

RECI – Intercultural Cities Network 14a Working Day Conference

Santa Cruz de Tenerife – 25th of April 2018

Carlos Enrique Alonso Rodríguez, President of the *Cabildo* de Tenerife, and Efraín Medina, Economic Vice-president and Insular Councillor of Employment and Economic Development of the *Cabildo* de Tenerife welcome all RECI cities to the first meeting of 2018 in Santa Cruz of Tenerife. Jaume Lanaspá, President of the RECI, and Dani de Torres, Director of the Network, extend their gratitude for the event's hosting in Tenerife, welcoming the cities and opening the meeting by setting out its objectives.

Dani will begin by presenting the **new members**:

- Málaga, Madrid, and Salt
- Marta Pérez, an expert from the RECI
- Roser de la Torre will also be welcome, an expert from the ICI project within the *Caixa* Foundation, and the new contact from the RECI

1. Agenda 2018 – 19. Priorities:

- A qualitative jump in communication: updating the **RECI website**
- **RECI dossiers**: the publication content for this year must be decided upon. In regards to this, Dani explains that the **Kaleidos Network** has contacted the RECI as they would like to address the issue of diversity and participation. Dani de Torres was running a working group on this topic during the recently celebrated Conferences in Málaga by the network. The other working tables dealt with themes related to Participation, Technology, and New Economies. It was manifested that it would make sense to work on these issues separate from the RECI, and it was proposed that all sum up our efforts in order to jointly generate a publication.

Additionally, since some cities are members of both networks (even if it is through different managers), the potential of transversality can be worked on indirectly, being one of the main principles of the RECI.



- This is the topic that will be debated about in relation to the following **RECI challenge**. It has been proposed to have it repeated and prepared during the year of 2018, so that it may be put under the topic of “**participation**” in 2019.

The RECI challenge of 2016 has been positively evaluated: public and organizational access to the RECI, knowledge of emerging themes that are being worked on, etc.

Points for improvement:

- Sharing of practices between all of those participating, whilst making sure that municipalities are aware that these have been presented in their locality. Establishing a coordination mechanism at the local level. The RECI coordination will elaborate a methodological proposition.
- Communication about the contest: made in a simple format in order to explain it to possible participants and to encourage new participants to present their projects. A 4 page document does not help in doing this.
- More dissemination of a-posteriori Best Practices

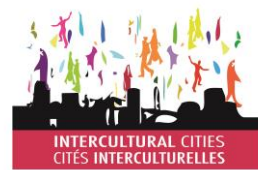
Another option is continuing with the topic of Diversity Advantage, as it is considered that we do not have the concept clearly defined. On top of this, it is the first point of our focus, and we should insist in order to improve it and consolidate it.

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2. Applying interculturalism: regaining its principles

The guiding and intervention principles for the application of the intercultural perspective. Retaking the idea that came up in Lisbon, known as *back to the basics*, of creating two types of tools in order to maintain the intercultural focus, as well as how to generate common elements based on experience:

- a) Generating synthesized documents, being the basis of putting together common criteria that must have an intercultural focus within certain themes. Clear methodological tools for the cases in which a district/area presents doubts, problems... (Decalogue, principles). “Intercultural Grid”.
- b) Generating some points more deeply at a mid-long time-frame, a technical document with practical characteristics.



The challenge lays in incorporating the intercultural perspective – in the same way as the gender perspective - within projects, programs, and plans that are going to be designed or are already being undertaken (both in the city council as well as the social entities with which it works) taking into account intersectionality.

The first step is to consolidate a theoretical-practical framework, and construct shared knowledge from then on. We must think about the subjects that interest and worry us and conduct a methodological exercise on how it can be worked on within cities in order to arrive at the previously mentioned point.

Tenerife proposes the creation of Working Groups. Due to the Network's maturity and the coordination of Dani and Gemma, work can be done in reduced groups in order to generate content in a more efficient manner.

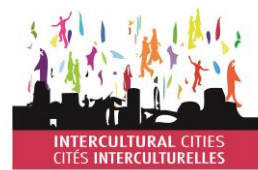
3. Policy Lab: Debate topics and meeting

Following the recommendation put forth by the Council of Europe, Dani and Gemma had a meeting on the 11th of April with the Secretary General of Immigration and Emigration, Marina del Corral. The *rendezvous* was positively evaluated: the Secretariat embraced the opportunity to talk to the local population, as it is a specific compromise when participating in the Policy Lab. There is no specific calendar for the meeting between those in political positions and interlocutors of the *rendezvous*.

