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ICC-Ukraine 2017 Annual Report



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Who we are?

[The National Intercultural Cities Network of Ukraine \(ICC-UA\)](#) includes six cities offering a good geographical coverage of the country. The ICC-UA members – Lutsk, Melitopol, Odessa, Pavlograd, Sumy and Vinnytsia – recognize the importance of the diversity advantage for the development of their communities and take strategic approach to the implementation of the ICC’s urban model of intercultural integration fostering intercultural dialogue, urban space development along the goals of intercultural mixing, promoting best practice exchange, and giving more visibility to their Network at the local, national and international levels.

Since 2015, when the II phase of the Ukrainian Network was launched, the ICC-UA members have been working diligently to implement the key points of [the Recommendation CM/Rec \(2015\)1 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe](#) in their communities. Namely, the ICC-UA cities



- encourage the implementation of the urban model of intercultural integration in their communities within their means of competences and via individual ICC strategies development;
- bring the urban model of intercultural integration to the attention of local and regional authorities, relevant national, regional and local institutions, organisations and networks
- effectively apply the tools which have been developed – the ICC Index in particular – to facilitate the implementation and measure the impact of the urban model of intercultural integration on their communities;
- promote the diversity advantage in their communities and support the setting-up of city networks for the exchange of experience and learning in this respect;
- and take note and facilitate the dissemination of the guidelines provided by “The intercultural city step by step: Practical guide for applying the urban model of intercultural integration” document, including via the ICC-UA Guidebook preparation in the official language of Ukraine.

Lutsk

Lutsk is a city in northwestern Ukraine with the population of 217,103 people¹ that includes people of different origins – Polish, Belorussian, Russian, Georgian, Czech, Jewish, Azerbaijani, Armenian, Roma, Crimea Tatar and others. The city has a well-established European network of sister-cities, which counted 18 total in 2016, and collaborates very dynamically internationally. Already in 2016, the year when the city officially joined the ICC-UA network, a number of events were carried out in Lutsk focusing on intercultural priorities of the city.



Melitopol

Melitopol is located in South Eastern Ukraine, some 70 km from the Sea of Azov and around 150 from the Crimea. The "city of honey" is famous for its cherry plantations and its engine-building industry. Melitopol is a unique city where many ethnicities and nationalities have coexisted in harmony for over 200 years. Ethnic and national groups are completely integrated in the city's social and political life.



Odessa

Odessa is the third most populous municipality of Ukraine - 1 008 217 people.² It is a major seaport and transportation hub on the Black Sea shore (south of Ukraine). Odessa is a remarkable example of the colorful diversity of nations and cultures. More than 130 nationalities have historically cohabited in the city leaving a special mark to its culture, historic sights, architecture, cuisine and even language that is believed to emerge as a result of the interweaving of different cultures.



¹ State Statistics of Ukraine, 2015.

² As of July 1, 2016 according to the data of the Main Department of Statistics in Odessa region.

Pavlograd

Pavlograd is an industrial city in the eastern Ukraine and one of the oldest settlements in Dnipropetrovsk region. Today Pavlograd counts slightly more than 109,000 inhabitants diverse in their cultural background. Regardless its industrial focus, Pavlograd has always had a high quality cultural life and institutions. It is a home to many known artists and typical for the region and internationally recognized - e.g. by UNESCO - painting and embroidery traditions.



Sumy

Sumy is a city in the north-east of Ukraine and is the capital of the Sumy region (oblast). It was founded in 1652 as a Cossack fortress and was intended to protect Sloboda from the Crimean Tartar attacks. Subsequently, Sumy was incorporated into the Russian Empire and evolved into an important economic center, mainly due to the sugar industry development. Today the city counts 271.000 inhabitants, of which 75% are Ukrainians, whereas 15% are non-nationals.



