

COORDINATION MEETING – RETE CITTA' DEL DIALOGO

May 4, 2021 – h. 14.30-16.30

Attendees

On May 4th we held our online Coordination Meeting, with 4 people attending from ICEI (Rosaria De Paoli, Simone Pettoruso, Sara Morandini, Marta Bettinelli) and 10 people from the cities, for a total of 7 municipalities: Gianluca Grassi (Comune di Reggio Emilia), Rania Abdellatif (Comune di Reggio Emilia), Arianna Angelini (Unione Rubicone e Mare), Milli Ruggiero (Casalecchio di Reno), Marco Giusta (Comune di Torino), Claudio Tocchi (Comune di Torino), Elena Carletti (Comune di Novellara), Erica Tacchini (Comune di Novellara), Eleonora Costantini (Comune di Modena), Emiliano Lazzeretti (Comune di Fucecchio).

Meeting agenda and talking points

1. Roundtable - Intercultural policies and practices in the Covid-19 era, one year later: comparison between cities on needs and opportunities for 2021

We feel the need to resume projects after a year marked by the needs of the pandemic emergency. Cities were willing to share their many initiatives, where innovative approaches and unexpected successes were reached:

- Comune di Novellara announced the approval of their Intercities Grant 2021 project, together with Reggio Emilia, Fondazione Mondoinsieme and the partner Unione Rubicone e Mare. They also talked about their previous grant obtained in 2020, that allowed them to work with Religious Communities. In 2018, they opened an Intercultural Center that reached in the last years a high number of recurrent participants: they are looking forward to restarting all the activities and being on the field again!
- Unione Rubicone e Mare opened a brand new Intercultural Center, offering services about interculture, work and home services. The pandemic stimulated them to develop new skills and innovative approaches: they developed an online service of mediation in schools with very good results! Moreover, they opened an online information service for migrants, using Whatsapp and WeChat.
- Fucecchio talked about associations which are very developed on the territory. They will start again on field activities with the most active communities (from Romania, Albania and Senegal). During the pandemic they also got support from the different districts to bring food and medicines to vulnerable people.
- Casalecchio transposed the activities and training online, with high participation especially from women. So they decided to use both online and offline approaches also in the future. With the help of aid associations they also reached a +30% of immigrants who needed help and support.
- Reggio Emilia focused in particular on the planning and design of activities, involving project ITACA and another REC. They are also working on interreligious dialogue and migrant illiteracy programs.

2. Priorities for 2021

Starting from what were considered priorities the previous meeting held in Olbia in 2020, we opened a discussion on what is still to be considered a priority and the new priorities risen. Here you have a list:

- Novellara proposed **Diversity Management**, in line with the Intercity Grant they presented
- ICEI proposed **Environmental sustainability**, sustainable and inclusive cities - in line with the work that is being done at international level by ICC Strasbourg
- Modena underlined the need for training on **intercultural communication and competences**, from directors to front office operators. Training in Italian but also foreign languages for communities
- Torino, with the best practice on the AntiRacism Pact, realized that the communities do not have to be seen only as beneficiaries of projects/actions but also as drivers. They should be included in the social and political life (**empowerment of communities**). Also interested in **Religious pluralism**, they are working on it. On environmental sustainability, they have a good practice with the creation of a second-hand market with recycled things. The market is a source of jobs for people, for the administration through public soil occupation, and of income-generation projects.

3. Best practice sharing

Torino presented its Antiracism Agreement and next steps.

4. Past and future campaigns: how to grow with communication

We presented our online communication campaign on Rete Città del Dialogo (delivered from October 2020 to March 2021) with the goal of increasing our public on social media and raise awareness of RCD and intercultural themes. We moved from 430 to 12.800 followers on our Facebook in a few months (+2878%). We also shared our next editorial plan guidelines, keep on investing in the quality of posts and web articles.

We presented also ICC Programs planned Campaigns: Feel diversity and Revive your Senses, that was about to start, and the World Refugee Day Campaign, showing the concept, the campaign design, all the communication materials from the toolkit and the video draft, to promote cities' participation and involvement.

Finally, we promoted ongoing best practice sharing and visibility, leveraging our communication channels and asking the cities to strengthen cross communication.