

Annual meeting of Intercultural Cities (ICC) Coordinators

Bergen, Norway

29-30 October 2025

MEETING REPORT

Published January 2026



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Introduction

The annual meeting of the Coordinators of the Council of Europe's Intercultural Cities (ICC) Programme took place in Bergen, Norway on 29-30 October 2025 with a focus on youth participation.

ICC Programme has made youth participation the focus of the meeting, as young people are essential for building inclusive cities, and their diverse voices must shape intercultural policies, with many ICC cities having valuable experience in promoting youth participation and integrating it into their policies.

The meeting, in general, reviewed accomplishments, addressed challenges and potential solutions, and facilitated the exchange of ideas for future collaborative efforts aimed at strengthening the ICC Programme. The programme also included a panel discussion and working groups on the youth theme, as well as presentations from members, sharing of best practices, and an overview of the outcomes from the 2025 ICC intercity grants. Additionally, the agenda featured field visits to Bergen Centre for Inclusion and *Fellesverket*, a community centre focused on youth, led by Red Cross of Norway.

The thematic sessions, panel and working groups in the meeting worked toward the main output of the meeting, a concise "*dos and don'ts*" guide for local authorities on engaging diverse young people in the development, implementation, and monitoring of intercultural policies, combining Council of Europe standards, the intercultural approach, and practical city experience.

The agenda and list of participants of the meeting can be found in Appendices I and II.

The meeting and its output will contribute to the objectives of the Council of Europe's New Democratic Pact for Europe through the exchange of good practices for diverse and inclusive societies, as well as innovative policies fostering democratic resilience at local and regional levels.

Why a New Democratic Pact for Europe?

Democratic backsliding, disinformation, impunity, and authoritarianism are undermining democracy in Europe. People are increasingly afraid and frustrated. It comes at a time when democratic security – the resilience of our democratic institutions, freedoms, and values – is our first line of defence against the threats we face. A collective response is needed. There is no quick fix and no single solution. With the New Democratic Pact, the Council of Europe unites with its partners to boost solutions that work and create new responses. To identify them, consultations are needed. The Pact will serve as a collective and inclusive process – not to reinvent democracy, but to reinforce its foundations, amplify its benefits, and innovate its form to make it tangible for everyone, especially younger generations. The directions set during the consultation phase running through 2026 will shape the work that follows.

29 October 2025 – Part I

Opening of the meeting and welcoming words

Rita Marascalchi, Head of Intercultural Inclusion Unit, Council of Europe welcomed participants and expressed appreciation to the City of Bergen for their work in organising the event, as well as to the Bergen Inclusion Centre for hosting. She highlighted the importance of the meeting's focus on young people and the need to ensure their perspectives are reflected in local policies to build stronger

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communities. She noted the value of the upcoming field visits, both at the Inclusion Centre and at *Fellesverket* in the city centre, as opportunities to see Bergen’s approach in practice.

Sølve Sætre, Head of Section for Children, Family and Diversity & Intercultural Cities Co-ordinator, City of Bergen opened the meeting by welcoming the participants and highlighting Bergen’s practices on intercultural inclusion. He presented the national framework for welcoming migrants and the role of municipalities in making those policies a reality. He emphasized the role of the Centre for inclusion, venue of the coordinators meeting, and the process of its adaptation from a training school to a one-stop shop for migrants arriving to Bergen.



Hallvard Gorseth, Director of Equal Rights and Dignity, Council of Europe opened the meeting by thanking the City of Bergen for hosting and highlighting its long-standing commitment to intercultural inclusion. He recalled Bergen’s contributions to ICC standards and tools, including the Model Framework for an intercultural integration strategy at the local level. He stressed the core principles of the intercultural approach (equality, diversity, interaction and participation) and noted that they are increasingly challenged in Europe. He linked the work of the ICC to the Council of Europe’s New Democratic Pact for Europe, recalling the Secretary General’s emphasis on democratic security and the role of cities in strengthening democracy.

He also referenced recent achievements across the network, including cooperation between Ukrainian and Polish cities, work in Portugal on teachers’ competences, UK cities’ involvement in No Hate Speech Week, and the expansion of the intercultural model in South Korea. He introduced youth participation as a key focus of the meeting, recalling the recent Youth Ministers’ decisions in Malta and welcoming the contribution of the Advisory Council on Youth. He closed by underlining the importance of city diplomacy, international cooperation and shared learning, and thanked Bergen once again for its hospitality.

Thematic discussion on youth

A thematic panel discussion on youth and youth participation, moderated by Hallvard Gorseth, brought together Mariam Tartousi from the Council of Europe’s Advisory Council on Youth, Simone Pettoroso, from the Italian Network of Intercultural Cities (ICEI), Dennis Osei Kontor, Head of Culture and Sports Activities, Ny-Krohnborg Center for Education, Sports and Culture, and Martine Lysko-Misje, Member of Bergen’s Youth Council, to explore how young people can meaningfully participate in shaping local policies.

