

Annual Report

RPCI – Portuguese Network of Intercultural Cities

2023

The opinions expressed in this document are the responsibility of Carla Calado, Coordinator, Portuguese Network of Intercultural Cities, and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Council of Europe.

This document is published as it was submitted to the secretariat.

Summary

During the first quarter of 2023, two new municipalities were welcomed into RPCI: Paranhos Parish and Barcelos Municipality (that joined in late 2022), raising the number of RPCI cities to seventeen. A joint project was presented to the Council of Europe Intercultural Cities programme and three cities offered to be part of the managing team: Cascais, Lisbon, and Loures. The cooperative RPCI, created in 2021 to support the Network, maintains two member cities (Oeiras and Loures) and is currently managing 3 projects: one funded by the Council of Europe (one annual RPCI grant named “Intercultural Ecosystems”) and two funded by the European Commission (“NET-IDEA” and “DiverCities”). In total, six different cities are actively engaged in these projects, one of them being engaged in more than one project. In 2023, RPCI’s engagement on social media has grown exponentially (with the exception of LinkedIn in which we haven’t focused much in 2023).

Network coordination

In 2023, reports were produced for each trimester and submitted to the secretariat. In total, three trimestral reports and one annual report were delivered.

RPCI’s coordination was ensured based on regular contact with the member cities via email (around twenty-five e-mails were sent to all member cities) and lateral phone calls when needed.

RPCI **advertised all the ICC initiatives**, and as result, two cities participated in such events: the cities of Braga and Braga participated in the “Media training on promoting intercultural narratives in difficult times”.

As part of the coordination activities, messages with information on how to join RPCI were sent to new cities. Support was provided on request, via phone calls or online meetings, including questions about filling in the INDEX, participating in projects managed by RPCI, information about the RPCI network and ICC programme (for ex. to Fundão), events and seminars, and others. A formal request to join the network was delivered by the city of Odemira and is currently being processed.

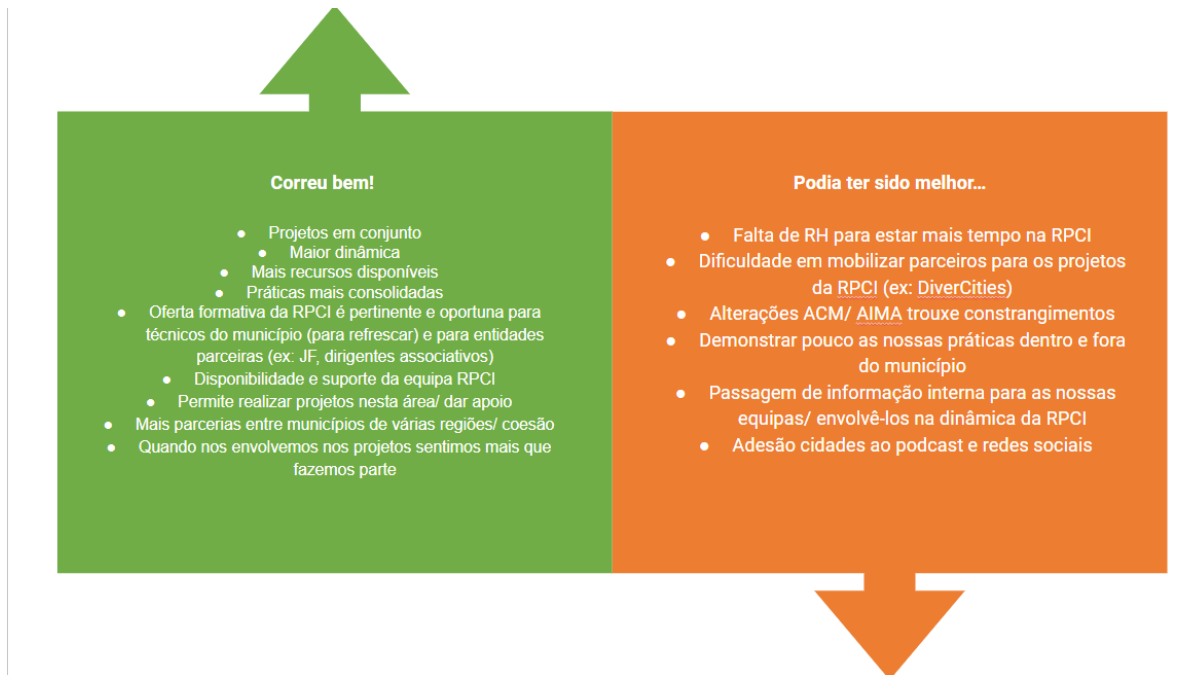
RPCI coordinator also took part in the annual coordinators meeting held between 14 and 15 of November in Bilbao, Spain.

