



**Intercultural Cities**  
**Portuguese Network of Intercultural Cities (RPCI)**  
**22 April 2020**  
**11am-12.30pm**

### Agenda

1. 11h Presentation
2. 11h10 RPCI status + questions and answers
3. 11h20 Sharing challenges and solutions in pandemic context
  - a. From Portuguese cities
  - b. From international cities
4. 12h15 Useful resources
5. 12h30 Closure

### Presences

Paula Pereira and Teresa Correia (CM Portimão);

Andreia Santiago (CM Loures)

Ricardo Viera - Socialtion (CM Viseu)

Maria Miguel - Andducation (CM Viseu)

Fernanda Santos - coordinator of the social action unit (CM Viseu)

Clara Pombeiro - head education division (CM Viseu)

Roberto Reis (CM Sta Maria Feira)

Luis Rodrigues (CM Lisbon)

Ana Mendes (CM Amadora)

Paula Cunha (CM Albufeira)

### Summary of discussão

#### 1. RPCI status + questions and answers

After presentation of the people present, a brief presentation of the state of the RPCI activities was made:



## Funding 2019

Introduction: every year the Council of Europe allocates to the RPCI a small grant for joint projects. In 2018 we received 8,000 euros and held a policy lab with about 100 people, in 2019 we received 14,000 for the following activities:

- a) Application "Portugal Incoming": the app is almost finished, had some delay due to this context, but we will move forward with the version in Portuguese and English as soon as possible. We were alerted to the possibility of conflicting with the existing app "my claim" from ACM, and it is suggested to hold a meeting with ACM soon to discuss this topic and realize how this APP can add value. The trial version will soon be sent for feedback from the cities of the network.
- b) Online course + visit Morocco (<https://www.alfihri.org/>): after a webinar held about intercultural cities, a course was requested for this online university. Its implementation was included in the scope of the same funding. The course is almost ready and was based on the guide "The intercultural city: step-by-step" revised in 2019. It is in English and will be available soon on the website above, at a cost of 30 euros. We anticipate that there may be subtitles in Portuguese but do not know when this will be possible. To raise more diverse practices, notably from contexts in the Arab world, RPCI coordinator Carla Calado was present at the ICC Academy in Morocco in February, where cities from Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan and Palestine were present. In this meeting a brief presentation of the Portuguese network was held.
- c) Step-by-step translation: the revised guide (2019) has been translated into Portuguese and is in the design phase, will be distributed by RPCI cities as soon as it is ready.

## Funding 2020

- a) Bolsa RPCI + cities scholarship

This year, RPCI was allocated €10,000 for which we must jointly decide the destination. Several possible proposals were presented: take advantage of the coming of São Paulo and Barcelona (September) to promote a workshop with Portuguese cities, promote an ICC academy in Portugal, add subtitles in the above-mentioned course, promote training of technicians and partners and/ or consulting to projects of municipalities (hiring experts for this purpose), promote actions in the field of employability (e.g. requalification of professionals, etc.). A google forms will be sent for cities to leave their opinion on this point.

Also, the Council of Europe allocates a grant for joint projects for 2 or more cities, the value also of €10,000. The applications end on April 30. RPCI coordinators can support finding partner cities, developing ideas or filling out the application (if necessary).

## Visits 2020

After completing INDEX every 2 years, cities generally receive the visit of experts from the Council of Europe, who visit the territories and projects mentioned in it, providing feedback on the INDEX results and making recommendations for the city to develop its policies and practices of interculturality. In 2020, 2 visits to Lisboa and Loures are planned. The Council of Europe



(CoE) proposes that they be carried out in the same week, from September on (date to be agreed), and can be carried out in an adapted format if the trips remain prohibited for CE workers (being carried out by Portuguese experts only, for example) or with online components if the restrictions are still high. The cities concerned will be contacted for this purpose.

#### **4. Creating an association**

In order to ensure the sustainability of the RPCI, the CoE has been raising awareness for the creation of an association. After talking with the RECI (Spanish network) which was constituted as an association a few years ago, and a meeting with several experts in Portugal, it was concluded that the model adopted by Spain has some advantages. The association was created by experts and cities are not formal associates. Cities can still belong to the national network free of charge, and may additionally take advantage of the association's services and pay an annual fee and/or purchase these one-off services (which may be consultancy training, etc.). We will soon have more news on this topic, and in the questionnaire to be sent this topic will also be addressed.

