



Intercultural Cities Portuguese Intercultural Cities Network Report - 2020

Main Goals

1. To keep the cities engaged in the Network
2. Promote the development of cities' intercultural strategies
3. To develop the sustainability of the Network

In order to achieve the goals, several activities were developed:

4. Maintain flow of information (emails, meetings and regular contacts)
5. Develop Common projects
6. INDEX and expert visits
7. Practice Sharing initiatives
8. RPCI association development
9. Representation and bridges
10. Other

Activities

1. Maintain flow of information

To keep the cities engaged in the network, one of the most important tasks is to maintain a regular flow of communication between the Council of Europe and the Network's cities. This is particularly important for those that are only part of the national network.

During this period, some updates and developments could be registered:

- The city of Loures changed their representative (maria_barradas@cm-loures.pt and andrea_ppvcsantiago@cm-loures.pt)
- The city of Cascais changed their representative (umera.assanali@cm-cascais.pt)
- The city of Beja Changed their representative (fernanda.gomes@cm-braga.pt)
- The city of Coimbra changed their representative (isabel.eraldo@cm-coimbra.pt)
- The city of Beja (that had been absent the last 2 years) returned to contact (Joaguina.Rita@cm-beja.pt)
- The city of Lisboa now has only 1 representative: Jorge Vieira (Jorge.vieira@cm-lisboa.pt)
- The city of Loures had their expert visits after filling in the INDEX
- The city of Lisboa signed the new agreement and now awaits for the expert visit
- The city of Vila Verde showed interest in joining the network. A meeting was held in 2019, all relevant information was sent, and we are currently waiting for the answer
- The cities of Évora and Vila Nova de Famalicão showed interest in joining the network. Emails with further information were sent but we had no reply.

Besides invitations for RPCI meetings, during 2020, around 35 emails were made to ensure the communication flow, mainly:



January - 1

status of the APP and request further collaboration of cities to send information

February - 3

share several information – Kirklees study visit, development of the APP, Online course, Diversity@Work project visit and Anna Lindh Forum, and to request the cities to fill in the ICC survey

March - 3

share information about the opening of calls to the Municipal Equality Plans
share information on COVID-19 translated into several languages for cities to use with migrant population
send the ICC survey report

April - 4

Informing gentrification study
Asking for COVID 19 practices
Inviting for meeting and summary of meeting

May - 4

Sending RPCI survey
Informing about GT-ADI-INT and CoE webinars
Informing Quebec webinar and world refuge day campaign

June -2

Sending info on World Refuge day campaign
Advertising Impact Assessment ICC study

July -3

Informing of ICC online course
Summary of meeting
Invite for meeting

September - 3

Invite for meeting
Invite for Inter-religions study
Send summary of meeting, asking contributions and suggesting dates for activities

October -4

Ask for inputs for Welcoming Guide
Advertise post graduation on community development + Systemic Discrimination webinar
Invite for sharing of practices meeting
Send summary of meeting and share info of ICC Migrants day campaign

November - 4

Invite for meeting and share info of ICC Migrants day campaign
Share summary of meeting and asking for Inclusive communication practices
Share info to advertise webinar
Ask for Alternative narratives practices

December - 3

Advertise Webinar
Share Welcoming guide and ask for feedback
Share campaign details

Occasionally, phone calls were held with cities to clarify details and deliver information (for eg. when representatives changed), as well as to prepare presentations and meetings.

External communication is also important, to raise the interest of other cities and to give visibility to the networks and the cities activities.

The RPCI [facebook](#) was updated with the sharing of interesting posts. 293 people “like” our page, 29 posts were posted along the year, and the reachout extended to 324 people.

A new branding was created for the social media and webpages.



Image: new branding images



The contacts of the network were updated into the “forum das cidades” website:

<https://www.forumdascidades.pt/content/rede-portuguesa-de-cidades-interculturais>

RPCI [Instagram](#) and [Linkedin](#) account were created, as well as the [website](#), to better reach diverse audiences.

This year, there was no possibility of holding face to face meetings. However, since the coronavirus outbreak in early March occurred, 5 online meetings were held.

RPCI meetings 2020

22nd April 2020: to promote sharing of practices to minimize the effects of the Pandemic for minorities within cities (10 people from 7 cities attended).