A face-to-face RPCI meeting is being prepared with Barcelos for the 7th of February 2024.

RPCI meetings

Priorities for 2023 have been discussed in December 2022 and given origin to a draft proposal of the annual project that was submitted via e-mail and approved by all cities. In total, three meetings have been held during 2023:

1. Under the “Intercultural Ecosystems” project, one **practice sharing session** was held inviting all RPCI cities on the 9th of May, with the participation of 18 people from 7 cities and 2 NGO’s.
2. One general Network meeting was held on the **28th of November 2023**: During this meeting, RPCI presented the main results of the overall work and the progress of the three projects developed during the year. A debate followed and brainstorming around next year’s priorities was stimulated. Several pieces of information were shared with the cities, such as the opening of intercity grants for 2024 and the Face-to Face meeting on the 7th of February in Barcelos. Fifteen people from RPCI and the cities of Cascais, Loures, Santa Maria da Feira, Paranhos, Albufeira, Portimão, and Oeiras were present.



Summary of 2023 evaluation - RPCI meeting (November 2023)

3. One meeting was held with an **introduction to RPCI and the INDEX** for new cities and others wishing to join on the 24th of May with 11 people from 4 cities attending. A shared folder with guidelines to fill in the INDEX in Portuguese and an INDEX version in Portuguese was created.

Other meetings and events

RPCI participated in a networking event held in Porto, organised by the [EFEM project](#) (financed by the EU and targeting migrant women entrepreneurship) and joint activities are being prepared. RPCI also held a meeting with this project to prepare joint activities.

A support letter was delivered to Loures, regarding a fund application the city is preparing for the prevention of domestic violence.

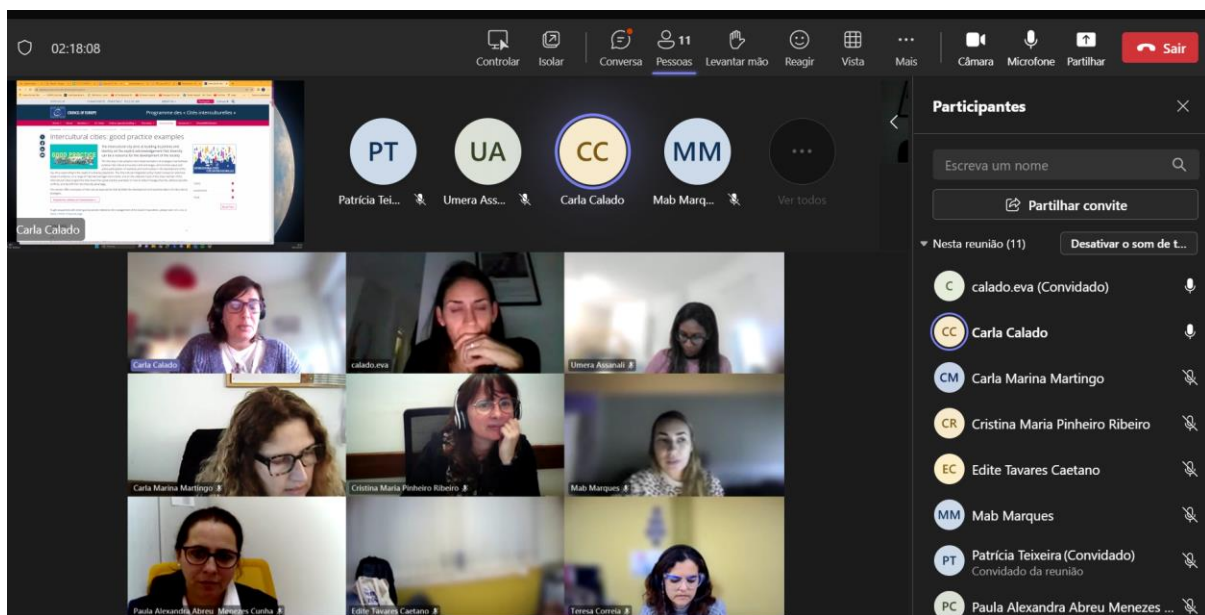
Four new practices were collected during 2023: Two from Vila Verde, one from Braga and one from Cascais, and three of these were sent to ICC (one of them is not implemented yet). RPCI coordination was also asked to review all the RPCI entries on the Best Practice Database of the ICC website. more than 50 practices were reviewed and updated.

