



ICC-UA 2019 SUMMARY REPORT

Kseniya Rubicondo, ICC-UA national coordinator

ICC-Ukraine in numbers

- 6** - Cities in the ICC-UA network (all its members)
 - Cities took part in the pilot ICC Citizenship Test which involved more than 2000 respondents across the country and produced useful quantitative and qualitative results/conclusions that now are being used for the ICC strategies development in members cities.
 - Cities have completed their ICC Index analysis once or twice
- 5** - Years of dynamic and successful development of the ICC-UA, anniversary to be celebrated in 2020
 - Cities have published and are using promotional material of the ICC Programme
- 4** - Cities have developed – from the bottom up and through a participatory process – and/or are in the process of finalizing their ICC strategies as separate municipal documents, following a relevant methodological training for ICC-UA cities in Pavlograd in October in 2018
- 3** - Large-scale events were organised by the ICC-UA cities last year, with the participation of all network members, political leaders, local media, civil society organisations, youth and the general public. These events included the “Palette of Cultures” event (Lutsk), ICC-UA 2019 Annual Meeting (Odessa), the ICC Strategy Development workshop (Sumy)
 - Cities have designed/published promotional ICC banners and are now promoting the ICC Programme during their City Hall meetings and other events
- 2** - ICC-UA cities have included an intercultural vision and priorities to their broader long-term urban strategies; thus, although in different formats, the ICC vision has been officially adopted by all cities of the network

- working priorities – the development of *ICC Competency/Communication*, and the *Application ICC Measures to Cultural Heritage* initiatives – have been identified by the network for the coming years
 - Key ICC Programme documents – the new ICC brochure and the updated ICC Index questionnaire – were translated and are available in Ukrainian on the ICC-UA/CoE webpage
- 1**
- International ICC event was hosted by the ICC-UA network in 2019: *the ICC Coordinators Global meeting* in Odessa, September 25-26, 2019
 - Innovative ICC concept – “*ICC Gutirka*” – was designed and tested by one of the ICC-UA members (Lutsk). ICC Gutirka is an accessible to all gathering in an open public space (e.g. a square or a park, in the middle of a crowd) during a public event in a city, which is attended by politicians. It can be initiated by a city authority or an organization. Representatives of all cultures residing in the city are informed in advance about the general theme of the meeting and are invited to launch the Gutirka. Gutirka is freely joined by many other city residents willing to discuss actual issues or topics. Since Gutirka takes place during a large-scale public event in a city, officials and politicians are often spontaneously invited to join Gutirkas and interact directly with the diverse city population.
- 0**
- This is where the ICC-UA started from 5 years ago.

Over the past five years, the ICC-UA network has undergone three phases of strategic development, which have been marked by the following strategic priorities:

Phase I – 2015-2016 – Signing of the Agreement with the ICC Programme of the Council of Europe, review of cities’ policies from the perspective of the ICC, ICC Index analysis of all ICC-UA cities

Phase II – 2016-2019 – expert visits, relevant policy advice, ICC Index recommendations review and implementation; design of the ICC Strategy methodology – using the results of the ICC Citizenship test, ICC Index, and ICC adjusted SWAT/TOWS approach – and the development of individual ICC Strategies by member cities. To date, two network members have formally adopted their ICC strategies - Melitopol and Sumy - as separate documents, two cities - Pavlograd and Lutsk - have included the ICC vision and priorities in their overall city strategies, and the other two - Vinnytsia and Odessa - are currently finalising their ICC Strategy documents, which are expected to be adopted in 2020.

Phase III – current - 2021 – development of the *Intercultural Competence/Communication* as a logical step following the adoption of the ICC Strategies by the ICC-UA members, and *development of the ICC approach to cultural heritage*, taking into account rich cultural heritage of the ICC-UA members. Some members of the network expressed interest in working on community policing, in particular, given the availability of the recent tools in this field provided by the Programme.

Importance of the ICC Strategies Development

As it can be seen from above, until the end of 2019, the key strategic priority for the ICC-UA network was to bring the cities in line with the ICC approach and its dimensions, i.e. to design a methodology and develop/formally adopt ICC strategies in cities following their ICC Index analysis.

The phase of ICC strategy development is crucial for the ICC-UA members, as its benefits go beyond simply structuring and guiding the intercultural activities within their communities.

ICC strategies help cities to reach out to a variety of local actors, work on concrete objectives and achieve realistic goals. They are therefore considered by Ukrainian municipalities as a practical and effective tool for ICC goals implementation, as well as a reliable mechanism for good governance in increasingly decentralized environment.

In many Ukrainian cities, intercultural strategies, concepts and priorities have become an integral part of long-term government policies and planning. Good governance is about fair strategical framework, equity and inclusiveness, participation, consensus, efficiency and effectiveness, transparency and accountability. According to the ICC-UA members, the intercultural approach helps to further develop and integrate these features into local governance by providing high quality capacity building tools for diversity management. Nowadays, Ukrainian cities tend to focus more on the ICC priorities in their new initiatives and/or work on integrating interculturality into their existing initiatives.