Speaking first, Mariam Tartousi presented the Council of Europe’s long-standing youth sector, its co-management system, and the work of the Joint Council on Youth. She highlighted the European Youth Centres in Strasbourg and Budapest as hubs for training and democratic competences, and outlined the Youth Sector Strategy 2030 and its priorities on democracy, rights, inclusion and youth work. She noted that the Congress was adopting a revised Charter on Youth Participation and recalled the 2023 Reykjavik Summit, which placed youth at the heart of democratic renewal. She stressed that meaningful participation strengthens democratic ownership, improves decisions, brings innovation, and is particularly

valuable for intercultural inclusion. She also identified key barriers such as structural obstacles, socio-economic inequalities, discrimination and tokenistic consultation, urging a shift toward genuine influence. She shared examples of successful practice, including the co-management model itself, the European Youth Capital process, co-created standards on migration, and effective local youth councils.

Martine Lysko-Misje, explained how the council represents young people across the city through elected members who maintain close dialogue with local politicians, schools, youth clubs and civil society. She stressed the need to involve youth early in decision-making and not merely seek their endorsement at the end of a process. She emphasised that being taken seriously, ensuring wide outreach, and representing all young people—including those less active or engaged—are essential. She also noted that compensation for youth representatives increases commitment and responsibility.

Dennis Osei Kontor described the inclusive and intergenerational approach of the centre he manages, created by renovating a former school in collaboration with youth, older residents and the wider community. He explained how involving young people from the very beginning gave them ownership of the space. The centre now brings together a highly diverse population and must constantly adapt activities, communication and services to ensure everyone feels welcome, including families with fewer resources. He highlighted the importance of co-design, ongoing consultation and providing safe spaces for interaction.

Presenting the experience from Italian municipalities, Simone Pettoruso described how ICEI supports cities in developing youth policies, particularly through non-formal education spaces. He noted the impact of COVID-19 on youth participation and education, and explained that youth centres play a crucial role in anti-rumours work and anti-discrimination efforts. He outlined ICEI's work with 14 municipalities, supporting youth workers, creating communities of practice across 26 youth centres, and helping young people aged 14–25 develop skills to recognise discrimination and participate actively in their communities. He also described the main challenges encountered: tokenism, reaching youth at risk of exclusion, adapting methods to different city contexts, and ensuring sustainability beyond pilot projects. He announced that ICEI is developing a new formal mechanism to strengthen youth participation in Italian cities.

In the discussion that followed, Mariam Tartousi expanded on the barriers young people face—structural, socio-economic and cultural—and the need to move from symbolic participation to real influence. She highlighted positive examples such as Tromsø's preparation for its 2026 European Youth Capital year. Martine Lysko-Misje stressed again the importance of early involvement, stronger relationships with politicians and broad outreach through schools and social media. Dennis Osei Kontor reiterated that youth are not a homogeneous group and that multilingual, multicultural contexts require constant adaptation and attention to inclusion. Simone emphasised the need for continuity, formal mechanisms and better links between youth work, anti-discrimination policies and municipal structures.

Questions from participants touched on funding models and the Council of Europe's co-management system. Simone Pettoruso explained that cities often begin with national or external funds before moving toward local sustainability. Mariam Tartousi outlined how the 50/50 system works within the Council on Youth, where young representatives and member state authorities jointly set priorities and take decisions on youth policy and the work of the youth department.

Hallvard Gorseth closed the panel by thanking the speakers and emphasising that the experiences shared—from national or European standards to city-level practice—confirm that meaningful youth participation is indispensable for inclusive, democratic and resilient communities.

Introduction and visit to Bergen Inclusion Centre

The City of Bergen presented the newly opened Bergen Inclusion Centre (*Bergen inkluderingscenter*), inaugurated in April 2024 as a major investment in the city's integration policy. Housed in a renovated former teacher-training college, the 17,000 m² facility brings together essential services for newly arrived refugees and immigrants, including the Introduction Centre, the Norwegian Learning Centre, adult primary education, the municipal sports agency, and the Centre for Migration Health. Developed using the Building Dignity Framework, the centre ensures community participation, sustainability, universal design, and a human-rights-based approach.

The centre functions as a multi-purpose hub both during and after working hours, providing free space to local organisations. It hosts a wide range of activities, from language courses and sports to multicultural events, job-training programmes, and the "Food and Talk" initiative. Cross-cutting support is offered through an LGBTI+ resource group, a diversity advisor addressing negative social control, and specialised vocational training rooms.

