



## VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES RECI

Date: April 2, 2020

### Agenda

- 11.00 Welcome, objectives of the virtual meeting
- 11.15 RECI Work Plan 2020
- 12.30 Diversit.
- 12.45 Next steps
- 13.00 Conclusions and end of the meeting

### 1. Welcome, objectives of the virtual meeting

Dani sends us a greeting from Jaime Lanaspá, President of RECI. He introduces Gloria Rendón, new incorporation to the Association's team.

The meeting helps to innovate new work formats. We will try to promote new work dynamics through the configuration of work groups linked to specific topics and for which progress can be made through teleworking.

Ivana d'Alessandro of the Council of Europe comments on the following points:

- Questionnaire launched by the ICC in January and answered by 4 Spanish cities to understand which are the most useful tools for the cities (events, guides, etc.) and their areas of priority. The results, together with the January ICC coordination meeting, have helped to draw up the 2020 Work Plan.
- Call - 7 grants of 10,000 euros each (for the cities): testing or application of methodologies, research or design of policies in the themes identified as priorities. To be sent on Friday. Actions must be completed in November. Anti-rumour is not among the areas of work.
- Renewed support to RECI with a small co-financing in 3 areas of work: intercultural competences, alternative narratives and escape Roomours. It is a recognition of the CoE towards the work of RECI cities and territories, which are an inspiration for cities at an international level.
- The Council will soon publish some practices and projects from Sabadell, taken from the ICC Index report. The ICC reports will continue to be researched along these lines so that they can be shared with the rest of the ICC network.
- ICC Agenda: activities have been cancelled until May. The visit to Ioannina, concerning the reception of refugees, is maintained for June (or September). All cities are invited to join. Another important meeting in June is the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of the CoE on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (working group managed by ICC, with cities and states).
- In May the Handbook on Community Policing will be published in Spanish.



- There is a working group that is currently developing concepts and tools to organize an 'Academy' of Intercultural Communication and Alternative Narratives. It will be directed not only to actors with knowledge on the matter, but also to people in charge of communication at the city level.
- The Youth Anti-Rumour Summit will be funded as an action in the annual programme of the ICC.

## 2. RECI 2020 Work Plan

### A. RECI Identity

As part of the RECI 2019-2020 Work Plan, we are considering what the RECI's signs of identity are and how to promote them. In order to facilitate and favour the understanding, scope, and value of being part of the RECI, both to political referents and to colleagues from other areas of the administration, we have worked on a series of tools.

Following a methodology of consultation (via online questionnaire) of needs and priorities, and the establishment of a working group (with Santa Coloma and Valencia), the following products has been developed:

- A welcome letter to the RECI;
- A brochure presenting the RECI, in web and printable format (cities will be asked to provide us with a translation of the brochure that may be available in Catalan and Basque);
- The RECI product :a reusable bottle

#### Next steps:

- We will send you the infographic around the three principles of interculturality;
- We will send you the layout and the user manual of the RECI;
- Second issue of the Newsletter (which will be quarterly)

### B. Welcome

We received 9 questionnaires and we worked on the diagnosis of 7 of them. The objective is to elaborate a framework document of the reception from the intercultural perspective. It will consist of a guide document, which will include not only the conceptual framework of the intercultural reception, but also how we can apply it effectively.

Gloria Rendón presents the shared document, which is the first document to start the debate and discussions. The starting point is that RECI cities have a great experience in welcoming migrants and refugees. And from this experience, a reflection will be incorporated towards where we should go at the level of reception. The document includes the main aspects such as: the existence of different reception strategies in the different cities and territories (although they are not defined as such), but with different objectives; the construction of generic/specific projects (and how to link some projects with others). The diagnosis ends with an analysis of the strengths (such as networking), the difficulties (such as the lack of skills when dealing with



certain profiles as the minors or the applicants for international protection outside the state programme) and the challenges. Gloria highlights some cross-cutting elements, such as the importance of caring for professionals and valuing the 'rucksack' that newcomers bring with them.

The document is open to contributions and assessments by RECI territories and cities, and will seek to highlight the reception as a principle of public intervention. It is proposed to incorporate the idea of generating a narrative so that Social Services do not experience the reception services as a system that collides with them: to make them understand that it is a system that will order the flow, which will reach the places that the SS cannot reach.

