandic, and employing people talking other languages than Icelandic on the election day. The city wants to ensure that information about participation of immigrants in elections will be gathered in all elections.

The report of the task group (in Icelandic) can be found here: https://fundur.reykjavik.is/sites/default/files/agenda-items/lokaskyrsla_-_starfshopur_um_aukna_kosningathattoku_2018_dags.18.01.2018.pdf

SABADELL (SPAIN)

<i>Title :</i>	<i>Mescla't ("Mix it up")</i>
Main purpose:	Promote the participation and co-working of associations from different areas and show the diversity of Sabadell in a presentation day for the entire city.
Implementation period :	From April to November, but the presentation is one Saturday of October every year

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

"Mescla't" is an action implemented in the frame of the civil rights policies from Sabadell City Council. It consists in a festive day that brings together those who work in Sabadell for the culture of solidarity, active participation, and the promotion of diversity benefits and coexistence. This day aims for the social inclusion of everyone and the commitment to human rights.

The programme of that day includes different activities in the space public: concerts, rap and hip-hop exhibits, various workshops, shows of organizations, photo exhibitions, etc. In 2017 it was the 4th edition of this activity, and it involved the participation of 47 organizations to develop 25 activities all day long.

This project is led by the City Council, but it's developed with the organizations which are part of the different commissions of the Civil Rights Department:

- Gender, feminism and LGBTI
- New citizenship
- Religious diversity
- Gypsy people
- Youth
- Solidarity and cooperation
- Refugees

From April to October, some of the organizations meet up in the Mescla't organization commission, to elaborate the program coordinated. And on November, this commission meet again to evaluate the action and propose improvements for the next edition.

This action is highly widespread in various ways: city's website, press announcements and releases, posters all over the streets, etc.

"Mescla't" is also useful for the organizations to meet in a common space and to know better each other, so they start collaborations that bring up different areas together (for example, the start projects with double purpose: gender and human rights, or LGTBI and cooperation).

This action is led by the City Council, but it's developed with 47 organizations which are part of the different commissions of the Civil Rights Department.

The impact of the action undergoes an evaluation process by the organization commission and the city council professionals.

More information: http://www.isabadell.cat/esdeveniment/mesclat-2017/?instance_id=1181

<http://www.sabadell.cat/ca/notis-dc/71094-el-proper-dissabte-7-d-octubre-la-ciutat-acollira-la-3a-edicio-del-mescla-t>

http://www.sabadell.cat/images/dretscivils/Mesclat17_programa.pdf

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1918871891707022.1073741846.1448881682039381&type=1&l=22f7cf24a6>

SALT (SPAIN)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title :	Young people discourse to construct Salt's collective identity
Main purpose:	Map discrimination barriers on young people's ordinary lives and put their opinions and expectations about 'what is and what should be Salt' in the center of public debate.
Implementation period :	1 year; since November 2017

This is a pilot experience to find and detect different situations experienced by young people that, resulting from discrimination, create barriers against their standardised career. Whether in school, in the workplace, in the fields of leisure, or in other fields, it's important to map discrimination and highlight and address situations that actually prevent young people from feeling part of society.

After detecting these situations repeatedly experienced by different people, the city will have to decide how to overcome them. From intervening on the specific situations to generating a global discourse on the matter, different possibilities will open through a participatory process, and that is why the actions will be defined by the Commission for Participation and Diversity (*Comissió de Diversitat i Participació*).

The initial approach consisting in identifying and selecting different young people to act as target group, representing all the different nationalities immigrated in Salt; the gender variable has also been taken into account. One feature that selected participants had to have was to have an opinion on different matters and to be able to express it.

During several meetings, issues related to different topics have emerged, related to situations experienced as discriminatory. The line of work will continue to organize spaces for group discussion in order to compile different experiences. In a second phase, the work will focus on defining lines of action to reverse these situations.

As for the first phase, two main elements are taken into account: 1) the participants; 2) and the issues that arise from the group discussions. Regarding the participants, they must be representative of the different cultural origins in Salt. As for the issues that arise in the discussion groups, they will be organised thematically and there will be as many sessions until all information is gathered. During the second phase, evaluation tools and indicators will have to be built when defining the remedial actions to be carried out.

This project is being promoted within the framework of the mandate of the Commission for Participation and Diversity which, at the same time, is part of the Intercultural Community Intervention Project, with the participation of different practitioners from the territory, in areas such as citizenship, education, social services, community mediation and housing. Practitioners working for the local administration and in companies of the third sector are also associated to the process, so as individual citizens and young people.

