

### Valuing diversity – Indicator 5: International outlook

The diversity advantage approach can bring your city additional benefits when it engages with and supports diaspora links with countries of origin as well as the potential of other languages that migrants or minorities may speak. A strong relationship with countries of origin of diaspora can help the city understand the geopolitical, cultural, and economic context in which newcomers have been socialised so it can shape its policies of welcome and integration accordingly. It can also support migrants in developing a sense of belonging to their new community, by giving a formal recognition their country of origin and their cultural identity. It may be interesting to consult the document from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe: [Parliamentary Network on Diaspora Policies](#).

#### Inspiration from other cities

[Reggio Emilia](#), Italy signed an agreement with the Moroccan Ministry in charge of relations with the diaspora. The agreement underpins an (inter)cultural international policy agenda where both parties contribute as equals to supporting integration, social cohesion, and respect for diversity, seeking to promote socio-cultural mixing and openness towards the other, including in specific projects such as parks.

[Leeds](#), United Kingdom, seeks to develop business relations with countries/cities of origin of its diaspora groups by involving diaspora and mainstream entrepreneurs in international visits and meetings, through partnership/business agreements with counties or cities of origin as well as by supporting organisations seeking to develop business relations with countries/cities of origin of its diaspora groups. The city has had a partnership with the city of Hangzhou in China for 31 years, both civic and in business. Every year Leeds reports to work with the Local Enterprise Partnership to take a trade and investment mission to Hangzhou and encourages local companies to be part of these missions. Leeds receives delegations from Hangzhou and, where appropriate, asks local companies to host the delegations. For example, in early November 2019 the city received a Hangzhou delegation looking at Health Tech and introduced them to start-ups and well-established companies in Leeds who work in the same field.

A dimension of Melitopol's, Ukraine, intercultural strategy is intercultural tourism and hospitality. The "[Intercultural Map](#)" adds the tastes and flavours of the different cuisines of Melitopol to the list of cultural practices. The idea was inspired by the historical recipe book "Tips of the Melitopol Cooks of the XIX century", which was discovered, restored, and published in 2017. The recipes were once assembled by a young officer, who won the heart of his beloved by walking through all the settlements in the city while collecting a variety of the recipes typical for each culture residing in Melitopol at the time. Relying on the information from the book, the "Intercultural Map" was created to include ethnic restaurants in the city which specialize in different ethnic cuisines: Georgian, Karaim, Tatar, Hungarian, Jewish and German. A short [video](#) was also prepared featuring costume, music, traditions and, of course, cuisine. The map was published and distributed to the guests and participants of the 233<sup>rd</sup> anniversary celebration of Melitopol.

The city of [Braga](#), Portugal, has created a specific website to present the city's intercultural strategy and activities. The website aims to make the city's commitment towards diversity public, to inform all citizens of the public local policies and projects in place, as well as to promote awareness raising in the community



## INTERCULTURAL CITIES BUILDING BRIDGES, BREAKING WALLS

about interculturalism. The aim is to achieve a more inclusive society. The website contains information about all projects developed in the city, including: anti-rumours posters; human Libraries - short stories about migrants living in the city also presented in short interactive talks; intercultural cafes - webinars or seminars about migration and interculturality; gender equality measures; and labour market inclusion initiatives.

*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.*