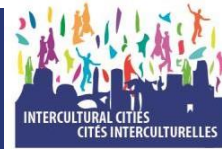




INTERCULTURAL CITIES
BUILDING BRIDGES, BREAKING WALLS



ICC-Ukraine 2021 Annual Report

THE YEAR OF IMPLEMENTING THE ANTIRUMOURS



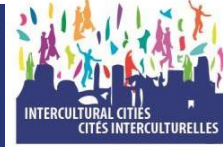
By Dr. Kseniya Rubicondo, National Coordinator

December 2021

The opinions expressed in this work are the responsibility of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Council of Europe.



INTERCULTURAL CITIES
BUILDING BRIDGES, BREAKING WALLS



Executive Summary

In the ICC-Ukraine's Network history, the year 2021 can rightfully be called the year of the implementation of the ICC Antirumour Strategy.¹ The need to combat stereotypes and prejudice against cultural, ethnic, racial, religious and other groups or identities in the cities was identified as one of the key priorities of the Network for 2021 (please see the [Annual 2020 ICC-Ukraine Activity Report](#)). In early 2021, the first step was made by the cities towards putting this priority into practice, as with the sustained support of the national coordinator, they submitted a proposal to the Intercultural Cities Programme of the Council of Europe for launching an Antirumour approach implementation in Ukraine. The ICCUA Antirumours initiative was officially launched at the end of April 2021 thanks to a grant from the Council of Europe's Intercultural Cities Programme to support the activities of the Ukrainian network of ICC cities.

These activities included but were not limited to:

- Introduction and implementation of the Antirumours approach in ICCUA cities,
- Translating the ICC Antirumours Handbook to Ukrainian,
- Mapping priorities, preconditions, target groups and establishing a roadmap for the implementation of the Antirumour approach in individual communities,
- Identification, analysis and classification of rumours in ICC-UA cities,
- Organising webinars/workshops with the participation international ICC experts,
- Collecting counter-facts and positive intercultural narratives,
- Designing "visions of success" for cities using the Map of Change methodology,
- Developing and implementing Antirumour campaigns in cities to raise public awareness, including the design and dissemination of relevant tools and resources that are both creative and convincing,
- Ensuring the visibility of the network's activities and promoting the mission and values of the ICC Programme of the Council of Europe,

¹ The cover of this report features the cover of the Antirumour Brochure designed by ICCUA member, the City of Odessa during its Antirumour campaign in 2021.



INTERCULTURAL CITIES
BUILDING BRIDGES, BREAKING WALLS



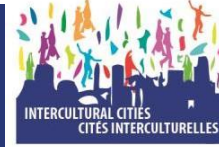
- Providing for high quality communication within and between cities/networks, sharing city experiences, good practices and lessons learnt.

These activities were designed to contribute to a set of objectives commonly identified by the network members, namely:

- Continue the implementation of the urban model of intercultural integration in ICC-UA member-cities and throughout Ukraine,
- Collaborate with regional and national authorities and take effective measures to promote an intercultural approach to diversity and the development and implementation of relevant legislation and policies,
- Utilize existing ICC Programme tools and methods to address practical issues in cities, in particular, use the Antirumours approach to combat stereotypes and prejudices against cultural, ethnic, racial, religious and other groups or identities,
- Create positive intercultural narratives and promote the development of an environment conducive to positive intercultural coexistence,
- Work to improve intercultural competence skills of local media and police representatives to help them deal effectively with misinformation and cases of ethnic and/or racial discrimination in urban areas;
- Create more opportunities for intercultural mixing, direct communication and dialogue, while highlighting the benefits of cultural diversity for urban communities
- Ensure the visibility of the network's activities and promote the mission and values of the Council of Europe's ICC program, in particular through the regular publication of the results of the above proposed initiatives in social media and other sources.



INTERCULTURAL CITIES
BUILDING BRIDGES, BREAKING WALLS



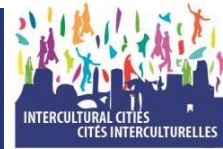
Overall Progress

All ICCUA 2021 Network activities were implemented as planned, despite the fact that early in the year and from mid-September 2021 until the time of this report writing, the sanitary situation in Ukraine was rather challenging. More than half of the ICC-UA member cities remained in the red zone² and had to comply with restrictive public health and occupational safety measures, especially in early 2021 and from mid-September 2021 onwards.