SAN SEBASTIAN/DONOSTIA (SPAIN)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title :	Welcome to school
Main field of action:	C. Public Services
Type of Action:	12. Education
Main purpose:	Promotion of intercultural methodology at school and participation of migrant families
Implementation period :	Two years from September 2015 to October 2017

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

The action was implemented in the framework of the city's intercultural strategy. It is aimed at introducing a comprehensive intercultural approach in schools, favouring the integration of newly-arrived families and encouraging newcomers to learn more about the Basque culture and language. The programme aims to achieve the following three goals:

- a) To mainstream an intercultural approach in schools, by valorising the different cultures that form the school, by working with all the school actors, from directors to teachers, psychologists, students and other non-teaching staff (guards, cleaners, canteen workers, etc.) in order to consider interculturalism in schools, classrooms and other spaces, by raising awareness and implementing intercultural activities in the classroom (festivities, storytelling, countries and cultures, gastronomy, etc.).
- b) To support newly-arrived children's parents by introducing them into school life, by keeping them informed and encouraging their participation in meetings and activities, including in the classroom with storytelling and other activities that value their own culture. In order to achieve this, a newly-arrived family is put into contact with a local family who helps and supports them in order to lose their fear and become familiar and confident with the school's functioning and customs. The local family becomes the newly-arrived family's "family companion" (known as "familia laguna" in the Basque language). These families spend time together, meeting other people at school, as well as in the neighbourhood. This is a very efficient way of favouring the integration of new arrivals in school but also in the surroundings and town and raising awareness of their entitlement to school and public services.
- c) To encourage newly-arrived families to learn the Basque language or at least to become familiar with some expressions. In order to foster their participation, the municipality offers a wide range of free or low-cost Basque courses. In addition, these newcomers are supported by local families to participate in local festivities related to culture (e.g. Midsummer bonfires, farmers' day, etc.)

This programme began two years ago in one school. Four more schools joined last year and, in September 2017, the school in Amara Berri joined the programme.

The service was initially provided by a Mothers' and Fathers' Association, which became an enterprise in 2016. Some of these mothers are professionals and have been through their own migration process.

The schools are contacted according to their rate of migrant students. The programme may not be applied in a school with a rate of newcomers higher than the 50%, because local families are needed to run the programme.

The gender mainstreaming concept is incorporated into the formulation and implementation of all the activities.

The impact of the action will undergo an evaluation process by the city. During 2016-2017, 102 families participated in the programme with a very high evaluation score.

The action was implemented by the municipality and partly sponsored by the Basque Government.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.ongietorrieskolara.org/es/inicio/>

SAN SEBASTIAN/DONOSTIA (SPAIN)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title :	Supporting Culturally Diverse NGOs
Main purpose:	Support culturally diverse NGO to enhance participation of migrants, ethnic minorities and local citizens in the life of the city
Implementation period :	Jan-Dec 2018

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

The initiative consists in giving grants to culturally diverse people and NGOs in order to implement projects which promote the participation of migrants, ethnic minorities and local citizens in activities that foster coexistence and interaction. These projects will consist of: welcoming, awareness raising, participation or training activities and will aim at increasing the visibility, acknowledgement and respect of rights, diversity, languages and religions. They are also intended to foster interculturality as an asset in different areas such as education, youth, human rights, gender equality and others.

This initiative empowers citizens with a migrant or ethnic background and those associations working in favour of interculturality, and supports them to build up their own projects, those that are more suitable and answer to their specific needs. It also provides them the chance to enhance the value of their own cultures and bring together local people and other culturally diverse citizens.

An open call is announced and NGOs should submit applications before 27th march 2018. These organizations have to have their headquarters in the city or be working for the benefit of the city. A maximum of two projects can be submitted by each NGO. Projects have to be carried out from 1st January to 31 December 2018. These projects cannot be discriminative, nor promote racism or use stereotyped images of women. The call has been widely announced on the city's website and forwarded directly to NGOs of migrant people by email.

All the projects received will be evaluated and they will benefit from a grant according to the score received. The city will finance each project up to a maximum of 80% of the estimated budget, so as to encourage NGOs to look for complementary means of funding.

NGOs receive training courses on planning and project's designing. In 2017, 24 projects of 22 local NGOs were granted with a total amount of 53.000€.

