



Intercultural Cities Spanish Network - RECI

12nd working session

Date: 30 March 2017

Venue: Room 1, Caixaforum, Madrid

Explanatory Summary

1. Welcoming and aim of the meeting

Jaime Lanaspá, President of the RECI, emphasised on the dangers of racist and xenophobic discourse and its negative impact in our society. He noted the opportunity of presenting the RECI in the frame of the UN Project TOGHETER.

He further welcomed the cities participating to the 12nd RECI meeting and greeted with particular emphasis the two observer cities of Madrid and Zaragoza.

Daniel de Torres, Director of the RECI, acknowledged the positive outcomes of the *Diversity Advantage* event of 29. Moreover, he reminded that all the best practices submitted to the Diversity Challenge Award would be included and shared on the Inspiring Library to be published on RECI's website (www.ciudadesinterculturales.com).

Ivana D'Alessandro, project manager of the Council of Europe's ICC Programme welcomed RECI's success with the Diversity Advantage event and acknowledged the efforts made to provide the RECI with a new legal framework, considering this as a good practice to be replicated by other ICC national networks.

2. Global Context RECI-ICC 2017

Ivana D'Alessandro presented the ICC workplan for 2017:

- Milestone Event, Lisbon 28-29 November

The Milestone event will mark the 10th anniversary of the ICC Programme. This event will also be an opportunity for the further development of the ICC policy model, building on its success and addressing the challenges ahead to reinforce and enrich it. The new intercultural integration policy model will further incorporate Gender Equality, Human Rights and minorities.



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- Policy Lab: this will be a closing meeting for Mayors and national authorities to debate about common issues related to diversity management and migration
 - Roundtables:
 - Keys to have more inclusive societies
 - Keys to bring evidence of the diversity advantage.
 - Itinerant workshops to experience diversity in practice: police and security, businesses, health centres, schools, etc.
 - RECI Mayors are strongly encouraged to participate personally. Mayors will receive a formal invitation letter accordingly.
 - The message for the mayors: not everyone can be a speaker in the plenaries (only some mayors have been selected); however they are all invited to participate in the event and share their views.
 - Possibilities to have Spanish translation for the Policy Lab will be explored.
- Policy Lab:

The ICC is particular in CoE landscape as it works with local authorities within an intergovernmental organisation. ICC work has been developed in parallel to the national level, and now it is time to improve the dialogue and relationship between local and national governments.

- Forthcoming meetings:
 - Human Rights Workshop + Interculturalism. Oslo, June 2017
 - Study visit to Lyon on the activities and actions on religious and political radicalisation.
- ICC Anti-rumours:

Drafting of an Anti-rumours Manual in the upcoming months.
- StoryCities:

Visibility of diversity in cities using audio-visual material. Pilot city 2017: Bilbao (for Spain)
- Experts' Visit:

It is foreseen to carry out 3/4 study visits to RECI throughout 2017.

3. New developments of the RECI: state of the issue

The outcome of the RECI's institutionalization process was reported as follows:

- Creation of the Association "*Ciudades Interculturales*", to which the Council of Europe recognises the responsibility of the coordination of RECI network;
- Links between the Spanish cities and ICC: the agreements between cities and Intercultural Cities Programme will be updated;
- Links between the RECI and the cities: a proposal of agreement will be sent to the cities (see Annex 1).



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That would be a standard model and it will be open to discussion to solve any individual (municipal) issue.

The importance of maintaining a direct and well-structured contact between ICC-CoE and the Spanish cities was also stressed, following the example of the annual thanking letter to the cities ICC. The ICC-CoE will send a formal invitation letter to cities' policy-makers for the Milestone event. In addition, it is foreseen to address regularly letters of support.

The criteria which are applied to gradually expand the RECI were recalled:

- A reliable political commitment;
- Territorial balance;
- Diversity of cities: size; migrant population; etc.
- ICI Link;
- CoE's needs.

The need of keeping links with interested cities before membership was also evoked, to avoid losing the contacts between them and the RECI.

Finally, a discussion on the need to create an 'intercultural brand' for the cities (inspired by the idea of the *Placa de bienvenida: ciudad intercultural*) was launched, and cities were invited to use the visibility resources that have been shared on the ICC website to this end.