From RECI we reinforce public action. What we are going to propose is public policy in intercultural reception, reinforcing the idea of transversal work.

#### Next steps:

- Those of you who have not sent in the questionnaire should do so
- Give us feedback on the document we have presented to you (do you recognize yourself in the diagnosis?)
- A working group will be set up to work on the issue.

### C. Unaccompanied minors

We have received fewer questionnaires. We ask you to send them to us if you have not already done so in order to continue with the analysis of the questionnaires.

We are identifying in the route of entry, incorporation, and inclusion of minors, the points where room for intervention from the local administrations exists (not necessarily included in regulations). It will be a more 'operational' document (and not so much a macro guide as the Welcome Guide).

#### Next steps:

- Those of you who have not sent in the questionnaire should do so
- Work will be done on the preparation of an operational document on local intervention areas, which will incorporate the treatment of the subject in anti-rumour strategies.

### D. Intercultural Competencies in Public Administration

It comes from a demand of the CoE but also from the identification of a need of yours: to explain what interculturality means and to have narratives that serve to explain it (not only from the macro principles, but also in terms of action and performance). The aim is to deepen the analysis and the understanding of the intercultural competences that those responsible for the design and the implementation of intercultural policies must have - including the reinforcement of the principles of interculturality. Work will be done from a technical but also from a political perspective.



The product will be a *Paper* or document: theoretical framework for reflection, which we will land with a training. There will be a Work Group, which will help us in the design of the training module but also in its testing. We will share the experiences in the work of intercultural competences. We will think about the formulas, because times have changed us. This action is linked to the CoE and the deadline is October 2020.

#### Next steps:

- A work group will be set up to work on the issue.
- Work will be done to create a training module on intercultural competences for administration/policy

### E. Alternative Narratives and Strategic Communication

Following the publication of the *Paper* '10 Criteria for Creating Effective Alternative Narratives on Diversity' last December, we will follow up on the issue with the development of a comprehensive **Practical Guide** to help incorporate the criteria for more effective speeches or campaigns and to capture good and bad practices. On the other hand, the CoE has underlined the need for a concrete experience, and we have proposed the **design of a communication campaign** shared from the RECI (to which cities and territories could later adapt).

On the other hand, we are committed to producing a guide that updates the criteria for effective anti-rumour communication. Many campaigns designed by cities can launch counterproductive messages and it is in this context that this update is necessary. In addition, a training session on strategic anti-rumour communication is planned.

Therefore, a complete Guide will be developed, including a more theoretical and generic section and a more specific anti-rumour section.

The importance of identifying the criteria well in order to determine what is a 'good' or 'bad' practice is discussed. They can also be used to check the RECI initiatives.

It also points out the need to build not only alternative narratives, but also counter-narratives.

The importance of linking the communication instruments that are created with the institutions' communication offices, and of thinking about a specific work strategy with them, is pointed out.

#### Next steps:

- A working group will be set up to work on the issue.

### F. EscapeRoomours

The proposal sent to Google Challenge was not approved, although they showed their interest, along with other actors (ICC cities, La Caixa, the Council itself).



On the one hand, we are committed to continue designing the Escape Roomours online with Gerardo. This incorporates the content, but also the training of the actors who can make this tool dynamic.

In addition, this year we have to test the Escape Roomours in 4-5 RECI/ICC cities and make an evaluation of the experience and subsequent adaptation of the content and design of the Escape Roomours.

#### Next steps:

- Those cities that are interested in participating in the test, please let us know.

### G. Anti-rumour in education

During 2019, work has been done on adapting the anti-rumour approach to the educational field and a practical guide has been drawn up to facilitate the work of cities and educational centres that are interested in adapting the strategy to their environments. The Guide has been completed, in the absence of a layout. In the coming weeks we will be able to send it out for dissemination.

This year we propose that 3 cities can implement anti-rumour actions in some educational or youth centres, based on the approach and criteria described in this guide. Or that, for example, they carry out an accompaniment to a school that already implemented anti-rumour actions but lacks a Strategy. The idea is to adapt to the needs of the city and the centre.

