

RECI 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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#01. ACTIVITIES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ICC-COE PROGRAMME

A) Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on Intercultural Integration

The Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CD-ADI) includes a working group on intercultural integration composed of ten countries represented by state and local authorities.

In 2022 the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted the [recommendation CM/REC \(2022\)10 on Policies and Multilevel Governance for Intercultural Integration](#), the text of which had previously been worked on and approved by the CDADI. With the approval of this document, the working group becomes a stable Committee of Experts within the framework of the Council of Europe. The RECI cities of Bilbao and Fuenlabrada are part of it.

In June 2022, this Committee held its first face-to-face meeting in Strasbourg, with a mandate covering the years 2022 to 2025. It also includes representatives of regional and autonomous administrations, together with representatives of the member states of the Council of Europe and local authorities that are part of the *Intercultural Cities* programme. In 2023, two meetings were held (4-5 May and 17-18 October in Strasbourg), to approve and/or propose different working instruments.

This year, the CoE, with the help of the work of the Committee of Experts, has published the [Handbook for the design of a training course on intercultural competences](#). Its aim is to help administrations design their own tailor-made training courses with a view to disseminating the skills and competences needed to implement the Council's model of intercultural integration. The Committee is preparing a "Compendium of good practices in intercultural integration and multilevel governance" and is in the process of developing the "Multilevel Governance Index".

B) RECI represents the national networks in the newly created ICC Advisory Group.

The CCI programme has established an Advisory Group to strengthen the governance of the programme. The creation of this Group stems from the external evaluation commissioned in 2022, which recommended the creation of an Advisory Group composed of beneficiaries of the CCI programme to provide additional strategic guidance on the implementation and operation of the programme.

The Advisory Group is composed of 7 members, appointed by the ICC Secretariat following an open call for applications. It is important to note that RECI forms

part of the Group on behalf of the ICC National Networks. The other members cover the following categories:

- Member cities of the ICC international network: Canton of Neuchâtel (Switzerland), City of Stavanger (Norway), City of Reykjavik (Iceland) and the City of Donostia/San Sebastián.
- City member of the ICC international network (overseas): Salisbury City Council (Australia).
- Member city of a national ICC network, other than that represented by the coordination of a national network: City of Bradford (UK).

Thus, the Advisory Group was set up in the second quarter of 2023 and shortly afterwards, on 4-5 July, its first meeting took place in Strasbourg. With a view to providing strategic guidance to the implementation and functioning of the ICC programme, this first meeting discussed the recommendations of the evaluation process and addressed issues such as the review of available ICC tools and services, as well as ICC communication and representation. The summary of the session is available [here](#). On 13 November, the second meeting was held in Bilbao, where the priorities for 2023 were raised, and the role of representation of the Advisory Group in some ICC positions, such as the one related to the International Day of Cities (see [here](#)), was assessed, among other issues.

C) Participation in the annual ICC coordination meeting

On 14 and 15 November 2023, the ICC team, the heads of the networks of Spain, Italy, Portugal, Ukraine and Canada, ICC experts and representatives of the international cities met in Bilbao. After a review of the work carried out during the year 2023, the challenges and objectives for the year 2024 were set. Likewise, some of the experiences of the city of Bilbao were presented, such as the Diversitours project or the role of migrant women in the city. The meeting ended with a workshop on intercultural competences in which training resources available to the cities were presented and some municipalities and network coordinators shared experiences on the training they had organised.

D) Public policy review with the ICC Index

Support continues to be given to the cities that have to complete the ICC Index. In this period, the [València](#) report has been published (February 2023). Likewise, a survey was carried out prior to the RECI meeting in Getafe (8-9 November) consulting the cities involved to what extent they were going to join the elaboration of the ICC index during the year 2024. According to the results, more than fifteen of the RECI cities consulted - 17 municipalities - want to produce the index during 2024.

E) RECI participation in intercultural events:

- Lecture on Interculturality in the framework of the ECCIPA project, Gemma Pinyol-Jiménez, 14 February 2023.