4. Agenda RECI 2017

- Overall assessment 2016

An overall assessment of the activities developed since the last RECI meeting was made. Barcelona informed about its experience as city invited by Paris to share its experience as an ICC RECI city.

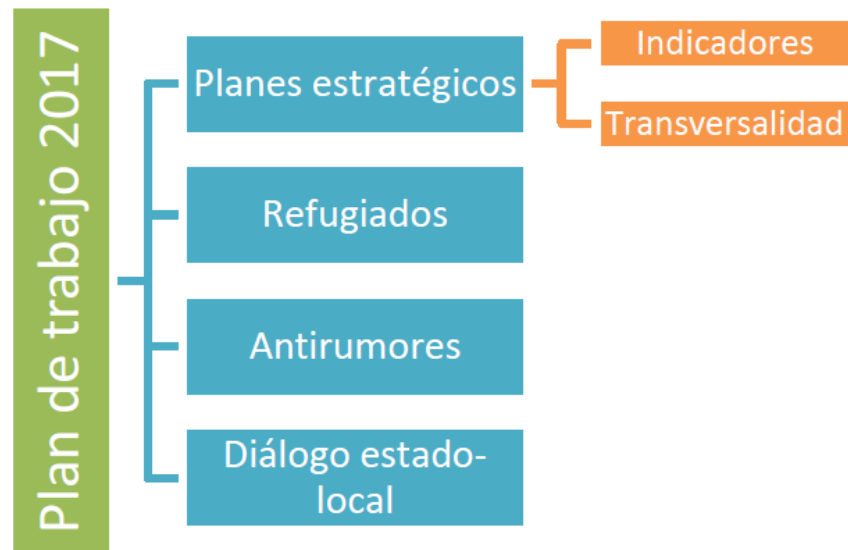
A list of pending actions related to the following issues was also made:

- Diversity Advantage:
 - Creation of a folder. Conceptual framework and some sections that present all the selected projects.
- Local action and refugees
 - Creation of a file. Framing Article. RECI's useful links. ICC-CoE's useful links.
- Religious diversity:
 - Compilation of useful links.
- Others:
 - The RECI web page has been updated, an a collaboration started with a social media manager to revitalise social media (Facebook and Twitter).

- Work Plan 2017

The results of the survey on the areas of work are summarized as well as the topics and methodologies most valued: strategic plans; indicators (of impact and evaluation) and transversality. The general understanding was that these three themes can be worked together. The issue of refugees was also pointed out, although the purpose and manner of addressing the issue remains to be determined. Finally, it was also agreed to continue working on anti-rumours by taking advantage of the process of preparing the ICC manual and of a meeting of the anti-rumours cities that is scheduled for June, recalling that this issue follows an independent dynamic from the RECI work plan.

There is a need to organize a RECI meeting having a political nature to redefine the issues of dialogue with the national level (Policy Lab).

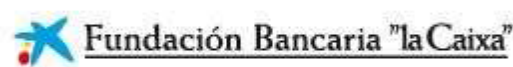


The most valued work methodologies are the so-called working files, the compilation of tools and good practices, and the thematic meetings. The pending files and the Inspiring Library will be prepared accordingly. There was the suggestion of preparing joint publications, identifying themes and seeking resources for them.

Regarding the ICC Index, cities are requested to complete it again in 2017. The updated index (third wave) will be distributed.

The results of the meeting with the State Secretary for Immigration and Emigration of the Government of Spain were reported; the State Secretary agreed with the idea of a dialogue between State and local levels within the framework of the Policy Lab promoted by Intercultural Cities. To this end, a preparatory meeting should be held for the RECI network (October 2017), to prepare for a meeting with the state government, as requested by the ICC (April 2018). The topics to be discussed will be forwarded to the cities, together with new topics that should be also taken into account, such as the welcoming of refugees.

In relation to the communication strategy, the RECI website has been updated, and cities were encouraged to use Twitter and Facebook, and to make a reasonable use of RECI's WhatsApp group.



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5. Local strategies on coexistence, inclusion and interculturalism

A working session was opened to discuss local strategies on coexistence, inclusion and interculturalism. In fact, a reflection should be also opened to determine which terminology should define these plans. The open discussion points out the need to meet the autonomous competences of some Regions when developing local strategies, and the need to plan them correctly.

