

RECI 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Index

#01. ACTIVITIES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ICC-COE PROGRAMME ...	2
A) Committee of Experts on Intercultural Integration of the Council of Europe	
2	
C) Participation in the ICC annual coordination meeting.....	2
D) Review of public policies with the ICC Index.....	3
E) RECI participation in events on interculturality:	3
#02. RECI WORK PLAN.....	4
A) RECI work meetings.....	4
B) RECI visits	6
C) RECI Dialogues	7
D) Working groups	8
Indicators WG	8
Strategies and Advocacy WG	8
Narratives WG	9
Anti-rumours WG.....	9
#03. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY RECI.....	13
A) Newsletter.....	13
#04. COORDINATION AND INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS	14
A) Management of agreements and fees.....	14
B) Participation in projects to strengthen the functioning and activities of RECI	14
C) Diversit at the service of RECI cities.....	16

The views expressed in this document can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the Council of Europe.

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

A) Committee of Experts on Intercultural Integration of the Council of Europe

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.

The membership of ADI-INT has recently been renewed, and this committee has produced materials that may be of interest to RECI cities, such as the [Multilevel Governance Handbook](#) addressing multilevel collaboration and self-assessment tools. It also mentions ongoing work on residential segregation.

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

In 2023, the ICC programme created an Advisory Group to strengthen the governance of the programme. The Advisory Group is composed of 7 members, appointed by the ICC Secretariat following an open call for applications. RECI has been part of the Group in representation of the ICC National Networks¹, in which Donostia-San Sebastián also participates as an ICC International City in the first mandate 2023-2025, and also in this second mandate 2025-2027.

The first meeting of the new mandate, in which the new terms of reference and the work planned for 2025 were approved, took place online in July 2025. The second annual meeting took place in Bergen (Norway) prior to the annual ICC coordination meeting. The meeting served to review progress towards 2025. In order to provide tools to cities to deepen the impact of the ICC programme, it was agreed to continue working on the development of tools to strengthen communication and training, as well as to continue working on governance issues in the framework of the ICC programme and the priorities defined for 2025 and the new mandate.

C) Participation in the ICC annual coordination meeting

¹ In the first mandate, the group consisted of member cities of the international ICC network: Canton of Neuchâtel (Switzerland), Stavanger (Norway), Reykjavik (Iceland) and Donostia/San Sebastián, as well as member city of the international ICC network (overseas): Salisbury City Council (Australia) and member city of a national ICC network, other than the one represented by the coordination of a national network: City of Bradford (UK), which withdrew in 2024. In the new mandate 2025-2027, the following cities are part of the Advisory Group: Bergen (Mari Garaas Løchen), Neuchâtel Canton (Grégory Jaquet), Porto (Raquel Castello Branco), Wrocław (Ewa Magnowska) and Donostia-San Sebastián (Silvia Carballo Paz). Mexico City (Jorge Jimenez Ortega) and RECI (Gemma Pinyol-Jiménez) are also part of the group.

On 28-29 October 2025, the annual ICC coordinators' meeting was held in Bergen (Norway). In this context, the adoption of the [New Pact for Democracy in Europe](#) by the CoE was reported. Furthermore, the changes in the ICC programme were discussed, which proposes to review the relationship of the cities with ICC as well as with the national networks.

For the coming year 2026, one of the challenges is to improve the political involvement in ICC. In addition, it wants to better link ICC with academia. ICC also wants to move forward in creating a working group on disinformation and to develop placemaking or sustainable urbanism projects in interested cities. Youth and their participation in the field of public policy is also mentioned as a topic of interest that was addressed at the last ICC coordination meeting in Bergen, as well as the proposal of a new template of good practices. Finally, it is pointed out that 2027 will be the 20th anniversary of the ICC, so it is open to collect interesting proposals to be carried out on that date.

D) Review of public policies with the ICC Index

In the framework of the RECI, cities and territories complete the Index every three to four years. In 2025, the ICC indices of [Manlleu](#) and [Tenerife](#) have been published. Two RECI territories - Tenerife and Manlleu - responded to the ICC Index questionnaire.

In the framework of the presentation work of the ICC Index, the city of Manlleu received a first ICC expert visit, held on 7-8 July 2025.