Vinnytsia

Vinnytsia is a city in west-central Ukraine, located on the banks of the Southern Bug. It is the administrative center of Vinnytsia Oblast and the largest city in the historic region of Podolia. Administratively, it is incorporated as a town of oblast significance. It also serves as an administrative center of Vinnytsia Raion, one of the 27 districts of Vinnytsia Oblast, though it is not a part of the district. Population: 371,698.³



³ According to 2013 estimations.

Executive Summary

The year 2017 was marked for the Ukrainian ICC Network by a number of intercultural events, common initiatives, fruitful meetings, workshops and new created opportunities. All activities planned for the years 2016-2017 in the relevant [Action Plan of the Network](#) were successfully completed. This report offers a detailed review.

To mark the 10th anniversary of the Intercultural Cities Programme of the Council of Europe this year, the ICC-UA members took seriously and accomplished efficaciously one of the key conditions of the ICC-UA Memorandum - to conduct Intercultural Cities (ICC) Index analysis of their communities within 12 months following the ICC-UA Memorandum signature with the Council of Europe. Today, the Ukrainian ICC Network is proud to admit that its every member was ICC Index tested by the end of 2017, which obviously adds to our common success as the ICC-UA Network and as the ICC Programme as a whole. As a result, all Ukrainian cities received a comprehensive feedback from the Programme experts including ICC Index rating and detailed recommendations on all 14 policy areas constituting intercultural approach.



For some time, the ICC experts have observed an association between the intercultural performance of the ICC cities as measured by the [ICC Index](#) and the degree of satisfaction with living conditions in these cities.⁴ Interestingly enough, as upon the ICC Index testing of its member-cities, this observation appears to be valid for the Ukrainian ICC Network as well. Two

cities-members of the ICC-Ukraine Network – Vinnitsa and Lutsk – that scored comparatively high on the ICC Index, are also among the top three in the national rating of the 'most comfortable for living'⁵ cities in Ukraine. Other two members of the ICC-UA – Odessa and Sumy – who are also well ranked on ICC Index – are listed in the top 20 in the municipal nationwide survey commissioned by the [International Republican Institute](#) in Ukraine in February 2017.

⁴ See the conclusions of the [comparative study of the ICC Index](#) and Eurobarometer's Quality of Life Data conducted by the Council of Europe's expert in November 2016.

⁵ This rating is a result of a [municipal nationwide survey commissioned by IRI](#) conducted in February 2017 by the sociological group "Rating". 17,500 respondents took part in the survey evaluating the quality of cities' life by analysing more than 20 types of provided services.

ICC-UA Progress in 2017

In 2017, the Ukrainian ICC members organized and participated in a number of ICC partner initiatives, national and international exchanges, meetings and trainings further promoting urban model of the intercultural integration. Several seminars, workshops, study-visits, information sessions, inter-religious and inter-cultural gatherings were held in ICC-Ukraine communities focusing on newcomers, youth, educators, journalists, city administrators, SMEs, and with specific attention to internally displaced persons (IDPs), given the nowadays situation in Ukraine. The representatives of municipal services and various city organizations from Pavlograd, Lutsk, Odessa, Vinnytsia, Sumy and Melitopol took part in the ICC study visits, trainings and other thematic meetings in Ukraine, France and Portugal.

The II Annual ICC-UA Meeting of Local Coordinators was held in Odessa on April 18-19, 2017 with the participation of all members. It was for the first time in its history that Odessa welcomed the ICC Network partners and event. Located on the Black Sea shore, Odessa is also the first city in ICC-UA Network with a million population.

More than 130 different nationalities live in the city that looks at its cultural diversity as a source of economic development and inspiration. The most recent example of this is the side-by-side establishment of two city parks – Greek and Turkish – in the central area of Odessa, designed following the suggestions and agreement of the representatives of both cultures. The Turkish Park was officially opened in May 2017 with the presence of the leaders of the country.



Odessa highly values its ICC-UA Network membership and the opportunities provided by the ICC Programme and the Council of Europe in terms of international contacts and intercultural competence expansion, expert support, exchange of best practice and know-how of European and international ICC partners.

