



Meeting of the ICC-UA Coordinators

Summary of the 3rd Annual Coordinators Meeting

Lutsk, Ukraine 29-30 July 2018

The 3rd Coordinators' meeting of Ukrainian ICC Network in Lutsk (Volyn region, Ukraine) brought together local coordinators and representatives of ICC-UA cities, and, for special sessions, public officers and administrators of the hosting municipality. If generally summarized, the Meeting resulted in three major outcomes:

- 1) development and approval of 2018-2019 Strategy-Action Plan of the Network
- 2) review and approval of the ICC-Ukraine Guidebook, and
- 3) introduction of the novel concept of ICC-UA activity '*intercultural gurtivka*' ('informal, often ad-hoc gathering' in Ukraine) which was defined as a small- or medium size interactive meeting, where the most burning ICC related issues are discussed around a well-structured agenda, and, as a result, concrete steps and conclusions adopted as a position of the ICC-UA network; official documents and/or recommendations are expected to be issued and delivered to different level of institutional (*gurtivka* participating or not) bodies on behalf of the network.

The coordinators' meeting started with the summary-presentations of individual cities and was followed by an overview of the whole network activities within the last 14 months, i.e. since the last ICC-UA coordinators' meeting in Odessa, on April 18-19, 2017 (see ICC-UA 2017 Activity Report on the ICC Programme webpage). During the individual presentations, a few practices were highlighted as novel for Ukrainian environment or society in general (e.g. 'meet LGBT' and 'Koran readings' in Lutsk, 'Intercultural Citizen Test' in Vynnytsia, or 'painting my neighbour' in Pavlograd) and proposed for inclusion to the ICC best practices compilation in 2018.

During the discussions, ICC-UA coordinators highlighted the importance of clear and unbiased interpretation of the concept of 'cultural diversity' in nowadays Ukraine. According to the ICC-UA representatives, the notion is often heard in Ukrainian society today, however, its meaning is not always clear and sufficiently explained even at the level of Ukrainian national institutions and/or officials. Some Ukrainian Ministries are incorporating the concept in their new strategies and programmes, yet, the lack of understanding of the notion limits many local activists and actors in their intentions to fully engage in relevant society work and/or hampers their attempts to apply for relevant support funds. For this reason, the ICC-UA coordinators discussed very concrete steps for joint proposals and project applications preparation/submission that could help to improve the understanding of the cultural diversity, popularize ICC concepts and principles at all levels of Ukrainian society. The local ICC coordinator from Lutsk was selected to the panel of experts for project proposals selection/approval in the field of culture and art at the national level in Ukraine this year. Consequently, the city of Lutsk and the ICC-UA network as a whole has gained access to the first-hand information about the open calls in the field. The prospects of building ICC-UA consortium for project applications as well as the ICC Programme co-funding of (potential) UA



grant-winning project were also discussed.

Accordingly, the ICC-UA Action Plan 2018-2019 included such points as joint projects and applications development/submission for additional fundraising of the Network; common activities realisation, especially those focused on the ICC Programme mission, values and intercultural integration model implementation; taking into account the global ICC Network priorities, reaching out to the national level of politicians, actors and partners while gaining the momentum for diversity advantage principles dissemination; carrying out educational work on the subject of human and minority rights with national minorities, youth, IDPs, and other native and migrant society members.

Being aware of the ICC Programme priority topics of the year - that include intersectionality, inclusive participation, myth busting and fight against stereotypes, intercultural competence, and urban citizenship – launching a series of relevant *gurtivkas* in different ICC-UA cities within the next 12 months was approved as one of the important points on the ICC-UA Agenda. The first such meeting will be held in Melitopol Karaim Museum on September 12-13, 2018 with the participation of the ICC-UA cities, the representatives of the National Council of Ethnic Minorities of Ukraine www.radaspilnot.org.ua, city local and regional administrators, youth and community members. The proposed theme of Melitopol *gurtivka* is “Nationality vs. Nationalism”.