RPCI coordination participated at the **Italian ICC Network meeting** on the 17th of May, presenting the RPCI network and cooperative.

RPCI advertised all the ICC initiatives and news, such as the Call for Applications for the Intercultural Cities Programme Advisory Group, and the “Inclusive public space: is placemaking the solution?” City Talk.

RPCI cooperative joined as an associate entity a proposal to EU funding by Reggio Emilia and a group of cities of the Italian network, which focuses on the development/implementation of local anti-discrimination plans to prevent and combat discrimination and on the collection of data on the discrimination phenomenon and the impact of public policies.

The RPCI cooperative held its mandatory annual assembly meeting in March to discuss and approve the activity report and accounts for 2022, which was later [published on the RPCI website](#), and another one in December to discuss and approve the Activity plan and budget for 2024.



Annual RPCI cities meeting

Activities

RPCI coordination led the drafting of all applications for funding submitted. Two new proposals for funding were prepared during this period, for European Funding, with ICEI. One of these proposals was submitted with support letters from Cascais and Santa Maria da Feira and awaits results. Besides, oversaw and had active role in all the activities developed within the Network and the RPCI cooperative, such as:

Projects

In 2023, three projects were managed by RPCI with the support of the RPCI cooperative:

- **Intercultural Ecosystems project**

This project was built collaboratively, arising from the brainstorming meeting held in December 2022 with RPCI cities, and has the goal to foster intercultural competencies among city staff and strategic partners. The project started in March 2023 and has had two meetings with the consortium, composed of RPCI staff and representatives of the cities of Cascais, Loures, and Lisbon. The consortium built an online survey that was applied to all cities and their strategic partners, to collect needs and interests to be the focus of the training activities to be held during the project, gathering 19 replies.

One practice sharing session was held inviting all RPCI cities on the 9th of May, with the participation of 18 people from 7 cities and 2 NGO's.

Following the survey applied to all cities and respective partners, three main issues were selected for the webinars and another three for podcast episodes (Roma communities, Access to Health and Welcoming refugees). The consortium prepared and hosted two webinars, respectively:

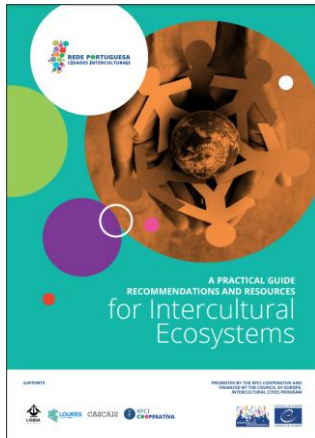
- **“Communication and Interculturalism”**, on the 30th of May with the presentation of the DiverITy project (Ana Pessoa, Aga Khan Foundation); “Communication initiatives” (Lisbon municipality) and “Mygra Myths project” (Cyntia de Paula, Casa do Brasil) – 46 people attended
- **“Intercultural Communication”**, on the 27th of June with interventions by Mab Marques (RPCI), Sónia Matos (Activist, AMUCIP - ROMA association), and Mafalda Fernandes (Activist, Influencer) - 26 people attended
- **“Intercultural Project Management”**, on the 19th of September, with practical activities to learn how to develop Intercultural Projects. As speakers we had Filipa Bolotinha (Renovar a Mouraria), Carla Calado and Mab Marques (RPCI) - 19 people attended