The discussion stressed the need to respond to the competencies of the "Autonomias" when developing local strategy, and to plan these in an efficient manner. Also, the opportunity to make an explicit reference to the RECI-ICC links so to prepare the local strategy based on ICC guidance.

It is pointed out that the role of RECI could be to help in the harmonisation of the discourse and of the structural framework, as well as in sharing experiences.

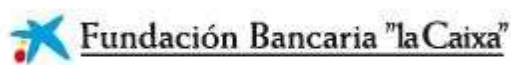
Cities were invited to work in groups, and several issues were pointed out and were shared by the moderators of the four working groups. Future work will be carried out based on those conclusions.

Closing session and agreements

The meeting was closed by acknowledging the excellent work done by the cities member of the RECI.

The main decisions were the following:

- Draft agreement between the Association and cities (responsible: **RECI team**).
 - See Annex 1.
 - Any particular consideration will be addressed bilaterally to expedite the process of signatures.
- 10th anniversary celebratory event (responsible: **ICC-CoE**, **RECI team** and **RECI cities**):
 - ICC will process the invitation letters to the mayors.
 - An electronic invitation will be prepared with a copy to the designated officials, according to the information provided by cities in <https://goo.gl/forms/bNF6cJcqHV4qDuNb2>
 - Cities are asked to communicate about the interest of RECI mayors to attend the event (both in the case of simultaneous interpretation into Spanish, and in case this would not be possible).
 - The possibilities of the Spanish translation for the Policy Lab will be explored.
- Finalisation of the ICC Index (responsible: **RECI team** and **RECI cities**):
 - Sending of the Index updated and finalisation throughout 2017. It would be very interesting to have them all before the meeting in October 2017.
- Elaboration of the "Diversity Advantage" files and "Local action and refugees" (in charge: **RECI team**).
 - The Diversity Advantage File. Conceptual framework and compilation of selected practices.
 - The Refugee File. Framing Article. Useful links of RECI and ICC.



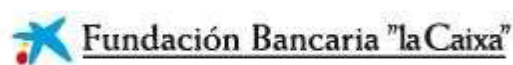
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- Incorporation of selected practices in the Inspiring Library (responsible: RECI team).
 - In this new section will be included both the projects presented in the Diversity Advantage as well as in the "Refugees and Local Action" project.
- Collection "Religious Diversity" (responsible: RECI cities).
 - Compilation of useful links.
- Dialogue State/Local authorities (responsible: RECI team).
 - Forward the working themes (see attached)
- Phase 1 of Local Strategies (responsible: RECI cities):
 - Summary of main issues to be provided by the 4 moderators of the working groups.
- Visibility of ICC-CoE membership (responsible ICC-CoE, RECI team and RECI cities).
 - The Intercultural Cities visibility page is in <http://www.coe.int/en/web/interculturalcities/visibility-guidelines>
 - Updating news to reciredes@gmail.com
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CiudadesInterculturales/>
 - TWITTER: RECI:
 - @reci_icc ;
 - ICC: @ICCities

Others (responsible: RECI team and RECI cities).

- Summary of the biography of mayors and councillors to be filled in by each city (to fill in the using the form: <https://goo.gl/forms/bNF6cJcqHV4qDuNb2>)

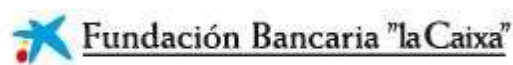
The meeting closes, agreeing that the next meeting of the RECI will take place in Castellón in October, and that the aim is to bring together political decision-makers (city councillors).



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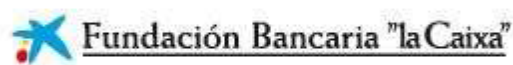
PARTICIPANTS

- Carolina Adarraga, Negociado de Diversidad Cultural, Ayuntamiento de Donostia-San Sebastián
- Clara Aldámiz-Echevarría, Directora de Bienestar Social, Ayuntamiento de Fuenlabrada
- Ivana d'Alessandro, Project Manager, ICC-Intercultural Cities, Consejo de Europa
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