E) RECI participation in events on interculturality:

- Conference "Quan la por ven: mentides, notícies falses i prejudicis sobre la immigració" by Gemma Pinyol-Jiménez, Biblioteca Josep Janés, Hospitalet de Llobregat, 21 May 2025.
- Stay by Marta Pérez Ramírez at the CERC Migration Civil Society & Public Administration (Toronto Metropolitan University), May 2025
- Gemma Pinyol-Jiménez participates in the closing of the Research in Action seminar series "On cities and migration governance capacities: the rural-urban dichotomy", GRITIM-UPF, Barcelona, 3 June 2025.
- Participation Daniel de Torres in the Ashoka Community Day dedicated to immigration. 19 September 2025.
- Participation of Gemma Pinyol-Jiménez in the XI Congress on Migrations, held in Murcia, 15-17 October 2025.
- Participation of Dani de Torres in the "Fair of Colours, Sounds and Flavours: Interculturality through your Senses" in Itzapalapa, Mexico City District, 26 November 2025.

Outreach: more than 1000 people.

#02. RECI WORK PLAN

A) RECI work meetings

On 9 and 10 April 2025, the **first RECI meeting** of 2025 took place in Barcelona, reaching a total of 60 attendees. The participants of the event represented 13 territories of the Intercultural Cities Network.

After the welcome by the institutional representation of the Barcelona City Council and the president of the RECI, the organisational aspects of the meeting were addressed and the contents and objectives of the scheduled sessions were detailed, with space for updates on the Intercultural Cities programme, the ADI-INT Group and the European projects that are being implemented.

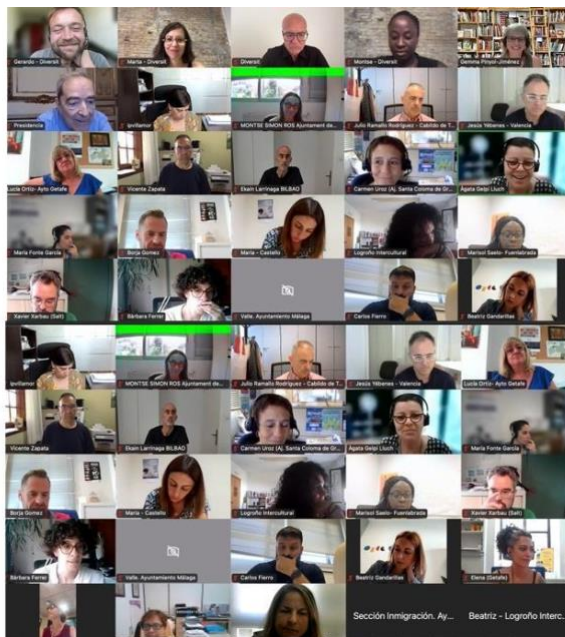


The presentation of some key issues around the working groups - which would be developed in more detail the following day - and the presentation of strategies framed in the cultural field by several territories, preceded the visit to the SAIER (Service of Attention to Immigrants, Emigrants and Refugees), which was the closing of the initial day.

On the second day of the meeting, intercultural communication featured examples of work with intercultural narratives by the territories, such as the "*Veus contra el racisme*" campaign, through historical memory with the "*Creant Petjades*" project, or through artistic action with the Photo Voice technique of Be everything, Belong! This was followed by an in-depth reflection on the challenges that migration policy poses for cities, both in the area of reception and in the evaluation of public policies. Finally, there was a presentation of initiatives carried out by different services of Barcelona City Council, with actions to promote coexistence in a complex and diverse municipal context.

In addition, relevant questions on the content, functioning and needs of the working groups within the RECI were debated and agreed upon. The meeting concluded with a review of future challenges and priorities for the Network in the coming months.

For its part, a **virtual meeting** was held on 10 July 2025, which brought together around 30 representatives from 15 territories. The day provided an opportunity to share progress in the different areas of the network's work. Among the main topics, new developments in the Intercultural Cities programme were presented, such as the recent study visit to Manlleu, focused on strengthening local intercultural tools.