Three podcast episodes were recorded and are online on Spotify:

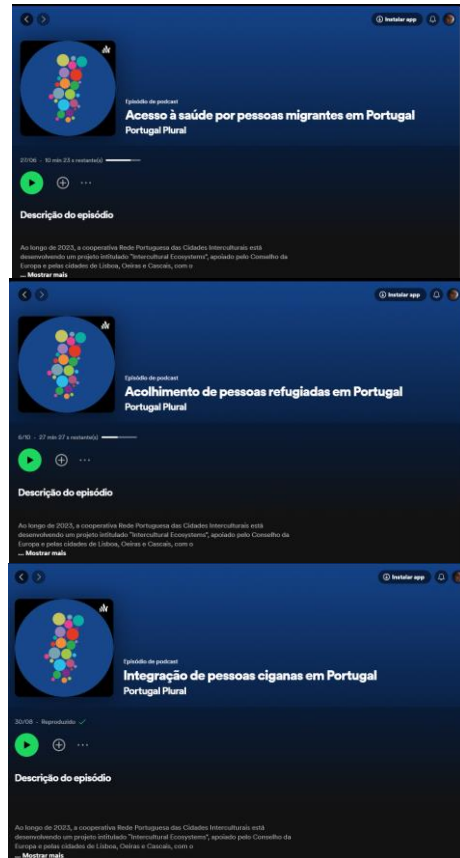
- One focusing on [Health and Interculturalism](#) with an interview with Nurse Ana Laura Baridó working with diverse communities
- One, focusing on [Roma Communities](#)
- One about [Welcoming Refugees](#)



Workshops - Intercultural Ecosystems project



Guide -Intercultural Ecosystems project



Podcasts- Intercultural Ecosystems project

- **NET-IDEA project**

NET-IDEA is a European-funded project, coordinated by ICEI in partnership with RPCI, RECI, the Swedish Network of Intercultural Cities, and the cities of Lublin and Erlangen. This project has the goal to develop local Intercultural Strategies, by fostering Intercultural competencies in cities. The project started in May 2022, and, in Portugal, three cities are engaged in this project: Vila Verde, Braga, and Santa Maria da Feira. RPCI is responsible for WP4 and WP5, respectively designing and testing and Intercultural Competencies Training in all sixteen cities and fostering Communities of Practice (CoP) at international and national levels. The session plans and contents (including a facilitator’s guide) for the course were co-designed with partners after a consultation process in 2022, and currently, each partner tested the course locally. The course is 12 hours long, divided into four 3-hour long online sessions, and was delivered in Portugal for 35 people divided into 2 classes by RPCI staff between February and March 2023. The Portuguese participants were mostly from Vila Verde, Braga, and Santa Maria da Feira, with two people from Loures and Barcelos also joining. The evaluation of the training was extremely positive and one of the cities is getting ready to reproduce it to all the city staff. During the month of April, a second activity started: awareness-raising actions engaging fifteen young people from each of the three cities with the topic “Communication and Discrimination”. These very practical workshops were delivered by external consultants with the required expertise and resulted in several communication products that will be used for the public campaign predicted for this project. An international partners meeting and CoP was held between 27 and 28th April in Erlangen, to evaluate the training activities and prepare the next steps. Representatives from the three cities participated.

A meeting of the Portuguese **Community of Practice (CoP)** was held on the 5th May to give space for further exchange among training participants from the training groups held between February and March. This meeting had the participation of 10 people. Meetings were also held with young people taking part in the training in April to prepare **local awareness-raising activities**: 20 youngsters from Vila Verde and Santa Maria da Feira participated. In Santa

Maria da Feira 20 young people developed posters with significant messages against online hate speech and these were displayed in their school. On the same day (14th June) several awareness-raising activities were also developed, such as a speech by 4 young people about the topic on the school radio, reaching 224 young people from 11 to 19 years old and 22 adults. A football tournament was organised on the 9th of September among the cities of Braga and Vila Verde, led by the young people engaged, with 18 young people taking part. A report on the **satisfaction survey** applied to all sixteen cities testing the course was made, and the first intermediate report was prepared and sent to the coordinator of the project.



