

Report

Portuguese Network of Intercultural Cities

May – June 2023

Summary

During the second quarter of 2023 RPCI's work focused mostly on managing projects and other initiatives. The cooperative RPCI, created in 2021 to support the Network, maintains two member cities (Oeiras and Loures) and is currently managing 3 projects: one funded by the Council of Europe (one annual RPCI grant named "Intercultural Ecosystems") and two funded by the European Commission ("NET-IDEA" and "DiverCities"). In total, six 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 ten emails were sent to all member cities) and lateral phone calls 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 Fundão), events and seminars, and others. A formal request to join the network was delivered by the city of Odemira and is currently being processed.

A practice-sharing meeting was held on the 9th of May and new practices were gathered to be sent to the ICC programme for publication.

One meeting was held with an **introduction to RPCI and the INDEX** for new cities and others wishing to join on the 24th of May with 11 people from 4 cities attending. A shared folder with guidelines to fill in the INDEX in Portuguese and an INDEX version in Portuguese was created.

RPCI coordination participated at the **Italian ICC Network meeting** on the 17th of May, presenting the RPCI network and cooperative.

RPCI advertised all the ICC initiatives and news, such as the Call for Applications for the Intercultural Cities Programme Advisory Group, and the "Inclusive public space: is placemaking the solution?" City Talk.

Activities

RPCI coordination led the activities of 3 projects. Besides, oversaw and had an active role in all the activities developed within the Network and the RPCI cooperative, such as:

Intercultural Ecosystems project

This project was built collaboratively, arising from the brainstorming meeting held in 2022 with RPCI cities, and has the goal to foster intercultural competencies among city staff and strategic partners. Since May 2023 the project has had three consortium meetings, composed of RPCI staff and representatives of the cities of Cascais, Loures, and Lisboa. One practice sharing session was held inviting all RPCI cities on the 9th May, with the participation of 18 people from 7 cities and 2 NGO's.

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.

Following the survey applied to all cities and respective partners, three main issues were selected for the webinars and another three for podcast episodes (Roma communities, Access to Health and Welcoming refugees). The consortium prepared and hosted two webinars, respectively:

- “**Communication and Interculturalism**” on the 30th of May with the presentation of the DiverITy project (Ana Pessoa, Aga Khan Foundation); “Communication initiatives” (Lisbon municipality) and “Mygra Myths project” (Cyntia de Paula, Casa do Brasil) – 46 people attended
- “**Intercultural Communication**”, on the 27th of June with interventions by Mab Marques (RPCI), Sónia Matos (Activist, AMUCIP - ROMA association), and Mafalda Fernandes (Activist, Influencer) - 26 people attended
- NEXT: “**Intercultural Project Management**” will be held on the 19th of September, with practical activities to learn how to develop Intercultural Projects.



One podcast episode was recorded, focusing on Health and Interculturalism with an interview with Nurse Ana Laura Baridó working with diverse communities, and will be placed online soon.

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. The session plans and contents (including a facilitator’s guide) for the course were co-designed with partners after a consultation process in 2022, and currently, each partner is finishing the test of the course locally. A meeting of the Portuguese **Community of Practice (CoP)** was held on the 5th May to give space for further exchange among training participants from the training groups held between February and March. This meeting had the participation of 10 people. Meetings were also held with young people taking part in the training in April to prepare **local awareness-raising activities**: 20 youngsters from Vila Verde and Santa Maria da Feira participated. In Santa Maria da Feira 20 young people developed posters with significant messages against online hate speech and these were displayed in their school. On the same day (14th June) several awareness-raising activities were also developed, such as a speech by 4 young people about the topic on the school radio, reaching 224 young people from 11 to 19 years old and 22 adults. A report on the **satisfaction survey** applied to all sixteen cities testing the course was made, and the first intermediate report was prepared and sent to the coordinator of the project.



DiverCities project

DiverCities is a 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). The city of Loures participates in this project. This project started on the 1st of November 2022. A strategy for the implementation of participatory activities around the Migrant Integration Plan of the municipality is now being implemented with Loures staff and partners. The first action led by RPCI was a training on Participatory Methodologies for Loures and local parish staff on the 2nd of May with the participation of 16 people. Meetings were held with Loures staff and partners to evaluate the 2022 Migrant Integration Plan and start preparing the next plan, aiming to implement participatory actions. These meetings were held on the 23rd June and 29th June: 16 people from 11 organisations were present at these meetings. A new meeting is scheduled for 14th July.



Communication

During this quarter, 4 new original articles were published:

- One article was published to advertise the webinars and the Erlangen NET-IDEA meeting: [Consórcio do Projeto NET IDEA reúne em Erlangen](#)
- One article focused on celebrating the international day against homophobia, transphobia and biphobia: [17 de Maio – Dia Internacional contra a Homofobia, Transfobia e Bifobia](#)
- One article was a summary of the training held in Loures, as part of the DiverCities project: [Loures recebe formação em metodologias participativas](#)
- Finally, RPCI posted an article with a round-up of the awareness raising activities organised with youngsters as part of the NetIDEA project: [Apoiamos a nova geração contra a discriminação \(projeto NetIDEA\)](#)

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:

- **Facebook**
Reach (average): 1073
Visits: 213
New likes: 9
Publications: 28
- **Instagram**
Reach: 363
Visits: 106
Stories: 50
Publications: 2
New followers: 26
- **LinkedIn**
Page Visits: 43
New Followers: 30
Average impressions: 1214
Total Posts: 10
- **Website “Cidades Interculturais”**
Views (average): 113,5
Articles/ posts: 5 original articles
- **Podcast Channel “Portugal Plural”**
New episodes: 1
Average play per episode: 2
Followers: 28

Total reproductions: 123 (mostly women from Portugal and Brazil)

Other activities

Following RPCI's participation in a networking event held in Porto, organised by the [EFEM project](#) (financed by the EU and targeting migrant women entrepreneurship) a meeting was held to prepare joint activities.

RPCI cooperative joined as an associate entity a proposal to EU funding by Reggio Emilia and a group of cities of the Italian network, which focuses on the development/implementation of local anti-discrimination plans to prevent and combat discrimination and on the collection of data on the discrimination phenomenon and the impact of public policies.

Next steps

During the next quarter the learning activities of the “**Intercultural Ecosystems**” project will continue. RPCI will host the final webinar, on the 19th September. Two Podcast episodes will also be recorded and published during this period.

Regarding “**NET-IDEA**”, the awareness-raising activities will continue – a football tournament between young people from the three cities with diverse backgrounds will be prepared and the training for young people in Braga will be held. The national community of practice will continue with the participants of the training sessions, to foster practice sharing and further learning, and the Youth Summit will occur in October in Lublin, with 3 young people (one from each of the cities involved) attending. A report of the training testing will be produced by RPCI and submitted as a deliverable to the E.U.

For “**DiverCities**”, meetings will be held to follow up on the implementation of participatory activities with migrant communities. It is expected that Loures can evaluate the previous Migrant Integration Plan using a participatory approach, as well as prepare the Plan for 2024 in the same way. A practice-sharing event for RPCI cities will be promoted on the same subject.

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.