"Odessa is a city of peace and tolerance. We treat the representatives of all nationalities living in our city with deep respect. And we are ready to become an international platform for showing an example of cultural diversity and intercultural integration. In Odessa, we have some success stories in this regard, and we are ready to share our experience" said Gennady Trukhanov, the Mayor of Odessa. Following the suggestion of



the national ICC-UA coordinator, the meeting participants agreed that Odessa can be rightfully called an intercultural harbour of Ukraine.

The two-day productive meeting in Odessa that started with the signing of the ICC-UA Memorandum with the mayor of Odessa Mr. Gennady Trukhanov, resulted not only in the development and approval of the ICC-UA Action Plan 2017 but also in the launch of one of the key ICC-UA initiative of the year – ICC-Ukraine Guidebook. The Guidebook will

contain the information about the principles and concepts of the ICC Programme in general, their actuality for Ukraine, adjusted to Ukrainian environment ICC Programme tools, the benefits and responsibilities of the ICC-UA network members, their experiences, and the step-by-step guide on how to become an ICC-UA member and maintain this status.

Odessa was generously sharing with the meeting participants its intercultural heritage offering the Intercultural Itinerary experience – a tourist tour across a variety of cultural neighborhoods of the city such as Moldavian, Greek, Jewish, Bulgarian and others with a possibility to meet their ethnic representatives – and presenting its recent publication “Odessa is for all”. “Tourism 4 Social Enterprise” Workshop was also proposed to be held for the ICC-UA cities representatives in Odessa at the end of September 2017.

ICC Strategy Development, Vinnytsia

First on the ICC-UA Action Plan 2017 was the ICC Strategy Development training in Vinnytsia on May 22-23, 2017, which was held following Vinnitsa’s 10th anniversary of the Europe’s Day⁶ celebration. The Europe’s Day tradition was established by the former Vinnytsia’s Mayor and the current Prime Minister of Ukraine Mr. Volodymyr Groysman and is regarded as a testimony of the city’s openness, international enthusiasm and approval of the European values. Many high level officials from Ukrainian national government attended the event including the Prime Minister himself. Ambassadors and

⁶ For more info see official web of Vinnitsa <http://www.vmr.gov.ua/en/Lists/News/ShowNews.aspx?ID=91>

representatives from a number of the EU countries were also present. Hence, beyond the ICC Strategy development training, it was a great opportunity for networking and raising awareness about the Council of Europe’s Intercultural Cities Programme and the Ukrainian ICC Network. During the discussions with honorable guests, the information was shared with the national ICC-UA coordinator that Vinnytsia is currently working on “Vinnytsia City Concept for Integrated Development 2030.”⁷



The two-day training in Vinnytsia featured the introductory lecture “The ICC Index as a tool for ICC Strategy Performance Measurement” by Dr. Kseniya Rubicondo, the ICC expert and the national coordinator of the ICC-Ukraine Network. The speech grew into an interactive workshop on “How to move from ICC Index to an efficient ICC

Strategy.” Ten key focus areas of “Vinnytsia City Concept for Integrated Development 2030” were also discussed during the workshop in line with the 14 ICC policy dimensions. In order to further engage the city officials, five core questions were put in front of the training participants at the end of the first day to trigger thinking about their strategic vision of intercultural Vinnytsia and the contribution they could make for a more intercultural community. On day two, these questions were taken as the basis for another interactive session by the ICC expert Paul Chapman. Having had an opportunity to think through the questions the day before, the participants were invited to expand their ideas in order to obtain concrete proposals and achievable actions as an outcome.

According to Vinnytsia ICC local coordinator, relevant inputs were collected from all training participants and some civil society organizations. The results are currently ongoing content analysis, based on which the city will appoint a Working Group to identify concrete operational goals, tasks and initiatives that would comprise the ICC Strategy. Within the two-day visit, a separate meeting was scheduled between the ICC experts and the local media representatives in order to obtain experts’ advice on how to improve Vinnytsia’s media strategy along the ICC policy lines. Furthermore, the ICC Experts were also interviewed by a TV channel VITA. The interview titled [“What is Interculturality?”](#) was broadcasted on May 25, 2017.