2nd July 2020: To decide upon common projects to be developed. The ICC expert Niall Crowley also joined to present the Systemic Discrimination Study (9 people from 8 cities attended).

24th September: Kickstarting of common project; Presentations from Santa Maria da Feira and Amadora practices regarding welcoming newcomers (6 people from 6 cities attended).

22nd October 2020: Presentation of each city Migrant Integration Plans (5 people from 5 cities).

17th November 2020: Preparation of RPCI Webinar and Presentation from Aga Khan Foundation Portugal in partnership with the city of Oeiras - ON Oeiras Project ("How to conduct Participatory Assessments" and "How to promote Citizen led Community Innovation Projects"). The guides for these methodologies were distributed to cities and are available at the RPCI joint Drive.

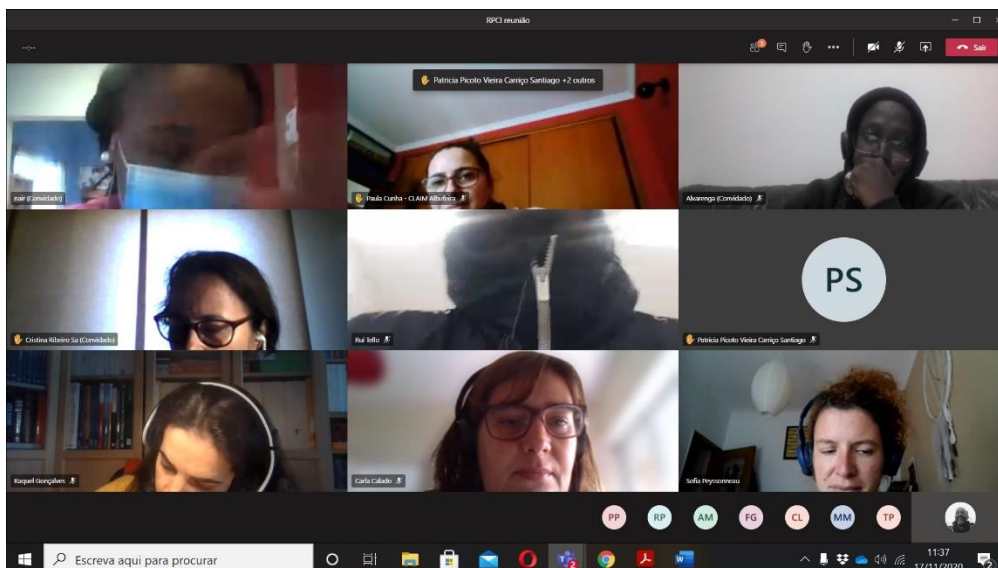


Image: RPCI meeting 17th November – Aga Khan Presentation



A survey was conducted to evaluate the 2019 projects and to plan new initiatives for 2020, also to gather suggestions and information on cities needs to inform the creation of the RPCI association (see attachment).

2. Develop Common projects

Another important way to keep cities engaged is the development of common projects. A Grant has been granted from the Council of Europe, to foster the development of join projects. Joint projects are of the outmost importance to promote cohesion and learning among cities, as well as to ice strength to their lobbying power.

In the 1st trimester of 2020, administrative support was given to the grant receiving organisation (2019 grant) to close the activities and financial details. Also, the supervising and revising of all contents and writing of more contents for the App and translations was ensured continuously. The project developed in 2019 was finalised.

A meeting with 2 partners was held to debate future projects (Casa do Brasil and Rede sem Fronteiras).

A new project was decided collaboratively in one of the RPCI meetings. It consists on developing an welcoming guide to be distributed along with the app created in 2019 (“Portugal incoming”), to provide information to newcomers, visitants and Portuguese citizens on areas like the educational system, migrant legislation, language learning, judicial system, health system, etc. A grant proposal for 2020 was submitted (and approved) with cities engagement.

