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Meeting of the Local Coordinators of the ICC-Ukraine Network

Report by Kseniya Rubicondo, national coordinator

10 February 2021, 11.00 – 13.00 CET (12.00 – 14.00 Kyiv)

Meeting venue: via online Zoom platform

AGENDA

10 February 2021

11.00 - 11.10 Welcome and Objectives of the meeting. Review of the preliminary plans for the ICC-Ukraine Network in 2021

Kseniya Rubicondo, National ICC-Ukraine Coordinator

11.10– 11.40 Cities-participants: review of ICC-Ukraine member priorities, discussion of the individual Action Plans submitted by the cities' for the year 2021

Local Coordinators will:

- *provide an update on known plans (activities, policies, meetings, workshops, working groups, etc.) and*
- *identify the Network priorities, discuss and approve the Action Plan for 2021*
- *identify and approve the date for the VI annual meeting of the ICC-Ukraine local coordinators*

11.40– 12.20 Cities-participants: feedback on the structure and content of the ICC Programme grants

Local Coordinators will:

- *review the lessons learned as a result of close collaboration in 2020: achievements, challenges, solutions*
- *discuss the structure and conditions of the ICC Programme grants for networks*

12.20– 12.50 Representation of Ukraine in the ICC Regional Network, Brainstorming on “Campaigning Together, for ICC Certificates

12.50– 13.00 Summary/Conclusions

Meeting Participants:

- Lutsk – Ms. Tetiana Gnativ
- Melitopol – Ms. Lyudmila Afanasieva
- Odessa – Ms. Alona Diachenko
- Pavlograd – Ms. Elena Shulika
- Sumy – Ms. Antonina Kohan
- Vinnytsia – Ms. Yuliia Kashpruk
- National ICC-Ukraine Coordinator – Ms. Kseniya Rubicondo

Welcome & Objectives of the Meeting

As a result of the joint activities carried out by the members of the Ukrainian ICC Network within the ICC Competence development project in 2020, a significant positive shift towards understanding and valuing cultural diversity, increased willingness to cooperate with people from different cultures, and greater openness to learning about both the advantages and challenges of diversity have been observed in the ICC-Ukraine member-cities. More details on these advancements can be found in the [Annual 2020 ICC-Ukraine Activity Report](#) and [the Impact Report of the Project](#). This work has also contributed to a more skilful identification of relevant local challenges and issues that – as experiences show – are very different for different countries, regions, cities and population groups. As a result, the project participating cities, members of Ukrainian Network, offered a range of valuable suggestions, opinions and feedback, which contributed to the development of ICC-Ukraine’s vision for network activities in 2021.

This meeting aimed to review the needs, priorities and activities of the ICC-Ukraine network, to identify new opportunities and avenues for implementation in 2021, and to agree on joint action taking into account the current sanitary situation in Europe, and in Ukraine in particular.

Review & Discussion of the Submitted Plans

All member cities submitted individual plans-proposals in Ukrainian to the national network coordinator prior to the meeting. These plans outlined intercultural initiatives to be implemented both within the individual cities and jointly within the ICC-Ukraine network in 2021. They were reviewed and combined into a joint ICC-Ukraine Action Plan 2021 by the national coordinator and proposed for discussion during the meeting.

In this regard, local ICC coordinators pointed out that due to the current sanitary situation, the prospects for obtaining resources for intercultural activities in 2021 are not always positive, and

existing sanitary restrictions may affect the scope of the intercultural events in the municipalities, for example, in terms of the number of participants and/or audiences covered, or even hinder the implementation of some of such initiatives. For this reason, many cities are already considering online alternatives to these events.

The national coordinator emphasized the importance of joint action and cooperation among Network members to implement intercultural policies and approaches at the national level, not only in individual cities. The ICC-Ukraine 2021 Action Plan was then discussed taking this into account. Many members proposed joint actions, cooperation and events of a joint character, selecting one or more specific partner city(ies) within the Network to implement these activities and confirming their choice by mutual agreement. The result of this discussion were reflected in the final version of the ICC-Ukraine 2021 Action Plan and approved by the participants. The English version of the Plan will be consequently prepared and submitted to the ICC Programme Secretariat by the national coordinator.

