

Meaningful intercultural interaction – Indicator 5: Maximising sustained intercultural interaction

You may wish to consider the [ICC Step-by-step guide](#) which provides examples of practices and tools used by cities to gather an in-depth knowledge of their population in a sustainable way, including: collaboration with universities, research institutes, establishment of monitoring and evaluation bodies, surveys, minority and local councils, etc. There are also structures aiming at fostering civic and political participation in a sustainable way that offer the city opportunities to tap into local resources and knowledge, collect important data and, at the same time, foster trust and participation. You may also wish to review if ownership in the project by other stakeholders can be encouraged to maximise sustainability at the end of the project.

Inspiration from other cities

[Leeds](#), United Kingdom, has put in place an Equalities Assembly which has been set up to ensure involvement of the diverse communities. The Equalities Assembly is a forum made up of Equality Hubs, which helps ensure the city engages with the full range of citizens in the decision-making. Each year Leeds holds an Equality Assembly Conference which brings together the hubs to discuss key challenges and opportunities faced by groups across the city, listen to their contributions and let them have their say through round table discussions. The hubs are: Religion or Belief Hub, Age Hub, Black and Minority Ethnic Hub, Disability Hub, LGBT+ Hub and the Women and Girls Hub. The Assembly acts as the corporate consultation and involvement forum for equality, diversity and integration issues. It also acts as a forum to challenge the council's progress on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration. Public debates have also taken place regarding Cohesion, Counter Extremism and Prevention. The council also reports to have supported the running of 'Real People, Honest Talk', in partnership with Near Neighbours, providing an opportunity for different communities to gather and present on issues that were significant in their area. Topics included housing, discrimination, hate crime and perceptions of refugees. Cultural diversity has been discussed at length through city wide consultation, including Leeds Culture Strategy (hosted 1500 conversations) and Leeds 2023 (engaged with more than 3,000 residents).

[Sabadell](#), Spain has the New Citizens participation table, made up of representatives from different organisations representing newly arrived citizens. This roundtable is chaired by the representative of the municipality responsible for welcoming and intercultural policies. In this space, issues related to the citizenship rights and duties or the legal difficulties encountered by migrants are discussed. Proposals then are transferred to other political, judicial and social bodies. At the same time, this space allows to elaborate proposals of collective and open activities to the whole citizenship, to put in value and to make visible the diverse cultural groups that coexist in the city and to facilitate exchange, boost respect and knowledge. Additionally, the New Citizenship Board is an advisory body that includes different immigrant associations and organisations that work in the migration field as well as representation of the local administration. Its functions are: the transfer of information, to find consensus on lines of work, to detect the interests, concerns and problems of the migrants and ethnic minorities and to address those issues in cooperation.

In [Auckland](#), New Zealand, they have instated a Council Research and Monitoring Unit (RIMU) which conducts environmental, social, economic, and cultural research to inform and support policy development, implementation and evaluation. The Auckland Plan 2050, for example, is based on statistical and qualitative evidence about diversity and intercultural relations provided by the RIMU, shaping the specific directions and focus areas in the plan. Moreover, to improve inclusive governance, the Inclusive Auckland Framework and the Council's Quality Advice programme (which aims to ensure that elected members are presented with the best advice, at the right time and in the right way to help them fulfil their decision-making responsibilities) are working together to: pilot, evaluate and implement a new process for community service design and delivery decisions based on demographic data and research; and establish high quality social and community impact assessments as standard practice for all policy advice, with training on this already underway.

There are also structures aiming at fostering civic and political participation in a sustainable way (such as the [Public Participation Networks in Dublin](#) (Ireland), [Monitoring implementation and measuring progress the Swansea Voices Online Panel](#) (United Kingdom), or [Minority body in Auckland](#) (New Zealand)) that offer the city opportunities to tap into local resources and knowledge, collect important data and, at the same time, foster trust and participation.

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.