Football tournament- NET IDEA - picture of teams and poster

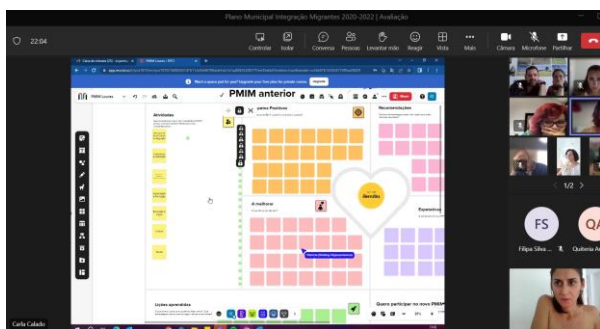


Poster produced by young people in Santa Maria da Feira- NET IDEA

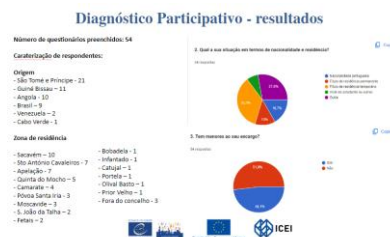
RPCI took one city officer from Vila Verde and three young people from the three cities from diverse origins to the Youth Summit in Lublin, on the 6th,7th and 8th October.

▪ **DiverCities project**

DiverCities is a European-funded project, coordinated by ICEI in partnership with RPCI and RECI and engaging the cities of Logrono, Castello de La Plana and Zaragoza (Spain), Modena and Pontedera, Reggio-Emilia (Italy), Ioannina (Greece). The city of Loures participates in this project. This project started on the 1st of November 2022. In March 2023, the DiverCities project kick-off meeting was held in Pontedera, Italy. One representative from the city of Loures and one from RPCI took part in this meeting, where training on Intercultural Citizens Assemblies was held. A strategy for the implementation of participatory activities around the Migrant Integration Plan of the municipality is now being implemented with Loures staff and partners. The first action led by RPCI was a training on Participatory Methodologies for Loures and local parish staff on the 2nd of May with the participation of 16 people. Meetings were held with Loures staff and partners to evaluate the 2022 Migrant Integration Plan and start preparing the next plan, aiming to implement participatory actions. These meetings were held on the 23rd of June, 29th of June and 14th of July: 16 people from 11 organisations were present at these meetings. It was decided to conduct a participatory assessment and the partners jointly prepared and applied a set of questions to 54 people of diverse origins living in the city. A new meeting was held to present and discuss the results of the Participatory Assessment in October and the first Intercultural Assembly is now being prepared and estimated to occur on the 3rd of February. The intermediate report was written and delivered to the coordination of the project.



Partners meeting to evaluate the 2022 Migrant Integration Plan

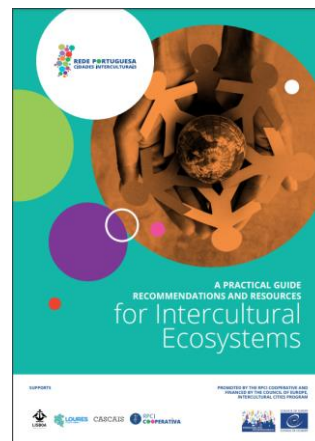


Results of the Participatory assessment Loures

Products

Deriving from the projects described above, several products were developed and launched, such as:

- “A Practical Guide of Recommendations and Resources for Intercultural Ecosystems” (PDF in [Portuguese](#) and [English](#))



Guide -Intercultural Ecosystems project

- Translation of the [ICC Checklist to Portuguese](#)



