

Report

Portuguese Network of Intercultural Cities

January-March 2024

Summary

During the first quarter of 2024 RPCI's work focused mostly on managing projects and other initiatives and preparing new fund applications. An RPCI meeting was also held to present the RPCI annual project proposal in Barcelos. The cooperative RPCI, created in 2021 to support the Network, maintains two member cities (Oeiras and Loures) and is currently managing 2 projects: two funded by the European Commission ("NET-IDEA" and "DiverCities"). In total, four different cities are actively engaged in these projects, one of them being engaged in more than one project.

Network coordination

RPCI's coordination was ensured based on **regular contact** with the member cities via email (around three emails were sent to all member cities) and bilateral phone calls, emails or meetings when needed.

As part of the coordination activities, messages with information on how to join RPCI were sent to new cities. Support was provided on request, via phone calls or online meetings, including questions about filling in the INDEX, participating in projects managed by RPCI, information about the RPCI network and ICC programme (for ex. to Vila Nova de Gaia), events and seminars, and others.

RPCI advertised all the ICC initiatives and news, such as an event in Brussels.

On 7th February 2024, a RPCI **face-to-face meeting** was hosted by Barcelos, followed by a presentation by city partners.

Negotiations are being held with Vila Verde and Braga for the hosting of an **ICC coordinators meeting in November 2024**.

Finally, RPCI coordinator was also engaged in preparing a **study visit** to Lisbon, Loures and Cascais by Finnish cities, to be held on 10th and 11th April.

Activities

RPCI coordination led the activities of 2 projects. Besides, oversaw and had an active role in all the activities developed within the Network and the RPCI cooperative, and prepared 3 new funding applications: one for the annual RPCI grant, one for an intercity grant between Loures, Lisboa and Cascais with RECI, and another European Project (with ICEI and RECI) called STAND:

Annual project - Intercultural Schools

This project was built collaboratively, arising from the brainstorming meeting held in 2023 with RPCI cities, and has the goal to foster intercultural competencies among school staff and strategic partners. The project was submitted in February and approved in March, with predicted start on 1st April 2024. All RPCI cities were invited to be part of the consortium to co-manage the Grant, and 4 cities have manifested their availability - Lisboa, Oeiras, Barcelos and Paranhos. These cities will have monthly consortium meetings.

The project envisioned to promote awareness raising activities, workshops and webinars, respectively to students, families and school staff, as well as to establish a connection between RPCI and the REEI - Network of Schools for Intercultural Education, managed by AIMA, Aga Khan Foundation and the Ministry of Education.

The opinions expressed in this document are the responsibility of Carla Calado, Coordinator, Portuguese Network of Intercultural Cities and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Council of Europe.

This document is published as it was submitted to the secretariat.

NET-IDEA project

NET-IDEA is a European-funded project, coordinated by ICEI in partnership with RPCI, RECI, the Swedish Network of Intercultural Cities, and the cities of Lublin and Erlangen. This project has the goal to develop local Intercultural Strategies, by fostering Intercultural competencies in cities. The project started in May 2022, and, in Portugal, three cities are engaged in this project: Vila Verde, Braga, and Santa Maria da Feira. RPCI is responsible for WP4 and WP5, respectively designing and testing and Intercultural Competencies Training in all sixteen cities and fostering Communities of Practice (CoP) at international and national levels. During the 1st quarter of this year, our activities were focused on the final **local awareness-raising activities** with youngsters from these 3 cities. PhotoVoice workshops were held in the 3 cities, with around 60 young people, and their portraits were taken. Both their pictures and portraits were displayed in 3 local exhibitions (one in each city). Besides, the portraits of the young people will be displayed in the final international campaign to be held during April in Botryka Sweden.



