RECI 24th Meeting
Minutes
Logroño, October 19TH and 20TH, 2022

#1. Welcome

The working day opens with the institutional welcome by Pablo Hermoso de Mendoza, mayor of Logroño and Jaume Lanaspa, president of RECI.

This is followed by a round of presentations.

#2. Objectives of the meeting

Dani de Torres, director of RECI, comments on the work plan for the meeting and Gemma Pinyol-Jiménez, coordinator of RECI, shares the lines of work of ICC and some additional issues such as upcoming visits with priority for new members.

Currently, two RECI working groups (Communication and Indicators) are working in different initiatives, and it is planned to continue the work on the SDGs. As new cities incorporated at RECI, a visit to Manlleu (November 14) is planned and a visit to Valladolid is pending to be scheduled.

The next RECI webinar on voting rights of foreigners will be held (November 23 at 12h).

Different projects that focus on the work of RECI are noted: ICSI of the University of Valencia; the International Intercultural Cities Comparatives (UPF) and the project of Sin Fronteras and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation in Mexico.

The second meeting of the ADI-INT is taking place these days in Skopje, with the participation of Bilbao and Fuenlabrada. The cities will be informed of the outcomes of the meeting.

Finally, in November 2022, the ICC coordination meeting will be held in Reggio Emilia, where the evaluation of the program will be reported and the priority areas of

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work for 2022 will be agreed. The cities will be informed of the outcome of the meeting.

#3. RECI Campaign

Experiences in the development of the campaign *A Necessary Journey* are shared.

- **Fuenlabrada -** Objective: to create intercultural narratives. The project consists of the development of a LIVING MUSEUM that started in May. Those involved are the City Council, the Group of intercultural mediators and the entity Naranjoven and the young people participating in the project. It started by training monitors and educators in intercultural issues, and they began to work with groups of teenagers through the pre-labor workshops (16-20 year olds) where some materials and objects for the museum are made.

  On the other hand, the summer camp was used to work with a group of young people on the interculturalism in Fuenlabrada and to generate materials and contents for the museum.

  The museum has 6 phases: 1. Introduction to the characters in the book, with materials created at the camp; 2. History of Fuenlabrada, how it went from 2000 inhabitants to 200,000. Past, present and future. The city is committed to interculturalism; 3. Models of coexistence: with materials created in the pre-work workshops, the different models are represented and explained (robotics, Textile, etc.); 4. Intercultural Principles: Explained through materials created in the pre-work workshops (Electricity: connections, opposite poles, etc.); 5. Fuenlabrada of the future: Commitment to interculturalism, with materials created by the pre-work workshops (Plumbing). 6. Intercultural tree: where each person can leave his or her mark and make a contribution.

- **Castellón -** The campaign booklet is worked on as a basis for a youth theatre version. Work is being done with a self-management group of young people on how to incorporate the booklet and their own vision of how to achieve interculturalism and with the creation of scenarios, choice of songs, costumes, etc. The play was a success, and now they are studying how to continue this work as they are a living group, many of those who worked on it are no longer with us and new people are coming in. A video summary of the experience has been made.

- **Bilbao -** A wink is made to the notebook from its own campaign for May 21.

  Four permanent ideas are incorporated into the communication plan of the city council's cabinet to launch messages on an ongoing basis, one of them

is the travel notebook. Together with Loturak and Mobiltik, work is being done to adapt the notebook in the San Francisco neighbourhood using new technologies. Not all the expected results are achieved, but the process can be taken to other spaces and territories.

With UNESCO Etxea there is a process of scenic, creative, musical, etc., creation prior to the notebook. They take an intercultural logbook to express in an artistic way their experiences from the point of view of the three principles of interculturalism, promoting debate and critical thinking.

- **Salt -** It is foreseen to use the material for transversal work with youth and education. It is presented to social educators working in educational centres.

