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## Report

### RPCI meeting

17-04-2018

### Amadora

#### Program

11h- Welcoming words (CM Amadora – Vereadora Susana Nogueira) and expectations

11h30 – Brief presentation from each city

13h - Lunch

14h – Planning

a) Policy Lab

b) other events and activities

16h – closing session

#### Present cities:

Amadora - Vereadora Susana Nogueira and Ana Mendes

Oeiras – Carla Martingo

Cascais – Sara Torres (municipal plan for integration)

Portimão – Paula Pereira (div. Housing and health)

Santa Maria da Feira – Cristina Ribeiro (Social cohesion) / Rosário Meneses (International relations/ Education) / Lídia Couto (Education for interculturality)

Loures - Amélia Teodoro Fançony / Luís Atafona

Lisboa – Mónica Coimbra / Mário Souto (youth and cohesion department)

Albufeira – Paula Cunha (CLAII) /

Viseu - Clara Pombeiro (educação)/ Fernanda Santos (Ação social) / Maria Miguel (Educação)

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After some welcoming words from the vereadora Susana Nogueira, all participants were asked to present themselves and to talk about their expectations for the RPCI and for this meeting:

- Listen and understand what the RPCI is and updates;
- Network needs to be useful for our daily work;
- Give visibility to the diversity of Oeiras and position the city as a reference regarding interculturality;
- Exchange and sharing of practices, methodologies and objectives / collaboration between cities;
- To continue to implement the practices we had before and restructure our integration plans;
- Understand how can we work and value diversity;
- Get to know the best practices and adapt to our realities;
- Interchange between cities;
- How to improve the integration in the labour market and health services;
- Integration of ethnic minorities (eg. Gipsy/Roma);
- Build local and national projects together – to integrate several initiatives;
- More visibility to the RPCI and influence policy makers;

Suggestions and Questions:

- To connect the ACM project “Cidades amigas dos imigrantes” (Albufeira, Cascais oeiras, Portimão, Loures, Lisboa, Amadora, Sta Maria da Feira are all part) that had an index. The best practices are in a publication that can be updated;
- Portimão and Albufeira are waiting for the expert visit – this can happen in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of July);
- Oeiras could receive the expert in November.
- Documentary of the stories cities – when can we see it?

**Summary - work cities have been doing:**

- **Portimão:**
  - o Work with refugees: labour market placement (difficult to find jobs for all year), housing is also hard (people need to live in the city for 5 years until they have housing rights);
  - o Venezuelan Portuguese: their requests for citizenship is being denied (mostly already born in Venezuela);
  - o Migrants: legalization law changes in 2017 brought more migrants
  - o ACM project “mentors for migrants” is working well
  - o Municipal plan for migrant inclusion: after the end of the financial help from ACM the plan continues: mostly multicultural fairs and events; work with children with the book “diary of a migrant” written by Maria Inês Almeida; municipal migrant day (29 May);

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- More than 60 nationalities in the city, many in one of the local schools (that received the schools intercultural award from ACM)
  - Health: part of the network of healthy cities
  - Local safety agreement: Portimão is considered one of the most safety cities so they choose 2 neighbourhoods to work with (were gipsy/Roma and cape verde people live in) develop interventions with a gipsy/Roma mediator
- **Cascais:**
- Are currently reviewing and continuing the integration municipal plan;
  - Priorities: cultural diversity, legalization/documentation and housing;
  - Several events and shows were provided by local migrant associations within the FAMI /AMIF funding – visibility and importance was given to this events in public important spaces;
  - “Via Saúde”: with association “Ser Mais”, to respond to health issues from African countries that come for treatments in Portugal to help with transports, medication, etc. This people cannot work in Portugal – do not have working visas;
  - Direct connection with SEF (boarders services) for complex situations (article 23 or 88) and for afro descendents / 2<sup>nd</sup> generations that are not considered Portuguese;
  - Literacy projects: informal classes with volunteers/supervision from adult teachers/ exam certified (with Qualifica, adapted by the teachers). One of these classes in specific is doing literacy and Portuguese simultaneously.
- **Lisboa:**
- CM has a temporary placement centre for refugees with many requests/ some conflicts raise in the centre for lack of access to health services for eg. (the social security card takes too long) – the responsibility is falling only in the cities and the central state needs to be held accountable
- **Oeiras**
- Preparing activities for the municipal day for interculturality (17<sup>th</sup> july, municipal day);
  - Reinforcing with more HR local centres for integration (CLAIM);
  - Municipal plan for migrant inclusion will continue integrated into the general social development plan;
  - 5 refugee families: challenges – language and labour integration / long term sustainability of their inclusion;
  - Activities for municipal day for equality – October;

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- **Loures**
  - Work in the housing conditions;
  - Africa and Gipsy/ Roma;
  - Challenges: Differences and relationship between old parts of city (rural realities) and more urban, social housing where we can find poverty and exclusion;
  - Work with local NGO's fostering the relation of people with public spaces;
  - Community Group in Apelação (network of local and national institutions) meets regularly;
  - Several CLAIMs working in the city;
  - National migration movements from rural areas: work with local cultural associations to value cultural heritage (also with portuguese from rural areas);
  - Citizenship, human rights and support to local associations – partnerships are very important for municipalities;
  - C4i Rumours continues;
  - Development Education and migration – project to work with teachers and municipal staff (Amitie code) with 6 countries for 3 years;
  - New municipal plan being developed with no funding;
  - Centre for refugees in the city;
  