Internally, some preparations for the next meeting in Santander were announced. Activities in the framework of Global Anti-Rumours, the preparation of the Youth Summit 2025 and the latest developments of the European projects STAND and EPIC, including the presentation of diagnostics and the creation of a community of practice to foster youth participation and exchange between cities, were also discussed.

The meeting concluded with a RECI Dialogue on the recent changes in the Aliens Regulation, highlighting the interest of the cities in clarifying the procedures related to the application of the novelties that the regulation has incorporated.

On 12 and 13 November 2025, the **27th RECI Working Day** was held in Santander, in the Palacio de la Magdalena, with the participation of 40 representatives from 20 territories.

The meeting opened with the institutional welcome and the presentation of the objectives and the work plan, which included updates on the Intercultural Cities programme, the ADI-INT committee and the European projects of the Network. During the first day, the ICC 2025-2026 agenda was addressed and progress was made in the definition of objectives and roadmaps of the working groups (Indicators, Strategies and Advocacy, Narratives and Anti-rumours), concluding with the welcome of the Mayoress of Santander.

The second day focused on sharing the results of the working groups and the RECI Dialogue, with local educational experiences and a reflection on critical thinking, artificial intelligence and digital narratives. Examples of intercultural mainstreaming in different municipal areas were also shared.

In the framework of the European STAND project, the diagnosis of narratives in RECI cities was presented and a group work was developed for the design of a common campaign. The meeting concluded with the definition of next steps and priorities and the announcement of the next meeting, scheduled for April 2026 in Malaga.



B) RECI visits



On 25 February 2025, the RECI team visited the city of **Castelló de la Plana** and met face-to-face with technicians and managers of the Department of Social Coexistence and Interculturalism of Castelló to learn first-hand about the work being carried out in the city in the field of mediation, accompaniment and awareness-raising to strengthen social cohesion. In addition, this moment of exchange was the occasion chosen to

sign the commitment and the renewal of the collaboration agreement between the entity and the city for the next four years. Among the main challenges that were put on the table, the lack of transversality between municipal areas, the scarce presence of diversity in the public workforce and school segregation, stand out among others. In addition, and as a positive aspect, the Department actively participates in the RECI and the ICC programme, as well as in the European project STAND, which promotes positive narratives and intercultural communication tools.

C) RECI Dialogues

The first dialogue of 2025 was held on 10 July 2025 under the title "**Novelties in the Aliens Regulation**". Lawyers Karla Tila and Ignacio Martínez Rivas presented a paper focused on the new Regulation (RD 629/2024), in force since 20 May 2025.

The speakers shared with the RECI cities that, despite the will of the legal text to simplify procedures and expand regularisation channels, in the short space of practical application it had generated doubts and inconsistencies among municipal technical teams. The session, which was attended by 32 people, dealt in particular with new developments in the area of arraigo, highlighting three key figures: socio-formative arraigo, arraigo due to integration, and second-chance arraigo.

- 
Marco General
- **Reglamento RD 1155/2024 (vigente desde 20/05/2025) que sustituye al Real Decreto 557/2011.**
 - **Instrucciones SEM 1/2025.**
 - **Criterios de instrucción de los informes de extranjería competencia de la Generalidad de Cataluña.**
- Objetivos:**
- **Inclusión, integración y acceso al mercado laboral.**
 - **Define y organiza los tipos de arraigo.**
 - **Requisitos generales y específicos diferenciados.**



During the meeting, the central role of the Integration Effort Report was underlined, as well as the problems derived from the unequal management between autonomous communities. Territorial inequalities in the application of the Regulation were highlighted and there was agreement on the need to harmonise criteria and competences in order to guarantee a coherent and equitable application of the regulation throughout the territory.

On 13 November, a new RECI Dialogue took place in Santander, in the framework of the annual RECI meeting, and focused on various innovative practices in education, focusing on how the combination of traditional methodologies and emerging technologies can promote critical thinking, inclusion and intercultural coexistence. Around forty people took part in the event.

Through different experiences presented by the Santander City Council, an educational centre and social entities, the participants were able to learn about initiatives that address the prevention of stereotypes, prejudices and rumours from an early age, using different tools such as playful narratives, participatory dynamics, artificial intelligence and virtual reality, always from an ethical and critical approach. With regard to the perspectives of cities, the dialogue allowed for reflection on the role of local administrations in the promotion of innovative educational practices, as well as on the need to provide children and young people with critical tools to cope in a fast-paced and complex digital environment, avoiding the reproduction of stereotypes.

