

Meaningful intercultural interaction – Indicator 1: Increasing meaningful every-day encounters across difference

The [ICC Step-by-step guide](#) includes sections on interaction and public space. You could also consider looking again at the [ICC Index questions](#) on public space and neighbourhood for more ideas. Further, the policy study and brief on [managing gentrification](#) may be of interest. You may also wish to consider the evidence you have as a city on interaction and how this can be improved, including by discussing it with the city's partners and other stakeholders.

Inspiration from cities

A good example of a project designed specifically to increase interaction is the “[Cuisine ta ville](#)” (City cooking) art and citizenship festival in Montreal, Canada. The festival aims to promote better understanding of the migrants who have made the social fabric of Montreal, from the past to the present. In 2019, the festival offered a multidisciplinary experience as a means of getting to know refugees and migrants from all generations. The event addressed the issue of migration from the angle of the various stages in life. The scenography for the event involved a set of ten tents that evoked both refugee camps and Montreal's urban visual identity (as with winter car shelters), where one-to-one meeting places were provided for getting to know other people better. The programme was divided into three sections, comprising performances and works by migrants or individuals addressing migration issues, a series of talks and testimonials and cookery workshops in which migrants cooked Montreal-style home-made soups in front of the public, while talking and sharing their experiences. Given the success of the project, “Cuisine ton quartier” (Neighbourhood cooking) is to be held as the local, small-scale version of “Cuisine ta Ville” in eight neighbourhoods where over 62% of newcomers live. The assessment will take the form of testimonials, general surveys and before-and-after polls.

In [Donostia-San Sebastian](#), Spain, Tabakalera is a former tobacco factory that was converted into a contemporary culture centre. Located in the Egor district, the building is an impressive space (13,277m²) that organises a wide range of activities (exhibitions, short film screenings, etc.). The Tabakalera programmes are mostly free, and the funding is mostly public (30% comes from the municipality). When opening this public space, it became clear that people were looking forward to use and engage the open spaces envisaged in the building: especially young people on rainy days. The center has been adapting its activities and spaces to these non-planned uses from families, youth, etc. At some point, the centre identified a group of mainly youth male migrants who used to spend time at the centre, not always behaving correctly. After discussing with them about their needs and aims, the Tabakalera decided to open a programme to support them through cultural activities. A first project involved photography, and the initiative was warmly welcomed. Since, the project has grown to the point of holding weekly meetings (every Friday with a mediator), during which the group has, for example, created music together or prepared artistic performances. The 2018 project was a theatre play, where a group of around 25 people participated, using the Theatre of the Oppressed as a working methodology.

When proposing a change, [Auckland Council](#), New Zealand, partners with appropriate community organisations to engage with the affected communities. In 2017, the Council included the communities of South Auckland in an 'integrated area plan' to prepare for future development in the area. The engagement strategy included: gathering feedback at local community events, shopping malls, train stations and other hubs; utilising an 'All Our Ideas' web platform (championed by a local youth council); and running public workshop sessions (world-cafe style). A key objective of this engagement strategy was to challenge the norm of community engagement and create effective ways to reach out to different ethnicities, age groups and communities in the area that typically do not engage or participate in a council-lead planning process. It was important to design the consultation and engagement process to ensure that the views of Māori, Pacifica, other emerging ethnicities, and young people were incorporated to help shape the long-term vision and future of these areas. The people engaged in the plan were to reflect the demographic profile of the area. The Council received over 5000 pieces of feedback from the community, of which more than a third were submitted by Māori residents and half from people aged below 34 years. This closely matched the ethnic and age profile of the area.

In [Sabadell](#), Spain, all of the city's public spaces host diverse activities that include the promotion of diversity as a positive value. There is a territorial distribution of public facilities that allows close and decentralised access to different facilities and activities generating spaces for interaction and coexistence. These include libraries, sport facilities, parks, and playgrounds. The design of a new local infrastructure or service is done through public participation, and through the platform 'Decidim Sabadell' the participation of different groups is encouraged and facilitated. Sabadell City Council has also promoted the community process "We are Torre-Romeu" with the aim that residents, associations, and professionals work together to plan actions and projects that improve the life of the neighbourhood. The return of a diagnosis was made to determine the aspects of improvement and two areas were prioritised. From there, three community working groups were constituted: "Involvement and participation"; "Strengthening of the educational community"; "Torre-Romeu Network of professionals". Each one of these tables has defined objectives and proposals for action.

This is an extract from the guide "[How intercultural is your policy or project](#)". For all indicators, checklists, and good practice, please see the full guide.