

# Annual Report

## Portuguese Network of Intercultural Cities

### 2024

## Summary

The year of 2024 was a demanding year with the management and end of several projects, such as the DiverCities (ended in June) and NET\_IDEA (ended in May, as well as preparing new funding applications. The annual joint project “Intercultural schools” was a success, exceeding all expectations. The cooperative RPCI, created in 2021 to support the Network, maintains two member cities (Oeiras and Loures) and has started during this period 1 project funded by the European Commission (“EPIC-IDEA” - started on 1 September) and received notice of a new project approved – STAND, that will start in January 2025: seven different cities are actively engaged in these new projects, one of them being engaged in more than one project. In total, ten different cities were engaged in projects, three of them in more than one project.

## Network coordination

RPCI’s coordination was ensured based on **regular contact** with the member cities via email (around twenty emails were sent to all member cities) and bilateral phone calls, emails or meetings when needed.

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 (ex. to Odemira, Porto and Vila Nova de Gaia), events and seminars, and others. One new city joined the network: the city of Porto.

RPCI cooperative team is now composed by 4 staff members and 8 experts:

- Staff: Carla Calado (general Director), Ana Teresa Leitão (Director), Eva Calado (Communication Manager) and Inês Granja (Project Manager)
- Experts: Danielle Menezes, Mab Marques, Paula Cardoso, Rui Estrela, João Oliveira, Pedro Miguel, Fábio Leite and José Lino

**RPCI advertised all the ICC initiatives and news**, such as a reminder of the deadline for the INDEX and the Event on “Disinformation in cities” on 24-25 October in Prato (Italy), an event in Brussels training on Anti-Rumours and the DiverCities event in Strasbourg.

In total, three National Network meetings were held:

- The first occurred on 7h February 2024 (face-to-face meeting) hosted by Barcelos, with a presentation of results of the NET-IDEA project, followed by a presentation by partner cities. A proposal for the annual joint project was presented to gather feedback and finalise the proposal: 18 people from 10 cities were present.
- The second meeting was a thematic meeting, focusing on sharing practices around Intercultural Education. It occurred in 29<sup>th</sup> of May 2024 with 16 participants from 9 cities. Three cities shared practices during this meeting.
- The third meeting is scheduled to occur on 20<sup>th</sup> December, to present RPCI results in 2024 and gather feedback to establish priorities for 2025.

*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.*

Support was provided to the preparation of the ICC coordinators meeting in November 2024 hosted by Vila Verde and Braga.

A meeting with a local sports club - Sporting, was also held for future partnerships.

Four best Practices templates were delivered, within the project “intercultural Schools”, from three different cities.

Finally, RPCI coordinator was also engaged in an online presentation about the Portuguese Network to Cyprus organisations and to a set of Finish CSOs, as well as a **study visit** to Lisbon, Loures and Cascais by Finnish cities, held on 10th and 11th April where RPCI was presented.

## Activities

RPCI coordination led the activities of 4 projects. Besides, oversaw and had an active role in all the activities developed within the Network and the RPCI cooperative, and prepared 2 new funding applications: STAND (CERV – EU) and one ERASMUS project.

### Annual project - Intercultural Schools

This project was built collaboratively, arising from the brainstorming meeting held in 2023 with RPCI cities, and has the goal to foster intercultural competencies among school staff and strategic partners. The project was submitted in February and approved in March, and started on 1st April 2024. All RPCI cities were invited to be part of the consortium to co-manage the Grant, and 4 cities have manifested their availability - Lisboa, Oeiras, Barcelos and Paranhos. These cities will have monthly consortium meetings.

The project envisioned to promote awareness raising activities, workshops and webinars, respectively to students, families and school staff, as well as to establish a connection between RPCI and the REEI - Network of Schools for Intercultural Education, managed by AIMA, Aga Khan Foundation and the Ministry of Education. A meeting with REEI was held the 19th of July to explain the project and establish a partnership for other future endeavours.