The ICC strategy development methodology was specifically developed for the ICC-UA cities by the national network coordinator Kseniya Rubicondo and was offered to the network members at a relevant training in Pavlograd in October 2018. To date, two network members have formally adopted their ICC strategies - Melitopol and Sumy - as separate documents, two cities - Pavlograd and Lutsk - have included the ICC vision and priorities in their overall city strategies, and the other two - Vinnytsia and Odessa - are currently finalising their ICC Strategy documents, which are expected to be adopted in 2020.

Looking Ahead

Having chosen *Intercultural Competence/Communication* as one of its strategic priorities, the ICC-UA members are currently in the process of designing the events they would implement at the local and/or at the national level. For example, a sociology department at Melitopol University suggested working on a pilot training course for civil servants and young people. At the same time, the “Palette of Cultures” initiative in Lutsk in September 2019, which involved cultural and artistic expressions of different nationalities residing in Lutsk today and in the past, could be considered as the first large-scale ICC-branded communication initiative. ICC banners and materials were displayed in a fairground town of over 30 tents, accompanied by relevant explanations, and an innovative *ICC Gutirka* was organized for the first time in the main square of the city.

ICC-UA member-cities are also open to international cooperation and partnerships with the ICC cities and networks in other countries - e.g. Italy and Portugal – in the field of Intercultural Competence/Communication.

Ukrainian cities are very rich in cultural heritage. For example, only in Pavlograd (the smallest ICC-UA member with slightly more than 100,000 inhabitants) 25 cultural heritage initiatives were implemented in 2018-2019. There is therefore a natural interest among the ICC-UA members to work more closely with the ICC Global and other CoE programmes in the field of culture to develop *ICC approach and measures to cultural events and heritage*. A few cities – Lutsk, Melitopol, Sumy, Odessa e.g. – have made specific suggestions for initiating such a practice.

Developments of the Ukrainian network in this field would benefit other members of the Global ICC network, for example, in terms of developing smart indicators and applying them to cultural events, assessing the impact of intercultural events on city communities.



The Council of Europe’s *Anti-rumours approach* is considered by the ICC-UA members as another appropriate up-to-date tool, since raising awareness about the importance of dismantling diversity-related prejudices that hamper positive interaction and social cohesion laying foundations of discriminatory attitudes has become more timely than ever in Ukrainian society. Given that the Anti-rumours Resource Pack and other methodological sources are available only in other than Ukrainian (or Slavic) languages, the network might need to first identify resources for quality translation of the materials to Ukrainian. Furthermore, the support of an anti-rumour expert might be needed, at least in the early stages of the Anti-rumours Methodology adaption and implementation, e.g. to map the main prejudices in the cities, collect objective data and arguments to dismantle false

assumptions, to empower and train “anti-rumour agents”, as well as to design and implement anti-rumour awareness-raising campaigns.

Good Practices

The Prayer Breakfast in Lutsk

Main purpose: The unification of leaders of political and social movements, religious groups, representatives of authorities and influential actors in order to achieve social unity; the promotion and strengthening of spiritual and moral values through the creation of a collective prayer.



Event description: The Prayer Breakfast in Lutsk, which was held for the second time last year, was organised on the International Children's Day, as the specific issues addressed during the Breakfast included the improvement of the quality of life and health of children, and the welfare of families. Participants included national Deputies of Ukraine, representatives of all branches of government, religious groups, patrons, businessmen, researchers, medical workers, teachers, minority and IDPs representatives. Among the guests of honour was the U.S. Congressman, Doug Burley, co-host of the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington. [The Prayer Breakfast in Lutsk](#) is a good example of cooperation of the representatives of civil society, local authorities and various religious groups.

Educational Hackaton in Melitopol

Main purpose: To promote interaction and intercultural mixing, to develop intercultural and communicative skills of Melitopol's youth.



Event description: The Melitopol hackaton "I figure it out, I can, I will do it" was held as part of the city's 235th anniversary celebrations in September 2019. The event was attended not only by young people, but also by nearly 3,000 Melitopol residents and guests. During the hackaton, cognitive, educational, developmental, informative and cultural initiatives (speed-

dating, training, round tables) were organised with the aim to raise awareness and amplify intercultural competence of young people. Advisory assistance was provided to youth groups for the elaboration of three project proposals of an intercultural nature. They are which are to be implemented in 2020. There are also plans to set up the "Intercultural Dialogue" centre for cultural education and intercultural communication.

"Let your mother tongue sound" textbook in Melitopol

Main purpose: Preservation and promotion of the Karaite minority language.

Event description: "Let your mother tongue Sound" textbook - by Sofia Helievna Yalpachik, 80 years old teacher at the Karaite Sunday school – is intended for primary and secondary school children, as well as for anyone wishing to learn Karaite. The manuscript includes a selection of topics, to which Karaite vocabulary is provided. To facilitate memorisation, each section of the book is accompanied by poems in Karaite, often written by the author, by proverbs, sayings and riddles.



