



## ICC THEMATIC SEMINAR

26 – 27 April 2018

### LIVING TOGETHER IN INCLUSIVE DEMOCRACIES: HOW CAN THE INTERCULTURAL APPROACH PROMOTE PARTICIPATION IN DIVERSE SOCIETIES?

#### Description of working groups

**Working Group 1:** Mainstreaming the intercultural approach into the development of inclusive and participatory tools for participatory democracy and local governance

**Moderator:** Mr Robin Wilson, ICC expert

**Note taker:** Ms Ivana d’Alessandro, Head of the Intercultural Cities Unit, Council of Europe

**Working languages:** English

The intercultural approach seeks to foster a sense of shared citizenship among individuals of diverse backgrounds in the city, including through opportunities for participation in the public sphere. But how to ensure this really is inclusive? One mechanism is a formal partnership arrangement between the municipality and migrant and refugee NGOs. Another is to involve the widest range of organisations, advocates and practitioners in designing (and then delivering) a municipal integration strategy. A third is to encourage non-citizens to take part in municipal elections (where legal) and to urge newcomers generally to join political parties, so that local democracy becomes more representative of the current (rather than past) demography of the city. Yet another is to enrich the public sphere by moderating local or thematic forums, physically or online, including with the assistance of intercultural mediators, on diversity issues. Another still is to support minority and intercultural media outlets which stimulate public awareness and debate. What should be the priorities? Or should each city choose its own combination of options, given its particularity? Are there any other avenues to enhance participation in an intercultural way?

**Working Group 2:** Social innovation for full, intersectoral and inclusive participation in diverse communities (with special focus on migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, Roma, isolated groups, etc.)

**Moderator:** Ms Mel Stevens, Founder and Director of People Places Lives

**Note taker:** Mr Oliver Freeman, ICC expert

**Working language:** English

Social innovation is not a new concept now and there are numerous strategies, ideas and organizations that have been created over the last decade to meet civic and social needs. However, it is often seen as an end to itself rather than a means to an end and we need to shift from ideas to implementation.

There are 2 important strands in exploring this:

- 1) How do we ensure inclusive participation in the process of social innovation? (For example, isolated groups not just recipients of innovation but as creators, experts and decision makers).
- 2) Ultimately, so what? How does it make a difference?

Specifically, how does this translate for turning the ambition for full intersectoral and inclusive participation into reality? How can diverse communities be fully involved in the creation of social innovation? This workshop will harness the collective wisdom of participants to try and go beyond recommendations and agree what actions can cities (local authorities) take to start implementing the use of social innovation as a tool for inclusive communities.

**Working Group 3: Co-design and co-implementation of public policies: definition, capacity building, consultation and participation processes, tools, and community evaluation**

**Moderator:** Ms Kelly Mc Bride, The Democratic Society

**Note taker:** Ms Kseniya Rubicondo, Coordinator of the Ukrainian network of Intercultural Cities (ICC-UA)

**Working language:** English

There's a range of different participatory tools, methods and approaches to involve people in making and shaping decisions that affect them. In this working group, we'll explore what it means to 'co-design' and 'co-implement' public policies and what to consider when undertaking an inclusive participatory process. We'll discuss the practicalities and questions including: How do we develop facilitative leadership in public authorities to support participation? How do we build skills and capacity with communities? What can we co-design? What processes are possible? How do we know the community is benefitting and how do we approach evaluation?

**Working Group 4: Methodologies and instruments for the development of inclusive participation in multicultural contexts (including the promotion of intercultural dialogue, mediation and conflict resolution)**

**Moderator:** Mr Alexis Mesa Marrero, Coordinator of the Intercultural Community Intervention Project (ICI Taco)

**Note Taker:** Mr Daniel Buraschi, Research and Consultant

**Working languages:** Spanish and French

Methodologies and tools for the development of inclusive participation in multicultural contexts (including intercultural dialogue, mediation and conflict solving promotion).

The development of inclusive participation requires using methods and tools suitable for the aims pursued, especially in multicultural contexts where very different contributions and even highly diverse ways of understanding participation are intended to be combined. In this case, community dynamisation, dialogue promotion and intercultural mediation or conflict solving techniques, among others, are crucial. They are all the more effective whenever the different main players of reality are engaged in its definition, application and evaluation. Do we often prioritise participation methods over its aims? Which are the methodologies and tools for developing inclusive participation in multicultural contexts? Do all participation methodologies and tools promote inclusive participation? What makes the ones that do stand out? Has it been considered to adapt participation methodologies and tools to the new multicultural reality of territories? Do we facilitate the intervention of the main players of reality in the election (or design) and adjustment of participation methodologies and tools? Which basic elements should be included in a methodology or tool aiming at promoting inclusive participation in a multicultural context? What specific contribution do intercultural dialogue, mediation and conflict solving solution make to the promotion of inclusive participation?

**Working Group 5:** From specific to mainstream policies - Building political will and understanding of Roma inclusion through joint action at local level. Learning from the case of ROMACT

**Modératrice:** Ms Ana Oprisan, ROMACT Programme Manager, Council of Europe

**Note taker:** Ms Lilia Makaveeva, ROMACT National Project Officer Bulgaria

**Working language:** English

The Council of Europe and the European Commission's joint ROMACT Programme has been implemented in 114 municipalities of 6 EU countries and follows a methodological approach which includes community participation, cooperation with local authorities and capacity development at local level for a more sustainable social inclusion of the most disadvantaged communities, including the Roma. The workshop will showcase the example of Ispernih municipality which implemented a mainstream policy on access to kindergartens, following the joint work done by the members of the ROMACT Community Action Group which started from a need emphasized and advocated for by the Roma community. Participation, especially in disenfranchised communities is particularly challenging. Local authorities need adaptive tools and intercultural competences to be able to work in an inclusive manner in serving their citizens. Improving the living conditions of the Roma helps benefit the mainstream communities that they are part of. The workshop will discuss the value of local action and the need of inclusiveness of policies that can be mainstreamed and benefit all.

For more info, see also the ROMACT methodological handbook: <http://coe-romact.org/resources>