

# RECI ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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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 (CDADI) 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 the period under review, one meeting has taken place:

- 14-15 May 2024, in Lublin. At this first event of the year, the main theme of the activities was the debate on the progress made in the design of strategies and tools available to Member States to facilitate the implementation of intercultural integration policies.

As a result of the work carried out by the Committee of Experts and following the approval of the content of the material by the CDADI, the CoE published in early 2024 the [Training Manual on Equality Data Collection and Analysis to Prevent and Address Systemic Discrimination \(available in English\)](#). With a focus on data collection, this handbook aims to provide keys to equality data collection and analysis in order to improve the methodological approach to preventing structural discrimination.

### B) RECI represents the national networks in the ICC Advisory Group

The CCI programme 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 sits on the Group on behalf of the ICC National Networks .<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The remaining members cover the following categories:

The Group was created in the second quarter of 2023. 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.

In 2024, the Advisory Group met again on 21, 22 and 23 May in telematic mode and continued to elaborate on governance issues in the framework of the ICC programme, especially in view of the change of the programme leadership team.

### **C) Participation in the annual ICC coordination meeting**

In 2024, the annual meeting of ICC members, network coordinators from Spain, Italy, Portugal, Ukraine and Canada, ICC experts and representatives of international cities will be held on 14 and 15 November in Braga and Vila Verde (Portugal). The conclusions of the meeting will complete the section and will refer to the content of the meeting.

### **D) Public Policy Review with the ICC Index**

Support continues to be provided to the cities that have to complete the ICC Index. In this period, the Manlleu Index has been sent. In the coming months and before the end of the year, they will send the Tenerife questionnaire, thus complying with the ICC demand to send only two questionnaires per calendar year.

### **E) RECI participation in intercultural events:**

- Participation in the 2nd City of Getafe Coexistence Awards Gala, where RECI was awarded the prize in the category of best project at national level, Getafe, 19 March 2024.
- Anti-rumour training in the framework of the programme 'Academy on the Integration of Migrants and Refugees in Polish Cities', Dani de Torres and Marta Pérez Wrocław, 28-29 May 2024.
- Anti-rumour training/workshop in the framework of the Council of Europe's No hate speech week, 18-19 June 2024
- Training in intercultural competences at Can Puiggener, Gemma Pinyol-Jiménez, Sabadell, 2 July 2024.
- Lecture by Dani de Torres on Interculturality and RECI at the 7th Summer Academy on Creative and Cultural Industries for Local Development, OECD Trento 3-4 July 2024.

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- 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).

- Participation of Dani de Torres and Gemma Pinyol-Jiménez in the Summer Course of the University of the Basque Country: "The future is already here: challenges and opportunities of coexistence in diversity" co-organised with the City Council of Donostia-San Sebastián, 12-13 September 2024.
- Lecture by Dani de Torres on intercultural policies at the conference on the promotion of the process to draw up the Lleida Coexistence and Civic Coexistence Plan, 17 September 2024.
- Presentation by Dani de Torres on Antirumours Global to the ADI-INT Expert Group of the Council of Europe: evolution of the strategy, expansion across cities and implementation experiences, 11 October 2024.
- Participation of Dani de Torres in the talk "City, community and cultural diversity", included in the 1st Pamplona Cultural Diversity Week, with the aim of sharing keys on the intercultural approach and some lessons learned in the field of RECI. Pamplona, 17 October 2024.
- Participation of Dani de Torres in the EU Knowledge Hub on Prevention of Radicalisation, a space in which representatives of European governments and experts addressed various issues related to the processes of radicalisation. Granada, 28 and 29 November 2024.

*Reach: more than 1000 people.*

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## #02. RECI WORK PLAN

### A) RECI working meetings

In 2024, **Zaragoza** hosted the first meeting of the year on 11 and 12 April. Seventeen territories were represented and more than 40 participants from RECI cities attended.

The meeting was opened with the intervention of the Director General of Migration, the Secretary of State for Migration, local authorities and the presidency of RECI. In terms of content, the theme of urban segregation was explored in depth with the presentation of two projects: Embarriados, focused on the analysis of urban mobility and, on the other hand, the project Participa Barrio, which has been developed in Las Fuentes, a working-class neighbourhood in the city of Zaragoza.



Space was also dedicated to a detailed presentation of the intercultural actions of the Casa de las Culturas in Zaragoza. The day ended with a session dedicated to the European Divercities project, and the cities of Castelló, Logroño and Zaragoza presented their experiences within the framework of the project.