Intercultural Charity Fair in Odessa

Main purpose: Promoting intercultural interaction and mixing at all levels, fundraising for medical equipment for a children's hospital in Odessa.

Event description: the Charity Fair is an annual pre-Christmas charity event that has been held for nine consecutive years in Odessa with the participation of a number of cultural societies, associations of national minorities, foreign groups and diplomatic missions. The Fair is organised under the patronage of the City Council. In 2019, the event brought together more than two dozen diplomatic agencies which – together with local ethnic communities – introduced Odessa residents and visitors to the diversity of their cultures and traditions.



Visitors of the intercultural fair were able to taste traditional dishes, buy colourful souvenirs enjoy traditional music and dances from Poland, Austria, Bulgaria, Romania, Lithuania, France, Georgia, China, Peru and other countries. More than 3500 inhabitants of Odessa participated in the event. All the funds raised at the fair were used to purchase medical equipment for Odessa's hospitals and make it available to all city residents.

'Outside the Box Office' in Pavlograd

Main purpose: To advance Intercultural competence through interactive local initiatives, cinema and public debate.

Event description: "[Outside the box office](#)" is a local club that brings together diverse population of Pavlograd community united by a common passion – they are all fans of fiction and documentaries. The club



regularly organizes film festivals, open-air screenings (14 in total in 2019), screenings of new productions by young people with minority or foreign backgrounds. Every such event is followed by public discussions of the issues raised by the films, many of which have an intercultural dimension. For instance, the club also makes the movies from Traveling Human Rights Film Festival "Docudays UA" available for all. In 2019, the films "Bellingcat: The Truth in the World of Post Truth" and "The Cleaners" generated particular interest and much public discussion. In addition, the club involves minorities and IDPs in its activities to ensure their participation in the local community.

Dancing together in Sumy

Main purpose: to promote intercultural interaction and mixing through the sharing of artistic expressions and traditions.

Event description: in 2019, a classical dance school in Sumy opened its doors to welcome to its ballet classes representatives of one more culture – students from China. Today, the school counts more than 12 nationalities. Diversifying its composition, broadening the range of artistic expression and making the school a place where diversity is part of daily life are the main objectives of the institution. Pupils from minority and/or



migrant backgrounds master their classical dance skills with remarkable interest and curiosity. While discovering new, inspiring movements – sometimes very different from their cultural ones, since classical dance has absorbed the most elegant movements of folk and domestic dances of several centuries – the school students always bring their own unique personal and of course cultural touch to every performance.

“Podillia Jug” Festival in Vinnytsia

Main purpose: Promoting intercultural interaction and intercultural mixing through emphasizing diversity advantage for local community

Event description: the “[Podillia Jug](#)” cooking festival brought together representatives of Vinnytsia’s minorities to demonstrate how different national cuisines influenced the local gastronomy of Podillia. The organisers of the festival combined various national culinary traditions and recipes with modern cooking technologies. The symbol of the festival was the twin pots that symbolised the meeting of past and present. Jewish, Georgian, Armenian, Polish and Ukrainian dishes were cooked in the same venues. One of the locations was dedicated to the Italian influence on Podillia cuisine. The founder of the "Gastronomic Guide of the Vinnytsia Region", Olena Pavlova, presented the project "13 Chef Cooks" and organized a few common workshops using authentic recipes.



Colors of our Hometown - Sumy

Main purpose: promoting intercultural interaction and mixing through art expressions and traditions sharing.

Event description: Last year the city of Sumy was enriched by a new intercultural initiative. In May 2019, as part of the celebration of Europe Day, an ethnographic festival "Colors of our Hometown" was held in a public park with the participation of national minorities and foreign student clubs representing two major



Universities of the city - Sumy State University and Sumy State Pedagogical University. Given that Sumy is home to nearly 90 nationalities, the festival was designed to bring together the diversity of all cultures residing in the city in a colourful wreath of friendship, interaction, inspiration and art. Guests and visitors were welcomed to the park by the representatives of different cultures and nationalities, invited to taste traditional cuisine and assist to an extensive concert program. Interactive presentations, creative ideas, interesting locations, and inspiring performances embodied the true mosaic of colours of Sumy's culturally diverse community.

Integration of IDPs in Vinnytsia

Main purpose: Smooth integration of the newcomers, IDPs in particular, to the city community

Description: The year 2019 was another year in Vinnytsia marked with the focus on IDPs integration. Various activities were organized to encourage better mixing and interaction with the new arrivals. More than 900 Tatars displaced from the Crimean peninsula settled in Vinnytsia region following the annexation of the Crimea by Russia in 2014. Last year, local NGOs, city activists and City Council organised a number of commemorative projects, theatrical performances, exhibitions, workshops and open discussions in the city community.



2019: ICC-UA Activity Kaleidoscope