D) Working groups

At the beginning of the period of this agreement, RECI has 4 active working groups: intercultural strategies and advocacy, narratives, indicators and anti-rumours. After the Barcelona meeting, the objectives of the working group are considered to have been achieved, with the identification of practices and the work developed by the Cabildo of Tenerife with the [ODSeable Strategy](#).

Indicators WG

The group has focused its efforts on strengthening the transversality between the different working groups, exploring how the advances in knowledge, use and evaluation based on indicators can be integrated into the municipal areas of interculturality.

The Barcelona meeting proposed the elaboration of a document compiling examples of project and public policy evaluations, with the aim of identifying and disseminating good practices in cities.

In this sense, a document was shared with the members of the working group, the content of which compiled examples of good practices in which the use of indicators and/or evaluation tools allowed for a more complete approach to the reality of the public policies implemented and their effects on the municipality, which were not necessarily limited to the field of migration.

Likewise, at the Barcelona meeting, a session was given by Gloria Rendón, a consultant in diversity policies, in which the importance of evaluation and indicators was highlighted. Using the example of reception indicators and their impact on coexistence, the presentation provided RECI cities with keys to highlight the value of data collection and reflection on the biases in the construction of indicators throughout the process of design, implementation and evaluation of projects and public policies.

Strategies and Advocacy WG

This group has focused on internal work aimed at developing the tools it had committed to generating after the meeting held in Donostia, using the subsequent meeting in Barcelona as a key space for sharing, contrasting and presenting the products and results achieved. The main objective has been to advance in the consolidation of practical and conceptual instruments that can be useful for cities in the design and implementation of intercultural policies.

Firstly, work has been done on the elaboration of a common theoretical framework that functions as a basis of reference for intercultural plans and strategies at the local level. This framework aims to provide a shared language and guiding principles to facilitate coherence between different municipal initiatives, while allowing strategies to be adapted to the specific contexts of each city. The outline of a database for expert voices has also been developed, conceived as a dynamic and open tool. This database is to be managed through a form that allows the incorporation and updating of profiles, in order to improve connectivity between actors and encourage a more active use by cities and experts

themselves. Finally, a checklist has been drafted as a practical support tool for cities. This checklist is intended to systematically guide the whole process of elaborating an intercultural plan, from the initial phase of reflection and diagnosis to implementation and final evaluation, helping to identify key elements and possible shortcomings at each stage.

In the framework of the work developed during the Barcelona meeting, the reflection on the impact of the working group itself was also incorporated, emphasising how these tools and dynamics can reinforce its capacity to influence local agendas and decision-making processes.

Narratives WG

The year 2025 marks the start of the European STAND project in which several RECI territories are participating and whose content development will advance in parallel with the actions promoted by the RECI group, taking advantage of the synergies between both processes.

In this sense, at the RECI meeting in Barcelona and as part of this reflection on the contents to be worked on within the framework of the working groups, the creation of a specific section with key narratives that can be incorporated into sectoral plans (culture, sport, housing, children, among others), adapted to municipal structures and with a cross-cutting approach, and the need to strengthen narratives internally and communication, both internal and external, in the different municipal areas, was proposed.

Anti-rumours WG

The Anti-Rumours Working Group has focused its work, in the two meetings that have taken place during the period of the agreement, on the analysis of the main challenges of the Anti-Rumours Strategy (EAR) and on the definition of improvement mechanisms to strengthen its impact in the cities.

The group also stressed the importance of adapting the strategy to new models of participation, redefining messages to make them clearer and more direct, strengthening political participation and taking advantage of shared spaces (such as educational centres or citizen initiatives) to foster alliances.

Another element that has been addressed has been the need to refresh the EAR discourse, opting for simple, positive messages that are coherent with the values of interculturality and Human Rights. Based on these reflections, the Anti-Rumours Working Group has set itself the objective of moving forward in the coming months with concrete proposals to be implemented in the methodological review, participation and communication of the strategy.