#### Next steps:

- We will contact interested cities and provide initial support and advice in the process of adapting the EAR to the educational environment.

### H. Extension of the catalogue of Good Anti-Rumours Practices

Following the work done during 2019 to collect [good anti-rumour practices](#), it is necessary to continue identifying new practices. During 2019 we have been able to update some practices and have collected 30 practices. For the 2020 we propose to collect 30 more practices that we will be classifying according to the topics they address: communication, training, education, etc.).

#### Next steps:

- We ask you to send us anti-rumour practices and initiatives that you think might be of interest.

## 3. Diversit.



The Association needed to take a step towards visibility and identity, to highlight not only the coordination of RECI and Anti-Rumour, but also the set of services we provide to cities that demand it or in the context of European projects. This leap involves changing (not in a legal way) the Association (above all by its acronym - ACI) to a more 'stimulating' brand: Diversit.

Update of services: we are working on the design of the Intercultural Strategy of Donostia and we will start collaborating on the revision of the Intercultural Plan of Barcelona, in its tenth anniversary.

#### 4. Other issues

It is proposed as a working topic to deepen the issue of outsourcing or direct management of foreign people or diverse cultural contexts. It could be an interesting experience to work in RECI and to know European or other cities' know-how.

The organization of the 5th Youth Anti-Rumour Summit is reported. The theme is 'Diverse diversities'. The thread of the methodology will be artistic expressions. We will send the draft programme to the other cities. The dates blocked for the moment are from the 3rd to the 6th of September.

#### 5. Closing, agreements and next steps

We reiterate that this does not replace the Work Plan that we will have to update. We have removed from this list those issues that did not make sense to deal with and that have been postponed, such as the RECI visits or the RECI work day, which has been postponed to mid-October.

In relation to the Policy Lab, in any case, we have already opened a channel of communication with the new government team and we will see how we can take it up again, because it continues to be part of the work plan.

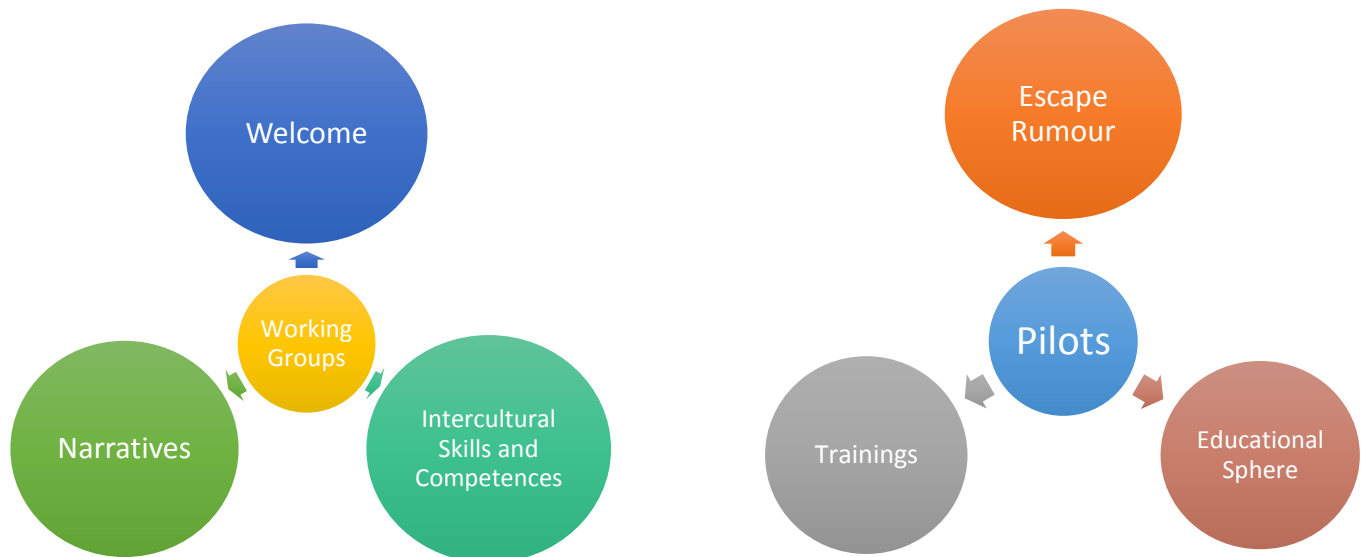
On administrative and fee issues, it is important to know that some cities have to defer some fee payments, as this has an impact on our budget - especially in those cities where the agreement is renewed this year. We will deal with this bilaterally.

