

# DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN CITIES

*UNHCR and Council of Europe Seminar about the Intercultural Cities Programme*

23 May 2019, Tartu Public Library, Kompanii 3/5, 51004 Tartu

*In partnership with the City of Tartu and International House Tartu*

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Council of Europe's Intercultural Cities is a capacity-building programme which supports cities in developing, implementing and evaluating local diversity and inclusion strategies cutting across institutional silos. It helps mobilise local politicians, policy officers, professionals, businesses and civil society to apply a new model of integration based on inclusive citizenship as well as positive mixing and interaction between people from different backgrounds.

The programme helps cities to:

- Create a sense of pluralistic local identity based on the pride and appreciation of its diverse population and minimise tension and conflict associated with ethno-cultural diversity.
- Set up a governance model empowering all members of the community, regardless of their origin or status, to develop their potential, realise their talents and contribute to local prosperity.
- Build positive relations and trust between people of different cultural backgrounds and thus ensure community cohesion and solidarity.
- Make the public space and services accessible to all and avoid ethnic segregation.
- Empower intercultural innovators in public institutions and civil society and through them ensure that policies encourage intercultural interaction.
- Build a positive political discourse and encourage a balanced approach to diversity in media to foster positive public perception of migrant and minority groups.

The programme involves, as for August 2018, 126 cities within 33 countries and the demand to join is constantly growing. The Intercultural cities approach has also been politically endorsed by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. Intercultural Cities offers to its member a comprehensive range of instruments and methodologies: benchmarking, policy reviews and policy development support, peer and expert advice for policy innovation, tested methodologies in specific policy fields, community-building, trust-building and public perceptions management.

The event co-organised between the Council of Europe and UNHCR will introduce the Intercultural city concept and approach to Estonian local and regional authorities with a view to their possible joining of Intercultural cities, as well as the involvement of national authorities and civil society organisations.

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Participants: local elected representatives, city officials responsible for integration, cultural diversity, social affairs or other relevant areas, as well as national authority and NGO representatives, other.

## AGENDA

9:30-10:00	Arrival, registration and welcoming coffee
10:00-10:30	Opening of the meeting: welcome and background introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Marcel Colun, Regional Liaison Officer, UNHCR Regional Representation for the Northern Europe</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Irena Guidikova, Council of Europe</i></li> <li>➤ <i>City of Tartu</i></li> </ul>
10:30-11:00	Intercultural Cities – What, Why, How? <i>Phil Wood, Intercultural Cities expert</i>
11:00-11:20	Q/A session
11:20-11:50	How did Intercultural Cities experience help shaping better diversity and inclusion policies at city level? <i>Anna SZADKOWSKA, Social participation office, Municipality of Lublin, Poland</i>
11:50-12:10	Q/A session
12:10-13:00	<b>Lunch</b>
13:00-15:00	Sharing existing practices from Estonian cities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <i>Representative of local municipalities</i></li> <li>✓ <i>International House Tartu</i></li> <li>✓ <i>Institute of Baltic Studies</i></li> </ul> Q/A session on ways forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <i>How to cooperate better and share our good practices?</i></li> <li>✓ <i>Key challenges with diversity and inclusion policies in Estonian cities and how the Intercultural Cities Programme could help to address them?</i></li> <li>✓ <i>What conditions should be in place for the Intercultural Cities Approach to work towards inclusive environment and intercultural coexistence at the city level in Estonia?</i></li> <li>✓ <i>What is the state of cooperation between local, regional and national authorities as well as NGOs in implementing diversity and inclusion policies, and is there a space for improvement?</i></li> </ul>
15:00	<b>Concluding remarks and end of the seminar</b>