As part of the international Building Dignity project, the centre is designed to mitigate risks to human rights and maximise social outcomes. It serves as a welcoming space promoting inclusion and offers cultural and sports activities for the local community and volunteer organisations, including outdoor areas and shared sports facilities.

The participants were also given a guided tour of the centre, which highlighted the Building Dignity framework, the artwork, and the centre's current use.

29 October 2025 – Part 2

Horizontal exchanges on good practices on youth / intercultural inclusion

Participants heard best practices and current initiatives on ensuring the participation of diverse young people in intercultural inclusion policies from the cities of Sherbrooke and Repentigny (Canada) on [living together](#) plan and [youth strategy](#), Donostia/San Sebastián (Spain) on [Harrotu ileak project](#) with vulnerable or migrant youth, Botkyrka (Sweden) on practices on intercultural youth inclusion, Wrocław (Poland) on ["Empower Youth: Intercultural Meeting Places in Local Communities"](#) project and Lublin (Poland) on projects on school participatory budget, youth space networks and grant programs, Strasbourg (France) on the ["refugee week"](#), Montesilvano (Italy) on ["youth system project"](#) focusing on the participation of youth, as well as Casalecchio di Reno (Italy) on youth councils and youth centres.

ICC Programme annual review of 2025

The ICC Secretariat presented an overview of the key developments of 2025, framed by the Council of Europe's New Democratic Pact for Europe, which seeks to strengthen democratic resilience, address disinformation, and reinforce trust in institutions across 46 member states. The Secretariat welcomed the network's new members: Shizuoka Prefecture (Japan), Gimpo (South Korea), Iztapalapa (Mexico), and Vila Nova de Gaia (Portugal), and highlighted major visits and ICC Index assessments carried out in Italy, Spain, Serbia, South Korea, Poland and Cyprus, with Oeiras (Portugal) scheduled in December 2025. Three Serbian pilot municipalities, each receiving an ICC Index report and implementation roadmap under the EU/CoE Horizontal Facility Programme were also mentioned.

The review also covered new tools and capacity-building activities, such as the trainings on countering disinformation in Kraków and Strasbourg (within the No Hate Speech Week 2025). Current thematic work on disinformation and placemaking was illustrated, and events conducted in 2025—such as the Wrocław study visit on welcoming Ukrainian refugees, the Ansan Intercultural Symposium, and the launch of the Baltic Academy on Intercultural Integration (2025–2026)—were presented.

The Secretariat then outlined the ongoing reform of the ICC Programme, including its new structure, revised fee scale, and the current and upcoming work of the Committee of Experts on Intercultural Inclusion (ADI-INT).

Finally, the annual review summarised outcomes of the EU–Council of Europe Joint Project Building an Inclusive Integration Approach in Finland (2022–2025), which supported seven Finnish municipalities and resulted in a set of practical guides and tools on anti-discrimination, multilevel governance and intercultural strategies.

ICC Programme Advisory Group

The Advisory Group’s rapporteur, Gregory Jacquet from the Canton of Neuchâtel, briefed the Coordinators on their last (7th) Advisory Group Meeting held on 28 October in Bergen. The discussion was focused on strengthening political engagement within the ICC Programme, exploring ways to bridge academia and the Programme, and brainstorming ideas for the ICC’s 2026–2027 anniversary.

Highlights from Inter-city grants

Participants heard from Lutsk / Pavlohrad / Lublin, Reggio Emilia / Modena and Leeds, / Oeiras on their projects funded by the 2025 ICC Inter-City Grants.

The Lutsk/Pavlohrad/Lublin’s “Cities of Reciprocity” project focused on promoting the inclusion of internally displaced persons, national minorities, and persons with disabilities, with planned training for civil servants on psychological support and mediation, and a study visit to Lublin.

The Reggio Emilia/Modena project developed digital interactive maps of urban cultural diversity to support policy-making and raise awareness among citizens and tourists, accompanied by guidelines for replicability.

The Leeds/Oeiras initiatives included Brave Spaces, recognized nationally for community impact and funded through the 2024 intercity grants, and Rainbow Connections, which fostered exchanges on LGBT+ issues, disinformation, and transnational awareness as the ongoing project for 2025.

30 October 2025 – Part 3

Thematic workshop on youth

A workshop on youth participation was held, with participants divided into seven groups to discuss two questions: how to ensure diverse young people actively contribute to and benefit from intercultural inclusion policy and practice, and how to ensure cities’ participation channels for young people are as diverse as possible. Groups first identified successes and failures related to one or both questions. They then applied ICC principles to develop “*Dos and Don’ts*” using the provided template, considered the four

ICC principles, and, time permitting, outlined an “ideal” practice. Rapporteurs provided feedback to the plenary at the conclusion of the session.