- Study visit of Cypriot mayors to Barcelona and Santa Coloma de Gramenet, with the participation of Dani de Torres, 15-16 March 2023.
- Workshop 'Awareness-raising about intercultural integration and the ICC programme', Tallinn (Estonia), Gemma Pinyol-Jiménez, 12 April 2023.
- *City Talk: "ICC index for policy design, from data to strategy"*, with the participation of Dani de Torres, and students of the Master's Degree in Migrations UPF, 2 May 2023.
- Third meeting of the Committee of Experts on Intercultural Integration (ADI-INT) in Strasbourg, with the participation of Bilbao, 4 and 5 May 2023.
- Online meeting of the Italian Network of Intercultural Cities with the participation of Dani de Torres to present the work of RECI, 17 May 2023.
- Visit of a delegation of representatives of Mexican cities and states together with the Mexico office of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation to different RECI cities (Barcelona, Bilbao and Sabadell), to learn about the implementation of interculturality policies and anti-rumour strategies. June 2023.
- Participation of Claudia Emmanuel Laredo (Bilbao City Council) and Gemma Pinyol-Jiménez in the Intercultural Cities Forum: Towards a Network of Intercultural Cities in Mexico, organised by the Naumann Foundation and the association Sin Fronteras. The aim was to publicise the work of RECI and ICC in a meeting space with Mexican states and cities. The visit was used to visit the city of Guadalupe, recently incorporated into the ICC, to learn about some experiences of the State of Nuevo León and to offer anti-rumour training for technical staff of this administration. 2-6 October 2023.
- Participation in the international camp of the European project FAST-LISA in Santa Coloma de Gramenet, 14-15 October 2023.
- Anti-rumour training in the framework of the project 'Building an inclusive integration approach in Finland', Dani de Torres, Helsinki 24-25 October 2023.
- Participation of Gemma Pinyol-Jiménez in the IntegraSchool conference: Present and future of interculturality; challenges and opportunities. 28 November 2023.
- Anti-Racism Training in the framework of the project 'Towards the Implementation of an Anti-Racism Strategy for Malta', Dani de Torres, Malta, 30 November and 1 December 2023.
- Participation of Dani de Torres in the Conference on Intercultural Cities University of Cadiz, 19 December 2023.

Reach: more than 700 people.

#02. WORK PLAN RECI

A) RECI working meetings

The 25th RECI Working Day was held in **Tenerife** on 6 and 7 March. On this occasion, the meeting was attended by more than 35 representatives from the 22 RECI territories. During the meeting, the guide: "*The design of a communication strategy in intercultural cities*" was presented and the different steps recommended by the guide were analysed. The cities also shared their experiences in the development of the #unviajenecesario campaign to continue moving towards intercultural public spaces. On the other hand, the cities participated in an *open space* dynamic in order to share success stories in the interest of a good coexistence between different cultures and origins.



Finally, the representatives visited Adeje, Buenavista del Norte and Granadilla de Abona, municipalities that are implementing the Strategic Framework for Intercultural Coexistence 'Tenerife Lives Diversity' and where social development is promoted. This activity has also served to commemorate the tenth anniversary of Tenerife as part of the RECI through the Cabildo of Tenerife, the Immigration Observatory of Tenerife (OBITen) and Juntas En la misma dirección.

41 attendees

The minutes of these meetings can be found in Annexes 1 and 2.

The second meeting of the year took place in **Getafe** on 8 and 9 November and was attended by around 40 participants from 15 RECI territories. In addition, there was the special participation of two representatives from Mexico City, who shared some of the regulatory advances and presented some of the measures that are being implemented in their city.

During the first day, a visit was made to the Refugee Reception Centre managed by CEAR in the municipality. In addition, the experiences of the City Council's Coexistence Committee, which centralises the actions of different areas of the municipal corporation, were presented; and on the other hand, a work space was dedicated to the

European SCORE project, in which Getafe is one of its partners, to discuss sport and racism.



On the second day of the meeting, the cities worked on a diagnosis of the needs and objectives of the working groups operating in the RECI. Likewise, different territories shared their experiences of participation and interaction of young people in the framework of different projects and actions, such as the European project NET- IDEA or the Anti-Rumour Youth Summit. Finally, with the focus on the fight against segregation from an intercultural perspective, a participatory exercise was carried out to reflect on how to build cities by eliminating barriers to interaction between citizens.

