



## **7th Portuguese Intercultural Cities Network Meeting**

Portimão, Casa Manuel Teixeira Gomes, June 21, 2016

(SUMMARY)

### **Opening session**

The opening session was made by Castelão Rodrigues, Vice-Mayor of Portimão who, besides greeting all participants, underlined the inclusive nature of Portimão, the fact that it has already welcomed some refugees coming from Eritrea and, finally, the importance of its participation in the RPCI, by the possibility to share experiences and good practices in the field of interculturality.

### **Presentation of the measures implemented in Portimão on Migration Policies**

Ana Fazenda, Deputy Mayor in Portimão, presented the measures implemented in Portimão within the framework of the Municipal Plan for the Integration of Immigrants (PMII). From her detailed presentation some aspects deserve to be highlighted, namely the fact that between 2007 and 2013 there was a Local Centre of Immigrant Support (CLAI) [since 2016 Portimão has a Local Centre of Migrant Integration Support] and currently 7.000 immigrants with valid residence permit live in the municipality. On the other hand, it should also be pointed out that the selection of the fields of intervention in the PMII is the direct result of a diagnose made by partners and the needs that were identified, with schools being considered pivotal public facilities in the process of construction of interculturality. Finally, the Interculturality Week of Portimão (May 27 – June 3), initiative of utmost importance for the intercultural strategy of the municipality was also briefly presented.

### **The Portuguese Intercultural Cities Network, a brief introduction**

André Carmo, RPCI coordinator, made a brief presentation of the network, framing it within the development process of the Intercultural Cities Programme

(ICC), while also addressing the centrality ascribed to the *diversity advantage* concept. Currently, 99 cities participate in the ICC and have access to a toolbox – index, expert visits and thematic meetings – supporting the elaboration of more consistent diagnoses and the design of better local based intercultural strategies and policies. Created in 2012, the RPCI includes 11 municipalities located north to south of the country. The main goals of the RPCI for the 2015/2016 biennium were also presented and some additional notes about activities that have been, or will be, developed within the scope of the ICC were also shared: i) intercultural competences learning cluster; ii) intercultural policy communication learning cluster; iii) inclusive integration policy lab; iv) inter-religion and social innovation seminars; v) ICC facebook; vi) ICC major public event in 2017.

### Invited speakers - Mostafa Zekri e Elsa Vieira



Afterwards, two presentations were made by Mostafa Zekri, associate professor at the Manuel Teixeira Gomes Higher Institute – Lusófona Group, and Elsa Vieira, coordinator of the Silves Local Learning Centre – Open University service. The former, shared with the audience some theoretical reflections around the concepts of cultural diversity, interculturality, multiculturalism, among others,

stressing the different political implications of each one of them. In fact, one of the most pressing challenges faced by contemporary societies, in which cultural diversity is an insurmountable element, has to do with the need to reconcile a universal perspective concerning what is singular and unique. In the Portuguese case, contrasting with other European countries, the most noteworthy aspect is the inexistence of any expressions and/or political organizations making anti-immigration, xenophobia and racism a pivotal aspect of their strategy. Elsa Vieira, in turn, addressed immigrant women in the Algarve, namely, the role played by entrepreneurial women in regional development, providing sound evidence to support her analysis of socio-economic dynamics in the Algarve territory.

### **Audience during invited speakers presentations**



### **Working Session: Anti-rumour strategy**

During the afternoon, small working groups were created to further advance the development of anti-rumour strategies by RPCI members. By the same token, a working group exclusively made of non-RPCI members – Albufeira, Faro, Lagos, São Brás de Alportel – was also created to clarify some doubts that emerged

during the debate that took place earlier and explain in a more detailed way some functional aspects related to RPCI membership.

### **Next steps and RPCI coordination evaluation**

Finally, André Carmo, informed participants about some important dates, namely: i) deadline for submitting applications to RPCI anti-rumour strategy activities funding: September 15 [changed to September 17]; ii) 3rd RPCI workshop: October 2016, Amadora [confirmed to October 25]; iii) 8th RPCI Meeting: November 2016, Braga; iv) expert visits scheduled: Santa Maria da Feira (October 10), Lisboa (October 17), Loures (October 18), Cascais (March 2017); v) ICC Coordinators Meeting: 15-16 September, Reykjavik.

Seeking to assess his performance during the first 12 month as RPCI coordinator, André Carmo presented the results of the RPCI coordination evaluation, based on a survey (individual and anonymous) that was sent on 17/05/2016, through SurveyMonkey, for 39 people that have been involved in RPCI activities. 10 answers were provided (around 26% of inquiries) and, as a whole, the majority of fields were evaluated with good or very good (70% of respondents considered the global quality of coordination very good). However, regarding the knowledge of matters addressed, 30% of respondents considered the level achieved to be sufficient. Hence, the RPCI coordinator expressed his commitment to the improvement of this indicator in the near future and also his satisfaction with the way the RPCI developed during the last 12 months.

## **Annex I - Programme**

### **VII PORTUGUESE INTERCULTURAL CITIES NETWORK MEETING**

#### **Developing an Anti-rumour Strategy**

*June 21, 2016*

**Venue:** Casa Manuel Teixeira Gomes, Portimão

**10:15-10:30h** - Opening session, Isilda Vargas Gomes (Mayor, Portimão)

**10:30-10:45h** - Presentation of the measures implemented in Portimão on Migration Policies, Ana Fazenda (Deputy Mayor, Portimão)

**10:45-11:00h** - The Portuguese Intercultural Cities Network, a brief introduction, André Carmo (RPCI coordinator)

**11:00-11:30h** - Interculturality in the Algarve, Zekri Mostafa (Associate Professor at the Manuel Teixeira Gomes Higher Institute - Lusófona Group)

**11:30-12:00h** - Women in Diaspora through the Algarve: contributions in the role of entrepreneurship, Elsa Vieira (Silves Local Learning Centre coordinator, Open University service)

**12:00-12:30h** - Discussion

**12:30-14:00h** - Lunch

**14:00-16:45h** - Working session: Anti-rumour Strategy

**16:45-17:00h** - Next steps and RPCI coordination evaluation, André Carmo (RPCI coordinator)

**17:00h** - Closing session, Ana Fazenda (Deputy mayor, Portimão)



## Annex II - Participants

REGISTO DE PRESENCAS  
7º Reunião RPCT - "Desenvolvendo uma Estratégia anti-rumores" (21/06/2016), Casa Manuel Teixeira Gomes, Rua Jidice Bilker, nº1, Portimão

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**REGISTO DE PRESENCAS**  
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