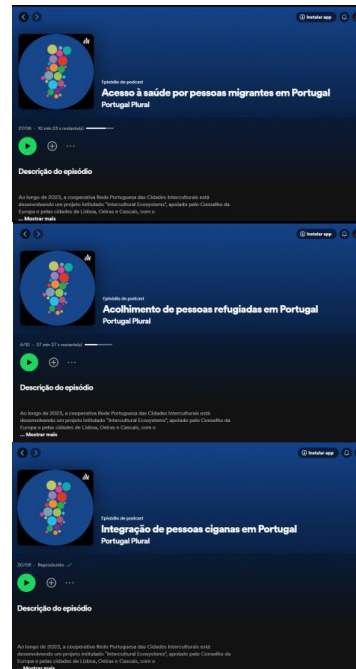
Checklists para Projetos Interculturais

No âmbito do projeto Intercultural Ecosystems, foram traduzidas 3 checklists desenvolvidas pela ICC – Rede Internacional de Cidades Interculturais

ICC Checklist on RPCI website

- One 12-hour long course on Intercultural Competencies and respective facilitator's guide

- Three new [Podcast episodes](#)



Products are available at: <https://cidadesinterculturais.pt/ferramentas/>, [Podcast “Portugal Plural”](#) channel, and [RPCI YouTube channel](#).

Other activities

Additionally, “**Intercultural Competencies**” training was facilitated for Polish Cities in June 2023.

Communication

During this year, four new original articles were published:

- [International Day Against Discrimination](#), where an overview was given regarding what is discrimination and why and how can a bystander act when witnessing it (by Carla Calado),
- [International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims](#) with information about this day and why it should be celebrated (by RPCI cooperative member João Almeida).
- One article focused on celebrating the international day against homophobia, transphobia and biphobia: [17 de Maio – Dia Internacional contra a Homofobia, Transfobia e Bifobia](#)
- One article was published about the World Day Against Human Trafficking: [Dia Mundial Contra o Tráfico de Pessoas](#)
- One news was published to welcome [Paranhos](#) (as the same was made for Barcelos in late October 22), and dedicated pages were added to the RPCI [website](#).

Furthermore, articles were published to advertise RPCI activities and projects, such as:

- One article to celebrate the [birthday of RPCI and RPCI cooperative was also published](#), highlighting RPCI’s last projects and products,
- One article to [advertise RPCI’s participation in an independent Radio Show about Inclusion](#),



Participation in the Radio Movimento's show "INdiferenças"

- One article to advertise our [Podcast interview with Ana Mansoa](#) about migrant employment initiatives.
- One article was published to advertise the webinars and the Erlangen NET-IDEA meeting: [Consórcio do Projeto NET IDEA reúne em Erlangen](#).
- One article was a summary of the training held in Loures, as part of the DiverCities project: [Loures recebe formação em metodologias participativas](#)
- One article about our Podcast - [Acesso à Saúde por Pessoas Migrantes](#)
- One article with the summary of the annual project with the RPCI cities, called "Intercultural Ecosystems" where we also promoted the workshops: [Competências Interculturais: o projeto Ecossistemas Interculturais](#)
- Finally, RPCI posted an article with a round-up of the awareness raising activities organised with youngsters as part of the NetIDEA project: [Apoiamos a nova geração contra a discriminação \(projeto NetIDEA\)](#)

Regarding social media, RPCI maintained the existing Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram pages with regular posts. Below a summary of the main activities and reach of each channel in 2023.

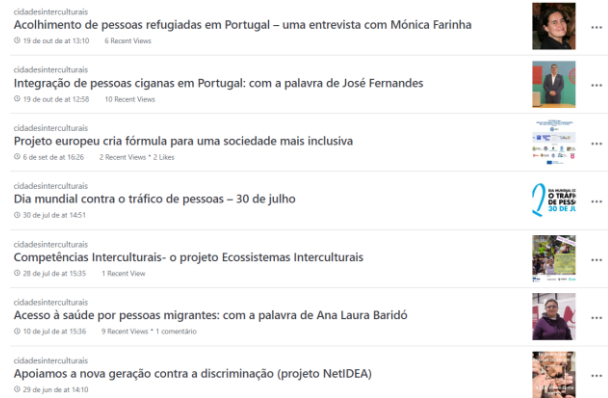
- [Facebook](#)
Reach: 2641
Visits: 752
Total likes: 687 (75,5% women; 24,5% men, age groups 35-54, mostly from Lisbon)
Total publications: 96
- [Instagram](#)
Reach: 642
Visits: 402
Total Publications: 9 and 176 stories
Total followers: 551 (74,2% women, 25,8% men, age groups 25-54, mostly from Lisbon and Brazil)