Key points and suggestions emerging from the discussions and working groups included:

Youth Councils and Participation:

- Ensure genuine consultation and decision-making power; avoid tokenism; remunerate members.
- Involve youth from the outset of planning and policy development; decentralize councils to act as ambassadors across schools, youth centres, and community spaces.
- Engage municipal staff and politicians in cooperation with youth.
- Include parents and communities of marginalized groups to support participation.
- Build youth councils that reflect the diversity of the population; consider quotas if needed, but pair with context awareness and sensitization.
- Ensure councils have real power to make recommendations, with municipal oversight to prevent politicization.

Inclusive and Accessible Practices:

- Use inclusive, youth-friendly language; avoid jargon; adapt communication to age, culture, and digital trends (e.g., social media platforms).
- Provide multiple participation channels (physical, digital, social media, multilingual tools) and safe spaces; reach youth where they are rather than expecting them to come to municipal offices.
- Ensure territorial equality; include youth from all neighbourhoods and with different statuses (asylum seekers, international students, job seekers, etc.).
- Recognize multiple forms of participation and adapt approaches based on demographic understanding.
- Start from concrete, local issues and common interests; create multifunctional, multipurpose spaces.

Training and Support:

- Provide capacity-building for city staff, stakeholders, and youth; include parents, teachers, and community leaders.
- Offer coaching and guidance for youth less accustomed to participating; empower them to contribute meaningfully.
- Promote role models reflecting diversity and intersectionality.
- Provide structured support for navigating difficult conversations, inclusion challenges, and sensitive topics.

Sustainable and Strategic Policies:

- Establish long-term policies with allocated funding; prioritize projects that last and ensure sustainability.
- Define clear rules of engagement; evaluate objectives and outcomes; avoid box-ticking exercises.
- Focus on long-term impact rather than short-term initiatives or quick wins.
- Integrate youth participation into the political process; involve elected members to support project continuity.

Intercultural and Intergenerational Engagement:

- Foster multifunctional spaces and intergenerational activities; create opportunities for interactions without making it the sole focus.
- Address racism, discrimination, sexism, and other difficult topics openly; enforce zero-tolerance policies.
- Use ICC tools and intercultural approaches to promote understanding among youth and across

generations.

- Invest in public spaces and existing youth venues, complementing municipal buildings.

Rights, Empowerment, and Practical Action:

- Ensure youth know their rights and are empowered to act; provide safe spaces and mechanisms to report discrimination.
- Make participation accessible to all, including those facing financial or social barriers.
- Encourage practical, sustainable initiatives that foster active citizenship and community engagement.
- Promote a bottom-up approach: listen to youth, explain decisions transparently, and translate input into visible actions.

Key Challenges Identified:

- Budget constraints and limited capacity for sustained involvement.
- Bureaucratic barriers and assumptions about youth homogeneity.
- Ensuring meaningful participation across diverse backgrounds and status groups.
- Need for structured coaching and guidance, long-term engagement, and intergenerational trust-building.

Communication in the ICC Programme

Members discussed how to strengthen both external and internal communication across the ICC network. The Secretariat shared recent achievements and figures on communication in 2025, including more than 40 news items published on the ICC website, over 30 posts on X and Facebook, participation in more than 50 events, the publication of new good practices, and the translation of 145 additional practices into English and French. The ICC website has also been updated to improve usability and now includes a dedicated youth page.

Participants and the secretariat discussed how cities can contribute to greater visibility of the programme. The importance of consistently mentioning the cities' status as Intercultural Cities, using the hashtag #ICCCities, and citing ICC publications and tools whenever relevant have been highlighted. Members were also encouraged to add the Intercultural Cities logo to their municipal or regional websites and to follow ICC's official social media channels to stay informed.

The discussion also focused on improving communication flows within the network. Cities were invited to inform the Secretariat about any changes in mayors, coordinators, or local contact points, as well as to share good practices, success stories, and upcoming webinars or events in English or French so they can be promoted through ICC channels.

Marketplace exercise through posters

A marketplace-style exercise was organised to gather informal contributions from participants. Four thematic posters were displayed, and participants were invited to add sticky notes with ideas and proposals throughout the meeting. The first poster focused on the ICC Anniversary, inviting suggestions for events, activities or symbolic actions that could make the celebration memorable, as well as ways in which individual cities or networks could contribute to the anniversary year.