New challenges

After the Santander meeting, it is planned to create a roadmap to be followed by each of

the working groups (WG), clearly defining the following aspects: the objectives to be achieved by the group, medium and long-term results (6 months and one year, respectively), the results to be obtained and the approximate timetable for these actions.

WG Indicators

6 territories participate in the conversation: Tenerife, Bilbao, Castelló de la Plana, Valladolid, Salt, Manlleu.

Objectives

1. To measure the impact of reception policies
2. To generate a common narrative on reception.
3. Create a learning space to share experiences, tools, visits and even look for specific funding.

Medium-term results

- Mapping and elaboration of a catalogue of reception facilities available in RECI territories.
- Identification of indicators of the use of reception resources in the different local contexts.
- Creation of a resource bank

Long-term results

- Development of a self-evaluation tool to assess the impact of reception.
 - a. Incorporation of indicators beyond the use of services.
 - b. With a gender perspective

WG Strategies and Advocacy

12 territories participating in the conversation: Malaga, Logroño, Tenerife, Pamplona, Donostia, Cartagena, Valladolid, Santander, Bilbao, Barcelona, Getxo and Zaragoza.

Objectives

1. To strengthen RECI's advocacy capacity.
 - a. To work with political teams of RECI cities.
 - b. Provide policy makers with keys to improve advocacy through meetings, workspace and/or training.
 - c. Work with communication teams (WG Narratives) and media.
2. Increase the visibility of the commitment of RECI cities/territories.
 - a. Political engagement through linking with the content of the European Pact for Democracy.
 - b. Advantages of interculturality with concrete indicators.
 - c. Identification of good practices.

Medium-term results

- Online meeting of policy makers to advance in the identification of needs/interests.
- Preparation of a RECI minimum commitment or consensus linked to the new Pact for Democracy.

Long-term results

- Face-to-face meeting of policy-makers
- Approval of the minimum commitment/consensus
- Proposal of tools for policy makers (training, communication, etc.).

WG Narratives

7 territories participate in the conversation: Tenerife, Castelló de la Plana, Barcelona, Valladolid, Salt, Getafe, Zaragoza.

Objectives

1. To take advantage of the momentum of the STAND project to promote the contents of the working group.
 - a. Gathering information in new cities and replicating STAND methodology in other local contexts.
2. To serve as a link between the working groups: mainstreaming narratives
 - a. Linking communication strategies to interculturality plans (with WG Strategies)
 - b. Encourage interdepartmental meetings in RECI territories.

Medium-term results

- Creation of a toolbox of narratives for cities based on the information collected.
- Creation of a resource bank

Long-term results

- Define a common narrative in the framework of reception in the local context.
- Launch a campaign

Anti-rumours WG

12 territories participating in the conversation: Bilbao, Pamplona, Donostia, Cartagena, Valladolid, Getafe, Tenerife, Zaragoza, Barcelona, Getxo, Malaga and Manlleu.

Objectives

1. To carry out creative actions to increase the visibility and strengthening of the Anti-Rumours Community, implementing in 2026:
 - a. Community Campus - Talent Circles.
 - b. Celebration of the Anti-rumours Biennial.
2. Define the limits of what the anti-rumours strategy is and what it is not, as well as how to participate in it.

Medium-term results

1. Identify typologies of anti-rumours strategies based on existing forms, linking membership and articulation of participation.
2. Collect training initiatives within the framework of RECI cities, compiling different contents, areas and formats.

Long-term results

1. Proposal of structural contents for anti-rumours training.
2. Elaboration of a model document of anti-rumours strategies.
3. Concretisation of the anti-rumours approach to identify and recognise actions aligned with its principles, even if they are not under that brand.

#03. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY RECI

A) Newsletter

At the end of 2023, the four-monthly publication of the RECI-Anti-rumours *newsletter* was resumed. In 2025, several *newsletters* have been published, on the following dates:

- May 2025.
- July 2025.
- October 2025

In terms of subscriptions to *the newsletter*, 259 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.

During this period, work continued on communication through regular newsletters and networks, which are discussed in the following section.

May 2025 saw the launch of the Diversit website, the publication of which has not affected the content of the RECI website, but rather contributes to its visibility as there is a direct reference to the network.