[Website](#) “Cidades Interculturais”

- Views: 180 (mostly from Portugal and USA)
- Visitors: 79
- Articles/ posts: 17 original articles (3 summarising the podcast episodes; a few about the projects we worked on; a few about World Day celebrations and a few about our achievements throughout the year)

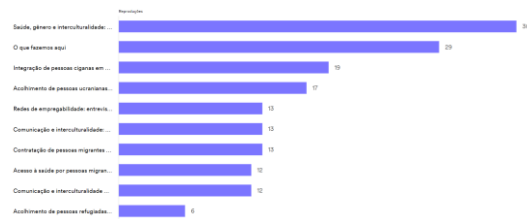
- Downloads: 58

mainly: “Education toolkit” (Portuguese) - 31; “Intercultural organisations” leaflet (Portuguese) – 6; “Guide for Intercultural organisations” – 5.



Posts and articles on RPCI website

- [LinkedIn](#)
Page Views: 319
Unique Visitors: 119
Total Posts: 31
- Podcast Channel [“Portugal Plural”](#)
Episodes: 3
Total reproductions: 37



Podcast “Portugal Plural” - RPCI

Next steps

For next year, after consultation with RPCI cities, the Portuguese Network of Intercultural Cities will focus on developing more learning opportunities for member cities. These will be ensured in the format of workshops, webinars, and training, as well as practice sharing moments and products such as videos.

RPCI will focus its energy on closing two undergoing European-funded projects and will submit an annual RPCI joint project to be funded by the Council of Europe. A new project was

submitted to the EU and, if approved, will also be a main focus of RPCI energy. The city of Loures also invited RPCI for a project focusing on Inclusive Education.

Regarding “**NET-IDEA**”, the awareness-raising activities will continue and training for young people in Braga will be held. A public awareness campaign will be prepared jointly with the remaining cities that are part of the consortium. A report of the training testing will be produced by RPCI and submitted as a deliverable to the E.U. One podcast episode will be recorded, interviewing the three young people that attended the Youth Summit.

For “**DiverCities**”, meetings will continue to follow up on the implementation of participatory activities with migrant communities. It is expected that several local assemblies occur during 2024, to continue collecting needs, concerns and ideas, and engaging communities in problem-solving. A practice-sharing event for RPCI cities will be promoted on the same subject and a podcast episode will be prepared with interviews to participants in the local intercultural assemblies.

Regarding **Communication**, three new articles are being prepared, and a new page on RPCI’s website will be published, advertising RPCI’s training and consultancy offers. A new campaign to invite more cities as members of the RPCI Cooperative is also predicted and advertisement of RPCI activities, such as the webinars and podcasts, will also be a priority for next quarter.

From January to March: RPCI hopes to host a new RPCI meeting to present the annual grant proposal, and stimulate the presentation of intercity grants. A proposal for the annual grant will be submitted. The meeting is predicted to happen on the 7th of February in Barcelos, with the opportunity to get to know the city's initiatives. A grant proposal will be submitted to ICC.

From April to June: RPCI will focus on organising the Portuguese participation in the final NET IDEA Networking event taking place in Sweden on the 16th and 17th April. NET-IDEA will continue the local awareness raising activities and Communities of practices and produce the final report and deliverables of the project, ending on 31st of April. The DiverCities project will host its first Citizens Assemblies and an international meeting in Strasbourg. A report will also be produced as the project ends in June 2024. A practice sharing event for RPCI cities will be promoted with the same subject. During this period RPCI intends to start the learning activities of the Annual Grant funded by the Council of Europe.

From July to September: The implementation of the annual grant should be at its more demanding stage, with the production of resources.

From October to December: The annual grant should finish, and a report should be delivered to ICC. RPCI also hopes to participate in a public campaign for International Migrants Day. A meeting to evaluate 2024 should be held with the cities.