⁷ See <http://www.vmr.gov.ua/Lists/IntegratedUrbanDevelopment/ShowContent.aspx?ID=9>

Expert Visits – Odessa, Lutsk and Pavlograd

The ICC-Index analysis of the cities-members is one of the conditions of the ICC-UA Memorandum. Index analysis as well as an intercultural profile creation of a city is usually a result of an ICC expert team visit to a given city. Expert visits to the cities of Vinnitsa, Sumy and Melitopol were conducted in 2016 (see the ICC-UA 2016 Annual Report for more information). Cities of Odessa, Lutsk and Pavlograd fulfilled this condition and tested their policies through the intercultural lens within the current year. As a result, Odessa and Lutsk have already received a comprehensive feedback from the Programme experts including ICC Index rating and detailed recommendations on all 14 policy areas constituting intercultural approach. The intercultural city profiles of [Odessa](#), [Lutsk](#) and [Pavlograd](#) were also created and are available on the official Council of Europe's website. Some of the experts' conclusions from these visits are provided below.

Intercultural Odessa

An expert visit to Odessa took place at the end of June 2017 and the city was honored to welcome the Manager of the ICC Programme of the Council of Europe Ms. Irena Guidikova, the ICC experts Mr. Phil Wood and Dr. Kseniya Ruboicondo. The experts met with a large number of city officials, administrators, educators, representatives of different minority groups. A Statement of Intent was signed between the city of Odessa and the Council of Europe at the time of the visit.

Odessa is a city which was founded upon the principles of openness and interaction, and it has strived to maintain them, even through very difficult periods of repression, prohibition and communal strife. For much of its history it has seen itself as a city state, with its own unique perspective. This has been partly a survival strategy, to distance itself from the political challenges which tend to originate from the interior; and to open itself to opportunities which have often arrived by sea. It is often the fate of port cities to have this one-foot-in-one-foot-out attitude to its hinterland but with Odessa, because of the



extreme experiences of its history, it seems even more so. Ironically, as a consequence of the clashes of May 2014, Odessa perhaps now feels more a direct and patriotic connect with Ukraine that ever before.

The city, and its political leadership, now give a strong sense that Odessa wants to move on again and follow its destiny as a city with a place in international affairs and trade. The city feels impatient to be allowed the freedoms and powers within the national system to take its own decisions and to achieve its ambitions. Joining the ICC network therefore seems like a logical step.

Whilst Odessa has all the ruthless pragmatism of any trading port, it is also a city with soul. It has generated its own identity and mythology as a city of sharp but big-hearted chancers, but what was less expected was the numerous expressions of municipal empathy and compassion that we observed. Odessa seems determined that it will be judged, not only upon the achievements of its most successful citizens, but by the way it embraces the most vulnerable in society. It seems like the city is not only welcoming to tourists and business travelers who bring trade and investment, but also to those who have few resources or serious needs.



The City Council portrays itself as an investor in people, even though it may take many years for that investment to be reciprocated. Particularly through the way it has grown and maintained its network of ex-patriate Odessites abroad, and its web of sister cities, Odessa has much valuable expertise to bring the ICC network. Also, with its expertise in the staging of large events, it offers the opportunity for hosting ICC gatherings, for example a thematic seminar on tourism and Interculturality; or an experience-sharing event on developing entrepreneurship with IDPs and refugees.

Odessa in turn can use the 120+ cities in the network to extend its branding and message. It can look to the possibilities of sharing costs and efforts on promotion city-marketing for example. Perhaps the City Council could begin by staging a meeting within the context of the ICC Milestone Event in Lisbon in November 2017.