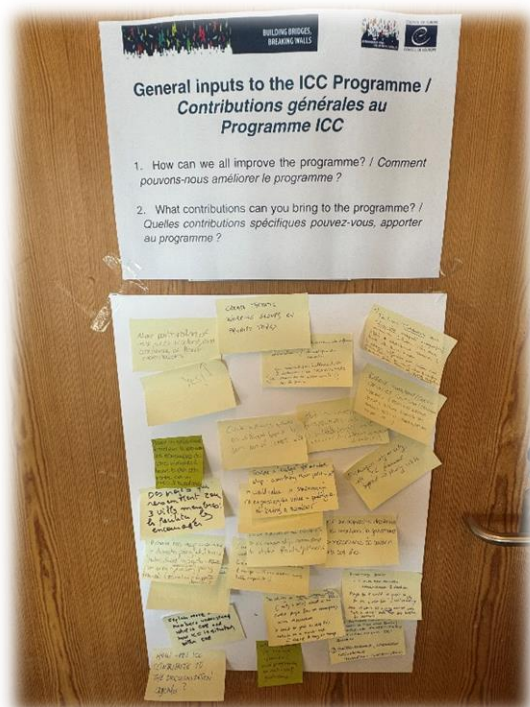
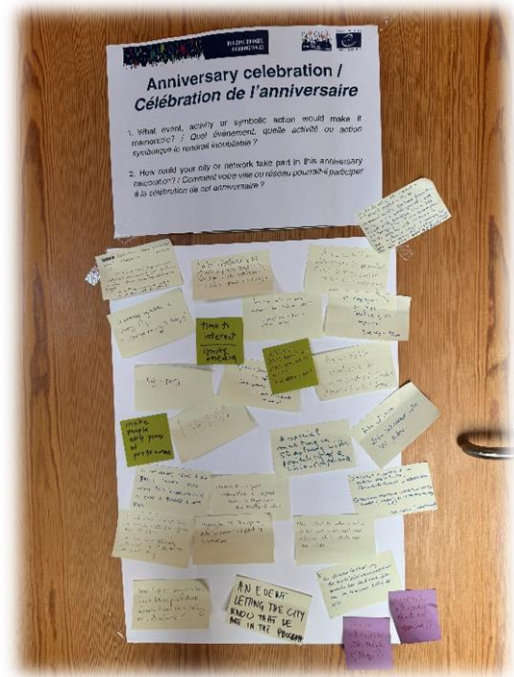
The second poster gathered general inputs to strengthen the ICC Programme. Participants shared views on how the programme could be improved and indicated specific contributions they could offer to support its development and implementation.

The third poster focused on gathering inputs from members on how to strengthen both external and internal communication of the ICC Programme and the network.

The fourth poster enabled match-making among cities. Participants were encouraged to indicate what they were seeking—such as tools, areas of interest or project ideas—and what they could offer in terms of expertise, tools or support to other members of the network. Key takeaways from the thematic posters were gathered based on participants’ contributions, which highlighted the following points;

ICC Anniversary

- Organising a major festival with stands for participant cities to showcase their achievements
- Hosting exhibitions and communication campaigns
- Implementing symbolic actions in each city
- Inviting media to cover events
- Producing a video clip featuring mayors and politicians from member cities showing support
- Collecting videos from each city
- Creating an accessible catalogue of best practices with contact details
- Publishing a photo album
- Holding a special meeting in Strasbourg
- Launching a 20-year evaluation or impact report
- Highlighting achievements through a public campaign
- Informing the public in each city about ICC milestones and successes

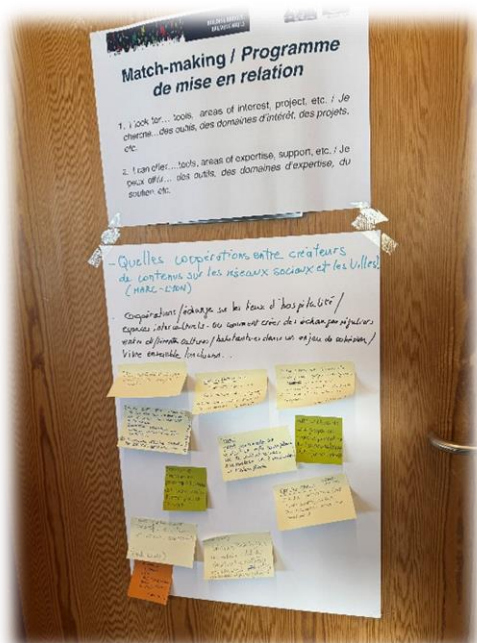
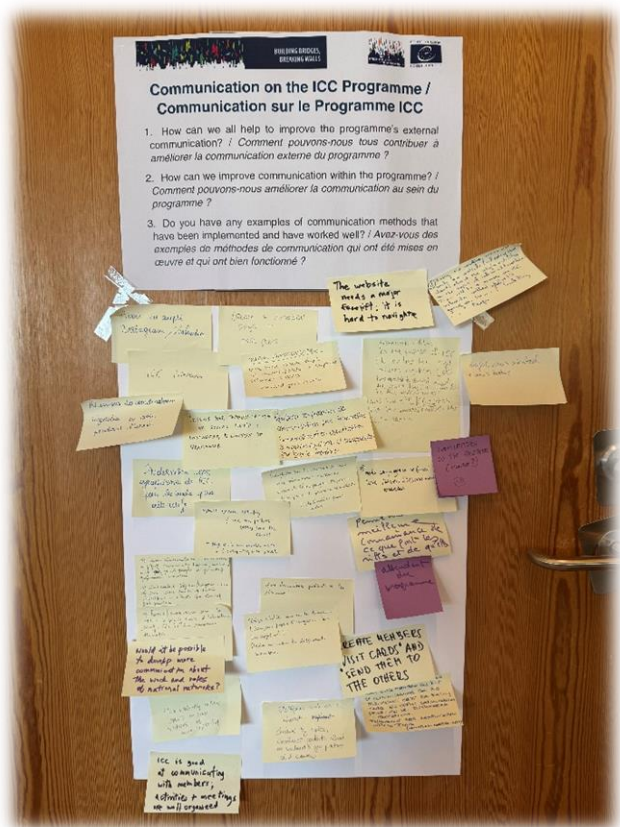