The first meeting of the local ICC coordinators was held on February 11 this year aiming to review the needs, priorities and activities of the ICC-Ukraine network, to identify new opportunities and avenues for implementation in 2021, and to agree on joint action taking into account the current sanitary situation in Europe, and in Ukraine in particular. As a result, the ICCUA 2021 Work Plan, containing a number of joint or partnership-based pan-Ukrainian intercultural initiatives, was approved by the network members. At this meeting, it was also agreed to use the existing ICC Programme tools and methodologies, in particular the Antirumour approach, to address these issues locally.

Another on-line meeting was held by the Network on 8 April 2021 in commemoration of the International Roma Day and the 50th anniversary of the 1st World Congress of Roma in London in 1971. ICC-UA representatives, including Roma and other ethnic and cultural minority groups, ICC national and local coordinators convened to honor Roma culture, raise awareness and find ways to effectively address the issues Roma people are facing in Ukraine today. At the conclusion of the meeting, Pavlohrad, the host of the event, launched a call for proposals for joint actions by ICC-UA cities to improve the situation of Roma people in local communities in Ukraine and to ensure the protection of their rights. As a result, a thematic children's drawing competition curated by the City of Pavlograd was organised during the summer of 2021. The artwork was shared on the social media within the ICCUA national and the ICC Global Networks.

² According to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine



On April 16, 2021, following the initiative by the city of Vinnytsia to learn more about Welcoming Policies in ICC cities, and under the leadership of the national coordinator, the ICCUA members reconvened for a “Welcoming Policy in an ICC City” webinar, where good practices from ICC Global network were discussed along with relevant policy examples presented by ICCUA members. During the meeting, the Ukrainian ICC cities agreed to advance on the creation of Welcoming Guides in their cities. While such members like Melitopol and Odessa are still exploring the ideas in this regard, the city of Vinnytsia officially announced the launch of its work on the welcoming policy design “New Vinnytsia Residents Pro: Choosing the City. Meeting the City. Living in the City” in September 2021.

The development of the Welcome Guide is part of the Intercultural City Strategy of the city of Vinnytsia. The initiative is implemented with the support of the German company Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale

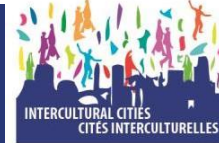


Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Integrated Urban Development in Ukraine. This partnership is one of the examples of successful fundraising efforts by the national and local coordinators of the Ukrainian ICC network at all levels - local, regional, national and international - aimed at ensuring the financial sustainability of the network.

The first Antirumour webinar, involving ICC experts Mr Dani de Torres and Dr Kseniya Rubicondo, was held online on 23 April 2021, bringing together over 30 participants from ICCUA cities and marking the official launch of the Anti-Rumour approach implementation in ICCUA cities.



INTERCULTURAL CITIES
BUILDING BRIDGES, BREAKING WALLS



The key elements of Antirumour approach were carefully reviewed, major milestones identified and the overall timetable discussed.

The second meeting of the local ICC coordinators was held on September 6, 2021 focusing on the progress made by cities in implementing their Antirumour strategy and reviewing the alternative narratives collected as part of the implementation of the Antirumour approach. It should be noted that following the ICC Cities' '10 criteria for the creation of effective alternative narratives on diversity', Ukrainian cities worked with the ICC Antirumour expert Mr. Daniel De Torres and the national coordinator to develop a set of alternative narratives in relation to the most common rumours identified in the ICCUA cities. To assist the cities in this work, the 2nd Antirumour webinar and tailored advice was provided to Ukrainian cities by the ICC expert in the summer of 2021. A separate document presenting a selection of positive, inclusive and open-minded narratives shared by the residents of ICCUA cities in the context of appreciating interculturality and the benefits of diversity was prepared by the national coordinator and submitted to the ICC Programme Secretariat in October 2021.



On 26 October 2021, a webinar on anti-discrimination was organised for the member cities of the ICCUA network with the participation of an international expert, Ms Lisa Tabor, President of CultureBrokers (USA). The objectives of this webinar were:

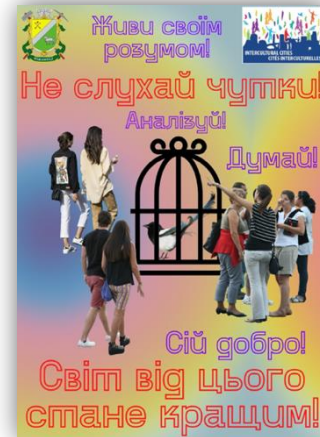
- to improve the intercultural skills of local media and police representatives to effectively deal with false information and cases of ethnic and/or racial discrimination in Ukrainian cities;

- to help ICCUA member cities to better achieve their goals of mutual intercultural understanding, communication, trust and cooperation by improving their individual intercultural skills; and thus
- to contribute to the effectiveness of cities' anti-rumour campaigns by improving their individual intercultural skills.