The issue of national minorities has gained a lot of attention in the heated pre-election atmosphere in Ukraine this summer, and following the tragic events of Roma camp violent attack in Lviv in June 2018. Social media discussions and TV debates are being organized to discuss the issue of minorities' integration in Ukraine. Some of these views are extreme and spread out xenophobic thinking, some are looking for progressive solutions to the current situation. The first ICC-A *gurtivka* is thus proposed in order to counterbalance arbitrary interpretation of concrete facts and intercultural concepts, to discuss the meaning and the value of diversity advantage for a community and a nation, and to review some key human and minority rights principles/documents (such as the CoE Framework Convention on National Minorities) together with the representatives of different ethnic communities populating Ukraine. This meeting is expected to engage with state-level bodies to gain support for ICC-UA vision and work and to de-polarise public debate, as well as to produce recommendations for the national level administrators on how to fight discrimination at its early stages by means of intercultural integration and the ICC model implementation.

The next *gurtivka* will be held in Vynnytsia on November 21, 2018 where the city will be delivering the results of its first Intercultural Citizens' Test. Vynnytsia is now conducting additional (to the ICC Index) analysis of the 'social tissue' of its community and works on the ways to incorporate its ICC Strategy into the overall Vynnytsia City Strategy 2030. A special consultancy service has been employed to work on 'merging' the two strategies. Hence, *gurtivka* in Vynnytsia will be accompanied by Vynnytsia Strategy 2030 Working Group meeting, where the final discussions will be held and decision made on the city's ICC Strategy integration in Vynnytsia City Strategy 2030. The city of Sumy will be hosting the third *gurtivka* focusing on effective anti-rumour approaches (re IDPs) that could help its community to become more integrated.

During the meeting in Lutsk, the coordinators also discussed the necessity to develop the ICC Strategy for all ICC-UA members taking into account the results of their recently produced individual ICC Index analyses. Some common cities' concerns were discussed. One of them is that the IC-UA cities that developed their ICC Strategies/Plans prior to the ICC Index analysis have



difficulties to 'deliver' along the lines of the ICC Index recommendations today. For instance, the city of Melitopol who was the first to develop and officially approve its ICC strategy in 2014-2015, struggles in terms of its implementation today along the lines of the recommendations provided as a result of its ICC Index test (produced in 2016). Another example is the city of Vynnytsia that took a very narrow focus when developing its initial ICC strategy (focusing predominantly on actors and partners from culture & arts field) and now, when working on its ICC strategy integration to the overall Vynnytsia City Strategy 2030, needs to 'reconnect' with the ICC Index produced conclusions and recommendations and make relevant adjustments to the document. The other four ICC-UA cities-members – Lutsk, Odessa, Pavlograd, and Sumy – understand that their ways to the ICC Strategy development are different, given different cities environment, needs and capacities; however, these ways are all linked to the cities' intercultural profiles, as defined by the ICC Index analysis. Consequently, the ICC-UA cities expressed their strong will to develop their ICC strategies based on the ICC Index provided recommendations and to start from a common exercise in the form of an all-ICC-UA workshop. As a result, a proposal was made to run such a Development Workshop for Ukrainian network in October 18 -19 2018, in Pavlograd.

Another part of the coordinators' meeting was dedicated to the presentation and detailed review of the ICC-UA Guidebook by the network members. The participants pointed out to the actuality and utility of the document in Ukrainian language, especially, as there is a need for clarity and unbiased interpretation of such concepts as ethnic or cultural diversity in Ukraine today, as well as for deeper understanding of the principles of diversity advantage, its competent management and intercultural integration. Suggestions were made to update a few presented in the document profiles of the ICC-UA members with their ICC Index results before publishing the Guidebook on-line. Prospects for printed publication of the Guidebook were considered, as it could be of help not only to the city administrators but also to the institutions and organizations at the regional and national levels in Ukraine to have such a handbook on their table and use it as a reference in their everyday work. Suggestions were also made to disseminate the Guidebook to Ukrainian libraries and universities.