For 2020 our grant envisioned:

- Development of a Portuguese Welcoming Guide
- Creation of an Integration Plan Matrix
- Promoting a Webinar
- Development of a National Communication Campaign
- Creation of a Portuguese version online course “intercultural city step by step”

Results achieved: 1 welcoming Guide (PT and ENG versions), 1 facilitators guide + additional materials (PT and ENG versions), 1 webinar with 31 people, 1 Integration Plan Matrix developed, 1 public campaign launched in 3 social media, 1 online course with Portuguese subtitles and additional materials translated



Image: Webinar poster and program

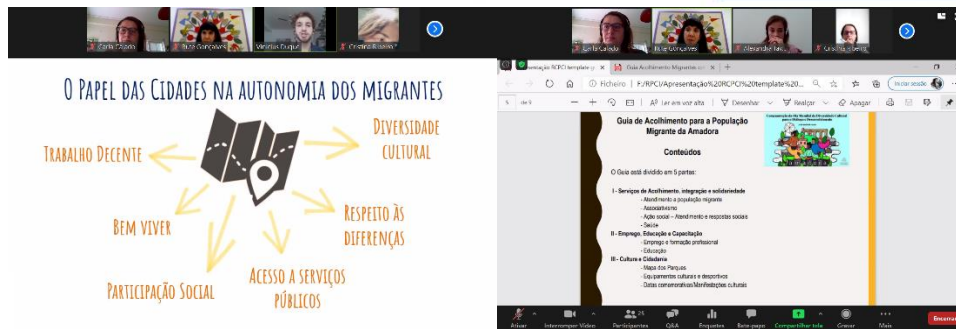


Image: Webinar presentations from São Paulo and Amadora

3. INDEX and expert visits

An expert visit to Loures was conducted in October, using an online format to ensure safety of all involved. The expert Sérgio Xavier conducted the INDEX evaluation and the visit, and Andrea WICKSTROM opened and closed the visit on behalf of the Council of Europe. The RPCI coordinator was always present and took notes. Also, support was given to the expert in writing the final report.

4. Practice Sharing

The cities of Albufeira (2 people), Loures (1 person), Braga (1 person), Lisboa (2 people from the HR department) and Santa Maria da Feira (1 person) accepted the invitation to be part of the Diversity@Work project, where they attended a blended learning course on Diversity and Inclusion and tested tools to harness Diversity within the organisation (in the role of employers and public service providers). This course aims to raise their level of awareness and knowledge about Diversity, Inclusion, Unconscious Bias, Stereotypes, Prejudice and Discrimination within organisations, and to help them feel more confident to implement related processes and procedures, as well as to use the tested tools further in the organisations or with external stakeholders (partners, etc.)

Practices were gathered among cities present in the ICC Academy in Morocco in February, that can be shared with Portuguese cities - these will be included in the online ICC course along with examples from other cities around the world, including Portuguese cities.

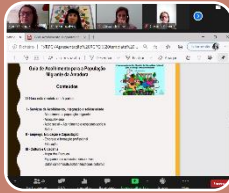
Regarding **practice sharing**, throughout 2020 the cities had the opportunity to share practices regarding their COVID 19 response systems, as well as regarding their welcoming policies, activities, and plans.

These experiences were the motto for our common grant - the development of a Portuguese Welcoming Guide and the creation of an Integration Plan Matrix.



COVID 19

• The cities of Portimão, Loures, Lisboa, Albufeira, Amadora, Santa Maria da Feira and Viseu shared their COVID 19 response systems and initiatives to foster inclusion during the pandemic. The results were shared with the ICC team and are part of the practices in the COVID 19 special page at the ICC website.



Welcoming Newcomers

The city of Amadora presented their Welcoming Guide, explaining how it was built.

The city of Santa Maria da Feira presented their Welcoming Course and shared related materials and contents.

Oeiras shared their welcoming guides and health access guides



Migrant Integration Plans

• Loures, Albufeira, Santa Maria da Feira, Amadora and Viseu shared their Migrant Integration Plans. Some cities are now developing their 1st plans, other are going for their 3rd. Collaboration between cities was promoted.

5. RPCI association

To ensure long-term sustainability of the network, the creation of an RPCI association was debated has a possibility already several times among the cities.

A meeting (summary attached) with 5 other experts in several fields was held in 11th of February, to present the proposal and discuss the creation of this association. The main goal was to debate the advantages and risks of this choice, and to gather information on the interest of the experts to be part of the association. During the meeting, and after, more experts were identified. 3 extra one-to-one meetings were held with some of these experts to explain the purpose of the association.

A questionnaire (see attachment) was then distributed to 10 people to start building a network of experts to create the Association. 4 people have replied to the questionnaire, and we aim to keep collecting more answers and contact more experts along the next few months.

