



Intercultural Cities
Portuguese Network of Intercultural Cities (RPCI)
24 September 2020
3:00-4:30 p.m.

Agenda

- 15h RPCI status/ various information
- 15h15 Projects for 2020: grant summary
- 16h Amadora: Welcoming Guide for migrants
- 16h15 Santa Maria da Feira: Training “Portuguese for migrants”
- 16h00 Debate Next steps

Presences

- Andreia Patricia Santiago (CM Loures)
- Roberto Reis and Cristina Ribeiro (CM Sta Maria Feira)
- Rute Gonçalves (CM Amadora)
- Ilda Lopes, Ana Parreirinha, Alexandra Freire (CM Beja)
- Carla Martingo (CM Oeiras)
- Fernanda Gomes and Ricardo Pais (CM Viseu)

Summary of the discussion

1. The state of development of the various **RPCI initiatives has been presented**, in particular:

Projects 2019:

APP: it is ready (trial version) and was shared via Whatsapp group. Anyone who wishes to be added to this group should send their phone number for this purpose. Cities are asked to download and test it, and to bring suggestions and contributions to the RPCI coordinator.

The **online course** based on the “step-by-Step” guide has also been completed and is already available for registration on the [Al-fihiri online university website](http://al-fihiri.online.university.website). It has a cost of 30 dollars associated (fundraising for this non-profit university). We are currently translating the script to add subtitles in Portuguese and the course will soon be made available for free through the Moodle platform of the Council of Europe: <http://help.elearning.ext.coe.int/>



As for **the completion of the INDEX**, at the moment await a visit Lisbon and Loures. The visit is scheduled for October, missing to settle details. The Council of Europe is developing a virtual alternative to these visits, given the circumstances.

The creation of an **association for the management of the RPCI** has not made progress since the last meeting, but the answers given by the cities in this regard are in the questionnaire sent. Cities that have not had the opportunity will yet be able to fill it.

On October 8, a seminar entitled "communication with migrants in the context of COVID 19" will be held (in English), promoted by the city of Lublin, Poland. Registrations are free for any city: <https://kongres.lublin.eu/en/event-program>

The city of Vila Nova de Famalicão asked for information on how to join ICC and RPCI.

The joint grant application for 2020 was recalled.

Presentations

Next, the initiatives of Amadora and Santa Maria da Feira were presented.

Amateur:



The city of Amadora held a brief presentation of its Welcoming Guide, which was developed in partnership with social organizations and local migrant associations.

The guide, part of the Municipal Plan for the integration of Migrants, combines various useful information and recommendations for those who arrive in the city and is in English and Portuguese.

An interesting feature: it contains information about festivities and celebrations of various communities and neighborhoods, places of worship of several faiths, and a chapter on rules of coexistence and legislation in this area.

More information: https://www.cm-amadora.pt/images/INTERVENCAO_SOCIAL/INTERCULTURALIDADE/PDF/guia_acolhimento_jun2020.pdf

Santa Maria da Feira:

The Migrations Unit of the Municipality of Santa Maria da Feira created a Course (non-formal) "Citizenship, Culture, Heritage and Economic Development" (75h), an initiative that aims at the development of Portuguese language courses for migrants.



This project aims to foster the integration of immigrant citizens residing in Portugal, third-country nationals, refugees or asylum seekers, luso-descendants and emigrants.

Contents: Portuguese Language, Culture and Heritage for Migrants; Citizenship: Employment, Health, Justice, Social Security, Border Services, Finance, Health Education, Corporate and Associative sectors; Interreligious-religious dialogue, Festivals and Traditions.

The course started on December 18, 2019 and ended in July, with the resumption expected in October 2020.

The course takes place every Wednesday, between 15h and 17h, through the Zoom platform. Participation was free, but subject to registration.

Finally, the RPCI coordination also shared the existence of the ICOON: icons for refugees project, which consists of a book of icons for visual communication with people from different backgrounds: <http://iconforrefugees.com/>

Interventions

The different cities intervened to leave some information, ideas, recommendations, and suggestions, namely:

- **Amadora** is finalizing its last Municipal Plan for Migrant Integration (PMI), and for the next they chose not to apply to the AMIF/FAMI funding for the constraints that such a funding line has placed and that represented a very large effort for its small team. This plan is part of the Social and Health Development Plan of the municipality and is linked to an ongoing URBACT project (Rumourless cities). It considers very relevant and useful to promote the sharing of each PMI by each city, considering that it should be taken into account that these plans contain in themselves already many activities and are coordinated with other initiatives of each city, and it is important not to create noise or overlaps. Considers important the idea of creating a joint Welcoming pack and is available to support in this regard.

- **Viseu** had its PMI recently approved and funded by the AMIF/FAMI. They are now struggling with the start-up of the process, mainly with conducting a diagnosis. They are available for sharing and will contact CM Sta Maria da Feira for articulation related to the project presented that may be of interest to the municipality.

- **Loures** also had their plan approved recently, being at the same stage as Viseu. Considered relevant the sharing and creation of the Welcoming Pack.

- **Beja** faces its first PMI, and as such is at a very early stage of its implementation, also seeing with good eyes the issue of sharing and collaboration between cities.

- **Oeiras** also stopped applying their plan to the AMIF/FAMI, choosing to integrate it into his Social Development Plan, due to the constraints already identified. It has recently carried out a set of materials for health professionals who want to facilitate access for migrant communities to the National health Service, which they will share. They consider it important both sharing and welcoming pack.



- **Sta Maria da Feira** has had difficulties in accessing AMIF/FAMI funding lines due to the low rate of migrants with Residents Permit in the territory. It suggests that we can think of synergies and even joint applications in this area.

Conclusions:

It was agreed that an upcoming meeting will be scheduled in 22nd of October at 2pm so that each city can present its plan, how it was built and implemented, its successes and how obstacles were overcome.

RPCI coordination will send proposal of alignment for the Welcoming Pack, for which all cities will identify the resources they have and forward to coordination.

After the next meeting, a webinar will be scheduled to present the products (early December)

Annex: power point

Notes:

- there is a folder on the shared drive dedicated to COVID 19 for useful documents and tools. Cities will be able to make contributions in it.
- The contact list was updated in the shared drive.
- A WhatsApp group exists for those who want to be part (RPCI), to do so just send a contact to the RPCI coordination. In this group we shared the APP trial version so it can be downloaded and tried (note: still does not work on iPhones)