On the second day of the meeting, focused on more internal work, group dynamics were held where experiences of RECI's working groups on narratives, intercultural strategies and plans, indicators - segregation and anti-rumour were shared and expanded. Another important issue on which the participants agreed was the need to strengthen the networks and projects developed at local, regional, national and European level.

The conclusion of the meeting included a review of challenges and priorities for the coming months.

#### *47 attendees*

A **virtual meeting** of the RECI was held on 24 June. With the aim of reviewing, together with the cities, the new developments and advances that had taken place after the meeting in Zaragoza, this intermediate meeting was convened.

The content of the meeting focused on four main aspects. Firstly, some changes that have taken place within the ICC were reported, in addition to commenting on the latest events in which the ICC has participated. Secondly, the tasks that the working groups were planning to carry out in the near future were discussed and the activities that each group would carry out before the next RECI meeting were established. Thirdly, the range of projects and initiatives in which RECI and some of its territories were involved was shared with the cities: European projects and anti-rumour actions, mainly. Fourthly and lastly, the cities presented the new developments that had taken place at municipal level and which they wanted to share with the rest of the RECI members.



*19 attendees*

The second 2024 meeting took place in **Donostia-San Sebastián** on 6 and 7 November. On this occasion, 17 territories joined the meeting and 40 participants took part.

The working day was opened with a speech by the Mayor of Donostia, followed by the institutional welcome to the meeting by the president of RECI. In relation to the contents that were worked on during the meeting, multiple experiences of RECI cities linked to interculturality in the educational context and in the field of culture were presented, with a special emphasis on the projects developed in the city of Donostia.

On the other hand, a presentation of the fundamental lines of the Strategic Framework for Citizenship and Inclusion against Racism and Xenophobia was given by technicians from Oberaxe, which depends on the State Secretariat for Migration.

On this occasion, the RECI Dialogue featured a presentation by Mikel Mazkiarán, SOS Racismo Gipuzkoa, on some of the changes that will be included in the future Regulation on Foreigners.

The second day of the meeting was dedicated to the development of the dynamics of the RECI working groups, in which the cities continued to exchange learning and reflections in order to generate useful tools for the Network, specifically in the field of narratives, indicators and intercultural strategies for the local entities involved in the RECI. In addition, a visit was made to one of the educational experiences of the municipality, where other entities also shared projects and good practices to improve inclusion and coexistence that they develop in educational centres in the Basque Country.



The meeting concluded with a review of the objectives for the coming months and the baton was handed over to the next host city: Barcelona.

*40 attendees*

## **B) RECI visits**

As a result of the electoral reality of the year 2023, with the municipal elections held in May, the formation of a government and the restructuring of many municipal areas in RECI cities, it was considered as a strategy of greater impact to carry out the visits from the beginning of 2024, with the work teams already established. It was also decided to prioritise efforts to visit cities that had recently joined RECI or those that needed a more political reinforcement with the network.

In this regard, in July 2024 a visit was made to Santander, whose incorporation into the RECI has taken place during the involved period. The details of the visit can be reviewed in the report of the visit (see the corresponding annex).

On 17 October, the institutional visit to the city of Pamplona, also recently incorporated into the RECI, took place. The visit served to get to know the technical team of the area of Equality, Community Action, Neighbourhoods, Citizen Participation and Basque and to talk to the Mayor about the agreement and the city's commitment to the intercultural perspective.

Likewise, during this period, meetings (face-to-face and telematic) have been organised with cities that have requested a space where they can share their challenges and concerns. Although these spaces have not taken the official form of a visit, they are also of key importance for the territories that need these spaces quickly. The cities with which we have met are: Salt, Castelló and Zaragoza.