General Inputs

- Creating thematic working groups on priority topics
- Increasing participation of involved cities and support from their coordinator.
 - Direct involvement of politicians and decision-makers through dedicated meetings or specific sessions
 - Providing tailored technical and financial support
 - Facilitating exchanges between cities with ICC financial support
 - Allowing more flexibility and time between intercity grants

Communication

- The need for a substantial update of the ICC website, including a more modern and user-friendly layout.
- Creating LinkedIn and Instagram accounts, with more regular and sustained posting throughout the year.
- Several cities proposed contributing thematic articles or stories highlighting local initiatives and innovations relevant to intercultural inclusion.
- It was recommended to develop a simpler, news-oriented newsletter, issued regularly and focusing on key updates, tools, and opportunities.
- The importance of stronger links with municipal communication departments to enhance visibility and ensure coherent messaging.
- Gathering and sharing engaging stories from the field, which could support a more narrative-based communication strategy.
- Some participants recommended exploring a local-level media outreach campaign, using traditional media (TV) alongside social media channels to amplify the programme's presence.



- The need to strengthen the ICC Programme's visual identity, ensuring recognisability and coherence across platforms.
- Participants also encouraged greater visibility through collaboration with NGOs and other local partners active in inclusion.

Match-making

For the matchmaking poster, members offered contributions in the areas of youth participation, conflict management, discrimination desks and observatories,

meetings with non-European stakeholders, and strategies to address racism.

30 October 2025 – Part 4

Field Visit to *Fellesverket*

2025 Annual meeting of Intercultural Cities (ICC) Coordinators ended with a field visit *Fellesverket*, Bergen's largest youth meeting space, organised by the Red Cross and located in the city centre. The visit included a guided tour of the premises and a meeting with *Fellesverket* staff to learn about their inclusive activities for youth in Bergen. *Fellesverket* serves youth aged 13 to 25 as an activity centre and acts as the central hub for all youth initiatives organised by Red Cross Bergen. The centre offers a wide range of inclusive programmes, fostering engagement, participation, and social cohesion among young people.

Annex I - Agenda

ICC/MTG/OJ(2025)1

27 October 2025

Council of Europe Intercultural Cities Programme

Annual Meeting of Intercultural Cities Co-ordinators

Thematic focus:

“The Participation of diverse young people in Intercultural Cities”

**Bergen (Norway)
29-30 October 2025**

AGENDA

Purpose: The meeting of Intercultural Cities (ICC) co-ordinators is the annual gathering of co-ordinators of the Intercultural Cities network. This meeting aims to take stock of achievements, discuss challenges and relevant themes around intercultural inclusion, with a view to further developing both the ICC programme and the Council of Europe’s work on intercultural inclusion. It also aims to facilitate the exchange of best practice across ICC member cities, including by carrying out field visits to initiatives of the host city.

Venue: [Bergen kommune - Bergen inkluderingscenter](#) (Centre for Inclusion)
Landåssvingen 15, 5096 Bergen, Norway.

Working languages: English and French.