The meeting closed with a compilation of RECI's challenges and priorities for the coming months.

38 attendees

B) RECI visits

The municipal elections in May 2023 have made it difficult to schedule visits to RECI cities. The proximity to the elections and subsequently the uncertainty and changes in most municipalities has meant that most cities have been unable to host these visits. Although there have been dialogues with some territories, it has been considered to postpone the visits to the beginning of 2024, when the government teams are formed. In this sense, priority will be given to visits to cities that have recently joined the network, or those where there has been a change of government and a reinforcement of the political commitment to the RECI is needed.

C) RECI Dialogues

The first RECI dialogue of 2023 took place on 30 May and focused on the link between interculturality and the Sustainable Development Goals, as chosen by the cities at the last meeting in Tenerife. Under the title **The link between interculturality and SDGs: 17+1**, a reflection on the consideration of cultural and linguistic diversity as a key element for sustainable development, and on local practices for the implementation of the SDGs with an intercultural perspective was raised. The event was attended by Inés García, Head of the UNESCO Chair in Cultural Heritage, and Inés García, Head of the UNESCO Chair in Interculturality.

Vicente Zapata, professor at the University of La Laguna and academic director of OBITEN, and María Fonte, OBITEN project coordinator.



RECI
Ciudades Interculturales
Ciutats Interculturals
Kultura Arteko Hiriak
Cidades Interculturais



**La vinculación
entre
interculturalidad
y ODS: 17 + 1**

30 de mayo , 12:00
[Webinar Zoom](#)

Inés García, responsable de la Cátedra UNESCO de Patrimonio Lingüístico Mundial Universidad del País Vasco (UPV/EHU).

Vicente Zapata, profesor titular de geografía en la Universidad de La Laguna y director académico del Observatorio de la Inmigración de Tenerife.

María Eugenia Fonte García, coordinadora de Proyectos, OBITen-Universidad de La Laguna

22 attendees

The second RECI dialogue was organised on 27 November under the title "Intercultural storytelling and communication in crisis contexts". The dialogue counted with the participation of David Espinós, communication consultant, specialised in crisis prevention and management and founding partner of Khimera. The dialogue began with the intervention of Dani de Torres, who offered a generic framework of the work done in the framework of RECI and ICC in the field of narratives. At the end of the meeting, some cities shared experiences, but also challenges and doubts addressed to David Espinós. The expert prepared a short document with the content of the session that has been shared with the RECI cities.



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Kultura Arteko Hiriak
Cidades Interculturais

LUNES 27 NOVIEMBRE 2023
11:00 HORAS
[Webinar ZOOM](#)



DIÁLOGOS RECI
"EL RELATO INTERCULTURAL Y LA COMUNICACIÓN EN CONTEXTOS DE CRISIS"

David Espinós, asesor en comunicación, especializado en prevención y gestión de crisis y socio fundador de Khimera.

30 attendees

D) Working groups

RECI currently has 4 working groups: SDGs, strategic frameworks, narratives and indicators. The following points detail the work carried out in the last year in the framework of each group and the roadmap to be followed by each of them.

During the Getafe meeting (November 2023) a session was dedicated to sharing the work done in each group, but also to reflection and debate on the objectives and next steps of each group.

Likewise, the creation of an **Anti-rumour working group** was proposed with the aim of rethinking the Strategies in order to resize them, update them and create common lines of implementation and development. Unlike the rest, this group would not aim to produce *papers*, guides or organise *webinars*, so as not to overlap with the work done by Antirumores.

Alternative narratives and RECI campaign #unviajenecesario (#anecessarytravel)

At the end of 2022, the working group on narratives worked on the elaboration of a [practical guide for the construction of intercultural narratives with the aim of providing municipalities with tools for the elaboration of communication strategies from an intercultural perspective.](#) On the one hand, the guide develops the concept of narrative and the role of cities in the creation of narratives. On the other hand, the document includes the key elements for the creation of intercultural narratives and how to move from the narrative to the design of a communication strategy.