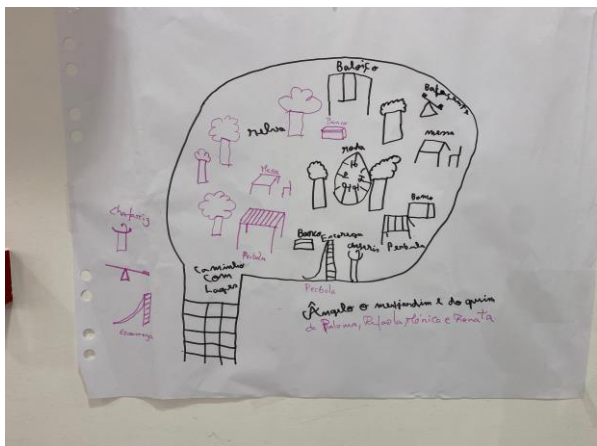
DiverCities project

DiverCities is an European-funded project, coordinated by ICEI in partnership with RPCI and RECI and engaging the cities of Logrono, Castello de La Plana and Zaragoza (Spain), Modena and Pontedera, Reggio-Emilia (Italy), Ioannina (Greece). During this period, 3 intercultural Assemblies were held, with more than 40 participants from Apelação, a neighbourhood in Loures. The Assemblies were prepared jointly between the RPCI, the Municipality and 2 local based organisations/ grassroots. The 1st Assembly was held on the 3rd February, the 2nd on the 24th of February and a 3rd is being prepared for 6th April. During the 1st Assembly questions were posed to the community about what they wished to improve in their neighbourhood and Housing was on top of their concerns, mostly due to humidity, security and common areas maintenance. Other issues arose, like:

- lack of opportunities for young people, specially young men that are not employed nor studying.
- lack of activities for children after school.
- lack of parks, gardens and workout areas.
- difficulties of access to health and other services.

RPCI presented the project and proposed the division of the concerns in 3 types of issues: a) Municipality responsibilities, that needed to be seen with the city proper directors. b) middle to long term issues, like unemployment and access to services and c) short term issues, like the gardens and parks. Citizens choose how to best invest part of the money for this project, given that the investment had to be done and finished by 30th June 2024. As such, the renovation of a local park was seen as the only alternative. The Housing topic was postponed for further debate at the next meeting, where the director of housing was present to reply to individual concerns. The middle to long term issues were

proposed to be tackled by the municipality and local partners at the regular community groups, and to become part of the Local Integration Plan under construction.



Drawing made by participants of the Assembly



Poster inviting for the Assembly



1st Assembly

Communication

During this quarter, 5 posts were written and promoted, such as:

- several articles to promote the exhibitions (awareness raising activities) organised with youngsters as part of the NetIDEA project: <https://cidadesinterculturais.pt/2024/03/28/jovens-reforcam-luta-pela-igualdade-e-inclusao-intercultural/>
- 1 article about the Barcelos meeting: <https://cidadesinterculturais.pt/2024/02/14/cidades-rpci-reunidas-em-barcelos-para-reuniao-anual/>

Regarding social media, RPCI maintained the existing Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram pages with regular posts. Below is a summary of the main activities and reach of each channel, for the relevant period (January-March):

- **Facebook**
Reach (average): 697
Visits: 254
New likes: 7
Publications: 20
- **Instagram**
Reach: 264
Visits: 93
Stories: 50
Publications: 1
New followers: 38
- **Podcast Channel “Portugal Plural”**
New episodes: 0
Average play per episode: 3
Followers: 39
Total reproductions: 16 (mostly women from Portugal and Brazil)
- **YOUTUBE @redeportuguesadecidadesint2259**
All time: 18 subscribers | 11 videos | 319 views
30 new playlists (audio) - Photovoice Vila Verde
- **LinkedIn**
Page Visits: 15
Followers: 530 (4 new), most from Great Lisbon and Porto regions
Average impressions: 317
Total Posts: 7
- **Website “Cidades Interculturais”**
Views (average): 1500
Articles/ posts: 5 articles

Other activities

RPCI coordinator prepared a study visit from 6 Finnish cities to Portugal, to the cities of Loures, Lisboa and Cascais.

Next steps

During the next quarter we will start the activities of the “**Intercultural Schools**” project.

Regarding “**NET-IDEA**”, the final event and international campaign will be done, and the project will terminate on 30th April. Reports will be produced by RPCI and submitted as a deliverable to the E.U. One podcast episode will be recorded, interviewing the three young people that attended the Youth Summit.

For “**DiverCities**”, meetings will continue to follow up on the implementation of participatory activities with migrant communities. It is expected that at least 2 more local assemblies occur during this period, to continue collecting needs, concerns and ideas, and engaging communities in problem-solving. A practice-sharing event for RPCI cities will be promoted on the same subject and a podcast episode will be prepared with interviews to participants in the local intercultural assemblies. One local cultural event will also be held, and the project will terminate on the 30th of June.

The “Intercultural Schools” Project will start and the STAND application will be submitted to the EU.

Regarding **Communication**, three new articles are being prepared, and a new page on RPCI’s website will be published, advertising RPCI’s training and consultancy offers. A new campaign to invite more



cities as members of the RPCI Cooperative is also predicted and advertisement of RPCI activities, such as the webinars and podcasts, will also be a priority for next quarter.