- **Santa Coloma -** Video and notebook are used in two practices with very different results. With young people, it doesn't work well because they don't connect so much with the form. The notebook is more designed for professionals and how they can adapt it and work more interactively with young people. This material was shared at the Intercenter meeting, and they are trying to introduce it in the coexistence plans of the centres within the framework of the mechanisms of positive conflict management and the anti-rumor approach. The same applies to secondary schools, where the restorative coexistence approach is now being incorporated. In the city council's continuous training courses on interculturalism are introduced, and this makes it possible to incorporate concepts in different areas, and the notebook was used to open debate, and it worked. Mila's story has been worked on in a more biographical way, with the women's group. It is a group of trust that seeks to make visible, especially women who are not visible in the public space (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, etc.) The video is used to work on the link with the city in welcome and reception modules (Modules C).

- **Valencia -** Training pills are used in educational centres. As a singular action, the museum of prehistory is working on a re-reading of the contents in an intercultural key. The museum team has worked on a proposal for a discourse with an intercultural approach to be the script for the pills. They propose to value the use of the slogan "A necessary journey" as the subtitle of the RECI, as a unit of the network.

Other contributions: From Barcelona that it is necessary to transfer the campaign to the young people, who are not given spaces for decision-making and real

participation. In Castellón, they commented that training based on the booklet is going to technical and education staff working with young people.

#4. Working Groups

INDICATORS

The current work proposal and the support of an expert, Eva Fortes, for the work of defining a group of indicators for the impact of intercultural policies and, to a lesser extent, for the indicators on intercultural coexistence, which are the ones worked on in groups, is explained so that the participants can reflect on which indicators or questions would be most relevant.

As a result of the group work, the discussion on the indicators on intercultural led to the identification of several issues. On the one hand, the need to construct indicators that are useful, and that are based on questions that can be understood by everyone. This means considering whether to explain the concepts that are proposed (what is coexistence, for example) or to look for specific questions that determine the quality of coexistence. On the other hand, there is a need to establish a self-diagnosis of the city prior to conducting the surveys. The definition of the indicators, on the other hand, must be followed by the definition of the sample so that the indicators are minimally representative.

ODS

The interest of some cities to go deeper into this topic was shared, and it was agreed to organize a meeting before the end of the year to define a roadmap. It is commented that the visit organized by ICC in Pontevedra on sustainability and interculturalism (and in which there was no presence of RECI cities) was a success, and it is confirmed the interest of the cities in knowing more about this experience and in the future to propose a visit to Pontevedra at RECI level. Tenerife presented the work they have been doing within the framework of the Canary Islands Sustainable Development Strategy, which included the intercultural and community approach. The team was trained from a practical point of view, to apply the SDGs to everyday life, in the neighbourhoods, to better visualize their usefulness. Work was carried out on the 5 pillars (5P), the "ODSeable" strategy was created, identifying actions that were already being carried out and actions that had not yet been carried out to systematize progress on the ODS and cross-reference them with the Canary Islands Agenda.

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#5. European projects in RECI cities

Net-Idea	A training module on intercultural competencies is being developed and will be tested in the coming months in the participating RECI cities. The project includes the development of an international anti-rumor youth summit in the Polish city of Lublin.
SCORE	Project in which several RECI cities also participate in anti-racism in sport. Sports spaces as an opportunity for social inclusion and anti-racism. Identify professionals who can be ambassadors of the fight against racism. An awareness-raising campaign will be carried out with these ambassadors.
FASTLISA	Project in which Santa Coloma is involved in the fight against online hate speech. The aim is to connect academia (universities) and the local context (cities). Difficulty due to the different language in hate speech and the legal framework of each country. Training of youth groups and a meeting in Santa Coloma. Discussions are being held via Discord. Monitoring of social networks was planned, but it seems that due to legal and technical issues it will not be possible.
DIVERCITIES	Project involving Logroño among other cities on citizen participation from an intercultural perspective. The project is currently in promotion. Three actions will be carried out per city to citizen awareness with an intercultural perspective.
ANTI-RACISM MALTA	Diversit has been commissioned to design a national anti-racism strategy for Malta as part of Malta's national anti-racism strategy. It is a challenge to move from the local to the national level and will be the first time that an anti-rumor strategy has been developed at national level.