The next step will be to come to an agreement on the issues that will be dealt with during the meeting: ideas which reinforce intercultural themes, and those in which there is a consensus.

The issues that were taken into account in Castellón had to be debated by the cities, as well as being taken into consideration by those in political positions.

- Inclusion Model: intercultural focus;
- Recognition of the local population's role in issues regarding inclusion and diversity. New spaces dedicated to the improvement of local intervention: reception, inclusion, refugees, etc.;
- Revision of competences and legislative changes (right to vote; access to public services);
- Resources: which are the ones available and their use;
- Youth: education and areas of social participation;
- Religious diversity;
- Reception of refugees;



- Diversity advantage: how to take advantage of the potential that diversity has at a local level and how the central government can participate in it;
- Anti-rumors: fighting against xenophobia and discrimination;
- Radicalization and actions at a local level;
- Participation and active democracy.

The topics that have come out of the meeting are the following:

- Intercultural focus – subsidies and public contracts
- Religious diversity and radicalizations* at the local level – disuniting these
- Reception
- State financing to local administration
- Interculturalism as a tool for preventing conflict (societal resilience in the face of violent radicalism). The responsibility to dismantle rumors.
- Standardized accreditation of university diplomas

*The concept of radicalism is still debated upon, emphasizing the need of not associating it to violence or religion. Having a discussion and taking a consensual decision so that cities may have a shared discourse is still a pending issue. For example, “violent extremism”, proposed by Ivana from the Council of Europe’s experience or something that may become violent as an alternative to radicalism. Taking into account that there is a lack of previous preparation on issues from the cities, it has been decided to leave a week in order for them to send their proposals. It is reminded that these must be relevant and feasible.

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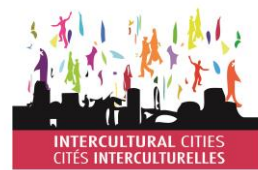
4. Council of Europe and Intercultural Cities: objectives and agenda 2018

Ivana d’Alessandro, Head of Unit, Intercultural Cities, Council of Europe

The Intercultural Cities Program is growing at an accelerating pace: it now counts with 126 members, 6 new ones from 2018. Each time, there are more members coming from outside of Europe (for example, the last city to join is from the United States)

The absolute priority is the **Policy Lab**. In addition to the national meetings taking place this year, there will be a meeting taking place in Strasbourg with representatives from States that the Council deems as possibly having the willingness and compromise towards interculturalism. The idea is to officially establish this at the middle term within the 47 member states.

New networks are being pushed forward: Canada, United Kingdom and Sweden.



Work themes: in which there is knowledge, but unequal practices.

- Participation
- *Urban citizenship*
- IOM collaboration – migrant participation and prevention of natural disasters.
- Urban Cultural Patrimony – in order to create belonging
- 2 study visits: Fuenlabrada Police (specialized and technical personnel); intersectionality (with a focus on LGBTI) in Geneva.
- Creation of working groups: one dedicated to creating the Intercultural Citizenship Test, and another to revise the ICC index
- 6 visits – some of them may be in Spain, it is open for discussion.
- Visibility of the actions in relation to the 21st of March. Declaration signed by the cities (i.e. issues of migration – refugees). Ivana takes advantage of the occasion to congratulate Spanish cities for their activities programs.
- UNHCR invites you to collaborate in *With Refugees*, with the hopes that mayors support the conjoint declaration that has been envisioned for the 20th of June.

5. Collaboration with the Intercultural Cities Network in Quebec

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It has been decided to establish collaboration between the cities network in Quebec and the RECI, starting as a simple initiative, but as one that may derive into other future initiatives: taking a questionnaire (10 – 15 questions) that would be done simultaneously in the cities from both networks, analyzing the results in a joint manner, and finally transmitting them.

The questionnaire being sent will contain internal questions related to the technical capacity of influencing and relating at a political level and vice versa, specifically in relation to intercultural policies.

Cities that do not answer will not form part of the results analysis.