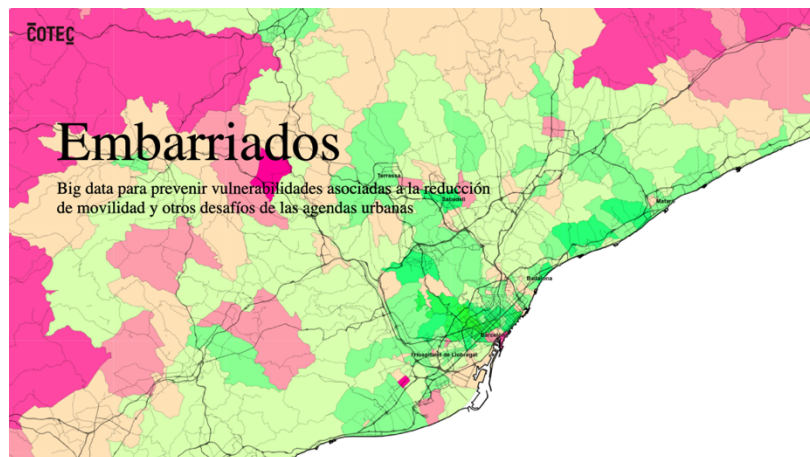
## C) RECI Dialogues

The first RECI 2024 dialogue was held on 11 April 2024, as part of the RECI meeting schedule given the potential interest for participating cities.

Mar Santamaria Varas, co-founder of the organisation 300,000Kms, which analyses the influence of urban planning and mobility on the dynamics of inequality and segregation in cities, presented the Embarriados initiative. This project, developed together with the Cotec Foundation, seeks to address the vulnerabilities of the inhabitants of different territories in relation to the changes in mobility that have taken place in them in recent years.

As a result of the study, a series of indicators have been developed to measure the vulnerability of territories with respect to changes in mobility typology. With the results of the project accessible via the Internet, the cities showed interest in the situation of their respective municipalities, spaces for reflection on the indicators were opened up and ideas on urban segregation were exchanged.

*47 attendees*



The second RECI 2024 dialogue was held on 7 November 2024, included in the programme of the RECI meeting, addressing mainly the regulatory side of migration.

Mikel Mazkiarán, from SOS racism in Gipuzkoa, gave the attendees a global and at the same time precise picture of the most important changes that are expected to be included in the imminent reform of the Regulation on Foreigners.

From the modifications in the typology of authorisations in terms of time and conditions, to the incorporation into the Regulation of contents derived from other legislative updates - such as the Law against gender violence or the rules related to unaccompanied minors of foreign nationality -, the rapporteur pointed out some key issues affecting applicants for residence, nationality and/or asylum.



As far as cities are concerned, the reform of the regulations will have repercussions on procedures in which local authorities play an important role, such as the drafting of reports, and this space is the ideal place to share and raise doubts about the role of municipal technicians in this context of change.

*40 attendees*

## D) Working groups

RECI currently has 5 working groups: SDGs, strategic frameworks, narratives, indicators and anti-rumour. 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.

### 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 tools to city councils 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 the year 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:

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.

With regard to the activities carried out in 2024 by the working group on narratives, the criteria for the creation of narratives are reviewed and discussed, trying to link it to the process of designing a communication guide. In this sense, we reflected on possible materials to be generated, focusing on techniques such as *storytelling*, which facilitate the internalisation of these criteria.

Furthermore, it is considered and agreed that video should be the format of one of the products to be produced. This audiovisual medium would fulfil a double function: on the one hand, internal recognition of the work carried out by RECI and, on the other hand, it would be a practical way of sharing and explaining what is done by the Network.

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

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 generate 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 whole process of design, elaboration and implementation of measures, considering that improvements and refinements were needed in both the prior selection and interpretation of the proposed criteria.

The Zaragoza meeting continued the reflection on the evaluation of the impact of intercultural policies, insisting on the need to increase the transversality of this evaluation

through internal work, within the municipal corporations, in order to achieve a wider range of experiences that include interculturality among their criteria for evaluating the policies implemented.

## 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, deepen the cross-cutting nature of the elaboration of proposals and connect the municipal reality with the development goals.

At the Zaragoza meeting, it was agreed to review the progress made by this working group in a specific space, which would allow for an in-depth examination of the connections between the development objectives and the contents of the RECI. This group will be convened soon.

## 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 format. 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.

The Zaragoza meeting served to establish some of these elements, developing in a common document those minimum aspects that should accompany the cities' commitment to interculturality, taking into account different dimensions. The group is of the opinion that such a commitment should include an institutional declaration and that, in addition, the assumption of the RECI criteria should generate some kind of responsibility for the political actors involved.

## Anti-rumour

At the Getafe meeting, 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 Antirumours Global.

Inaugurating the joint work of the newly constituted group, the Zaragoza meeting enabled some of the foundations for the group's future activities to be laid. The cities agreed that there is a need for a snapshot, a state of play of the Anti-Rumour Strategies in each of the territories. Therefore, the first of the exercises to be carried out by the working group is to gather information on the state of the anti-rumour networks in the RECI cities. Based on this, the orientation of the initiatives will be jointly rethought, a series of basic questions will be determined, and work will be done to strengthen the annual anti-crime meetings.