More information:

http://www.donostia.eus/info/ciudadano/part_asociaciones.nsf/vowebContenidosId/NT00000A72?OpenDocument&idioma=cas&id=A608306628767&cat=Subvenciones&subcat=Convocatoria%202018&doc=D

SANTA COLOMA DE GRAMENET (SPAIN)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title :	Narrative for the interculturality (Actions for the coexistence)
Main purpose:	The creation of a new point of view on coexistence, diversity and the intercultural model, to generate a meeting point where the groups, citizens and professionals could collaborate and make possible their common objectives in a collaborative way.
Implementation period :	During the whole year 2018

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

In 2016 the City hall of Santa Coloma de Gramanet created the *Xarxa de Transmissió de Valors i Missatges Positius*, which in English would be translated as "The network of transmission of values and positive messages", whose main goal was of promoting awareness on the values of cohesion and living together in diversity among citizens. The Network is one of the projects of the Coexistence Service and it is formed by people and groups that want to help to establish a positive frame for coexistence in the city.

During 2017, the Coexistence Service started a participatory process to create an action plan to generate ideas that were helpful to fight the aspects that make it difficult for coexistence in the city. Since then, the city hall keeps working on creating new activities and actions in this sense. One of these activities is the meeting organised in May 2017 with the collectives and people who is member of La Xarxa where we could debate and collaborate. Also, another meeting with professionals and municipal services was organised in June 2017.

The objective was the creation of a new point of view of coexistence, diversity and intercultural model, to generate a meeting point where the groups, citizens and professionals could collaborate and propose objectives and future actions to be included in the project *Narratives per la interculturalitat* (Narratives for interculturality) which has 3 main pillars:

- 1) Information and sensitisation: Actions leading to influence the society and change perspectives. They include projects that mark the importance of the transmission of positive messages through personal experiences and shared knowledge.
- 2) Training: Activities to improve the diversity and intercultural competence of the professionals working in the public services of the city. There are also some training tools for the citizens.
- 3) Communication and participation: There are some other actions that aim to inform about the progress in the development of the project or about Xarxa's activities, and promote the participation of citizens. Furthermore, the city is working on making its official communication more diverse and positive, always related with the interculturality and the management of the diversity.

Some of the activities above have already started, for instance the training sessions; yet the Narratives for the Interculturality will be launched in March 2018 and the global evaluation of the project will take place at the end of the year.

More information: <http://www.gramenet.cat/temes/amb-les-persones/xarxa-de-valors/>

STAVANGER (NORWAY)

Title :	Immigrants Council
Main purpose:	Enhancing participation of migrants in decision making
Implementation period	Since 1986

The Immigrants' Council (IC) is an advisory body that was set up in Stavanger already in 1986, under the aegis of the Mayor. Its main objective was to ensure a more active involvement of the immigrant population in local public life, on an equal footing, and to engage migrants in addressing problems affecting the community as a whole. The IC was also due to co-operate very closely with the local politicians (town councillors) and with the regional authorities responsible for addressing those issues. Ultimately, the IC was meant to improve the daily lives of foreign nationals in Stavanger.

Since its setting up, the IC has actively and constructively worked at addressing a whole range of issues, in particular employment, housing, urban planning, health, education, recognition of skills and qualifications, teaching and learning of both mother tongue and Norwegian. It has built bridges between the immigrant communities and the locals, and has encouraged mutual understanding and interfaith dialogue. In terms of procedure, the City Council appoints half of the members of the IC, while the other half is elected by representatives of the migrant communities (appointed by the City Council). The Chair has a 4 year mandate and is also responsible of a budget allocated by the City Council. The IC meets ten times a year and submits an annual report at a City Council meeting.

SWANSEA (UK)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title :	Participation Scheme
Main purpose:	Enhancing the participation of citizens in the decision-making process
Implementation period :	On-going

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

Working in partnership and residents' consultations are at the core of Swansea's way of planning and evaluating policies.

The five ways of working are the 'golden thread' which will enable the steps to be achieved.



*Swansea Well-Being
Plan*

Priorities, plans, budget, social services, and civil life are subject to various consultation processes. Any new policy and initiative is built on equality assessment carried out by the equality office which challenges the specific department, checking to see if they have consultation and engagement plans.