Date	City	City/Institution	Support	Notes
1st Working Chair – on the occasion dedicated to the 10th Anniversary of the ICC Programme	Jan 22	Podgorica	ICC chair, network members, national coordinator, local community	Podgorica City Council
2nd Working Chair – on the occasion dedicated to the 10th Anniversary of the ICC Programme	Feb 20	Online	National and local coordinators of ICC-Ukraine Network	Podgorica City Council
3rd Working Chair – on the occasion dedicated to the 10th Anniversary of the ICC Programme	Feb 21, 22	Moldova	City Departments: regs, administration, Council of Elders, urban green, local ICC coordinator	Moldova City
4th Working Chair – on the occasion dedicated to the 10th Anniversary of the ICC Programme	March	Moldova	University of Moldova, City Council, Department Regional Administration, Moldovan Ministry of Communities Development, NGOs, NGOs, media, national & local ICC coordinators	University of Moldova, Department Regional Administration, Moldovan Ministry of Communities Development, NGOs, NGOs, media, national & local ICC coordinators
5th Working Chair – on the occasion dedicated to the 10th Anniversary of the ICC Programme	Apr 8	Podgorica	The City of Moldova, local community, minority representatives, local and national ICC coordinators	University of Moldova, Department Regional Administration, Moldovan Ministry of Communities Development, NGOs, NGOs, media, national & local ICC coordinators

When working on the ICC-Ukraine Network priorities, the local coordinators of ICC-Ukraine network stressed the importance of building on previous achievements and lessons learned of the network and using the tools and methodologies available within the ICC Programme while adjusting them for a more practical use in the locally, in order to address concrete issues and existing challenges. The following key issues were identified:

- 1) the need to combat stereotypes and prejudice against cultural, ethnic, racial, religious and other groups/identities in the cities, the benefits of which can go as far as to improving urban and neighbourhood safety, developing respectful relationships between and within the communities, and combating discriminatory expressions and fake news,
- 2) challenges for police officers to practically deal with racial and sexual discrimination in urban communities, in particular against LGBT people;
- 3) challenges for local media/journalists to learn more about the key approaches and practices for creating anti-discrimination narratives, particularly in "hot spots", and methods for quickly identifying and combating fake news and false reporting.

To address these challenges the Network members expressed the need for adopting the ICC Antirumours' methodology to the local context. Hence, its availability in Ukrainian would be also extremely useful. In addition, in order to combat stereotypes and prejudice as well as discriminatory

expressions and fake news, the local coordinators are interested in creation of integrative city narratives that will represent/involve local minority groups in the ICC-Ukraine cities. Once designed, these narratives can be used in local, national and/or international ICC campaigns (voice, print and visual). This innovative approach will help to dismantle a simplified and/or biased perception of cultures and diversity through the direct involvement of national minorities, especially in the post-Covid environment with its alarming increase in inequalities.

In order to strengthen the visibility of the ICC-UA network, the the suggestions were made to:

- design an ICC-UA Network website that would contain complete and up-to-date information about our cities, their policies, commitments and activities;
- create an ICC-Ukraine video that would tell the story of our cities and the network.

In addition, the city of Vinnytsia expressed its interest in learning more about Welcoming Policies in ICC cities, and suggested the ICC-Ukraine network members to organize a relevant webinar, where ICC Global best practices could be discussed with the possible participation of the representatives of ICC Global network/cities. In this regard, the national coordinator referred the meeting participants to the Good Practice compilation section on the ICC Programme website, which provides examples of intercultural approaches facilitating the development and implementation of different intercultural policies, including welcoming. The city of Vinnytsia proposed a tentative date for this 'all ICC-Ukraine' webinar, April 15, 2021.

June 17 was proposed for the VI Annual Meeting of the Coordinators of the ICC-Ukraine Network. The members of the ICC-Ukraine expressed their willingness to make an extra effort to physically hold this event in one of the Ukrainian cities with the participation of the national coordinator.

ICC-Ukraine Coordinators also expressed their appreciation to the national coordinator and to the Head of the Intercultural cities Unit at the Council of Europe for the letters to the mayors of the ICC Cities-Ukraine received on Feb 5, 2021.

