



Coordinatore tecnico

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



RETE CITTA' DEL DIALOGO

MAY – AUGUST 2021
ACTIVITY REPORT



STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE NETWORK

On May 4th we held our coordination meeting online, with the participation of 7 cities. We discussed about the “Intercultural policies and practices in the Covid-19 era, one year later: comparison between cities on needs and opportunities for 2021” and we started sharing thoughts about new (and old) priorities for the Italian Network in 2021 and beyond. We also talked about the importance of campaigning together and how communication can be a very powerful tool to make the network grow.

The Anti-racist Pact of the Municipality of Turin was presented by Assessore Marco Giusta. The report of the meeting in Italian and in English can be found [here](#).

With our great pleasure, we announce that the RCD National Meeting in presence has been finally planned! If pandemic conditions allow it, as the trend suggests, it will be held in the City of Reggio Emilia on 30 November and 1 December 2021.

SUPPORT, PARTICIPATION AND DISSEMINATION OF AND GOOD PRACTICES

Good practices collection and sharing from member cities is our priority, to leverage experiences and result driven intercultural models.

We collected and promoted the following best practices:

- 14th Edition of Festival delle Culture of Ravenna, on the topic “Una storia che parla di noi”, dedicated to the theme of identity (2, 3 and 4 July 2021)
- 3rd Edition of the Summer School in Ravenna, titled “La questione migrante nel contesto pandemico. Flussi, lavoro, integrazione” (30 August – 3 September 2021)
- 23rd Edition of “Suq Genova”, the well known intercultural festival considered a best practice in Europe (27 August – 5 September 2021).

In the framework of an international working group promoted by the ICC Program, ICEI also contributed to the elaboration of a questionnaire aiming at collecting information and analyzing needs from member cities in the field of intercultural competences.

The questionnaire (available in English and in Italian) supported a process carried out by the the ICC Program, ICEI and other ICC Experts from Spain, Portugal, Ukraine and Canada that will develop new training materials and tools on intercultural competences for local authorities. The training program will then be offered to Cities of the ICC network with the following objectives:

- help municipalities and municipal related entities respond to the challenges of increasingly diverse urban settings using an intercultural lens

- building capacity in terms of individual and organizational competencies, in order to provide better services, foster the diversity advantage and empower citizens to participate in public life
- provide practical applications of intercultural principles for local authorities in the process of designing policies and projects

COMMUNICATION AS A KEY DRIVER OF GROWTH

We kept on focusing in increasing the reach of our communication and the engagement of our Facebook fanbase, to disseminate and grow awareness on ICC and RCD principles, initiatives, and resources. We implemented a rich editorial plan, also covering the month of August, with 25 posts and 12.673 persons following our RCD Facebook page.

Our local content strategy on RCD Facebook and website leveraged materials coming from the cities: we promoted with posts and online articles 7 initiatives from our members, in particular Modena, Reggio Emilia, Genova and Ravenna.

We also promoted ICC Program contents, especially videos and thematic papers. Videos in English were all posted with Italian subtitles to reach a wider audience.

Moreover, we improved our RCD website by refreshing our Press Area, collecting all the press clips about the Program and the city members, and Resources Area, with new materials from RCD and the ICC Program.

Finally, we have started elaborating the concept, content guidelines and sources of our “Intercultural glossary” campaign that will be delivered in the last quarter of the year.

NETWORKING AND COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

In the framework of the Rete Città Del Dialogo and of the project ITACA, ICEI participates in the process promoted by UNAR – National Office Against Racial Discrimination of the Italian Government (associate to the project ITACA) aiming at developing the “National Plan against racism, xenophobia and intolerance 2021-2025”.

A first meeting has been held on 22 June 2021 (online).

Following this meeting, ICEI and the City of Reggio Emilia discussed and planned the following actions:

- Share information and involve the Italian ICC Cities in the process promoted by UNAR to increase the participation of local authorities in the elaboration of the Plan.
- Propose the RCD as a key-stakeholder to support Cities in the adaptation of the national Plan into local Plans.

ICEI, in cooperation with the City of Reggio Emilia, will follow up the process promoted by UNAR (next steps planned in autumn 2021).

NEW CITIES IN PIPELINE

With the objective of developing the RCD network in Italy, we kept on promoting RCD and ICC Programs and connecting with interested cities.

Montesilvano, located in Umbria region, showed a significant interest and we had several online meetings, information, and email exchanges to discuss membership and its requirements.

Other cities showed a starting interest asking for more information (Comune di Benevento, Castelfranco Emilia, Bolzano).

SUSTAINABILITY AND SYNERGIES TO STRENGTHEN THE NETWORK

The project "ITACA – Italian Cities Against discrimination" funded by the RIGHTS, EQUALITY AND CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMME (REC) of the European Commission developed an analysis and mapping of the anti-discrimination practices of 7 cities of the Italian ICC Network (Reggio Emilia, Modena, Novellara, Olbia, Viareggio, Fucecchio, Casalecchio di Reno). The document has been presented to the Cities to share the key-findings and stimulate the discussion among staff from municipalities, with the support of ASGI – Association for Juridical Studies on Immigration. The final version of the analyses will be published in the coming weeks.

Moreover, ITACA started the elaboration of the training modules that will be provided to the 7 Cities. An in-presence meeting will be held in Modena in September to share a first proposal of training contents and collect feed-back from Cities. Training sessions are expected to start in November 2021 under the coordination of ICEI and with the involvement of project partners, associates, and external experts.

ICEI, in its capacity of Coordinator of the Italian ICC Network, submitted a new proposal to the Call for Proposal "Networks of Towns" of the CERV Programme (Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values) of the European Commission, The proposal was developed in partnership with several ICC networks and cities and with the ICC Program as associate.

In particular, the project "NET-IDEA "Network of European Towns for Interculturalism, Diversity, Equality and Anti-discrimination" is based on a transnational partnership involving the ICC networks in Italy (ICEI is the lead applicant), Spain, Portugal, Sweden and the Municipalities of Erlangen (Germany) and Lublin (Poland).

The objective of the proposal is to reinforce the role of local authorities and their cooperation in the fields of diversity promotion, interculturalism, anti-discrimination and inclusion of minorities.

Moreover, NET-IDEA promotes the cooperation among LAs, CSOs and youth groups to design and spread new narratives to fight discrimination and racism, thus creating a more inclusive European society.
Results will be published in November 2021.