



INTERCULTURAL CITIES COORDINATORS' MEETING

Reykjavik, 15-16 September 2016

CONCLUSIONS

1. FUNCTIONING AND MANAGEMENT OF THE NETWORK

- a) The ICC network, at 100 cities and more, needs to reflect more deeply on its functioning, governance and activities in order to ensure that its quantitative growth does not undermine the quality of work and the engagement of member cities. A reflection/consultation process will be organised for this purpose, including e-mail, phone/skype exchanges and possibly face-to-face meetings of a small number of member city coordinators & experts.
- b) It is essential to ensure good two-ways communication between the Strasbourg team and member cities. Cities are strongly encouraged to regularly send information about new initiatives, meetings, impact and any other relevant information, including official one (eg change of Mayor, etc.). Each city is expected to provide a short annual report prior to the coordination meeting. The fulfillment of this obligation will be a condition for receiving financial sponsoring for the participation in the coordinators' meeting. The information flow should also improve within the member cities, with regular feedbacks on outcomes to be provided by the participants in ICC events to their colleagues in the municipality.
- c) Language is an issue for some cities of the national networks, so the coordinators have an important task in relaying information and in making it available in local language. National networks could organise a rotation where each city translates newsletters and reports and shares them with the others.
- d) Another challenge to be converted into an opportunity is to ensure that changes into the political leadership do not undermine the commitment of the member cities, and that the intercultural integration paradigm is de-politicised. At the same time, the cities feel that a strong political support is key for greater impact of the intercultural approach. As a first step, the Council of Europe will send a letter to the Mayors of member cities at least once a year to take stock of the city's participation and achievements, offer advice or encourage the city to undertake certain actions (eg. fill the index report). The input of coordinators will be necessary for both the preparation of the letters and for promoting the benefits of the ICC programme within their municipality.

- e) It seems important to ensure that the ICC programme also benefits from the impact of the achievements of member cities. On the one hand to increase its international legitimacy, maintain the political and financial support of Council of Europe member states, and continue developing the intercultural integration policy concept. On the other hand, to be able to showcase and amplify the work of the member cities.

2. ICC INDEX

- a) Reminders will be sent to member cities to complete the ICC index again at regular intervals, in principle every 3 years. It is however possible for cities to request a new index assessment more frequently.
- b) National networks or individual cities which have observations, concerns and questions about the INDEX are welcome to raise them with the Strasbourg team.
- c) Study the possibility of using MIPEX-qualified city results (they already exist but have not been used in the past so there will be an issue of continuity and comparability of INDEX reports; also, the use of infographics to present index results in a summary and visually appealing form should be tested.

3. ACTIVITIES

- a) Thematic events & study visits:
 - Thematic event on Human rights in the intercultural city (hosted by Oslo)
 - Study visit to Lyon followed by a workshop on Diversity and anti-radicalisation.
- b) Pilot activities (subject to human and financial resources):
 - Intensive 5-day induction courses in new member cities, covering the ICC concept, research evidence, the INDEX, intercultural policies in different fields, introduction to different methodologies such as anti-rumours campaigns, diversity rating for enterprises, participatory strategy development methodology, etc..
 - Specific meetings for "older" member cities (and others who might be interested) to work on a new narrative ICC 2.0 and bring new inspiration and energy in the cities where there might be diversity fatigue or a feeling that a plateau has been reached.
 - Setting-up of a "mentoring" scheme where older members support and advise less experienced cities, as well as approach non-member cities to share their own experience within the programme.
 - Create a certification scheme for NGOs which work interculturally so to ensure the uptake of the ICC policy model by civil society.

c) Inclusive Integration Policy lab:

- Invite Mayors to debate how to influence national policies and to discuss with some national politicians about the potential and challenges of the intercultural approach to integration.

d) Anti-rumours:

- Continue supporting anti-rumour campaigns in a limited number of cities, mapping and taking stock of their experiences (through feedback reports by participating cities).
- Give a formal recognition to cities who are following properly the methodological steps in order to motivate and get more political support and also facilitate the exchange of best practices.
- Develop an international online training for capacity building, a welcome package for those cities who want to start implementing their own antirumours strategy, and a certification scheme for anti-rumors trainers so to ensure a more coherent action in this field.

e) ICC milestone event, to be organised late November 2017, 2 or 2.5 days, 250-350 participants.

The ICC milestone event will mark the network's 10th anniversary and take stock of achievements and chart the way ahead, bringing together all cities from Europe and other continents. It will also be an important opportunity for political expression and visibility, and for the participation of Mayors and national politicians. The event will discuss issues such as how to influence the broader societal debate and policy, how to foster better partnerships with business and other key players, how to demonstrate more credibly the advantage of the diversity integration approach; how to benefit better from the global reach of the network, etc.

The coordinators' meeting will be held right after the event.

The event should showcase the transversality and richness of the ICC approach, it should allow participants to explore intercultural issues and connections first-hand, offer practical and concrete responses to specific dilemmas and challenges, and exchange with widely acclaimed leaders. The ICC coordinators shall contribute by encouraging the participation of their Mayors.

Criteria for host cities:

- a) international accessibility ;
- b) Financial and administrative capacity for organizing a high level event (eg. interpretation in several languages, social events, adequate venue, etc.);

- c) Political support (preferably commitment to participate by the Prime Minister or the President of the country);
- d) Being a leader in the intercultural integration field.

4. COMMUNICATION

- a) The Strasbourg team will prepare an ICC communication toolkit, including background and support documents, a general presentation, a visibility toolkit (downloadable logos, banners, etc.) available media content (ICC video, the ICC brochure), etc.. Member cities are encouraged to translate the key communication tools in their local language(s) and use the ICC visual identity as brand or co-brand of initiatives undertaken for the implementation of their intercultural integration policies;
- b) Personalise more social media posts to speak about specific people in cities to increase the response and interaction;
- c) Launch a social media campaign for ICC artist ambassadors – one artist per week from a city could be featured;
- d) Offer media training to city officials, staff and communicators, within the limits of available resources.

Cities may also consider joining the European Local Democracy Week ([ELDW](#)), an annual European event co-ordinated by the CoE Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, targeting local authorities from the 47 CoE member States, their associations, citizens and NGOs. The ELDW aims at further disseminating CoE universal values such as democracy and human rights through the promotion of local authorities' activities in this field. In 2016, the central focus of the ELDW is on "Living together in culturally diverse societies: respect, dialogue, interaction", a topic which is strictly related to the work of Intercultural cities.