<b>Identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sending the leaflet (two formats) and the letter</li> <li>- Bottle production</li> <li>- Elaboration of the computer graphics</li> <li>- Sending the RECI style manual</li> <li>- Newsletter II</li> </ul>	April 2020
<b>Welcome</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sending out questionnaires</li> <li>- Expression of interest in joining the Working Group</li> </ul>	April 2020





	- Development of an index - script of the Guide	
	- Presentation - publication of the guide	October 2020
	- Seminar?	
Minors	- Sending out questionnaires	15 April 2020
	- Framework document	30 April 2020
Intercultural skills	- Expression of interest in joining the Working Group	15 April 2020
	- Document - Paper	April-October 2020
	- Training / testing	
Narratives Intercultural Communication	- Expression of interest in joining the Working Group	15 April 2020
	- Alternative Narrative Guide	
	- Strategic anti-rumour communication	April - October 2020
	- Communication campaign design RECI	
Escape Rumour	- Expression of interest to test Escape Rumour in the territory	15 April 2020
	- Design Escape Rumour	
	- Testing	September - December 2020
	- Final design	
Anti-rumour in education	- Expression of interest to test the Guide with an educational institution	June - November 2020
BP Catalogue	- Project submissions, anti-rumour initiatives	April - December 2020
Call CoE	- Confirm your interest - RECI?	15 April 2020
RECI Bilbao Workshop	- Planned date, mid-October	July 2020
Fees and agreements	- Review of agreements to be renewed	
	- Communication to the RECI team about possible delays in the payment of the fee	April - May 2020





*List of participants:*

- Karol Adarraga, Negociado de Diversidad Cultural, Ayuntamiento de Donostia/ San Sebastián
- Alfredo Azabal, Consultant
- Marta Barrera, Head of Civil Rights Programmes, Reception and Historical Memory, Sabadell City Council
- Marifé Calderón, Technician in charge of the BCN Interculturality Programme, Barcelona City Council
- Isabel Copetudo, Territory Programs Coordinator of the Coexistence Service, Santa Coloma de Gramenet City Council
- Carmen Díaz, Councillor for Social Cohesion, Getxo City Council
- Claudia Emmanuel, Immigration Technician, Bilbao City Council
- María Eugenia Fonte, Project Coordinator, OBITen, University of La Laguna (FGULL).
- Rosa M<sup>a</sup> García, SEMI Coordinator. Cultural Diversity Program, Fuenlabrada City Council
- Ekain Lanirraga, Immigration technician, Bilbao City Council
- María Limonge, Convivència Social Intercultural, Castelló City Council
- Marta Pérez, RECI and Global Anti-Rumours Technician
- Gemma Pinyol, RECI and Global Anti-Rumours Coordinator, Intercultural Cities-Council of Europe expert
- Cristina Puente, head of the welcome programme, Sabadell City Council
- Julio Ramallo, RECI Responsible of the Cabildo of Tenerife.
- Manel Raimí, Head of the Plan for Intercultural Coexistence, Logroño City Council
- Gloria Rendón, consultant
- María Sanchís, Technician in the Area of Intercultural Coexistence, Valencia City Council
- Dani de Torres, Director RECI and Antirumours Global, expert of Intercultural Cities-Council of Europe
- Roser de la Torre, La Caixa Banking Foundation
- Xavier Xarbau, Technician in the area of Reception and Citizenship, Salt City Council
- Jesús Yébenes, Head of Section for Immigration, Coexistence and Cooperation, Valencia City Council
- José Luíís Ortega, Coordinator of the Immigration and Development Cooperation Unit, City of Cartagena
- Vicente Manuel Zapata, Professor of Human Geography, University of La Laguna. Immigration Observatory of Tenerife and RECI expert.