



Portuguese Intercultural Cities Network

Summary

January – March 2022

The Portuguese Intercultural Cities Network, now composed of 15 cities from north to south, held a general **meeting** to evaluate 2021 and prepare the working plan for 2022. Ideas to celebrate 10 years of RPCI were also discussed.

The most significant achievement of the first trimester of activities is the membership of two new cities: **Vila Verde and Vila Nova de Famalicão**, both located in the northern region of Portugal. Another achievement of this term was the request for membership of the **municipality of Loures** as the second official partner of **the RPCI cooperative**. A partnership agreement will be signed soon.

Also, the **Podcast programme called “Portugal Plural”** created in 2021 was launched and two episodes were published (one to present RPCI cooperative and another one to discuss the hiring of immigrants by Portuguese employers): <https://open.spotify.com/show/6OOLtdwKSm1i3QrGYsIIA?si=649e0970bfe949d4>

In total, around **seven information emails** were sent to all cities, with information about RPCI and ICC events and campaigns as well as updates on the situation in Ukrainian ICC members.

The RPCI further designed its main **project for 2022**, aimed at bringing together the Gender and Interculturality agenda of all RPCI members. The project **“Gender and Interculturality”** will therefore organise 3 webinars, produce 3 podcast episodes, and prepare an inspiring practice guide on the topic.

The RPCI cooperative was responsible for presenting two applications for intercity grants to ICC on behalf of partnering cities: the first one supports the welcoming of Ukrainian refugees (**“Welcome Ukrainians”**) and is proposed to be jointly implemented by Vila Verde and Famalicão; the second one aims at promoting mutual exchange and learnings around the issue of employment for minorities (**“Employability Networks”**), to be jointly implemented by Loures and Lisboa. If declared eligible for funding, both proposals will produce guidance and good practices on how these topics can be addressed by cities. Meetings were held with both consortia to prepare the application.

In addition, the RPCI joint proposal with RECI (Spanish Network of Intercultural Cities) and ICEI (Italian Network of Intercultural Cities) was selected for EU funding and therefore the **NET_IDEA project** will start soon. The cities of Santa Maria da Feira and Braga showed interest and wrote recommendation letters to be part of this project, and recently Vila Verde also asked to join. Another EU funding proposal was submitted, aimed at developing **Citizens Assemblies**, again in partnership with ICEI and RECI; Loures Municipality wrote a recommendation letter to support this initiative.

Besides the activities described above, several one-to-one meetings, calls and written correspondence were exchanged to solve specific issues of each city, for example to clarify issues around grants, filling the ICC INDEX or joining RPCI cooperative.

The RPCI coordinator also took part in several ICC meetings and attended the Coordinators emergency meeting in March and the meeting of the national coordinators in February.

Regular feeding of the [RPCI website](#) and social networks (LinkedIn, facebook and instagram) was ensured, also with original articles from expert members of the RPCI cooperative. One article was published on the website and social media about the situation in Ukraine and how cities can help.

More contacts were established with the Parish of Paranhos in Oporto, to study the possibility of becoming members of RPCI. This will be the first Parish to become a member of RPCI.

RPCI was also present at one webinar about EU funding.

Finally, the cooperative management had an intense period, given the closing year of 2021, with the production of Activities Report and Financial Report (available soon). The Administration board met every month to decide on daily issues. A checklist for social media publications was also developed.