Thematic focus:

Young people are vital to building inclusive cities, and their diverse voices must be fully represented in shaping intercultural policies. True intercultural inclusion can only succeed when youth in all their diversity are empowered to contribute as part of the whole society. Many ICC cities have developed a wealth of experience in fostering youth participation and ensuring that youth mainstreaming is embedded in their intercultural policies. For these reasons, the ICC Programme highlights the theme of youth participation for the 2025 annual meeting. The aim of the thematic sessions on youth will be to develop a 1-2 page document highlighting “do’s and don’ts” for promoting the inclusive participation of diverse young people in developing, implementing and monitoring public policy for intercultural inclusion to ensure diverse young

people’s voices are heard and views taken into account. This document should bring together Council of Europe standards, the intercultural approach, and hands-on experience from cities.

The Annual Meeting of ICC Co-ordinators and its outputs contribute to the objectives of the Council of Europe New Democratic Pact for Europe through the exchange of good practices for diverse and inclusive societies, as well as innovative policies fostering democratic resilience at local and regional levels.

Why a New Democratic Pact for Europe?

Democratic backsliding, disinformation, impunity, and authoritarianism are undermining democracy in Europe. People are increasingly afraid and frustrated. It comes at a time when democratic security – the resilience of our democratic institutions, freedoms, and values – is our first line of defence against the threats we face. A collective response is needed. There is no quick fix and no single solution. With the New Democratic Pact, the Council of Europe unites with its partners to boost solutions that work and create new responses. To identify them, consultations are needed. The Pact will serve as a collective and inclusive process – not to reinvent democracy, but to reinforce its foundations, amplify its benefits, and innovate its form to make it tangible for everyone, especially younger generations. The directions set during the consultation phase running through 2026 will shape the work that follows.

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE:

Tues. 28 October	Wednesday 29 October <i>Bergen Inclusion Centre</i>	Thursday 30 October <i>Bergen Inclusion Centre</i>
Arrival of participants <i>[Advisory Group Meeting – by invitation]</i>	9.00 – Arrival & registration 9.30-9.45 – Welcome 9.45 – Family photo 10.00-10.45 – Thematic discussion [youth] <i>10.45-11.15 – coffee break</i> 11.15-12.30 – Introduction to Bergen Inclusion Centre	9.00-10.15 – Thematic Workshop on youth <i>10.15-10.45 – coffee break</i> [cont.] 10.45-11.30 – Thematic workshop 11.30-12.30 – Communication and co-operation in the ICC Programme
	12.30-14.00 – Lunch & networking	12.30-13.45 – Lunch & networking

19.00 – informal arrival/welcome	14.00-15.30 – Horizontal exchanges on good practices on youth/intercultural inclusion 15.30-16.00 – <i>coffee break</i> 16.00-17.30 – ICC Programme Annual Review	13.45-16.00 – Transport and visit of Fellesverket 16.00-16.30 – Closing Remarks
Hotel Scandic Bergen City	19.30 Dinner – Bryggeloftet	Hotel / Departure

Wednesday 29 October 2025 – Day 1

8:30 Shuttle bus

Meeting point in front of Scandic Bergen City Hotel – shuttle bus to venue.

9:00 Arrival and registration of participants

9:30 – 09:45

Opening of the meeting and welcoming words (moderated by Rita Marascalchi)

- **Solve Sætre**, Head of Section for Children, Family and Diversity & Intercultural Cities Co-ordinator, City of Bergen
- **Hallvard Gorseth**, Director of Equal Rights and Dignity of the Council of Europe

9:45 *Family photo*

10:00 – 10:45 [bloc 1]

Thematic panel discussion on youth and intercultural inclusion – Bergen's experience and Council of Europe approach

Speakers:

- Mariam Tartousi, Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe
- Dennis Osei Kontor, Head of Culture and Sports Activities, Ny-Krohnborg Center for Education, Sports and Culture, City of Bergen
- Simone Pettoruso, Head of the European Projects Department of ICEI (coordinator of the Italian network of intercultural cities)
- Martine Lysko-Misje, Member of the Youth Council, City of Bergen

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee break

11:15 – 12:30 [bloc 2]

Introduction to the Bergen Centre for Inclusion

- **Introduction** Bergen Centre for Inclusion is part of the project [Building Dignity](#), an international tool to guide decision-making throughout the built environment lifecycle: to mitigate risks to human rights and to maximise social outcomes. The centre is designed as a welcoming house that promotes inclusion and offers a wide range of cultural and sports activities for the local community and volunteer organisations. The building, including the outdoor area and sports facilities, is adapted for shared use among local teams and organizations.
- **Guided tour of the centre**
The group will split into two and be given a guided tour of the premises. The guided tour will focus on the Building Dignity framework, the artwork, and the current use of the centre.

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break & networking

14:00 – 15:30 [bloc 3]

Horizontal exchanges between members on ensuring the participation of diverse young people in aspects of intercultural inclusion policy.

