

Report

Portuguese Network of Intercultural Cities

July-September 2024

Summary

During the third quarter of 2024 RPCI's work focused mostly on managing the annual project and reporting of the DiverCities project, as well as preparing new funding applications. The annual joint project "Intercultural schools" continued. The cooperative RPCI, created in 2021 to support the Network, maintains two member cities (Oeiras and Loures) and has started during this period 1 project funded by the European Commission ("EPIC-IDEA" - started on 1 September). In total, six different cities are actively engaged in these projects, one of them being engaged in more than one project.

Network coordination

RPCI's coordination was ensured based on **regular contact** with the member cities via email (around five emails were sent to all member cities) and bilateral phone calls, emails or meetings when needed.

As part of the coordination activities, messages with information on how to join RPCI were sent to new cities. Support was provided on request, via phone calls or online meetings, including questions about filling in the INDEX, participating in projects managed by RPCI, information about the RPCI network and ICC programme (for ex. to Odemira), events and seminars, and others.

RPCI advertised all the ICC initiatives and news, such as a reminder of the deadline for the INDEX and the Event on "Disinformation in cities" on 24-25 October in Prato (Italy).

Support was provided to the preparation of the ICC coordinators meeting in November 2024 hosted by Vila Verde and Braga.

A meeting with a local sports club - Sporting, was also held for future partnerships.

Finally, RPCI coordinator was also engaged in a online presentation about the Portuguese Network to Cyprus organisations.

Activities

RPCI coordination led the activities of 2 projects. Besides, oversaw and had an active role in all the activities developed within the Network and the RPCI cooperative, and prepared 1 new funding applications: one ERASMUS project.

Annual project - Intercultural Schools

This project was built collaboratively, arising from the brainstorming meeting held in 2023 with RPCI cities, and has the goal to foster intercultural competencies among school staff and strategic partners. The project was submitted in February and approved in March, and started on 1st April 2024. All RPCI cities were invited to be part of the consortium to co-manage the Grant, and 4 cities have manifested their availability - Lisboa, Oeiras, Barcelos and Paranhos. These cities will have monthly consortium meetings.

The project envisioned to promote awareness raising activities, workshops and webinars, respectively to students, families and school staff, as well as to establish a connection between

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RPCI and the REEI - Network of Schools for Intercultural Education, managed by AIMA, Aga Khan Foundation and the Ministry of Education. A meeting with REEI was held the 19th of July to explain the project and establish a partnership for other future endeavours.

After the practice sharing session held in May 2024, meetings were held with several schools from these cities to set the dates for the workshops that will occur in September. The 1st workshop was held in [Barcelos on 30th September](#), with 33 students between 13 and 15 years old. The next 3 workshops in Lisboa, Oeiras and Paranhos are booked to occur during October and November.

The 1st webinar for teachers and other education professionals, entitled “[The Anti-Racist school](#)” was held on the 9th October, with the presence of one School from Barcelos and 2 experts. This event had 157 people enrolled and 132 people attended.

The next webinar, entitled “The Intercultural School” will happen on the 4th November, with REEI, one school from Lisbon and a Roma mediator from AIMA.

DiverCities project

DiverCities is a European-funded project, coordinated by ICEI in partnership with RPCI and RECI and engaging the cities of Logrono, Castello de La Plana and Zaragoza (Spain), Modena and Pontedera, Reggio-Emilia (Italy), Ioannina (Greece). The project ended on the 31st of June 2024. During the month of July, the project report was made and provided to the coordinators - ICEI.

EPIC_IDEA project

EPIC_IDEA is a European-funded project, coordinated by ICEI in partnership with RPCI, RECI, and UNITED (Hungary). Several cities from Portugal are engaged in this project: Cascais, Vila Verde and Santa Maria da Feira. Additionally, Clube intercultural Europeu is also a non financial partner. The project aims to foster youth participation and engagement for the future of EU.

During this period the Grant Agreement was set up, and the Kick off meeting in Fuenlabrada was prepared, engaging not only city officers from these cities but young people and youth workers as well.

Communication

During this quarter, 4 posts were written and promoted, such as:

- One original article about Hate Speech and Freedom of Speech: <https://cidadesinterculturais.pt/2024/07/31/o-discurso-de-odio-nao-encontra-protECAo-na-liberdade-de-expressao-o-papel-das-cidades-no-combate-ao-discurso-de-odio/>
- One news to advertise the upcoming Webinar “The Anti-Racist School” (Intercultural Schools): <https://cidadesinterculturais.pt/2024/09/29/inscricoes-abertas-para-o-1-webinar-intercultural-schools-no-proximo-dia-9-de-outubro-escola-anti-racista/>
- One news about the workshop in Barcelos (Intercultural Schools): <https://cidadesinterculturais.pt/2024/10/11/alunos-de-barcelos-participam-no-workshop-anti-racista-do-projeto-intercultural-schools/>
- One news about World Language Day <https://cidadesinterculturais.pt/2024/10/07/lisboa-entre-as-cidades-com-praticas-inspiradoras-na-promocao-do-multilinguismo-dia-europeu-das-linguas-13-outubro/>

A new page was created about EPIC_IDEA: <https://cidadesinterculturais.pt/projetos/>

Regarding social media, RPCI maintained the existing Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram pages with regular posts. Below is a summary of the main activities and reach of each channel, for the relevant period (January-March):

- **Facebook**
Reach (average): 1,4 thousand
Visits: 324
Publications: 12
Followers: 728
- **Instagram**
Reach: 796
Visits: 125
Stories: 50
Publications: 8
Followers: 621
- **LinkedIn**
Page Visits: 14
Followers: 569 (24 new), most from Great Lisbon and Porto regions
Average impressions: 315
Total Posts: 4
- **Website “Cidades Interculturais”**
Views (average): 182
Visitors (average): 87
Articles/ posts: 4 articles (1 original)
- **Podcast Channel “Portugal Plural”**
New episodes: 2
Average play per episode: 2
Followers: 40
Total reproductions: 207 (mostly women from Portugal and Brazil)
- **YOUTUBE @redeportuguesadecidadesint2259**
All time: 23 subscribers | 12 videos | 632 views

Other activities

On the 12th September, the RPCI coordinator participated with a presentation of the Portuguese Network to Cyprus organisations followed by a Q&A.

A partnership was established with REEI - network of schools for Intercultural Education.

A presentation was held for students of the Social Economy Masters of the Polytechnical University of Porto.

The joint proposal with Loures for the Migrant Integration Plan was submitted in September.

Next steps

During the next quarter RPCI will continue the activities of the “**Intercultural Schools**” project, mainly preparing the last webinar and delivering the workshops in 3 schools.

Regarding “**EPIC_IDEA**”, an assessment with youth and youth workers will be implemented, and the next activities will be prepared.

Regarding **Communication**, three new articles are being prepared, and a new page on RPCI’s website will be published, advertising RPCI’s training and consultancy offers. A new campaign to invite more cities as members of the RPCI Cooperative is also predicted and other RPCI activities, such as the webinars, workshops in schools and podcasts, will also be a priority for next quarter, under the project “Intercultural Schools”.

RPCI will be part of the consortium of another EU-funded project called “**STAND**” and will be engaged in the preparation of the Grant Agreement. The project is envisioned to start in January 2025.