#6. Reflection on challenges and next steps

- Cities are encouraged to continue to share experiences on the "A Necessary Journey" campaign.
- Working groups:
    - ☐ Communication:
        - RECI will produce a communication guide on intercultural discourse and narratives at local level
        - ICC conducts communication training for senior officials: the appropriateness of doing so in Spanish should be assessed in the framework of the RECI

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- The development of a practical guide with ideas on how to work with young people is envisaged
☐ ODS
  - A meeting will be held to discuss next steps with the most interested cities
☐ Indicators
  - The work done to date, as well as the issues raised at the meeting on indicators of intercultural coexistence, will be reported on.

- Seminars
  - Voting rights seminar on 23 November
  - It is proposed to assess whether it would be interesting to prepare a proposal to promote political participation from the local level. A comment was made from **Bilbao** that for the first time, EUDEL, the Federation of Basque Municipalities, is going to launch an information campaign so that people of diverse origin who can vote can exercise their right to vote.

- RECI city visits
  - Manlleu (November 14)

- Areas/Topics to discuss
  - Intercultural competences. **Sabadell** is committed to intercultural competences as cross-cutting training, which is being worked on in various forums and debates
  - Roma people
  - Historical memory and interculturalism
  - Youth
  - Gender and interculturalism.
  - Discrimination. **Fuenlabrada** presented the CAMUS Project, which is an analysis and mapping of discrimination of gender, cultural diversity, sexual orientation, etc. in the local administration. A self-diagnosis will be carried out with technicians and a citizen audit network. Provisions have been made for equal access to services.
  - Human rights and interculturalism.
  - Metaverse and interculturalism.

- Others

  - **Tenerife** asked about RECI contributions to the Strategic Framework for Citizenship and Inclusion, against Xenophobia and Racism. It was agreed to ask OBERAXE about RECI contributions and the status of the new strategic framework.

  - **Barcelona** commented that it would be necessary to have more time to be able to share more good practices and tools among the cities in the RECI meetings. Other cities share this need and it is proposed that at the next meeting in Tenerife a space be set aside for a more participatory and informal dynamic for the exchange of experiences and practices among the cities.

  - **Cartagena** proposes that RECI be a platform for denouncing or supporting initiatives to exert pressure on discrimination and the violation of migrants' rights, and that it should be a space for positioning. The president of the RECI pointed out that to do so it would be necessary to reach a consensus and consult all the cities (which on the only occasion it was promoted did not work). He also points out that although on the one hand he would like to see it, it could cause more problems than positive things for RECI.

It is recalled that the next RECI meeting will be in Tenerife on March 6 and 7, 2023.

#7. Working session: How to advance in mainstreaming interculturalism

The afternoon of the second day was devoted to a debate on how to promote greater transversality in the design and implementation of intercultural policies in city councils. Some councillors and managers from different departments of Logroño city council took part in this debate with the rest of RECI cities.

This is a very important and difficult issue to achieve. In general, there are low levels of mainstreaming. There are differences between the public and private sector. There are examples of good impact in places where there is only one technical person who has had to look for real mainstreaming to work from different areas.

We take it for granted that mainstreaming is positive, but there are many reasons why it is not developed (comfort, tradition, lack of structures), however there are

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several factors that facilitate but do not guarantee mainstreaming (training, design of strategies, joint projects, etc.). It is necessary to create an impulse, to create the circumstances or scenarios. In some places where a mainstreaming agent was created it did not work, the simple fact of creating the figure does not guarantee it, more is needed. Examples of transversality: confinement made it possible to create groups of mixed teams to tell in detail what each other was doing, and when this was not the case, many mixed projects were created. The importance of knowing what others are doing is very important.

From **Sabadell** they assure that political will is fundamental and when there is desire for transversality, it is possible. The counsellor presented a good practice within the framework of the 8M that promoted the theme "Women and interculturalism" and drew up a municipal calendar with 12 different themes: origin, beliefs, sports, etc.

