



CHAIRMANSHIP OF CYPRUS OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONFERENCE: Building diverse communities based on shared values – the Intercultural cities approach

Curium Palace Hotel, Limassol (Cyprus)

27-28 March 2017

27 March

9.00 - 10.00

OPENING OF THE MEETING – Welcoming addresses

Mr Nicos Nicolaidis, Mayor of Limassol

Dr Georgios Yianni, Administrative Officer A', on behalf of the Minister of Interior, Mr Socrates Hasikos

Mr Eladio Fernandez-Galiano, Head of Department, Council of Europe

Ms Brigitte Konz, Chair of the Council of Europe Steering Committee on Human Rights (CDDH)

Ms Petra Roter, President of the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Slovenia

10.00 - 10.30

INTERCULTURAL INTEGRATION APPROACH TO MIGRANT AND REFUGEE INCLUSION AND THE NEED FOR AN UPDATED NARRATIVE

Mr Phil Wood, Intercultural Cities expert

Discussion

COFFEE AND GROUP PHOTO

11.00 - 12.30

ROUND TABLE WITH MAYORS FROM THE ICC NETWORK: ICC in action – achievements and challenges

Mr Nicos Nicolaidis, Mayor of Limassol, Cyprus

Mrs Ebba Östlin, Mayor of Botkyrka, Sweden

Mr Firmino Marques, Deputy Mayor of Braga, Portugal

Dr. Elisabeth Preuss, Deputy Mayor of Erlangen, Germany

Mr Ahmed El Khannouss, Deputy Mayor of Molenbeek, Belgium

LUNCH

14.00 – 16.30

WORKSHOPS

BUILDING INTER-FAITH TRUST, moderated by Mr Adrian Cristea, Dublin City Interfaith Forum with input by Mr Bert Bouwmeester - Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

BRIDGING CULTURES (ROUNDTABLE), moderated by Dr Noha Nasser, Founding Director of MELA Social Enterprise



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CITIZENS PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL DEMOCRACY, moderated by Ms Sylvia Klein,
Erlangen

COFFEE

16.30 – 17.30 REPORTING FROM THE WORKSHOPS

17.30 CONCLUSIONS OF THE DAY

20.00 DINNER AT THE KARATELLO RESTAURANT (NEAR THE LIMASSOL CASTLE)

28 March

9.00 – 10.00 HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES - HOW TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC CHALLENGES

Ms Brigitte Konz, Chair of the Council of Europe Steering Committee on Human Rights (CDDH)

Ms Krista Oinonen, Council of Europe Steering Committee on Human Rights

Mr Toralv Moe, Senior advisor on diversity and integration, Oslo, Norway

Ms Shams Asadi, Human Rights Commissioner, Vienna, Austria

10.00 – 10.30 DISCUSSION

COFFEE

10.45 – 12.00 PANEL DISCUSSION: CHALLENGES AND APPROACHES TO DIVERSITY IN EDUCATION AND LANGUAGES FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES & INTERCULTURAL CITIES

Ms Ingrid Rasmussen, Senior Adviser, Diversity and Integration, Stavanger

Ms Petra Roter, President of the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Slovenia

Ms Isabelle Devaux, Linguistic Projects' officer, Equality, Integration, Inclusion Service, Direction of Democracy, Citizenship and Territories, Paris

Ms Alicia Fuentes-Calle, Director of programmes, Linguapax, Barcelona, Spain

12.00 – 12.30 CONCLUDING PLENARY

LUNCH

15.00 – 17.00 FIELD TRIP

Visit the Multifunctional Center «Saint John the Merciful». Bishopry preventive provision, supportive and therapeutic services to various vulnerable groups. Meeting with Ms Yiouli Hatzaki.

Visit the Bicommunal Multiservices Centre of Limassol where different activities and lessons take place. During the visit we will have the opportunity to discuss with the Head of the Centre, Mrs Zina Markoullidou and observe one of the classes offered to migrants and refugees.



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Council of Europe Intercultural Cities Programme

Over the past eight years, the Council of Europe has worked with cities to develop and test a new policy approach to migrant and refugee integration which produces cohesion, equality and development in diverse societies. This model is called Intercultural integration.

The underlying principles of intercultural integration are: equal respect for all as individuals entitled to freedom and responsibility, cultural reciprocity and willingness to accept cultural hybridisation as a factor for change and development and a purveyor of diversity advantage. Intercultural integration makes diversity policies a cornerstone of integration policies and focuses how to make cultural diversity related to newcomers migrants, their descendants, and long-lasting minorities, work for the benefit of the wider community. The key operational elements of intercultural integration are: power sharing between people of different backgrounds but also between public institutions and civil society; fostering cultural mixing and interaction in institutions and the public space; making institutions culturally competent, receptive to innovation through diverse inputs, as well as resilient and creative with regard to cultural conflict.

These elements take inclusive integration beyond the classical approach of anti-discrimination: it requires active intervention by public authorities to de-marginalise communities (or prevent marginalisation), seek to ensure a cultural mix in all areas and at all levels in public institutions, and to develop a culture of diversity and openness to change, not only in order to ensure equal opportunities but as a source of dynamism, innovation, adaptability and competitive advantage. Inclusive integration deals with diversity in the spirit of win-win, as a potential to be realised, not as a problem to be minimised.

The Council of Europe member States have endorsed intercultural integration as an effective policy approach at the local level and has developed tools to support local authorities in applying intercultural integration in practice. Over a hundred cities in Europe and beyond are currently engaged, through the Intercultural cities network, in further developing the intercultural integration know how, and exchanging good practice to improve their policies.

An impact evaluation of the intercultural integration approach has confirmed its effectiveness for building cohesive, tolerant local communities, with a greater level of safety and fewer conflicts. Compelling research evidence demonstrates the value of an inclusive approach to diversity for human groups and communities.

The Limassol event "Building diverse communities based on shared values" – the Intercultural cities approach will engage international and Cypriot stakeholders in a discussion on the added value of the Intercultural integration approach to promoting human rights, democracy and other key European values in diverse societies. Questions would involve how to raise awareness of these values among host populations and newcomers alike, how to deal with dilemmas and challenges related to cultural difference and how to build a shared and pluralistic identity.

The event will involve a round table with Mayors from the Intercultural cities network, and workshops to review different approaches and define common guidelines for local policies.



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