#04. COORDINATION AND INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

A) Management of agreements and fees

Throughout 2025, work has been carried out to renew agreements and to reinforce communication and monitoring in those territories that have requested it.

Although dialogue with OBERAXE had been resumed with a view to signing the collaboration agreement between the Secretary of State for Migration and RECI, the change in the organisation's management has not led to significant progress in this area.

B) Participation in projects to strengthen the functioning and activities of RECI

In the last period, the following actions have been carried out:

- Submission of European projects (pending outcome):
 - **PREVENT- Proactive Response and European Voices Engaging Narratives for Tolerance (CERV programme)**, which seeks to strengthen local tools to prevent and counter hate speech by training technical staff and communication managers in city councils and local entities, developing a monitoring and alert system on hate narratives, and promoting inclusive campaigns on diversity.
 - **Intersections** (Ministry of Culture) is a proposal that uses art and collective memory to make visible and transform experiences of intersectional discrimination in urban contexts, seeking the generation of new narratives in three RECI cities, promoting coexistence, inclusion and a culture of peace from an intersectional and rights-based perspective.
 - **Rumour Map - Countering Lies and Enhancing Awareness through Rumour mapping (CERV Programme)**, with XUL Foundation. This project would assume a proactive role through the creation of conceptual and narrative content within the framework of a common strategy of institutional communication, awareness-raising and training with interactive infographics, webinars and a micro social media campaign.

- **MADWARI- Malta's Approach towards Diversity, Anti-Racism and Inclusion.** The project, promoted by the Maltese government, aims to support the authorities in the fight against racism, xenophobia, anti-Gypsyism, LGBTIQ-phobia and other forms of intolerance and intersectional discrimination by reinforcing an institutional framework that promotes the empowerment of public administrations and fosters the development of inclusive policies, implementing training actions, support in the elaboration of public policies and social awareness.
- European projects that count or have counted with the participation of Diversit - ACI and RECI cities:
 - **EPIC_IDEA - Empowering youth Participation for Inclusive and plural Communities,** is a project whose aim is the promotion of youth participation through the strengthening of their competences in the field of anti-discrimination, working mainly at local level. It involves the participation of intercultural city networks from Italy, Portugal, Spain. Bilbao, Castelló, Fuenlabrada and Tenerife are the RECI territories involved in the project.
 - **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 authorities to promote new narratives to promote awareness and recognition of diversity.
 - **SPIRIT - Sports for Participation, Inclusion, Respect, Interculturality and Tolerance,** is a project aimed at strengthening social cohesion by reinforcing the role of municipalities and their cooperation in the field of sport. It involves the networks of intercultural cities of Italy and Portugal and the cities of Erlangen (Germany) and Linköping (Sweden), with the collaboration of the RECI territories of Bilbao, Cartagena, Castelló de la Plana and Tenerife.
 - **Senior citizens against disinformation and stereotypes for a democratic and diverse Europe (CADiDE),** is a project in which, together with various entities in Spain, two cities in Eastern Europe and with the collaboration of 9 cities in Spain and Italy, the aim is to promote critical thinking and counteract disinformation among senior citizens, promoting their active role as part of the citizenship that defends democracy.

C) Diversit at the service of RECI cities

In the last period, the following actions have been carried out:

- Application for a **grant from the ICC programme** of the Council of Europe 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 ICC both from Anti-rumours and RECI. The grant, approved in April, will run from May to November 2025.
- Mainstreaming of public policies in Salt: Accompaniment in the process of designing an Intercultural Strategy for Salt, with emphasis on the process of training and mainstreaming of the intercultural perspective.
- Development of the VI Intercultural Plan Castelló: After the end of the previous Plan, this new plan analyses and updates the challenges facing the municipality for the development of its intercultural policies, providing keys to face them.
- Implementation of the Anti-Rumours Strategy in Manlleu: The implementation of this strategy aims to tackle different forms of discrimination in the municipal context and to promote equal treatment and opportunities from an intercultural perspective.
- Management of the design of the *Pacte Nacional contra els discursos d'Odi de la Generalitat de Catalunya*: This is a methodological accompaniment to provide all institutional actors with the necessary tools to guarantee the elaboration of this strategic document with a series of shared common criteria and frameworks.