In **Cartagena** they comment that they do not have a strategic plan and that this makes it difficult to promote mainstreaming. It is mainly a technical commitment that has to be worked from below, but it does not translate into intercultural policies in the different areas. Specific actions are carried out and sometimes the structures make it difficult (the existence of a specialised team that works on it means that the rest of the areas do not see the need to work on it as well).

Sabadell points out that it is important to have a team, or to have specific knowledge about interculturalism to be a reference within the city council itself. In this way, it is possible to support other areas and improve their proposals for action. For example, the urban planning department can come in to deal with the issue of places of worship, etc. Transversality brings a perspective that is not there right now.

From **Barcelona**, they state the need for both political and technical involvement, which translates into human and economic resources. Their strategy is to "be available" to contribute in the different areas. We go to introduce ourselves to places so that they know us. Training is given to all the people who work in each district: licences, etc., even if it apparently has nothing to do with their area, even in a somewhat forced way because it helps to change views, attitudes. The current staff has a 1.2% diversity; therefore, the life experience is not shared with the citizens. That is why we are working with HR to incorporate the valuation of other languages (apart from French or English), in the recruitment process varying the content of cultural knowledge to avoid the ethnocentric gap. An instruction has been issued that contracts for the care of people in which more than 2 people are hired, there must be a minimum with diverse cultural backgrounds. Surrogacy means it is not immediate, but these are changes in the long run.

From **Logroño**, it is stated that there are Transversal committees for sectoral issues, but each one wants to mainstream its own issue. It would be necessary to create a

"City Transversal Table". In community processes, mainstreaming is being achieved, but this is not translated or concretized within the administration.

From **Santa Coloma** they convey that it is necessary to add intersectionality. The generation of links between technicians helps transversality to be effective, it is now widely used as an instrument for working with citizens, it could be transferred internally. Take the example of how gender has been worked on, first mainstreaming the concept.

Mainstreaming is an inward participatory process, incorporating interculturalism in the continuous training of the city council. In the administrative field, it is necessary to introduce intercultural criteria in the bases for the granting of subsidies, for which it is necessary to train the technical staff of each service on how to assess interculturalism through the three principles.

From **Manlleu** they comment that Interculturalism depends directly on the Mayor's Office, the transversality is easier with the social areas or those aimed and more difficult with the technical ones. Sometimes it is very difficult to transfer the intercultural approach within the administration; they have encountered internal complaints because some of the people they attend in reception wear hijab. The dependence of the mayor's office has made it possible to adapt certain regulations to the reality of the territory from an intercultural approach, for example, staying in the street during the confinement.

The head of Logroño's Urban Agenda states that this should be a cross-cutting project in itself and the challenge is to set up a City Round Table, given that there are 47 projects, 21 of which are strategic.

The **Logroño** Comunitario team points out that mainstreaming means legitimizing the issue. It is necessary to explain why it is important to work on it and what it is for. What is not explained is not understood and if it is not seen to be useful for something, it will not be integrated.

Training in intercultural competences is significant because these professionals will then have to carry out the intervention in their areas with an internalized intercultural perspective. First train to be able to contribute. An acknowledgement to the external teams.

From **Donosti,** they convey the need to take advantage of alliances with the most sensitive areas. Dialogue is necessary to build together and that mainstreaming must be based on the incorporation of intercultural principles.

Sabadell points out that transversality is not the same as coordination between departments because often this coordination and the work that is done does not transcend.

From **Valladolid** they transfer their experience that in the processes of community intervention by neighbourhoods some transversality is achieved. It is in the territory where things happen, although this does not transcend to the administration.

RECI points out that organizational dysfunction impedes the success of mainstreaming. Personal links or commitments do not work in public policies. Changes only come through revolutions or reforms. It would be more interesting that instead of talking about transversality we talk about transversal work spaces.

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The RECI meeting concluded, thanking the Logroño team for all their work and support, and the rest of the cities and territories for their participation.