6. It is communicated that:

- Central questions about the support-consultancy regarding the design of the City Intercultural Strategy or the training will be carried out through the RECI Association from now on, instead of it being done through an individual title. This way, it will be more clear and transparent.
- The following the RECI rendezvous will take place in Logroño (October/November 2018)



- Thanks to the arrangements made by Castellón, we will be present in the following FEMP meet up in order to explain the Intercultural Cities model, as well as the RECI.
- Ekain Larringa (Getxo) will participate in the IGC – *Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees*, representing the RECI. He will send us more information about the event, in addition to what he needs from the cities.
- The Anti-rumors Manual is currently being translated into Castilian. Anti-rumor’s next event is a good opportunity for its presentation.
- Gemma has provided information on the signature collection campaign for the European Citizenship Initiative “We are a welcoming Europe: let us help!” <https://www.weareawelcomingeurope.eu/>. You can find the official translation carried out by the European Commission [here](#)

7. Reached agreements and tasks

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Policy Lab: collection of themes. (RECI cities) Link to the questionnaire: (RECI team)	May 15 th 2018
Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration – Feedback for Ekain (RECI cities)	May 15 th 2018
Analyzing the signed agreements (it will be dealt with at an individual level with the cities that are missing) (RECI cities in collaboration with the RECI team)	May 2018
Lisbon Declaration: approval on behalf of the cities (RECI cities)	During 2018
Sending the questionnaire for the conjoint analysis with the Quebec Network (RECI team)	June 2018
The principles of interculturalism. Concrete work proposal – Working Groups (RECI cities and collaboration with the RECI team)	June 2018
ICC Index (RECI cities)	First semester 2018



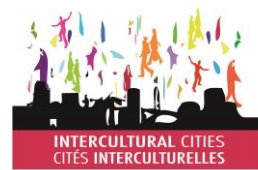
Updating the RECI website (RECI team)	July 2018
Disseminate information on the European Citizenship Initiative on asylum (40,000 signatures) (For those who are interested)	Throughout the month of May - June

8. Participants

18 cities/territories are participating in the rendezvous and 2 will be absent

Participants

- Ana Domínguez, Social Inclusion and Solidarity Department, Jerez City Council
- Andreu Bover, Integration and Coexistence Area, Salt City Council
- Berta Cao Menéndez, Equity, Social and Employment Rights Area, Madrid City Council
- Carmen Bonilla, Social Wellbeing Councilor, Fuenlabrada City Council
- Carolina Adarraga, Cultural Diversity Department, Donostia-San Sebastián City Council
- Claudia Emmanuel, Immigration Expert, Bilbao City Council
- Cris González, Head of Coexistence, Santa Coloma de Gramenet City Council
- Cristina Puente, Responsible for reception and refugees, Sabadell City Council
- Dani de Torres, RECI Director and Intercultural Cities - Council of Europe expert
- Diana Florentina, Intercultural Mediator, Castellón City Council
- Ekain Larringa, Immigration Expert, Getxo City Council
- Francisco García Rodríguez, Vice Chancellor of the Relationship with Society, La Laguna University
- Gemma Pinyol, RECI Coordinator, Intercultural Cities - Council of Europe expert
- Inmaculada Fumero de León, Socioeconomic and Commerce Development, Tenerife City Hall
- Isabel Copetudo, Coexistence Service Territory Program Coordinator, Santa Coloma de Gramenet City Council
- Ivana d'Alessandro, Head of Unit, Intercultural Cities, Council of Europe
- Jaume Lanaspá, RECI President – Intercultural Cities Network
- Jose Luis Ortega, Immigration and Development Cooperation Unit Coordinator, Cartagena City Council
- Julio Ramallo, Socioeconomic and Commerce Development Technical Service, Tenerife Town Hall and Immigration Observatory of Tenerife
- María del Valle Jódar Matey, Cooperation for Development and Immigration Department Expert, Málaga City Council



- María Jesús Rodríguez, Intercultural Mediator, Getafe City Council
- Manel Raimí, Person in Charge of the Intercultural Coexistence Plan, Logroño City Council
- María Fonte, Project Coordinator, OBITEN, La Laguna University and Tenerife Town Hall
- Marifé Calderón, Citizenship and Diversity Rights Service Directorate, Barcelona City Council
- Marta Barrera, Civil Rights and Gender Council Project Coordinator, Sabadell City Council
- Marta Pérez, RECI Expert
- Miguel Angel García, Intendant, 2nd Head of the Fuenlabrada Local Police
- Rosa M. García, SEMI Coordinator, Cultural Diversity Program, Fuenlabrada City Council
- Rosa Pera, Head of Social Coexistence and Immigration, Castellón City Council
- Roser de la Torre, “La Caixa” Bank Foundation
- Vicente Manuel Zapata, Human Geography Senior Professor, La Laguna University, Tenerife Immigration Observatory
- Xavier Xarbau, Coexistence and Integration Expert, Salt City Council

Those excused

- María Ángeles Muñoz Berrocal, Citizenship Participation Area, Málaga City Council
- Mercedes Nicolás, Cultural House, Zaragoza City Council
- Ernst Valls, People’s Service Director, Tortosa city Council