After the practice sharing session held in May 2024 with 18 participants from 10 cities, meetings were held with four schools from these cities to set the dates and prepare the workshops that occurred in September, October and November. The 1st workshop was held in [Barcelos on 30th September](#) and four other workshops followed in Lisboa, Oeiras and Paranhos (Porto). In total 102 students were engaged, as well as 13 teachers, other professionals working in schools and 4 city officers.

The two webinars for teachers and other education professionals, entitled “[The Anti-Racist school](#)” (9th October) and “The Intercultural Schol” (4<sup>th</sup> November), engaged 303 participants from all over the country.

A final guide intitled “Intercultural approach in Schools: guidance for teachers” (in [ENG](#) and in [PRT](#), available on RPCI website) with recommendations for Intercultural Schools was designed, to be used by several types of professionals, including recommendations from all the experts engaged, and a detailed description of the workshops implemented, to facilitate it’s replication.

## 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).

During this year, 3 intercultural Assemblies were held, with more than 40 participants from Apelação, a neighbourhood in Loures. The Assemblies were prepared jointly between the RPCI, the Municipality and 2 local based organisations/ grassroots. The 1st Assembly was held on the 3rd February, the 2nd on the 24th of February and a 3rd is being prepared for 6th April. During the 1st Assembly questions were posed to the community about what they wished to improve in their neighbourhood and Housing was on top of their concerns, mostly due to humidity, security and common areas maintenance. Other issues arose, like:

- lack of opportunities for young people, especially young men that are not employed nor studying.
- lack of activities for children after school.
- lack of parks, gardens and workout areas.
- difficulties of access to health and other services.

RPCI presented the project and proposed the division of the concerns in 3 types of issues: a) Municipality responsibilities, that needed to be seen with the city proper directors. b) middle to long term issues, like unemployment and access to services and c) short term issues, like the gardens and parks. Citizens choose how to best invest part of the money for this project, given that the investment had to be done and finished by 30th June 2024. As such, the renovation of a local park was seen as the only alternative. The Housing topic was postponed for further debate at the next meeting, where the director of housing was present to reply to individual concerns. The middle to long term issues were proposed to be tackled by the municipality and local partners at the regular community groups, and to become part of the Local Integration Plan under construction.

During the month of June, the refurbishment of a local garden was prepared jointly with the community. On the 15th June, an inauguration event was held with 55 people.

On the 19th June, a final seminar and workshop on “Participatory Assemblies” was held with an external trainer. Around 26 people took part in this event, among them 3 cities other than Loures: Lisboa, Porto and Viseu. Loures has announced their intention of continuing with the assemblies and expanding the to more neighbourhoods.

A media campaign on social media was also held, and 1 [podcast episode](#) was launched about the project.

The project ended on the 31st June 2024, and a final event was held in Strasbourg with all partners. During the month of July, the project report was made and provided to the coordinators - ICEI.



Drawing made by participants of the Assembly



Inauguration of the Peace Garden



1st Assembly and Final Event in Strasbourg, June 2024



Poster inviting for the Assembly

## NET\_IDEA project

NET-IDEA was 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 had the goal to develop local Intercultural Strategies, by fostering Intercultural competencies in cities. The project started in May 2022, and, in Portugal, three cities were engaged in this project: Vila Verde, Braga, and Santa Maria da Feira. RPCI was 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. During the 1st quarter of this year, our activities were focused on the final **local awareness-raising activities** with youngsters from these 3 cities. Photovoice workshops were held in the 3 cities, with around 60 young people, and their portraits were taken. Both their pictures and portraits were displayed in several local exhibitions (in each city). Besides, the portraits of the young people were displayed in the final international campaign in April in Botryka Sweden. All the cities engaged and RPCI staff were present at this final event. A [booklet intitled "Be everything.](#)

“Belong” was designed during the event and it is now available on RPCI website. One [podcast episode](#) was recorded with interviews of young people that participated in the project.