Intercultural Lutsk

The two-day expert visit to Lutsk took place on July 2-3, 2017. An intensive schedule included visits to Lutsk Social Services, Employment Center, meetings with the members of the City Council, administrators, local NGOs, educational institutions, religious representatives, minority groups and IDPs. Lutsk is a city that faces multiple challenges with the pressures of the present and uncertainties of the future whilst slowly coming to terms with the painful legacy of the past. With a dynamic cadre of municipal officials and NGOs it is doing this with an impressive energy and optimism.



It is well aware of its strategic location close to several frontiers but also gateways to different cultures and economic zones, and it is taking this very seriously, trying to reduce barriers and smooth the free movement of people, even if this brings

risk with it. In a country which has often been held back by obstructive, inefficient and untrustworthy public services, Lutsk is making a commitment to a much high quality and transparency of public service.

There are three policy themes to the Council's international cooperation and projects: Cooperation with Sister Cities; International integration events; and Project implementation. Lutsk has 18 sisters in 11 countries including 7 in Poland. There is a Tripartite Agreement with Belarus and Poland involving 7 projects in medical, culture, tourism and animal care/zoo activities. There are now 5 new projects for the 2015-20 period including fire protection and bicycle infrastructure. There is a new program for cooperation on waste management with German cities. 30 Germans visited Lutsk in October on youth and social policy, financed by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 2010 Lutsk was honored with the Europe Prize, an award for municipalities by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. So far they have been awarded the flag of honor and plaque of honor, which will be formally conferred on the Day of the City in August. The next step is to apply for the Prize of honor for international exchanges - the fourth level - which will open doors to support future exchanges.



The City Council has a lot of influence on the development of small business. For example it coordinates the work of restaurants and hotels through granting of permits. It runs support programmes for SMEs but would like more money to do more entrepreneurship development. It also supports in non-financial ways through business associations an advice and helping to resolve difficulties with the bureaucracy. They meet businesses and

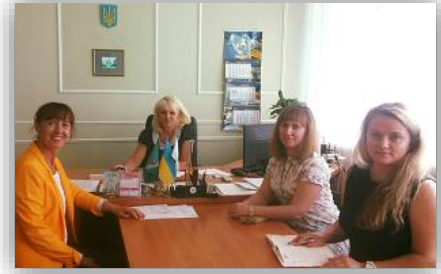
discuss problems like the difficult tax system and Parliamentary decisions which affect business. By far the greatest impediment to business development is Ukraine's badly formed taxation policy. The City thinks the system keeps an unnecessarily low level of taxes for small businesses, for example market stalls pay 160UAH per month, and street kiosks pay no tax at all.

Whilst Lutsk does not experience a high level of international or national minority diversity, its experience of IDP settlement offers many parallels and it has developed much experience and expertise as a consequence. The city benefits from the positive birth rate and population growth and it should aim to nurture and capitalize upon the talents, optimism and energy of its young people.

A very joyful surprise was waiting for the ICC experts upon their arrival to Lutsk on July 1, as the city celebrated the Night in Lutsk Castle that day. The experts were invited to the press conference with the participation of the Acting Mayor and a number of international artists, singers, dancers and musicians who were invited to Lutsk and were charmingly performing in its Castle almost all night following the press-conference. A number of interactive spots were organized around the Castle with the internally displaced people and refugees, as well as mothers and widows of the ATO soldiers.



Following the expert visits to Odessa and Lutsk, a meeting between the national ICC-UA coordinator and the ICC Sumy team was held in Sumy City Hall. The discussion focused on the ICC Index analysis, relevant recommendations provided by the Programme experts and the ways of their implementation via Sumy ICC Strategy development.



Intercultural Pavlograd

Two ICC experts – Robin Wilson and Kseniya Rubicondo – visited Pavlograd on 25-29 September 2017 aiming to learn more about its intercultural profile, hold interview, discussions, offer advice and collect necessary information and conduct preliminary analysis of the city using the experts' and the ICC Index questionnaires.

The meetings, intercultural lounge gatherings, educational and municipal organizations visits and discussions with the NGOs, youth, educators, mine-workers, IDPs were very open and sincere. “We are one family” motto of Olena Shulika – the Deputy Mayor of Pavlograd and local ICC coordinator – was felt in the atmosphere of the city and proven in discussions.