## E) Intercultural Competences and European projects

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 in May 2024, one of the project partners, and was attended by 31 technicians from different municipal areas. During the training, the tools to understand, design, implement and evaluate effective intercultural policies with an emphasis on citizen participation were shared.

## F) Collection and exchange of good practices

Progress in creating more intercultural cities 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). At the Zaragoza meeting, the cities of Castelló, Logroño and Zaragoza shared their experiences in the framework of the European project *Divercities* with the implementation of Intercultural Assemblies.

In addition to being a recurring demand from RECI cities, it is a requirement of the ICC programme, which prescribes that cities have to share a good practice with the programme on an annual basis. In this sense, over the course of 2023, the 120 practices collected in the ICC database by RECI cities have been reviewed. In some cases, the review consisted 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 has been available from the second half of 2024.

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

Finally, it should be noted that within the framework of the indicators working group, work is underway to create a best practice template to help RECI cities understand the minimum fields that should be covered.

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## #03. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY RECI

### A) *Newsletter*

At the end of 2023, the four-monthly publication of the RECI-Antirumours *newsletter* was resumed. In 2023, the newsletter was published in December, compiling the events that had taken place throughout the year and as a farewell to the year itself. In 2024, a first *newsletter* was published at the end of April. At the beginning of September, the second newsletter of the year was sent out, as a sort of contact with the cities after the summer period.

In terms of *newsletter* subscriptions, 223 people receive news about the Association's acts and events; upcoming activities programmed at national and international level; and documentation of interest to cities on topics related to RECI's objectives.

### B) *Social media*

During the period of the agreement, between 2023 and 2024, the activity has been maintained with frequent publications on the X network, which has a total of 708 followers.

At the end of 2024, an account is opened on the Bluesky collaborative social network.



## #04. COORDINATION AND INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

### A) Management of agreements and quotas

Two cities have joined RECI in this period: **Santander and Pamplona**

In addition, during this period, work is being carried out on the renewal of those agreements that expire in 2024.

The dialogue with OBERAXE has been resumed for the signing of the collaboration agreement between the State Secretariat for Migration and RECI.

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

In the last period, 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 Anti-Rumours and RECI. The 2024 grant, approved in March this year, will run from April to November.
- Presentation of European projects (pending outcome):
  - **Strengthening Towns' Activation for new Narratives on Diversity (STAND)** in the framework of the "Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme - CERV". The main objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of local administrations to promote new narratives to raise awareness and recognition of diversity.
  - **ABCs - Agents of Bigger Changes. Basics of Anti-Rumours Strategy for youth engagement in fighting hate speech**, also submitted to the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme - CERV, aims to combat hate speech among young people through the training of educators and education sector workers using the anti-rumour approach.
- European projects that have or have had the participation of Diversit - ACI and RECI cities:
  - **EPIC\_IDEA - Empowering youth Participation for Inclusive and plural Communities**, is a project aiming at promoting youth participation by strengthening their competences in the field of anti-discrimination, working mainly at local level. It involves networks of intercultural cities in Italy, Portugal,

Spain. Bilbao, Castelló, Fuenlabrada and Tenerife are the RECI territories involved in the project.

- **Towards the implementation of an Anti-Racism Strategy for Malta'**, led by the Government of Malta to support the design of its Anti-Racism **Strategy**, Diversit – Antirumours Global has provided training and advice on the design of an [Anti-Racism for Malta Strategy](#). The Strategy, a first at state level, was launched in Malta in July 2024.
- **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 have participated 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 aimed to reduce online hate speech among young people. The project involves the participation of the city of Santa Coloma de Gramenet. Diversit-ACI has participated in the training on the formation of stereotypes and prejudices and their impact on hate speech. It has also collaborated in the organisation of the [International Youth Camp](#) that took place in Santa Coloma de Gramenet in September 2023.
- The **Divercities** project aimed 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 has strengthened the competences and methodologies of local public administrations. The RECI cities of Castelló de la Plana, Logroño and Zaragoza have been partners of the project and have implemented the methodology of Intercultural Assemblies in different areas: the reinforcement of the internal transversality of the intercultural approach or the re-design of the Anti-rumour Strategy.

