



# More than migrants

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School Competition  
International Migrants Day 2021  
Intercultural Cities  
Council of Europe



# Welcome to join the school competition to celebrate International Migrants Day!

As increasing numbers of persons move across countries today, new stories and layers are woven into the social fabric of the cities we live in. This may be your case, the case of your family members, your students and their schoolmates, or their parents.

Within the communication campaign “*More than migrants*” in celebration of **International Migrants Day** on 18 December 2021, the **Council of Europe** and **Intercultural Cities programme (ICC)** invite schools to engage in a competition to break down the stereotypes that reduce migrants and their identities to labels.

The school competition aims to trigger a collective reflection on the contribution each of us can make to society when we are given the opportunity to be ourselves, not just a stereotype.

**What?** Creation of a poem or essay by the class, with - if you wish - illustrations produced to reflect on the topic of identity, migration, stereotypes and diversity as a value.

**For whom?** All school classes with students aged 11-18 years. An additional category for 5–10-year-olds is also available. The class shall submit one file representing the work of the class. Several classes in the same school may submit files.

**Deadline:** 19 November 2021.

**Prize:** The winning submissions will be part of a Council of Europe publication which also will include the portraits and statements of interculturally committed Mayors/elected officials, and personal stories from migrants living in the Intercultural Cities. The publication will be launched worldwide through the Intercultural Cities Network in December 2021, together with the other campaign materials.





# Focus of the competition

Classes are invited to produce a poem or essay with - if you wish - illustrations focusing on the topic of migration, identity, stereotypes and the benefits of us all being different in equality under the slogan “More than migrants”.

You may wish to use the following input and questions to guide the work:

Have you ever faced stereotypes? We use stereotypes in our everyday to handle the information we see and receive. These models help us process data faster but can be harmful when placing an individual in a box. Stereotypes or labels can limit how we see that person and reduce their ability to act to achieve all their hopes and dreams. We should therefore be careful not to view the world and the persons around us through a stereotyped lens and rather find out who they are and who they want to be.

- What does the word “migrant” mean?
- Who are you in your class? How are you all similar and how are you different? Do you speak different languages, come from different places, like different foods or have different hobbies?
- How does our diversity impact our everyday in the class and outside the classroom?
- What is the impact of stereotypes on people’s identities and personal development?
- What can be done to break down stereotypes and ensure dignity and equality for all?

Looking for terminology and definitions? See the Intercultural Cities glossary [here](#).

Submissions can be submitted in the local language of the class. For submissions in other languages than English and French, participating schools are asked to submit any text in a separate word file allowing for translation of the text into to official languages of the Council of Europe.

# Technical information

## For whom?

All school classes with students aged 11-18 years. An additional category for 5–10-year-olds is also available. The class shall submit one file representing the work of the whole class. Several classes in the same school may submit files.

## Prize

The winning submissions will be compiled in a Council of Europe publication launched worldwide in December 2021 on the webpage and social media of the Intercultural Cities programme.

## Format

Joint poem/essay and illustrations created by the class in format of maximum the size of an A3 paper produced by hand or in electronic format. Students are asked to be creative. The submissions must be submitted electronically. Handmade submissions can be submitted through a high-quality image of the work.

## Where to send the submissions?

Please send your submissions electronically to [intercultural.cities@coe.int](mailto:intercultural.cities@coe.int) stating "School competition for International Migrants Day" and the name of your school in the title of the email.

In the email, please clearly state the name of your school, city and country as well as which class is submitting the file and the name of the teacher responsible. You may wish to add a group picture of the class!

**Deadline: 19 November 2021**

## Questions?

If you as a teacher have any questions, please contact us in English or French through this [form](#).

**Legal note:** We remind you that the representative of the class guarantees that use by the Council of Europe of the material submitted to the competition will not infringe the rights of third parties.

The participation of the class in the competition automatically gives authorisation to the Council of Europe to use, reproduce, represent, publish, adapt, translate and distribute – or to have used, reproduced, represented, published, adapted, translated and distributed - in any country, in any language, in any form and on any kind of support, including on the Internet, the material submitted by the class, including pictures, photos and other images, for any (non-profit) purpose falling within its activities.

# Looking for ideas on how to discuss the topic with your students?

The [Intercultural Cities programme](#) and the [Council of Europe](#) produce many materials for different audiences, including [teachers](#) and [students](#), and you can find the full set of materials on our webpage. You may find the following materials of particular use:

- **[Intercultural Citizenship Test](#)**. The aim of the Intercultural Citizenship Test is to increase knowledge and awareness on human rights, intercultural competence, perceptions of diversity as an advantage, as well as the willingness to act in an intercultural way. It is intended to be an educational tool – raising awareness of the need to define (urban) citizenship in a pluralistic and inclusive way. On the dedicated page of the [Intercultural Citizenship Test](#) you can find the link to both the [online](#) and [printable](#) versions of the test together with the [facilitator guide](#) which offers discussion topics around the questions. The test is available in eight languages.
- **[Antirumours methodology](#)**. Successful integration strategies require changes in the mindset, attitudes and behaviour of both migrants and receiving communities. The “Anti-rumour methodology” has been developed to counter diversity-related prejudices and rumours that hamper positive interaction and lay the foundations of discriminatory attitudes. You may find the manual [An Antirumours' Guide for the Educational Field](#) especially useful as well as the [Toolkit for antirumours dialogue](#) and the [10 criteria for the creation of effective alternative narratives on diversity](#).
- The **[Council of Europe Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture \(RFCDC\)](#)** is a set of materials that can be used by education systems to equip young persons with the competences that are needed to take action to defend and promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law, to participate effectively in a culture of democracy, and to live peacefully together with others in culturally diverse societies. It is intended for use by education policy makers and by education practitioners in all sectors of education systems. The RFCDC provides a systematic approach to designing the teaching, learning and assessment of competences for democratic culture, and introducing them into education systems in ways that are coherent, comprehensive and transparent. Find the tools for download in your language [here](#).

# Reflection sheet for students

What defines you? It is not an easy question to answer, and no two persons will give the same response - even you yourself may find the answer differs depending on the situation, location or topic discussed. This is natural, as we all identify with many things – places, groups, causes, and who we are is never just one thing. We are all more than just a stereotype.

The things we do, feel, believe, and find important all help shape us and form our identities at any a given time and depending on our life experiences, and this diversity is what enriches our intercultural cities, brings new ideas, point of views and new interactions to our everyday.

Through this competition for the celebrations of International Migrants Day on 18 December 2021, we invite you - together with your teacher and class - to write a poem or essay and, if you wish, also create illustrations on the same topic. The slogan for the competition is “More than migrants” to show that no person is just one thing. You can discuss the following questions:

- What does the word “migrant” mean?
- Who are you in your class? How are you all similar and how are you different? Do you speak different languages, come from different places, like different foods or have different hobbies?
- How does our diversity impact our everyday in the class and outside the classroom?
- What is the impact of stereotypes on people’s identity and personal development?
- What can be done to break down stereotypes and ensure dignity and equality for all?

If you are among the winners, your work will be featured by the Council of Europe in the publication that will be released on the International Migrants Day. Have fun!

## What is the Council of Europe and the Intercultural Cities programme?

The Intercultural Cities programme (ICC) is a Council of Europe capacity-building programme supporting local authorities to design and implement inclusive integration policies. The programme proposes analytical and practical tools to help stakeholders develop institutional capacity ensuring the diversity in society is managed positively through equal enjoyment of rights and opportunities for all, embracing diversity as an asset for societal development, promoting meaningful intercultural interaction, and encouraging participation throughout the public space.

Find out more [here](#).

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