The RPCI cities were also questioned about the future Association (see attachment) using Google forms. The main conclusion is that there are still many questions to be discussed and decided in to best implement the association.

6. Representation and bridges



Meetings and events	2 coordinators meetings
	3 RPCI presentations in events
	1 meeting high level working group
	2 interviews
	3 new partnerships

a. Coordinators meetings

The RPCI coordinator was present at the coordinators meeting held in Strasbourg in 28th and 29th February. During the meeting the RPCI was presented and all related questions were answered. The RPCI coordinator was present at the coordinators meeting held online between 3 and 5 November 2020. During the meeting RPCI developments a short film was presented, and all related questions were answered.

b. GT – ADI -INT

2 meetings of this High Level working group on Intercultural Integration were held, the RPCI coordination was present in 1 of these meetings.

c. Seminars and events

One presentation of RPCI was held during the ICC academy in Morocco in the 18th February for cities from Palestine, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia.

A RPCI webinar was held on the 2nd December. RPCI was presented by the coordinator, Carla Calado, and Ivana D’Alessandro presented the ICC program. The most recent products of RCI were highlighted.

RPCI was also presented at a webinar organised by the Instituto Politécnico de Lamego on the 17th December to the students, teachers and investigators, but also transmitted live on Facebook.

d. Other

One meeting was held with Miss Kattia Hernandez regarding ICC future initiatives for the media. Ideas were exchanged and further proposals are under development.

A join application was submitted between RPCI, RECI and RIC (not approved).

Finally, bridges were established between the RECI and the Spanish Diversity Charter via e-mail, as well as between the Polish Diversity Charter and Lublin.

An interview was given to Janis Janowsky, a masters student studying the Knowledge Exchange in the Spanish Network of Intercultural Cities

The city of São Paulo was invited for the RPCI webinar on the 2nd December, and presented their Intercultural Strategy.

Aga Khan Foundation was an important partner this year. Four of the RPCI cities participated in the Diversity@Work project, taking part of a Blended Learning Course on Diversity and Inclusion, and all of them are considering applying this course further, among partners and some of them within the municipality (for eg. starting with the interculturality teams). This can be a good opportunity to foster the capacity building if cities with a course on Diversity and Inclusion in a blended learning format, that can be accessible during the pandemic.

Also, the sharing of methodologies regarding Participatory community assessments and Citizens lead innovation projects was a very important moment, many cities are now reconsidering their approaches.



Challenges 2020 and 2021

The COVID-19 outbreak has created a new scenario, to which we must adapt. In order to do so, we have identified the main risks and propose some mitigation strategies for each.

To maintain the bond and exchange between cities, we had to foster only online meetings during 2020 and to adjust the projects to be delivered accordingly.

This meant we needed to use other means to collect feedback and best practice, like google forms and other online tools, and to acquire a software license for online meetings.

Practice sharing was ensured by stimulating the cities to deliver written information and sharing it with other cities.

This was an intense year, very demanding for cities and for the people working in the cities. ICC is a vibrant network, with multiple opportunities to participate and learn along the year. However, sometimes the requests were too many for cities to be able to cope and respond.

We have planned 1 visit for 2020 for Lisboa that was not held. In 2020 the expert visits were replaced by an expert 2-day conference call with the city and community members to collect more information and opinions about the initiatives referred in the INDEX. This can continue as an option in 2021, but maybe needs further preparation to ensure participation of partners and other stakeholders.

To prevent the shadowing of interculturality has a minor priority for cities, we collected and sent to the Council of Europe collects all the cities practices that show how they were coping with the pandemic and ensuring inclusion, and at the same time enjoying the opportunities that migrants present for bouncing back from the outbreak.

The fragile situation of some groups of migrants and refugees was addressed (since it can be worsened by the crises) and was agreed that it should be lobbied as a priority for cities, given the difficult access to basic needs and to the health system. Portugal, for e.g., has decided to grant automatic renewal of all pending requests for documentation, therefore regularizing all undocumented migrants. The strategies each country and city are adopting must continue to be shared among the network.

The recently developed Portuguese version of the “step-by-step” online course should be fostered and the attendance of the Portuguese cities promoted, to raise level of awareness and quality of practices.