Structure & Content of ICC Programme Grants

The joint activities of the ICC-Ukraine Network in 2020 were for the most part made possible due to the winning proposal of the City of Melitopol for an intercity cooperation project on ICC Competence development in close cooperation with the ICC City of Ballarat (Australia), which received support from the Council of Europe's ICC Programme. While this cooperation has achieved remarkable

intercontinental results and outcomes, Ukrainian ICC cities have learned from this process that it was not always easy to comply with the conditions of the grant within a comparatively short period of time or to find a way to work with an international partner due to mismatches in the requirements or the legislation of the participating countries. The issue regarding the duration of ICC projects was also raised, in the sense that the 5-month period, during which the ICC Competence 2020 project was implemented in Ukrainian cities, was too short, which added pressure to their work.

At the request of ICC Ukraine cities' coordinators, the national coordinator explained the existing structure and conditions of ICC Programme grants, answering relevant questions from the cities on eligibility, responsibilities, content, financial requirements, reporting and others.

ICC Regions Network, Brainstorming & ICC Certificates Qs

The recently established Intercultural Regions Network aims to provide a platform for regions to share knowledge, resources and experiences in order to promote intercultural integration at the regional level. It will also help the regions to design, implement and evaluate diversity and inclusion strategies based on the principles of equal opportunities, recognition of diversity and positive interaction between regions. Representatives from the regions of Odessa and Vinnytsia expressed their interest in joining the Network at the time of its creation but were unable to attend the initial meeting. The question of joining the Network of Regions by the representatives of these and other regions of Ukraine was discussed. The region of Zaporizhzhia was presented as one of the potential candidates for participation. It was decided that requests for relevant information from the regional administration of Zaporizhzhia will be made by the cities located in the region. Should the result be positive, the representative of the administration will send a request to join the Intercultural Regions Network.

In anticipation of the brainstorming meeting of the ICC Global on "Campaigning Together" (12 Feb 2021), ICC-Ukraine coordinators discussed ideas for joint ICC national campaigns and for joint ICC Global campaigns for the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue (21st of May), the World Refugee Day (20th June) and the International Migrants Day (18th December). In what concerns the channels of such campaigns, the preference was given to social media, as it is the most effective tool of information sharing in the ICC-Ukraine cities, especially under the current circumstances. An idea of organising an on-line ICC-challenge around the World Day for Cultural Diversity and/or other Days was proposed.

Two years ago, the ICC Programme issued and posted ICC Certificates to all ICC-Ukraine member-cities. Only two Ukrainian cities received it at the first mailing. According to the ICC Programme

Secretariat, four certificates were mailed once again to remaining four Ukrainian cities (after verification of their delivery addresses). The electronic versions of the certificates were also emailed by the national coordinator to all ICC-Ukraine members in 2019 and 2020.

As a result of second mailing, two other ICC-Ukraine members received the hard copies of the certificates, but the remaining two still reported not receiving them for an unknown reason.

The issue with ICC certificates was discussed at the ICC-Ukraine Coordinators meeting in April 2020 and was considered closed. Ukrainian cities were informed that the ICC Secretariat has not received a note of non-delivery from the postal service following its second mailing, therefore no further postal delivery can be organized.

However, the issue resurfaced in the ICC's Annual survey (January 2021). As a result, the electronic versions of ICC certificates were again sent by the ICC Programme secretariat to the cities of Lutsk and Vinnytsia in January 2021, although all ICC-Ukraine members disposed the electronic version of the ICC certificate at that time (4 of them dispose a hard copy). The situation was again discussed at the meeting. The cities of Lutsk and Vinnytsia explained that they had tried to print the certificates from the PDF file (as provided by the Programme), but the image is of poor quality. They asked for a better quality/resolution PDF in order to print the certificates themselves and display them accordingly in their town halls.

Conclusions of the Meeting

The national coordinator presented the conclusions of the meeting summarizing the points described above, highlighting the key priorities of the Network and reconfirming the dates of its main initiatives in 2021 with the participants of the meeting.