In October and November 2021, ICCUA cities carried out their Antirumour campaigns that included not only social media messages but also activities such as focus groups, gutirkas, schools and universities actions, other social and community events that promoted positive statements to offset existing rumours. A few of the ICCUA cities Antirumour campaign visuals are presented below.

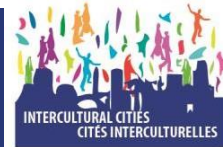
**Antirumour Campaign Poster from
ICC Pavlohrad**



**Antirumour Campaign Poster
from ICC Melitopol**



INTERCULTURAL CITIES
BUILDING BRIDGES, BREAKING WALLS



Antirumour Campaign Posters from ICC Lutsk

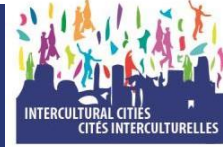


Antirumour Campaign Poster from ICC Vinnytsia





INTERCULTURAL CITIES
BUILDING BRIDGES, BREAKING WALLS

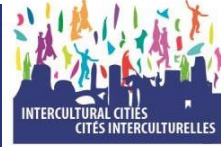


Some challenges faced by Ukrainian ICC cities in implementing the Antirumour approach were also identified in the course of the current year. These include:

- Limited implementation timeframe to fully understand and adopt the Antirumour approach, its new and sometimes abstract concepts, structures and processes.
- Insufficient number of Antirumour workshops, seminars, and trainings in Ukrainian that would enable effective follow-up with experts and more effective implementation.
- The novelty of "alternative narratives" as a methodology for the target audiences and the difficulties in developing positive stories in relation to "negative rumours".
- Challenges in the overall management of the Antirumour initiative in the post-Covid environment - meeting deadlines, involving participants from different cultural backgrounds, reaching a wider audience, organising more effective face-to-face Antirumour events - due to limited human and other resources and varying health restrictions.
- Challenges faced by the grant signatory organisation (NGO) related to establishing numerous contractual relationships with a variety of actors involved in the ARS in five different cities in Ukraine, as well as with international experts.

In terms of the ICCUA network priorities for 2022, the local ICC coordinators city expressed their willingness to pursue the implementation of the Antirumour approach, highlighting that the initiative such as Antirumour approach requires more time and the engagement of broader audiences to be more effective at local as well as at regional and national levels. The coordinators emphasized that special attention should be paid to ensuring that the Antirumour methodology is well understood and mastered by the local Antirumour teams, which requires time, availability of expert support in local language(s), follow-up meetings, methodology transfers and, what is more important, training of Antirumours agents in Ukrainian.

Despite the limitations imposed by the current health situation in the country, Ukrainian cities continued to work closely with the national coordinator, regional and national authorities taking effective measures to promote an intercultural approach to diversity, developing synergies with other



Council of Europe projects such as "Protection of National Minorities, including Roma, and Minority Languages in Ukraine", organising themselves or joining the initiatives in support of the new progressive legislation that is being developed in Ukraine.

Examples of such legislation include the Law on Indigenous Peoples of Ukraine, signed by the President of Ukraine on July 1, 2021 (which aims to protect the cultural identity, information and other rights of indigenous peoples, provide them with mechanisms and tools to cooperate effectively with the Ukrainian state, and formally recognize their representative bodies), and the draft Law on National Minorities in Ukraine, to the development of which the ICCUA cities, in close collaboration with the national coordinator, contributed by providing their written recommendations and support via official letters from the mayors, participation in the



nationwide webinar-based public debate of the Law and by submitting written comments and propositions (on behalf of ICC city administrations, minority groups, NGOs and associations) to the Ukrainian Parliamentary Committee responsible for the development of the Law.

In addition, recognizing the importance of the Law on Indigenous Peoples for Ukrainian society as well as the value of the principles of

interculturality, ICCUA member Melitopol organized an interactive roundtable "The Law on Indigenous Peoples as a guarantee of sustainable development of the state" on August 9, commemorating the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

It was implemented with the support of the mayor of Melitopol, Mr. Ivan Fedorov and in cooperation with the National Network of Intercultural Cities of Ukraine, the Ashburn Institute - Europe, and the



Council of Europe project "Protection of national minorities, including Roma, and minority languages in Ukraine".