Portraits for the media campaign



Final event in Sweden



Exhibition in Santa Maria da Feira



Exhibition in Vila Verde

### EPIC\_IDEA project

EPIC\_IDEA is a European-funded project, coordinated by ICEI in partnership with RPCI, RECI, and UNITED (Hungary). Several cities from Portugal are engaged in this project: Cascais, Vila Verde and Santa Maria da Feira. Additionally, Clube intercultural Europeu is also a non-financial partner. The project aims to foster youth participation and engagement for the future of EU.

During this period the Grant Agreement was set up, and the Kick off meeting in Fuenlabrada was held, engaging not only city officers from these cities but young people and youth workers as well. Meetings with the local consortium were also held, to prepare the activities to occur at the national level. Other online meetings with the partners happened, to discuss the joint communication strategy, prepare the upcoming assessment and implement an online training on Futures Thinking and Ant-Rumours.



Kick-off meeting, November Fuenlabrada

## Communication

During this quarter, around 20 posts (among them 4 original articles) were written and promoted, such as:

- One original article on World Refugee Day: <https://cidadesinterculturais.pt/2024/06/20/hoje-e-o-dia-internacional-da-pessoa-em-situacao-de-refugio/>
- One original article about EU Diversity Month: <https://cidadesinterculturais.pt/2024/06/06/celebrar-maio-o-mes-europeu-da-diversidade/>
- One original article about the April Portuguese Revolution: <https://cidadesinterculturais.pt/2024/04/24/25-de-abril-a-revolucao-que-mudou-portugal/>
- One original article about Hate Speech and Freedom of Speech: <https://cidadesinterculturais.pt/2024/07/31/o-discurso-de-odio-nao-encontra-protECAo-na-liberdade-de-expressao-o-papel-das-cidades-no-combate-ao-discurso-de-odio/>
- Several articles to promote the exhibitions (awareness raising activities) organised with youngsters as part of the NetIDEA project: <https://cidadesinterculturais.pt/2024/03/28/jovens-reforcam-luta-pela-igualdade-e-inclusao-intercultural/>
- 1 article about the Barcelos meeting: <https://cidadesinterculturais.pt/2024/02/14/cidades-rpci-reunidas-em-barcelos-para-reuniao-anual/>
- One news about the DiverCities event in Strasbourg: <https://cidadesinterculturais.pt/2024/06/17/partilha-de-praticas-a-nivel-internacional-divercities-em-estrasburgo/>
- One news to advertise the inauguration of the garden on the 15th June (DiverCities): <https://cidadesinterculturais.pt/2024/06/14/divercities-inauguracao-do-jardim-da-paz-na-apelacao-loures/>
- One news to advertise the final seminar of DiverCities in Loures: <https://cidadesinterculturais.pt/2024/05/27/divercities-evento-final-em-loures-no-dia-19-de-junho/>
- One news to advertise the NET IDEA podcast episode: <https://cidadesinterculturais.pt/2024/05/10/novo-episodio-de-podcast-juventude-interculturalidade-e-inclusao/>
- One news about the final event of NET IDEA in Sweden: <https://cidadesinterculturais.pt/2024/04/23/mais-de-130-ativistas-de-toda-a-europa-juntam-se-em-acao-coletiva-de-arte-publica-para-promover-a-inclusao-e-a-interculturalidade/>

- One article for the Communication Campaign of NET IDEA:  
<https://cidadesinterculturais.pt/2024/04/13/be-everything-belong-celebra-o-projeto-net-idea-que-juntou-16-cidades-europeias-em-nome-da-interculturalidade-e-contra-todas-as-formas-de-odio-e-discriminacao/>
- One article about the local exhibitions for the PhotoVoice of NET IDEA in Vila Verde:  
<https://cidadesinterculturais.pt/2024/04/13/inauguracao-da-exposicao-o-poder-atraves-das-fotos-na-escola-basica-e-secundaria-da-arrafana/>
- One news to advertise the upcoming Webinar “The Anti-Racist School” (Intercultural Schools):  
<https://cidadesinterculturais.pt/2024/09/29/inscricoes-abertas-para-o-1-webinar-intercultural-schools-no-proximo-dia-9-de-outubro-escola-anti-racista/>
- One news about the workshop in Barcelos (Intercultural Schools):  
<https://cidadesinterculturais.pt/2024/10/11/alunos-de-barcelos-participam-no-workshop-anti-racista-do-projeto-intercultural-schools/>
- One news about World Language Day <https://cidadesinterculturais.pt/2024/10/07/lisboa-entre-as-cidades-com-praticas-inspiradoras-na-promocao-do-multilinguismo-dia-europeu-das-linguas-13-outubro/>