The Council has developed a number of tools to involve and consult all citizens in the council's decision making process:

- The Consultation and Engagement Strategy helps practitioners to engage with residents and service users.
- The Swansea Voices Online Panel consists of a database of residents who are regularly consulted by the Council about its services and local issues. Its membership is continually refreshed to give as many people as possible the opportunity to take part. Recent areas of consultation have included the City Centre redevelopment and priorities for the Council's budget.
- The Swansea Reputation Tracker is an ongoing telephone survey undertaken by the Council. Every other month 180 people are asked their opinion about the Council, the services it provides, Council staff and satisfaction with their local area. The information gathered each

year is used to inform the Council's service plans and is submitted as part of our performance monitoring processes.

- In addition, the Council engages with the diversity of the population through diversity groups and forums, such as the 50+Network, BME Forum or LGBT Forum.

In order to be as representative as possible, the Council has developed a range of channels to involve people: Drop-in sessions – an opportunity for everyone to have their say in a more informal setting; Group visits – either a meeting or an informal discussion – depending on the group's preference; Feedback via email –so that people can have their say without having to speak to the Council themselves; online surveys; Big Conversations with children and young people; Stakeholder / forum meetings.

Whilst developing the local cohesion strategy the Council organized adult focus groups - including both migrants, and people from quite far right groups in order to speak to those who may oppose the cohesion strategy.

Although there is no youth council, a budget is dedicated to consultations in schools where children can meet with different officials on various topics. Children and young people's (CYP) participation is engaged by the CYP Participation team that acts as a central body identifying relevant groups and individuals that may be interested or benefit from participating in consultations. They also record and evaluate the impact of young people's involvement in opportunities provided/supported by the team.¹

In January 2017, a Big Conversation brought together 80 representatives from thirteen secondary schools across the city to discuss the Council's budget proposals.² The 'Big conversation 2017' focused on what it like is living in Swansea and gave local people a chance to comment on different aspects of life including education, the environment, health and housing and to rate them.³ The Big Conversation for 2018 is planned to tackle extremism.

Also, in their recruitment policies, the City and County of Swansea include an option to follow the principles of 'positive action' as outlined in the Equality Act 2010. This can be applied when a tie breaker situation arises between two (or more) candidates of equal merit and allows an employer to make an appointment based on a particular protected characteristic possessed by a candidate if there is evidence of an under-representation of a particular group within the workforce (e.g. a shortage of women at a senior level within the authority).⁴

¹ <http://www.swansea.gov.uk/cypparticipation>

² <https://bishopvaughan.co.uk/the-big-conversation>

³ <http://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/31764/Whats-it-like-living-in-Swansea-Join-the-conversation>

⁴ http://www.swansea.gov.uk/media/1394/Recruitment-and-selection-policy/pdf/Recruitment_and_Selection_Policy.pdf

TURIN (ITALY)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title :	Guidelines for interculturality and participation
Main purpose:	Promotion participation of the whole society
Implementation period :	Adopted in March 2018

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

Inclusion of citizens in the political processes is not a challenge – it is the challenge the City of Turin has decided to face.

In a time when social inequalities grow, the fear for “the other” rises together with violence and rage, an effort was needed to re-define policies and improve their coordination.

With two major objectives: the fight against any form of discrimination (in particular racism) and the building of spaces, tools and policies to ensure equal and free participation to the democratic process and strengthen a sense of community in the city.

In order to achieve these objectives, the City of Turin has adopted on the 20th March (in occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, on the 21st), the new “Guidelines for interculture and participation”, a theoretical and practical framework of action for the public administration to help it setting up a participated environment to define rules, rights, duties and behaviours needed for living together in diversity.

The Guidelines design a three-pillar strategy:

First and foremost, the Public Administration decided to act upon itself in order to change its internal structures and practices. Horizontal synergy, intersectional approach and two-ways communication are the fundamental elements of this revolution. Two tools were created: a political Steering Committee and a technical Working Group will coordinate different services and offices of the City of Turin. Both SC and WG will provide not only a strong vehicle for transferring knowledge and practices, for raising the quality of intercultural actions and projects and for coordinating policies of different offices, but – most important – they will give the different services a space to jointly elaborate the needs and requests expressed by the communities.

The second pillar focuses on the creation of Communities Working Groups. CWGs can be nationality-based, religious-based or created according to any other form of identity (second generations, women with migration background, etc); what is important, however, is that they always respond and are structured in order to meet the needs and specificities of the community. Flexible structure, problem-solving approach and horizontal dialogue between the Local Authority and community stake- and need-holders and associations are the key-words for these spaces of dialogue, co-planning, project drafting and evaluation.