Throughout 2023, **training** has been organised for RECI cities that has addressed both the content of the Guide and the management of communication in crisis contexts or situations and the relationship and work with the media. Thus, for the design and implementation of this training we have counted on the collaboration of an expert in communication in crisis contexts: David Espinós.

The training took place in Bilbao on 16 November and was attended by 15 participants from 8 different cities. Among the participants, there were experts in communication or from the communication areas of the city councils.

To reinforce the content of the training, the document '[Migration and integration. Which alternative narratives work and why](#)' prepared by Ophelia Field in the framework of the *ICC Academy on Alternative Narratives* (2021). A summary document of the Guide 'Designing a communication strategy in intercultural cities' has also been produced. Both documents will be published on the website.

With regard to the **#unviajenecesario** campaign, a compilation of the actions carried out by the different cities since the launch of the campaign has been compiled. The actions can be found on the website dedicated to the campaign: <https://www.ciudadesinterculturales.com/unviajenecesario/>

The campaign has been given new impetus by being able to work on its materials and content within the framework of the NET-IDEA project, where young people from 4 municipalities of the RECI (Bilbao, Castelló, Donostia, and Santa Cruz de Tenerife) have participated in creative workshops that have allowed them to reflect on identities, sense of belonging, discrimination, etc.

Diagnosis, monitoring and evaluation of intercultural policies: social segregation from an intercultural perspective

In the course of 2022, an initial work was carried out to compile and analyse existing indicators. Subsequently, the main dimensions and questions on which to develop the indicators were raised. A report was commissioned to Eva Fortes (IBEI-UPF) to systematise a first proposal of indicators that could be used to analyse intercultural development in municipal practices. The report, entitled Impact indicators for intercultural policies at the city level, is in English so that it can be worked on within the ICC framework and can be found [here](#).

In recent years, RECI has been working on the elaboration of diagnoses and the definition of indicators for the monitoring and evaluation of the impact of local policies based on the intercultural approach. The new working group on the design, implementation and evaluation of intercultural strategies will continue to work on evaluation systems.

In addition, there is a broad consensus among cities on the need to continue to invest in the knowledge and development of innovative approaches and methodologies that provide cities with tools to expand and improve the capacity to collect information and analyse key aspects of reality from an intercultural perspective (e.g. diagnostics or policy evaluation). In this line, one of the topics that generates the greatest interest is that of urban, social or educational segregation processes and their relationship with intercultural principles.

For this reason, it was decided to carry out an initial compilation of information on some of the most relevant studies and research on this subject (identification of approaches, indicators, etc.). The result has been a synthetic document that raises this issue from an intercultural approach and which was presented at the RECI meeting in Getafe. Here it was decided to create a working group and objectives were set for 2024.

It was agreed that a document would be drawn up compiling the actions implemented by RECI cities that have had a positive impact in terms of interculturality, so that all the cities in the network have at their disposal a range of experiences that may be of interest due to their replicability and potential benefit for other territories.

Finally, reflection continued on the evaluation of public policies and the incorporation of intercultural criteria into the entire process of design, development and implementation of measures, considering that improvements and refinements were needed in both the prior selection and interpretation of the proposed criteria.

ODS

A RECI Dialogue took place in May 2023 to discuss the link between interculturality and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Subsequently, during the RECI cities meeting in Getafe, the first RECI dialogue specifically dedicated to reflecting on the SDGs took place. It should be noted that the cities unanimously considered that it was necessary to create this group within the RECI framework in order to reinforce the principles of interculturality, to deepen the transversality of the elaboration of proposals and to connect the municipal reality with the development goals.

Strategic frameworks

In the framework of the work carried out by different RECI cities to develop intercultural plans and strategies, a working space has been opened to configure a RECI strategic framework. The aim is to identify the essential elements that a strategy or plan must include (diagnosis, indicators, governance instruments, etc.), as well as some considerations on content. The aim is to establish shared minimums that can be adjusted to the needs of each territory for the development of their intercultural strategies or work plans.