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List of participants

1. Karol Adarraga, Negociado de Diversidad Cultural, Ayuntamiento de Donostia/San Sebastián

2. María Berges, Casa de las Culturas y de la Solidaridad, Ayuntamiento de Zaragoza

3. Pere Compte, Regidor de Serveis Socials, Ajuntament de Manlleu

4. Isa Copetudo, Coordinadora Proyectos de territorio, Servicio de Convivencia, Desarrollo Comunitari y Civismo, Ajuntament Santa Coloma de Gramenet

5. Teresa Fernández, Programa Barcelona Interculturalitat, Ajuntament de Barcelona

6. María Eugenia Fonte, Coordinadora de Proyectos, OBITen, Universidad de La Laguna

7. Amaia Gómez, Técnica de Intervención Comunitaria, Ayuntamiento de Getxo

8. Irune Ibarrondo, Técnica de Inmigración, Ayuntamiento de Barakaldo

9. Miryam Lorenzo, mediadora y encargada de la Estrategia Antirrumor, Ayuntamiento de Valladolid

10. Jesús García Herradón, Logroño Intercultural, Ayuntamiento de Logroño

11. Àgata Gelpi, Jefa de Servicios Sociales, Ajuntament de Manlleu

12. Irune Ibarrondo, Técnica de Inmigración, Ayuntamiento de Barakaldo

13. Olga Jiménez, Coordinadora de l'Area de Feminisme, Benestar Animal i Participació, Ajuntament de Sabadell

14. Beatriz Lacasa Ibaibarriaga, Logroño Intercultural, Ayuntamiento de Logroño

15. Jaume Lanaspa, Presidente de la RECI

16. Ekain Larrinaga, Técnico de Inmigración, Ayuntamiento de Bilbao

17. María Limonge, Convivència Social Intercultural, Ajuntament de Castelló

18. Carme Martínez Casanovas, Técnica de Derechos Civiles, Ajuntament de Sabadell

19. Marta Morell, Tenienta de Alcaldesa de Feminismo, Bienestar Animal y Participación, Ajuntament de Sabadell

20. Ignacio Muñoz, Técnico del Centro de Atención al Inmigrante, Ayuntamiento de Valladolid

21. Natividad Nogales, Directora técnica de Servicios Sociales, Ayuntamiento de Fuenlabrada

22. Georgina Pérez, responsable de comunicación, Ajuntament de Manlleu

23. Teresa Pérez Mínguez, Subdirectora Servicio de Intervención Social, Ayuntamiento de Valladolid

24. Gemma Pinyol-Jiménez, Coordinadora RECI, experta de Intercultural Cities-Consejo de Europa

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25. Cristina Piñeiro Mora, Mediadora intercultural, Servicio de Mediación Comunitaria, Ayuntamiento de Fuenlabrada
26. Núria Serra, Jefa de Departamento, Interculturalidad y Pluralismo Religioso, Ayuntamiento de Barcelona
27. Julio Ramallo, Responsable RECI del Cabildo de Tenerife
28. Manel Raimí, Responsable del Plan de Convivencia Intercultural, Ayuntamiento de Logroño
29. Iván Reinares, Concejal de Servicios Sociales y Desarrollo Comunitario, Ayuntamiento de Logroño
30. Fernando Rey Correa Ossa, Logroño Intercultural, Ayuntamiento de Logroño
31. Enriqueta Mª Teijón Sáez, Unidad de Inmigración y Cooperación al Desarrollo, Ayuntamiento de Cartagena
32. Laura Serrano Rodríguez, Logroño Intercultural, Ayuntamiento de Logroño
33. Dani de Torres, Director RECI y Antirumours Global, experto de Intercultural Cities-Consejo de Europa
34. Jesús Yébenes, Jefe de Sección de Inmigración, Convivencia y Cooperación, Ajuntament de València
35. Xavier Xarbau, Tècnic d'Acollida i Ciutadania, Ajuntament de Salt
36. Mónica Villegas, Unidad de Inmigración y Cooperación al Desarrollo, Ayuntamiento de Cartagena
37. Vicente Manuel Zapata, Profesor Titular de Geografía Humana, Universidad de La Laguna. Observatorio de la Inmigración de Tenerife y experto RECI.

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