Finally, the third pillar is represented by the activities and projects jointly organized by Local Authority and Associations. For the first years, the cooperation will focus on the most important

religious or secular holidays of the single communities (New Year for the Chinese community, Open Mosque for the Islamic community, Day of Religious Freedom for Valdese believers, and so on). The specific aim is to further increase mutual trust and knowledge between offices and communities' representatives, increase the communities' public visibility as well as empower the communities' members and representatives.

A further step will be setting up of a "City coordination body for intercultural planning", to give space to all associations, citizens and institutions wishing to work on intercultural and interreligious dialogue.

VINNYTSIA (UKRAINE)

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title :	Intercultural Hub
Main purpose:	Methodology and Tools for the Creation Intercultural Space to enhance intersectoral and inclusive participation in diverse communities
Implementation period :	On-going

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

Vinnytsia (370,000 people) is a regional cultural center of Podillia region (Ukraine, 9 million people). The population is characterized by a multicultural composition. In particular, there are Polish, Jewish, Moldovan, Czech, Georgian, Armenian and other national communities. Vinnytsia universities have a large number of students from various countries of the world, in particular from the Arab and African countries.

However, the communication and interaction between these communities is not systemic. Geographically in the urban space, the premises of these communities are situated chaotically. Cultural and artistic events are held in scattered places in the city, in places that are not sufficiently adapted for such purposes. As a result, the interaction of local communities between themselves and with local citizens suffers because of the lack of an organizational mechanism and a single physical space.

The main objective of the project is to create "Vinnytsia MultiCulture Space" (MCSVi), the only platform for enhancing synergies between representatives of different cultures, and to introduce conditions for creating a common creative / artistic economy based on their interaction.

The specific objectives are the following ones:

1. Revitalization of a public cultural space – an abandoned building of the cinema "Russia" in the historical center of the city, and the creation of an active public space around it.
2. Improvement of partner relations between local centers of different international cultural organizations.
3. Attracting a larger number of social groups to cultural and artistic life.
4. Popularization of cultural, artistic and educational events among residents of Vinnytsia region conducted by international cultural organizations.
5. Creation of new jobs in the field of culture.

APPENDIX I – OTHER PRACTICES

ANTI-RUMOURS CITIES

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Title :	Antirumours strategy (ARS)
Main purpose:	It combines the promotion of a public policy with a process of social participation that seeks to prevent discrimination, improve coexistence, and harness the potential of diversity by triggering a change in perceptions, attitudes, and behaviours among the general population.
Implementation period :	Implemented in several European cities during years as a long-term city strategy since it was first implemented in Barcelona on 2010

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

Several ICC cities are committed to the implementation of ARS. Once the decision to embark on an ARS is taken, the first step is to empower the core team on the antirumours approach and methodology. Then there is a need to conduct an antirumours diagnosis focusing on four specific areas: context and main diversity challenges of the city; existing initiatives and key actors to involve; identification of main rumours about diversity issues and social groups; analysis of rumours and identifying antirumours arguments. The third step is to the creation of an antirumours network, as it is one of the key elements of an ARS. This is not yet another municipal policy, but a long-term city strategy that needs the engagement and involvement of a variety of social actors. Social participation is crucial for its success, impact and sustainability. The fourth step is the training of antirumours agents, as one of the strategy's main objectives is to empower people with the theoretical knowhow, skills and practical tools to be more effective in challenging prejudices and rumours. The next step is the design and implementation of specific antirumours activities and campaigns, which have to focus on specific objectives and target groups (youth, civil servants, politicians, media etc.) and seeks to challenge prejudices and rumours by promoting critical thinking, positive interaction, raise awareness through arts and creative communication strategies and direct confrontation of prejudices and rumours on face-to-face conversations, on social media etc.

The evaluation of the antirumours strategies of the ten cities taking part in the C4i project found that, overall, the ARS proved to be an innovative, relevant, effective, applicable and replicable approach for social mobilization at a local level, dismantling erroneous ideas and rumours, and improving people's attitudes towards diversity and migration.

The strategy is implemented thanks to the creation of a collaborative network promoted by the municipality and involving a great variety of actors from civil society (NGOS, schools, libraries, cultural and sports centres, universities, associations of neighbours, parents, immigrants, religious centres, universities etc.

More information: [The Antirumours Handbook](#)