At the Getafe meeting, the cities stressed the need to draw up a roadmap or "checklist" including these key elements in order to build intercultural plans in the different territories, involving not only the technical staff, but also the political teams. In this sense, the importance of working on the evaluation methodologies of the public policies applied was also highlighted.

E) Intercultural Competences and the NET-IDEA Project

In the framework of ICC, throughout 2021, work was carried out together with other programme experts to develop the content of training resources on intercultural competences. This year, the Manual for the design of ICC training has been published:

- [Part 1 - The core principles of the Council of Europe intercultural integration model](#)
- [Part 2 - Concepts related to the Council of Europe intercultural integration model](#)

Likewise, in the framework of the European project [NET-IDEA](#), which was born from this same working group of ICC experts, a training in intercultural competences took place in February and March 2023. The training was based on the results of a survey on the needs of the technical staff of the different municipalities involved in the project and had a shared methodology and contents among the partners.

In total, around 210 professionals (technical staff from local public administration and entities) have been trained in the 6 countries of the project. The 5 RECI cities involved in the project have been able to train 54 people.

Another fundamental element of the project has been the creation of a Community of Practice, where trainees can share needs, concerns and exchange good practices in different areas of work. The diversity of profiles and cities makes this community an enriching space that is highly valued by the participants.

On the other hand, and this time in the framework of the European project **Divercities**, a training on intercultural competences and participation has also been organised. This training took place in the City Council of Castelló de la Plana, one of the project partners, and was attended by 31 technicians from different municipal areas. During the training, tools were shared to understand, design, implement and evaluate effective intercultural policies with an emphasis on citizen participation.

F) Collection and exchange of good practices

Progress in making cities more intercultural has come about, among other reasons, thanks to the collective contribution of cities in sharing their examples of good (and bad) practices in the field of interculturality.

In the case of RECI, there have been numerous attempts to facilitate the exchange of good practices between cities, especially working by areas of work. Specifically, during the RECI meeting in Getafe, a space was dedicated to sharing experiences related to youth participation and interaction. On the one hand, the cities participating in the European NET-IDEA project shared their experiences of working with young people around the reflection of coexistence, interculturality, discrimination, etc. using artistic work methodologies. On the other hand, the work of Santa Coloma de Gramenet with a group of young people in the framework of the European project FAST-LISA was presented. Finally, two youth meetings that took place this year were presented: the Anti-Rumour Youth Summit (Manlleu) and the Youth Summit (Lublin, Poland).

In addition to being a recurring demand from RECI cities, it is a requirement of the ICC programme, which prescribes that cities must share some good practice with the programme on an annual basis.

Throughout 2023, the 120 practices collected in the CCI database by RECI cities have been reviewed. The review consisted, in some cases, of supplementing or updating content. In other cases, it has been reviewed whether the shared practices were still valid, or whether they could be grouped or re-categorised, etc. This work has been done in dialogue with the cities and territories. The updated CCI database will be available in the first half of 2024.

The ground has also been prepared for cities to think about what practices they want to share with ICC in 2024.

#03. COORDINATION Y INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

A) Management of agreements and quotas

Two cities have joined RECI in 2023: **Torremolinos** and **Santander**. The latter is in the process of signing the agreement with the Intercultural Cities Association.

In addition, during this period, the agreements that were due to expire in 2023 were renewed.

B) Participation in projects to reinforce RECI's functioning and activities.

Throughout 2023, the following actions have been carried out:

- Application for a **grant from the Council of Europe's ICC programme** to implement a work plan that, on the one hand, complements the current one and, on the other hand, strengthens internationalisation and the commitment to networking with ICCs from both Antirumores and RECI. The 2022 grant had an implementation period from June to December 2022 and the 2023 grant, presented and approved in April 2023, will end in November of this year.
- Presentation of European projects (pending the outcome):
 - **Intercultural Citizen Laboratory**, a project led by Oxfam Intermón that seeks to contribute to transforming the social imaginary and the perception of migrants, directing the migratory narrative towards the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, through the production of proactive transformative narratives, as well as mechanisms for the prevention of hate speech online.
 - **STRengthening local action to counter discriminatory violence (STRIVE)** in the framework of the call 'Promoting equality and combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination'. The project is led by EFUS, the European Forum for Urban Security and seeks, on the one hand, to raise awareness of violence and discrimination among political and technical officials and, on the other hand, to share good practices in the field of prevention and intervention in this area.
 - **EPIC_IDEA - Empowering youth Participation for Inclusive and plural Communities**, is a project that aims to promote youth participation in the development of inclusive and pluralistic communities.

