

Quarterly Report

Portuguese Network of Intercultural Cities

January – April 2023

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, Lisboa, 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.

Network coordination

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

As part of the coordination activities, welcoming messages were sent to the new cities, and information e-mails were sent to all cities requesting more information on how to join the Network. 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, events and seminars, and others.

Practices were gathered and two practices from Vila Verde were written and sent to the ICC programme for publication.

RPCI **advertised all the ICC initiatives and news**, as well as the AER Anti-discrimination webinar.

Activities

RPCI coordination led the drafting of all applications for funding submitted. Besides, oversaw and had an active role in all the activities developed within the Network and the RPCI cooperative, such as:

Intercultural Ecosystems project

This project was built collaboratively, arising from the brainstorming meeting held in 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 Lisboa. The consortium built an online survey that is now being 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.

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.

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 is finishing the test of 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.

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 was prepared and is now being implemented with Loures staff and partners. The first action led by RPCI will be a training for Loures staff on Participatory Methodologies on the 2nd of May.

Communication

During this quarter, two new original articles were published, one for [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), and a second one to celebrate [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 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](#).

One article to celebrate the [birthday of RPCI and RPCI cooperative was also published](#), highlighting RPCI's last projects and products, another to [advertise RPCI's participation in an independent Radio Show about Inclusion](#), and the first publication of the month to inform about our last [Podcast interview with Ana Mansoa](#) about migrant employment initiatives.

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.

- **Facebook**
Reach (average): 901
Visits: 243
New likes: 10
Publications: 25
- **Instagram**
Reach: 403
Visits: 176
Stories: 68
Publications: 19
New followers: 98
- **LinkedIn**
Page Visits: 22
New Followers: 28
Average impressions: 545
Total Posts: 19
- **Website “Cidades Interculturais”**
Views: 882 (mostly from Portugal and Brazil)
Articles/ posts: 6, including 2 original articles
- **Podcast Channel “Portugal Plural”**
Episodes: 7
Average play per episode: 6
Followers: 25
Total reproductions: 97 (mostly women from Portugal, Brazil and France)

Other activities

RPCI participated in a networking event held in Porto, organized by the [EFEM project](#) (financed by the EU and targeting migrant women entrepreneurship) and joint activities are being prepared. RPCI also advertised the project and contributed to the practice-sharing guide with its latest projects and initiatives.

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

The RPCI cooperative held its mandatory annual assembly meeting to discuss and approve the activity report and accounts for 2022, which was later [published on the RPCI website](#).

Next steps

During the next quarter the first learning activities of the “**Intercultural Ecosystems**” project will start. The first action will be a practice sharing meeting with all RPCI cities focusing on training activities (9th May). The first and second webinars for the project will also be held during this period, on the 30th of May and 27th of June. Two Podcast episodes will also be recorded and published during this period.

One meeting will be held with an introduction to RPCI and the INDEX for new cities and others wishing to join on the 24th or 25th May between 10 am and 11h30 am (tbc).

Regarding “**NET-IDEA**”, the awareness raising activities will be evaluated with the partner cities, consultants, and young people, and the follow up actions for the wider population will be prepared and implemented. A national community of practice will start with the participants of the trainings to continue to foster practice sharing and further learning and the preparations for the Youth Summit in October will start. A report of the training testing will be produced by RPCI and submitted as a deliverable to the E.U.

For “**DiverCities**”, the training for Loures staff on Participatory Methodologies will be held on the 2nd of May, and meetings will follow up with the participants for the implementation of participatory

activities. It is expected that Loures can evaluate the previous Migrant Integration Plan using a participatory approach, as well as prepare the Plan for 2024 in the same way. A practice-sharing event for RPCI cities will be promoted on the same subject.

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.