Summary of results

Goal	Activities	Results
Keep the cities engaged in the Network	1.Maintain a regular flow of communication	35 e-mails (all the cities) +10 phone calls 1 website 2 new social media: 3 posts each 5 RPCI meetings Facebook updated (29 posts; +2100 people reached) total of 296 likes and 302 followers
	2.Develop common projects	1 project being finalised 1 new project implemented
Develop cities' intercultural strategies	3.Practice Sharing	1 public webinar with external city (São Paulo) 3 RPCI meetings with practice sharing



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 presentation of methodologies by AKF 5 cities take part in D&I training
Develop the sustainability of the Network	4.Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to 2019 and 2020 grants 1 meeting with partners
	5. RPCI association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 meeting with group of 5 experts Survey to 10 experts Survey to the cities 3 one-to-one meetings
	6.Representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 presentations 1 meeting with potential partners 2 coordinators meeting 2 bridges established 3 new partners



Attachment- Survey to cities

Between March and May, a survey within RPCI was conducted to:

- Collect opinions of Cities, regarding RPCI meetings (amount; format; organisation; etc)
- Collect suggestions, ideas and opinions on priorities and actions for 20/21 RPCI action plan
- Collect opinions regarding an eventual RPOCI association, its pertinence, potential services, and activities

In total 6 cities replied. The following table summarizes the results and their follow-up already implemented or suggested for the near future:

Responses		Follow-up
RPCI Meetings	Most cities felt these were appropriate: presentation of practices, debates and discussions were mentioned to be the most important features. The maintenance of online meetings after the pandemic was referred to as important to reduce travels that take up more time.	3 extra meetings in 2020 to present and debate practices + 1 webinar with a guest city from Brasil Organising half the meetings per year online
RPCI Association	Generally seen as a good option but still many questions to debate about it. An association made up by the cities as associates was referred to as not the best option, given that cities are part of many networks and have little time to devote to them. The Spanish model was referred to as adequate. Transparency of reporting from the part of the association was referred to as a priority. The association should promote the engagement also of political level of cities.	Clarify advantages of being part and role of cities. Define financial sustainability model. 1 briefing of the future association must be sent to all cities to be discussed within executive boards, with set of advantages.
RPCI Association potential Services	Support to inter-departmental collaboration – 6 votes Studies and investigation – 6 votes Joint applications and grants – 5 votes Training for city officer – 4 votes Training for entrepreneurs and employers – 4 votes Consultancy for Int. Strategies – 4 votes Organising events – 4 votes Producing deliverables – 4 votes Monitoring and evaluation of inter. projects – 4 votes Training for partners – 3 votes	Setting up the bases for the association Creating sustainability plan Meeting with ICC to study scenarios (Jan 2021) Partnerships with Universities Gathering more Prt experts



Priorities RPCI 20/21	<p>Employment and entrepreneurship promotion – 5 votes Bureaucracy and regularization processes – 5 votes Awareness raising different actors – 4 votes Facilitating access to information – 3 votes Supporting municipality communication – 3 votes Inclusive education – 2 votes Housing – 1 vote Fighting hate speech – 1 vote</p>	<p>Grant for 2020 reflected these priorities: 1 welcoming guide with information was produced. App to be disseminated; 1 joint communication campaign; subtitles of online course; Also, 5 cities took part in trainings to foster the business case for D&I among local employers; More investment in trainings in the future – ICC online course with subtitles;</p>
How to achieve these priorities?	<p>Awareness sessions – 4 votes Development of products – 4 votes Training for partners – 4 votes Communication campaigns – 3 votes Practice sharing workshops – 3 votes Awareness of other public services – 3 votes Trainings for city staff – 2 votes Awareness of cities executive boards – 2 votes</p>	<p>Products for awareness and training ready: online course: to be disseminated 2 products developed in 2020; more to come 1 national communication campaign</p>
Suggestions and ideas	<p>Implement public campaigns to reach the prt society, with positive messages Free and certified trainings for city officers More tools to engage other services and central government Common projects Develop tools to support intercultural work</p>	<p>1 campaign done; Invest in next campaigns Free training provided to 5 cities – more trainings in the future Enhance communication with other services: ACM participated in webinar/ invest more in this connection 1 common project in 2020/ more in 2021 Create more tools in the future</p>