The meeting with the representatives of national minorities marked the closure of the 2-day visit. This was the most engaging and interesting meeting, where friendly relationship between many ethnic communities was observed and the perspectives for the establishment of an intercultural center of Pavlograd were openly discussed.



A city of 30 nationalities, Pavlograd has a different story to tell about the diversity of its population. A large number of Jews – up to 75% - lived in the city before the II World War and its total population was hardly above 25000 people. In middle of the 20th century, Pavlograd became a strategic city of the former Soviet Union, where many mines, factories and other heavy industry enterprises were developed. As the city

expanded, many high-level specialists from all over the Soviet Union came here by appointment for 2-3-year period of time and many of them stayed. That is why today many representatives from the former Soviet countries reside in Pavlograd - Azerbaijanis, Armenians, Belarusians, Georgians, Crimea Tatars, Kazakhs, Russians, Estonians and Polish. Representatives of Roma population, Koreans, Afro-Americans and other nationalities join to the ethno-cultural mix of the city and – as concluded from the 2-day expert visit – play an active role in the social and economic life of Pavlograd.



In addition, since the time of the military conflict in the East of Ukraine, almost 7000 of IDP families arrived to Pavlograd. Almost half of them remain in the city, which regards them as a resource, and not as a "foreign body" or an issue. "We offer these people the opportunity to open up and to act," says the deputy mayor Ms. Elena Shulika, "and many of them give back a few

times more to the city community." There are many civil society organizations in the city that work to create the space for different cultures to interact. Those include the "Intercultural Lounge", Euroclub "Europe +", Cinema Club, Youth center "Funduk", youth movement "Positive Pavlograd", etc.

The arrival of the IDPs in the last few years caused a big demographic shift in the city. The official responsible for social security in Pavlograd said that at one point his agency was financing 7000 IDP households—that figure was down to 3,000 or more for the time of the visit, with some still unemployed. Nevertheless, for a city of Pavlograd's modest size, this was a testing influx—much greater proportionately than the 2 million or so who [sought asylum](#) across the European Union (population 508 million) in 2014-16, widely represented as a 'refugee crisis'.

Long historical trajectory explains a positive feature of Pavlograd, which can be a valuable foundation for an intercultural future. Far from exhibiting a typical, small-city provincialism, Pavlograd prides itself on its openness. The city's Agency for Economic Development was established as a business center, however it links business and civil society and



develops social enterprises. It is also involved in public renovation—elements of the public realm in Pavlograd are a little dilapidated in places—and it defines itself as a public, non-commercial and non-governmental organization. It is supported financially by the municipality, which is represented on the board alongside business and civil society. Among its activities are developing skills and creativity, offering business consultations and individual advice. It supports projects variously of a social (including for people with disabilities and IDPs), community (with a competitive grant scheme) and intercultural character.

The 2017 was announced as the Intercultural Year in Pavlograd. This means that public and private organization provide support to many business ideas and civil society initiatives focused on social and economic development of the city along the ICC principles of mixing, dialoguing and valuing the diversity advantage. It is also noteworthy e.g. that the concept of tolerance is well respected and is 'in the air' in Pavlograd. It is often heard not only from the city leaders and public officials, but also from city residents, school educators, mine workers, youths, IDPs and minority representatives.

Pavlograd ICC Index data have been currently under analysis, which will result in more concrete recommendations for the city in terms of its development along the intercultural policy lines.



Intercultural Hospitality Enterprise Workshop

One of the 14 ICC policy dimensions is the cities' welcoming policy that assures due welcome of newly arrived. Newly arrived include not only migrants and refugees, IDPs or foreigners, but also students, business travelers, tourists and requires a variety of approaches depending on the target audience and available resources in the city. The welcoming policy can have a form of multilingual information set, service package or relevant ceremony.