By the end of 2021, all member cities of the ICC-Ukraine network have developed and four of them have adopted their ICC City Strategies, which represents a considerable achievement of the Network along the lines of the intercultural policy and approach implementation. The ICCUA is the only national network to have reached this stage. The ICC Strategy of the City of Lutsk for 2022-2025 will be considered for adoption by the Lutsk City Council at its session on 22 December 2021. The Odessa ICC Strategy was drafted and undergone public consultations in 2021. It is to be submitted to the City Council in January 2022.

In the development of their ICC strategies, the ICCUA member-cities followed a complex approach, specifically designed by the network coordinator/ICC expert K. Rubicondo, that took into account common needs, individual challenges and priorities of the cities, and was based on three pillars:

1. **Institutional:** ensuring that the intercultural values and principles of the CoE and the ICC Programme are taken into account (through appropriate tools (results of the ICC City Index, results of the ICC test piloted by the ICC-Ukraine network in 2018) and expertise (policy assessments, SWOT & TOWS analyses adapted to public administrations).

2. **Community:** engage citizens, the local intercultural community, NGOs, media, youth, activists, other key stakeholders (from different sectors) in a participatory process (including training sessions on ICC strategy, open surveys, focus groups and consultations). This was done through a participatory process using a bottom-up approach.

3. **Local authorities:** creation of a special working group on the development of the ICC strategy in the city and constant involvement of local leaders and political representatives; seeking input from different city departments, public authorities and civil servants.

This methodology has proven to be effective. It represents one of ICCUA's best practices that could be shared for the benefit of other members of ICC Global.



INTERCULTURAL CITIES
BUILDING BRIDGES, BREAKING WALLS



Beyond their participation in the ICC Programme organized campaigns such as World Day for Cultural Diversity, the World Forum for Democracy, events such as the ICC Academy, and webinars this year (Campaigning Together – ICC Brainstorming Meeting for Campaigns 2021, Intercultural Regions: Active Participation & Social Inclusion, Kick-off meeting of the CoE project on National Minorities and Roma in Ukraine, Online peer discussion on equality issues in the Eastern Partnership organised by the EU and the Council of Europe’s Antidiscrimination Division and others, the ICCUA cities carried out a number of local initiatives aimed at furthering the ICCUA cities’ intercultural mission and policies implementation, to name a few:³



Pavlohrad - “Chain of Friendship” ICCUA webinar on Day of Unity of Ukraine Jan 2021

Vinnytsia - ICC City Strategy Adoption Jan 2021

Melitopol - ICC Festival “Friendship Wreath”

Jun 2021

Odessa - Music of Words Festival, Mar 2021

Melitopol - "Gender vulnerability of ethnic communities: overcoming phobias and fears"

webinar, July 2021.

Odessa - Eyalia - Intercultural Festival in Greek & Ukrainian cities in July 2021



³ The ICCUA 2021 Good Practice Compilation is presented in a separate report.



Lutsk - series of Literature Events in commemoration of the 120 anniversary of “the first intercultural voice of Volyn” - famous Ukrainian poetess Lesiya Ukrainka, who introduced many authors/literary pieces from different cultures to the people of Ukraine.

Lutsk - “Ask a Muslim” webinar featuring Server Zeinidinov, the head of religious community “Rakhma” that focused on the life of Muslims in Lutsk, religious issues, the role of women, and intercultural interaction in Lutsk community.



Summary

This report provided a summary of the key activities, inspiring actions, outstanding initiatives and innovative policies that have been implemented by ICC-Ukraine member-cities in 2021. For more details on these and other actions in Ukrainian ICC cities, please visit the [ICC-Ukraine Network Page](#) on the Council of Europe’s website, our [Facebook](#) or follow us on Twitter [@ICC UA](#). The year 2021, as the report shows, has been marked by great achievements, fruitful intercity and inter-network cooperation, creativity and resilience that have helped city populations and their authorities to face the complexities and adapt to the new reality.

Joint implementation of ICC Antirumour Strategy by the members of the ICC-Ukraine network has become a remarkable milestone in the development of the Network and in advancing the Antirumour movement in Ukraine, both at local and national level. Members of the ICC-Ukraine Network are committed to continue their intercultural engagement and dedication to innovative intercultural policies implementation in urban communities according to the identified strategic objectives and priorities in order to ensure exchange, provide guidance, transmit reliable information and devise strategies and consolidate policies that promote equality, diversity, and inclusion in today’s urban environment.



INTERCULTURAL CITIES
BUILDING BRIDGES, BREAKING WALLS



Melitopol Celebrates Diversity
21 MAY 2021

Luts'k Celebrates Diversity
21 MAY 2021