A separate session of the two-day meeting was dedicated to a step-by-step review/interpretation of the results of the ICC Index Analysis of Lutsk (carried out by Kseniya Rubicondo). The acting mayor of Lutsk, Grygoriy Pustovit, took part and contributed actively to the session. A series of questions were answered by the expert/national coordinator concerning the ICC Index rating and classifications, conclusions, proposed for follow-up practices and recommendations. Her advice was searched on how to better implement the recommendations in Ukrainian and/or city context. The representatives of other cities-members of the ICC-UA contributed to the discussion with their relevant experience, questions and good practices in the areas where they scored comparatively higher in the ICC Index rating.

The discussions continued through the evening to define ways for improving the visibility of the ICC-UA at the national level via building multilateral connections and undertaking joint initiatives. Along the lines of the ICC 2018 priorities – as indicated in the relevant ICC documents following Lisbon meeting in 2017 – the coordinators reflected on the ways how to make the impact of the ICC-UA Network more meaningful politically. Suggestions were made to involve political leaders from different levels to ICC *gurtkivkas*, to continuously inform about ICC-UA cities practices and to 'educate' the politicians on the subject of cultural diversity and its benefits. Some ideas were discussed on how to join efforts in a common ICC-UA project that would produce a national scale impact.



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The ICC-UA local coordinators extended their invitation to Ivana d'Alessandro, the Head of the Intercultural Cities Unit, and Irena Guidikova, the Head of Division of Inclusion and Anti-discrimination Programmes of the Council of Europe, to attend any of the ICC-UA Network events (best fitting their schedule) in the upcoming months. The ICC-UA coordinators are convinced that 'seeing Ukraine from inside helps to understand the nuances of its everyday life, including political aspects'.

The next ICC-UA Annual Coordinators' Meeting is planned for May 23-24, 2019 and is proposed to be hosted by the city of Pavlograd.



Event	Date	Place	Experts Involved	Support	Notes
Grant Application Lutsk: Cultural Diversity in small-size city	2 July, 2018	Lutsk	Local experts: Tetiana Gnativ, Yaryna Turiv, Viktor	Lutsk City Hall and Department of Culture	The Head of Lutsk Department of Culture was approved as an expert in grant applications at the national level. The city is thus well informed and working to seize any fundraising opportunity
First Intercultural Gurtivka “Nationality vs. Nationalism” as a part of II Intercultural Forum of Melitopol	September 12-13 2018	Melitopol	Local experts: E. Arabadgi, L. Afanacieva, S.Boiko ICC expert: K. Rubicodno	Melitopol Karaim Museum, City Hall, Melitopol University CoE expert or event support	The first Intercultural Gurtivka is proposed within the framework of Melitopol Intercultural Forum
Overall ICC Strategy Development Workshop for Ukrainian network	October 25-26, 2018	Pavlograd	ICC expert: K. Rubicondo	ICC expert support CoE	
Study visit for police officers on community policing	October 23-25, 2018	Fuenlabrada, Spain		CoE support	Participating cities: Luttsk, Melitopol, Pavlograd
Working jointly on a project application/submission at the national level	November, 2018		Local experts, national coordinator	ICC expert support CoE	Interested cities: Lutsk, Pavlograd, Vynnytsia, Sumy, Melitopol, Odessa
Gurtivka “Intercultural Citizens’ Test”	November 21, 2018	Vynnytsia	Local experts: Y. Kashpruk, Yurii, Working Group members (city administr) ICC expert: K. Rubicondo	ICC expert support CoE	As a result of the ICC citizens’ test, the city will be finalizing its ICC strategy to integrate it in the Vynnytsia City Strategy 2030



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Anti-rumor Gurtivka	TBD	Sumy	Local experts, ICC Experts TBD	ICC expert support CoE	Some ICC-UA members expressed their interest in joining Gurtivka
ICC Event in Odessa (topic to be agreed with the City Hall)	TBD	Odessa	Local experts, ICC Experts TBD		
Christmas Gurtivka	TBD	Lutsk, Volyn	Local experts, national coordinator	ICC expert support CoE	All ICC-UA members expressed their interest in joining Gurtivka
Europe Day celebration	3 rd weekend of May 2019	All ICC-UA members	Local experts, national coordinator	ICC expert support CoE	
Annual ICC-UA Coordinators Meeting	late May 2019	Pavlograd	Network coordinator, local coordinators, ICC experts TBD	ICC expert support CoE	