- **Amadora:**
  - New municipal plan for integration / refugees included in the plan (1 family integrated)
  - Mentors project (ACM) continues;
  - Arrival cities (10 cities around EU) is ending this year;
  - Rumours project continues (application to intercultural cities: show cooking and a cooking book of recipes from the 10 main nationalities) – launched in migrants day in December;
  - 99 nationalities in the city;
  - URBACT – award granted to Amadora (transferability networks): practices shared with Greece and Germany. New application in progress (FEDER)
  
- **Viseu:**
  - Work with gipsy/roma people in schools, health, social services. Work with association “Letras Nómadas” regarding the gipsy culture and training regarding gender; integrating the Romaid;
  - Applied for anti rumours;

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- **Albufeira**

- In 2016 after the end of economic crises and the change of the migration law more migrants came (**+ 22% of migrants**), also migrants from other Portuguese cities;
- Support to settlement (CLAIM): juridical support, legislation, language courses (formal and informal);
- Multicultural menus in local schools (1<sup>st</sup> grade and preschools) monthly accordingly to the different countries existing in the school;
- Multicultural meeting (annual) with local NGO's and associations: shows, food, etc.) with embassies (25 and 26<sup>th</sup> may);
- "Dignity day" with city schools;
- Sessions with migrants associations regarding migration law;
- Diagnosis / INDEX – waiting for experts visits to start working at more levels;
- Partnership with OIM for returning of migrants;

- **Santa Maria da Feira:**

- Work with the Gipsy/ Roma people in a more long-term perspective. Application to 2020 project Midas - methodologies with the Roma people living in degraded housing conditions to improve their living conditions (training for people to develop better housing conditions)/ employability: to connect the dying skills and arts of the city turning them into modern products with a local mediator;
- Support to refugee integration (25 people) of all ages – support connecting to local NGO's: sports, etc. / helping with documentation/ project "começar de novo" to develop soft skills with young refugees regarding their inclusion in the labour market;
- Returning of Venezuelan Portuguese – working on their re-integration (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> generation): they have no right to housing or state support;
- Work with schools (children and youth) - "Janela aberta" works fostering intercultural competence and connecting preschool children and teachers with people with other cultural backgrounds (via Skype)/ children and human rights/ respect / dialogue / identity connecting with Ukraine, Holland;
- Projects with Guiné Bissau and Angola: exchange of letters, videos;
- Human rights, diversity, gender and LGBTI with youth from PIEF (with associação "Rosto Solidário")
- Albergue Solidário: schools receive pilgrims from the Santiago route and exchange cultural references;
- Events: exhibitions about diversity, disability;
- Citizenship, participation and diversity;
- Anti-rumours: "feira sem preconceitos"/ the survey is being analysed – campaign "bichinhos na cabeça"
- Diversity connectors: EU project to place migrants in start-ups;

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## Policy Lab

Regarding the policy lab, some decisions were made:

- It shall be held between 23 September and 9 October in Lisbon or surrounding cities;
- The main change that needs to be made is regarding the **application of laws in a uniformed way by all services**: some services in some cities do not apply the law in the same way as others, denying people of their rights. This means we have to act directly with the service regional directors too.
- Topics to be discussed:
  - 1) Access to nationality and residence rights,
  - 2) Access to employment and formal recognition of qualifications,
  - 3) Access to language training
  - 4) Social, civic and cultural rights as the basis for political participation processes.
- Invitations to be made:
  - o Ministries of:
    - Education
    - Health
    - Finance
    - Internal affairs
    - Employment and social security
  - o Secretary of state for Citizenship and Inclusion
  - o High Commissioner for Migrations
  - o SEF: Border services
  - o Civil society organizations: Holly House of Mercy (Santa casa Misericórdia Lisboa); Caritas; Red Cross (Cruz Vermelha) CPR, PAR and JRS (NGO's working with refugees);
  - o IEFP – Employment services
  - o Services regional directors (health, social security, finance, education...)
  - o Universities/ researchers: each city will identify researchers from the field of inclusion until next meeting;
  - o ANMP: National cities association
- **Methodology**:
  - o In October the RPCI promotes a **seminar** for legislators and regional directors with universities and municipalities, to learn about recent investigation, discuss the issues that need change and promote mutual listening regarding those chances. A **task force** is then settled to work further on the proposals that will meet regularly.

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- Part of the proposals can be to update and promote more **training courses** for front-office staff from the different services regarding procedures for migrant integration. This was previously done by the inter-ministerial workgroup for migration but need updating and needs to include finance.

Another topic discussed was the possibility to create **working groups** around specific subjects, promoting mutual learnings among cities, sharing of practices, mutual field visits and even joint ventures and projects. proposal of possible groups will be set up by e-mail.