Rede Sem Fronteiras event: RPCI was invited to be part of an event organized by the entity [Rede Espaço sem Fronteiras](#), based in Brazil. This event will take place in September and aims to bring together hundreds of experts and representatives of central and local governments from various countries. It is intended to invite some Portuguese cities to give their testimony. This network organizes debates on various online topics on your Facebook, to which you can join:

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/Espacio-Sin-Fronteras-271385186587907/posts/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/Espacio-Sin-Fronteras-271385186587907/posts/?ref=page_internal)

#### **2. Sharing of covid challenges and practices 19**

Finally, the cities were invited to share the challenges and solutions to deal with the current crisis caused by the COVID 19 pandemic. Below is a summary of the contributions of each city:

##### **Viseu**

- large flow of foreigners this year (Brazilians): 480 people infected in the total of the municipality, 35% are Brazilian citizens, large aggregates with between 3 and 4 people
- social emergency line (shopping, medication, garbage collection) for infected people (works every day of the week from 9am to 8pm)
- make referrals to social services
- field hospital
- free tests
- dissemination of information on Facebook
- meals for students with lower incomes delivered at home, as well as food baskets
- rent suspension, parking and water payment suspended



- support to NGO's

### **Santa Maria da Feira**

- social and psychological support lines for screening the necessary support
- general support line COVID 19, another for deaf community and another for entrepreneurs
- support purchases and medicines at the home of infected or isolated people (solidarity network)
- more than 300 cases
- impact on industries, namely footwear and textiles, catering, tourism and hospitality: majority in lay off. The return will be gradual and even more challenges will arise
- test screening centres - 2500 home tests, e.g.
- major impacts: loss of income associated with financial commitments. Existing measures will only postpone the problem
- information regularly updated on the municipality's page and on Facebook
- provision of computers for families without the means to access the virtual school
- decontamination by cm of health equipment
- suspension of parking payments

### **Portimão**

- support areas for the population equipped with 300 beds: partnerships with hotels and youth hostel to accommodate health professionals, firefighters and in case it is necessary to evacuate homes + a field hospital
- service drive through
- Listing people in isolation, with wheelchairs, etc.
- purchase of food, medicines, collection of waste from quarantined families
- support for unemployed people
- 24-hour telephone line
- Support to citizens (telephone and mail) without distinction between migrants and non-migrants
- requests from large households, Brazil, Ukraine, Algeria to Bangladesh, mainly for food (many people worked in hotels and greenhouses)
- awareness-raising campaigns and distribution of materials in several languages
- there is an increase in cases and applications for aid, in particular by the loss of jobs, etc. for housing support, rents, etc.



- activated tsunami sirens and a van that circulates through the city with audio information
- Suspension of rents and parking

### **Lisbon**

- ensure access to information, keep information in the various areas always updated on the site
- financial support to families
- social housing has 70,000 people, suspended payment of rents
- a solidarity network of volunteers who support other people
- creation of a website: "all for all" for donations of articles to those who need
- the parishes are closer to the population and know the realities and needs and their support is essential

### **Loures**

- activation of the social network to coordinate responses
- CLAIM continues to work in direct support to the community, people and institutions. Applications are for support for unemployment and food
- priority is to disseminate relevant information, remain a point of support

### **Amadora**

- free social helpline from 8 am to 7 pm to request food support that is delivered to the household (seniors, dependents, isolated people)
- support to health centers in prescribing medication
- take away meals for low income students in schools
- support to victims of violence
- intervention with homeless people
- platform "Amadora porto de si" for people to know about open local commerce
- Amadora innovates - support for small and medium business
- 2 pavilions of 2 schools with reception units - accommodation for emergency situations
- Suspended payment of rents and parking
- TELEPHONE THEATRE, aimed at day care users: The artists-pedagogues, through a phone call, develop activities with the users:
  - **I tell and you Tell** - Short stories, that stimulate creativity, so that seniors continue them / Good **news** - News that has marked their lives, with optimistic information / Stories created by the **seniors themselves**, that tell them to artists-pedagogues, **connect to those who are more**



**fragile**, to their peers/ Reading small stories on **the phone**, inspired by the book *Stories on the phone* of Gianni Rodari, artist pedagogue of the Schools of Reggio Emilia.

From all these experiences **will come a play**, which is expected to be premiered next October, month in which the Month of the Elderly is celebrated

### **Albufeira**

- "Answer now" gives a quick answer to problems (various day-to-day responses, payment of small bills that are effectively needed, etc.).
- compilation of the various responses on the Municipality's website and another one created specifically for this situation
- ZCAP - Population Support Concentration Zones
- water payments were ceased for the whole city
- CLAIM continues to work on telework (we receive documentation and work on requests)
- were distributed pamphlets in several languages and communicated by microphones on the streets of the city

### **Attachments**

Power point