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30 [bloc 4]

ICC Programme Annual Review – Including:

- *ICC Programme – update from 2025*
- *Committee of Experts on Intercultural Inclusion – update*
- *Advisory Group – introduction of new members and update*
- *Inter-city Grants 2025 – presentation and preliminary results*

19:30 Dinner – Restaurant Bryggeloftet
Bryggen 11, 5003 Bergen

Thursday 30 October 2025 – Day 2

8:30 Shuttle bus

Meeting point in front of Scandic Bergen City Hotel – shuttle bus to venue.

9:00 – 10:15 [bloc 5]

Thematic Workshop on diverse young people in intercultural cities

10:15 – 10:45 – Coffee break

10.45 – 11:30- – **[cont.]** Thematic Workshop on diverse young people in intercultural cities

11:30 – 12:30 [bloc 6]

Wrapping up and looking ahead: communication and co-operation in the ICC Programme

- *Improving external visibility and communication within the ICC Programme*
- *Collecting participants' inputs for the ICC Programme's future work*

12:30 – 13:45 Lunch break & networking on ICC grants 2026 / future planning

13:45 Shuttle bus

Shuttle bus return to city centre followed by study visit

14:00 – 16:00 [bloc 7]

Field Visit to Fellesverket

- A visit to Fellesverket, Bergen's largest meeting space for youth organised by the Red Cross, in the city centre.
- Meeting with Fellesverket employees to learn about their numerous inclusive activities for youth in Bergen. Fellesverket is, in addition to being an activity centre for youth aged 13 to 25, the hub for all youth activities organised by Red Cross Bergen.

16:00 – 16:30 - Closing remarks

Annex II - List of participants

ICC members

Besançon (France)

STUYVERS Emily
WERGUET Florent

Botkyrka (Sweden)

ROJAS Helena

Canton de Neuchâtel (Suisse)

JAQUET Gregory

Casalecchio di Reno (Italy)

VANELLI Mario

Bergen (Norway)

GARAAS LØCHEN Mari
SÆTRE Sølve

Donostia/San Sebastian (Spain)

CARBALLO PAZ Silvia

Forli (Italy)

PRUSAK Magdalena

Iztapalapa (Mexico)

SANDATE Silverio

Krakow (Poland)

FURDZIK Magdalena

Larache (Morocco)

EL KARKRI Machij

Leeds (United Kingdom)

BHABRA Pria
TURNBULL Geoffrey

Lisboa (Portugal)

GUARITA Luís

London Borough of Camden (United Kingdom)

MOHAMED Hanad
VISAKAN Mathurini

Loures (Portugal)

ARAUJO Nelson

Lublin (Poland)
GNYP-ŚCIGOCKA Magdalena
ZMYSLOWSKA Malgorzata

Lutsk (Ukraine)
GNATIV Tetiana
GNATIV Zoriana

Lyon (France)
VILLARUBIAS Marc

Mexico City (Mexico)
JIMENEZ ORTEGA Jorge

Modena (Italy)
BARALDI Irene

Montesilvano (Italy)
LUPO Francesca
SANTAVENERE Sandra

Neumarkt (Germany)
HORTOLANI Marianne
LEHRER Anna

Paris (France)
CHIKHAOUI Dora-Elysa
TEMIN Isabelle

Pontedera (Italy)
MELANI Delia

Reggio Emilia (Italy)
COLOMBO Luca
MANZINI Nicoletta

Repentigny (Canada)
DESCADRES Marie Angéline

Riga (Latvia)
VASILJEVA Irina

Sherbrooke (Canada)
IDRISSA ABDOULAYE Roukayatou

Strasbourg (France)
BURCKARD Daphné
SOJIC Elodie

Wroclaw (Poland)
MAGNOWSKA Ewa

MALKOGIORGOS-ROHLEDER Anna

ICC national networks

Australian ICC Network

BALLANTYNE Glenda

Canadian ICC Network (REMIRI)

WHITE Bob

Italian ICC Network (ICEI)

IANNIELLO Francesca

PETTORRUSO Simone

Moroccan ICC Network

LAMRANI Abderrahman

Portuguese ICC Network (RPCI)

CALADO Carla

Spanish ICC network (RECI)

PINYOL JIMÉNEZ Gemma

Invited Speakers

Advisory Council on Youth (Council of Europe)

TARTOUSI Mariam

ROTVOLD GREFSTAD Ann Henriette (personal assistant)

Director of Equal Rights and Dignity (Council of Europe)

GORSETH Hallvard

Member of the Youth Council (City of Bergen)

LYSKO-MISJE Martine

Ny-Krohnborg Center for Education, Sports and Culture (City of Bergen)

OSEI KONTOR Dennis

ICC Secretariat

MARASCALCHI Rita

FREEMAN Ben

CINGITAS Aytek

CHARRE Célia