A new page was created on RPCI website to describe the projects developed and their results: <https://cidadesinterculturais.pt/projetos/> and EPIC\_IDEA was added to it.

Regarding social media, RPCI maintained the existing Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram pages with regular posts. Below is a summary of the main activities and reach of each channel, for the relevant period (2024):

- **Instagram**  
Reach: 947  
Visits: 273  
Publications: 31  
Followers: 642
- **Facebook**  
Reach (average): 3.300  
Visits: 356  
Publications: 93  
Followers: 738
- **LinkedIn**  
Page Visits: 160  
Followers: 574, most from Great Lisbon and Porto regions  
Average impressions: 2,426  
Reach: 1.408  
Total Posts: 30
- **Website “Cidades Interculturais”**  
Views (total): 7.200  
Views (average): 6.960  
Visitors (average): 3.400  
Subscribers: 14  
Articles/ posts: 23 posts (4 original)
- **Podcast Channel “Portugal Plural”**  
New episodes: 5  
Total plays all 2024 episodes: 26  
Followers: 43  
Total reproductions: 212 (mostly women from Portugal and Brazil)
- **YOUTUBE @redeportuguesadecidadesint2259**

All time: 23 subscribers | 12 videos | 632 views

1 new video - NET IDEA (23 views)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6eNnXyEXRzc&t=4s>

## Other activities

RPCI coordinator prepared a study visit from 6 Finnish cities to Portugal, to the cities of Loures, Lisboa and Cascais, that was held on the 10th and 11th April, with the presence of 19 people from the CoE, 6 Finnish cities and 3 people from the Finnish Government.



Visit by Finnish cities - Cascais

On the 12th September, the RPCI coordinator participated with a presentation of the Portuguese Network to Cyprus organisations followed by a Q&A. The same was done with a set of Finish CSOs.

A partnership was established with REEI - network of schools for Intercultural Education.

A presentation was held for students of the Social Economy Masters of the Polytechnical University of Porto. A partnership was established with this public University, so that RPCI will be part of the 1st [Postgraduate course on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion with the Polytechnic University of Porto](#), Porto Business Academy that started in November. The cities that are sponsoring RPCI have a right to a 10% discount on this course.

A joint proposal with Loures for the Migrant Integration Pan was submitted in September, as well as another proposal for an ERASMUS project.

Vila Verde Municipality asked RPCI to become partners of a project to develop participatory approaches with the migrant population, and a proposal was prepared for that purpose.

Finally, RPCI applied as consultants on Anti-Racism and “Artificial Intelligence in upholding non-discrimination and equality, including gender equality, in particular in the public administration” with the DGII- Anti-Discrimination Department of the Council of Europe, and both applications were accepted.

## Next steps

In December 20<sup>th</sup>, RPCI will gather all cities to present results and gather feedback related to 2024, as well as to set priorities for 2025, as usual. During the next year RPCI will present a new proposal to ICC for the annual joint project. This proposal will be presented at a face-to-face meeting in February, to be held in Oeiras.





Regarding “EPIC\_IDEA”, an assessment with youth and youth workers will be implemented, and the next activities will continue to be prepared, such as a Youth Workers Summit in March, to be held in Santa Maria da Feira.

Regarding **Communication**, RPCI will continue publishing news and original articles by its experts, 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 other RPCI activities, such as the webinars, workshops in schools and podcasts, will also be a priority for next year.

RPCI is part of the consortium of another EU-funded project called “STAND” that will start in January 2025.