The project aims at strengthening the democratic participation of young people in the EU by strengthening their competences in the field of anti-discrimination, working mainly at local level and promoting diversity and inclusion within their communities. It involves the intercultural city networks of Italy, Portugal, Spain and a partner from Hungary.

- European projects with the participation of Diversit - ACI and RECI cities:
 - **Towards the implementation of an Anti-Racism Strategy for Malta'**, a project led by the Government of Malta to support the design of its Anti-Racism Strategy. Diversit - ACI will provide training and advice for the design and implementation of an Anti-Racism Strategy at state level.
 - **NET-IDEA** (Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme -CERV), a network of cities, mostly represented by the ICC city networks of Spain, Portugal, Italy and Sweden. Bilbao, Tenerife, Castelló, Donostia and Barcelona are the RECI cities that will participate in the project.
 - **SCORE**, which aims to create a coalition of European cities and local authorities for the promotion of inclusive sport, as well as the prevention and fight against racism, xenophobia and related intolerance in the field of sport. Three RECI cities are part of the consortium: Getafe (consortium leaders), Sabadell and Bilbao. Other project partners are Limerick (Ireland), Botyrka (Sweden), Ioannina (Greece), Graz (Austria) and Rennes (France), as well as OBERAXE, and Cidalia.
 - The **FAST-LISA** project aims to reduce online hate speech among young people. The project involves the city of Santa Coloma de Gramenet. Diversit-ACI participates in the training on the formation of stereotypes and prejudices and their impact on hate speech.
 - The **Divercities** project aims to promote an effective *bottom-up* approach to foster citizen participation in intercultural local policy-making. In order to create the conditions for a more inclusive policy-making process, the project will strengthen the competences and methodologies of local public administrations and support the active engagement of people from different backgrounds in this process. The RECI cities of Castelló de la Plana, Logroño and Zaragoza are project partners.
 - Diversit, together with *Intercultural Cities*, is part of the Advisory Committee of the European project **EU-Belong**, which aims to develop regional integration strategies based on an intercultural perspective. Other members of the Committee are the IOM, the Gritim-UPF and the Mondinsieme Foundation, among others. The project is led by the Assembly of European Regions and involves two Spanish regions: Catalonia and Navarra.

#04. DIVERSIT: SERVING CITIES

Counselling Reception Granollers

A meeting was coordinated with the working team on 21 December 2022 to discuss the start of the diagnosis on the plan for the reception of the foreign population. During the first four months of 2023 the diagnosis was elaborated and the final presentation of the proposal is expected by the end of June.

Roomours Escape Workshops

Two face-to-face Escape Roomours workshops were held in Sabadell and Santa Coloma with groups of technicians working with young people in their respective Anti-Rumour Strategies and Networks. The workshop, which lasted 3 hours, combined the game tool with dynamisation and the promotion of critical thinking.

Inclusion strategies in Lithuania

A visit to 6 Lithuanian cities has been carried out with the aim of supporting them in the design of their integration and inclusion strategies. The consultancy has been complemented with good practices and experiences of RECI and ICC cities.

Support to the ICC project "Building an inclusive integration approach in

Finland" ICC is accompanying the work of five Finnish cities to promote the implementation of local strategies that reflect the ICC intercultural framework and the Good Relations principles of the Finnish government. A training session on intercultural competences has been held with the participation of Gemma Pinyol-Jiménez and Dani de Torres (Helsinki, 5-6 June 2023) and another one on anti-rumour training led by Dani de Torres (Helsinki, 25 October 2023).

Antirumour Hospitalet

Support is being offered to the City Council of L'Hospitalet de Llobregat in the design of its first Anti-Rumour Strategy. To this end, work has been carried out in the first phase on the diagnosis of the municipality and the training of key agents in the city for the preparation of the Strategy.