Building on tourism know-how of the city of Odessa - a member of ICC-Ukraine and one of the leaders of tourism industry in Ukraine, - and social enterprise experience of



international ICC experts, a two-day Intercultural Hospitality workshop was held in Odessa on 28-29 September 2017, where the development of an applied innovative concept of Intercultural Hospitality Enterprise was launched.

Intercultural Hospitality Enterprise was broadly defined as a responsible, economically sustainable entrepreneurial initiative with a sizable social impact on

the city newcomers or minorities. The workshop started with a detailed exploration of the social enterprise notion in the context of diversity advantage. Best international practices were presented by Dr. Noha Nasser in an interactive session. Local entrepreneurs described their responsible tourism initiatives, such as OdessaCart, Ethno-Cultural Tours, and Info Group.

The Workshop gathered participants from all ICC-UA cities-members, who agreed on an Intercultural Hospitality Enterprise Road Map for the Ukrainian Intercultural Cities Network committing to launch new intercultural hospitality enterprise projects in their cities within the next 12 to 18 months. The ICC-UA Intercultural Hospitality Enterprise goals are



well aligned with the mission and objectives of the Diversity Connectors project of the Council of Europe that focuses on the development of diverse startups and incubators that create synergies across cultures, genders, religions, and age groups.

ICC-UA Social Media Presence

The ICC-UA Facebook and Twitter were launched back in 2015 and operated fully in 2017. The ICC-UA Facebook community grows every year connecting city mayors, public officials, journalists, media actors, activists, culture and education professionals, young people, IDPs, civil society organizations and NGOs far beyond the residents of only six cities members of the network. National and local coordinators are, of course, among the most active reporters of the page, yet individuals and organizations are active contributors as well.

A few ICC-UA members – such as Melitopol, Lutsk and Pavlograd (upcoming) - have developed their official intercultural webpages, such as [Intercultural City Melitopol](#), [Lutsk Intercultural](#), where they formally acknowledge their intercultural commitment and Network membership, publish city intercultural strategy or action plan. The city of Melitopol and Lutsk also run their own “Melitopol is an intercultural capital of Ukraine” and “Lutsk Intercultural” Facebook pages that count more than 1000 members altogether.



Regular updates from the ICC-UA Network are regularly available on the above indicated web pages, the official ICC Programme site, its monthly Newsletter and shared with the Council of Europe’s Office in Kyiv, Ukraine. They are also published in the ICC-UA cities’ local newspapers, broadcasted via local TV, radio, [Facebook](#), Twitter, YouTube and social media channels: [II Annual ICC-UA Local Coordinators’ Meeting in Odessa](#) (YouTube), an interview of the ICC experts by a TV channel VITA in Vinnytsia, titled [“What is Interculturality?”](#) (YouTube).

International Study Visits and Projects

Ukrainian cities are keen to discover and learn from the best practices of the European fellow-members of the Programme. Of particular interest are the interreligious and interfaith relations, university partnerships, city partnerships, and of course, refugee (or internally displaced people) integration, as the latter remains one of the most visible integration issue in Ukrainian cities. Their propositions were heard and the representatives of city administrations as well as local coordinators from Pavlograd, Lutsk and Odessa, took part in the thematic study visit in Lyon, France.

Representatives from two Ukrainian incubators located in Melitopol and Odessa took part in the experimental project of the ICC Programme “Diversity Connector for Start-Ups: the Art of Mixing.” It is a two-year pilot initiative which explores existing good practice amongst incubators, cities, corporate and philanthropic funders to inform the design of diversity in entrepreneurial context. The first meetings of the project that was held in Barcelona (Spain) and Berlin (Germany) this year resulted in the founding of the pan-European network of diversity start-ups. The project participants have also recorded a series of [videos](#), where they offer an overview of activities in their cities emphasizing the importance of cultural diversity for enterprise creation. These videos are available on the [Diversity Connector](#) webpage of the Programme.



Lutsk – Hosting Students from European ICC Cities

From September 25 to October 6, 2017, an Italian student from the University of Modena, Reggio Emilia (Italy), Vito Maria Raspanti visited Lutsk with a study visit. Vito is originally from Sicily and now is working on his Master in "Intercultural politics, hospitality and well-being." He is also a volunteer – often provides medical and psychological assistance to refugees and migrants. In addition, Vito works as a nurse at the Hospital of Padua (Italy).

Vito enjoyed the intercultural environment of Lutsk and was particularly interested in learning about the hospitality and openness of the city leadership and its population with regards to new arrivals, people of other ethnic origin, internally displaced persons; and about the quality of communication between the government, community and public organizations is.



During the visit the student got acquainted with the activity specifics of various executive bodies of the city council. He noted high professional level of the Center for Provision of Administrative Services of Lutsk, and also was very positively surprised by the active support of internally displaced persons and other social projects run by Lutsk Employment Center.

The ICC Milestone Event, Lisbon

It is also worth mentioning that the Mayors of Pavlograd, Odessa and Lutsk, as well as city administrators and local coordinators from Sumy and Melitopol, were honorably invited by the ICC Programme Manager Irena Guidikova and will take part in the ICC Milestone Event in Lisbon, Portugal, on November 28-29 2017 to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Council of Europe's Programme, engage in a debate with Mayors about the most innovative and successful approaches to managing urban cultural diversity and the intercultural approach to social integration across Europe and worldwide; to help design solutions to urban challenges in dialogue with diverse residents of Lisbon; and to take part in the Inclusive Integration Policy lab to debate with Mayors & Ministers about building effective multi-level governance of diversity.

Raising Awareness

The ICC-UA members work to implement the Intercultural Model for diversity management in their respective urban territories as well as at the intra- and inter-regional levels. It was evident from the expert visits to the cities – especially those where representatives from different Ukrainian cities took part – that there is an interest and a potential for inter-city collaboration across many areas of intercultural policy including private and public sector and such fields as public service, urban planning, tourism, entrepreneurship, education, and culture.

Moreover, individual city-members are eager to spread the intercultural idea in their regions. Many of them suggest cities-candidates for ICC-UA network membership from their regions. Some cities take a more practical approach in terms of such regional cooperation. For example, the Center for Sociological Studies of Melitopol University came with an initiative and worked together with the ICC-UA manager on a project proposal “The design of strategic intercultural integration roadmaps for polytechnic cities in Azov region.” The project is aiming to popularize the urban model of intercultural integration in such strategic for Ukraine cities as Mariupol, Mangush, Priazovye, Primorsk, Genichesk, Novooleksiyivka and to establish collaborative ties between the cities in Azov region.



Summary

This report demonstrates that continuous exchange – via technological means as well as bilateral and multilateral meetings – between member cities and the national coordinator has become a common practice within the ICC-UA, which is a prerogative to the development of a strategic approach and solutions to common challenges based on joint policy solutions and actions.

The activities carried out in 2017 are well in line with the relevant ICC-UA Action Plan and the goals of the Intercultural Cities Programme of the Council of Europe. The ICC-UA members' interests and priorities are addressed and methodological support in carrying out specific activities, in line with the ICC paradigm - e.g. completion of the ICC index, development and implementation of intercultural strategies, etc. - are provided by the national coordinator in cooperation with the other ICC experts and member cities.

Effective information sharing within the ICC-UA and International ICC Network is taking place via direct communication, social media, cities' web sites, newsletters, various reports and other means in the official language of the country (Ukrainian) and English, which facilitates relationships building between the ICC international network members.

Common initiatives are held within and between the ICC-UA members, including different city authorities, NGOs, media, universities, schools, libraries, youth and cultural centres. This assures further promotion of the ICC urban model of integration, ICC concepts, goals and achievements beyond the borders of the member-cities. This also contributes to the awareness raising about the ICC-UA network activities and facilitates its expansion.

Reports about the Network main milestone events, actions, activities, and their results are provided to the Council of Europe regularly and are reflected in the ICC monthly Newsletter.