

Sustainable cities: how to make them more inclusive? - An eco-intercultural transition

Webinar on including migrants
and diversity in circular, green and
inclusive economic models

16 September 2021

Agenda



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Why an eco-intercultural transition?

“People” and the “society” have been gaining a central role in the scope of sustainable development until the latter became the foundation for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In its preamble, the Agenda 2030 defines itself as a “plan of action for people, planet and prosperity”, bridging the economic, social and environmental agenda around the pledge to leave no one behind. However, while there is extensive guidance, scientific knowledge, legally binding instruments, and relatively big funding for speeding up programmes, initiatives and actions aimed at biodiversity conservation, ecosystems restoration, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and fostering the ecological transition to more sustainable models both nationally and locally, there is a gap in dealing with sustainability in a way which is really inclusive.

Why should cities work on inclusive sustainability?

In terms of opportunities for city departments, the services working on environmental issues and greening policies have much in common with those working on intercultural policies. Both are striving to mainstream their principles into holistic policies, strategies, programmes, and projects that will potentially change habits, power relations, and structures within the society. Both require adaptation to a changed world and promote the restructuring of society based on a fairer share of resources and opportunities. There are also examples of potential reciprocal benefits that the two domains can bring to each other. For instance, the development of public transports and cycling Infrastructure which is thriving in many European cities because it is proved to drastically decrease CO2 emissions, can reduce segregation and promote social inclusion if planned in a way to connect segregated neighbourhoods to the rest of the city, thus increasing the opportunities for intercultural interaction.

Why a focus on circular economy for migrant inclusion?

Despite the proven positive economic impact of diversity on society and business, inclusion is happening at a very slow pace. The negative focus on migration continues to overshadow the opportunities migrants bring to host societies. On average, migrants are more exposed to exploitation, discrimination and have less resilience to economic shocks caused by events such as natural disasters (for example flooding, fires, drought) as well pandemics like Covid-19.

The circular economy is a sustainable economic model, developed as an alternative to the linear economy. It is a model where value is generated through continuous circulation of resources with high utilisation and value retention. In a circular economy, the planetary boundaries for economic activity are taken into account and solutions are formulated from a systems and human-centric design perspective.

However, experience shows that a green and circular economy is not necessarily inclusive by design. To achieve inclusion, a green transition should incorporate the values of interculturalism. As circular economy promotes local and distributed regenerative products, it is a model that offers unique social opportunities to cities if implemented in the right way.

The challenges of modern society concentrate in cities but cities are also centres for change. Cities can catalyse wider system transformation and in recent years we have also experienced that city governments have become bolder in leading such change.

Working languages

English and French

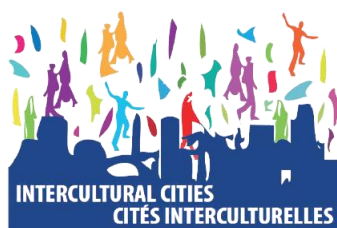
Platform

Zoom



Agenda – 16 September 2021

- 15h00 **Opening of the webinar and welcoming remarks**
Ivana d'Alessandro, Head of Unit, Intercultural Cities, Council of Europe
- 15h10 **Round Table of Mayors**
Florian Janik, Mayor of Erlangen
Jean-Luc Romero-Michel, deputy mayor of Paris in charge of human rights, integration and the fight against discrimination, Paris
Katrine Berg Nødtvedt, Deputy Mayor for Culture, Diversity and Equality, Bergen
Ms Floriane VARIERAS, Deputy Mayor in charge of the inclusive city: solidarity, support for vulnerable people, fight against discrimination, Strasbourg
Véronique Lamontagne, Planning Manager, Cabinet of the General Director for Strategic Planning, Ville de Montréal
- Commented by Professor Amir Sharif, Dean of the Faculty of Management, Law and Social Sciences and Professor of Circular Economy, University of Bradford*
- 16h20 **Coffee break**
- 16h30 **From theory to practice – policy guidelines and experiences from member cities**
Presentation of the ICC Policy brief - Maja Johannessen, Manager, Nordic Sustainability
- Case study: how to encompass interculturalism into circular economy principles and vice-versa - Gemma Pinyol-Jiménez, ICC Expert*
- 17h30 **Closing**



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Speakers' biography



Florian Janik is the Mayor of **Erlangen** since 2014. He studied social sciences at the Friedrich Alexander University of Erlangen-Nuremberg from 2000 to 2005. In February 2010, he received his doctorate (Dr. rer. pol.). From 2005 to 2014, he worked as a research assistant at the Institute for Labour Market and Employment Research of the Federal Employment Agency. In 2002, Janik was elected to the Erlangen city council for the first time and took over the chairmanship of the SPD parliamentary group in 2008. Since 2014, Janik has held the office of Lord Mayor of the City of Erlangen, and since 2017 he has also been the Central Franconia District Chair of the Bavarian Association of Cities.



Jean-Luc Romero-Michel is a French politician and community activist. He is deputy mayor of **Paris** in charge of human rights, integration and the fight against discrimination. In 2000 he became the first French politician to be forced to an outing. He was also the first to reveal his HIV-positive status in May 2002 in a book "Virus de Vie" after having evoked his homosexuality in "On m'a volé ma vérité". Jean-Luc Romero-Michel has many political and associative commitments, all of which are focused on a single goal: human beings. He has many responsibilities in the fight against AIDS, he is also very involved in the fight for the legalisation of euthanasia in France and holds national and international responsibilities.



Katrine Berg Nødtvedt is Deputy Mayor of Culture, Diversity and Equality, at the City of **Bergen**, Norway, and represents the Green Party. Her responsibilities as Deputy Mayor include the municipal services towards inclusion of refugees, and the City's overall policies of inclusion and anti-discrimination. Katrine is a psychologist and PhD Research Scholar at the Department of Strategy and Management at the Norwegian School of Economics. She is specialised in environmental and pro-social behavior, and her PhD research explores how consumers respond to non-traditional models of consumption within the sharing economy.



Floriane VARIERAS is Deputy Mayor in charge of the inclusive city, **Strasbourg**, since July 2020. Behind the name "inclusive city", solidarity, support for vulnerable people and the fight against discrimination are brought together. This concept of an inclusive and hospitable city is at the heart of Floriane's policy: to ensure that everyone has a place in the city, regardless of their life path, place of residence, gender, ethnic origin, disability status, age, etc.



Véronique Lamontagne is a lawyer and the Director of the City of **Montreal's** International Relations Office. She has expertise in municipal diplomacy, international development and strategic planning with a specialisation in migration and human rights. Until recently, Véronique held the position of Senior Manager - Strategic Planning at the General Directorate where she delivered the first strategic plan of the City of Montréal "Montreal 2030". She has over twenty years of experience in international development, during which she has carried out mandates in more than 15 countries for the Canadian government, the United Nations, La Francophonie and INGOs. Urban issues, migration and inclusion are at the heart of her professional commitment.

Speakers' biography



Amir M. Sharif is Dean of the Faculty of Management, Law and Social Sciences and Professor of Circular Economy, University of Bradford . A former industry practitioner, he has held numerous academic leadership roles. Amir teaches and carries out research in food security, circular economy and supply chain management (including advising numerous international research funding councils across the EU, China, Qatar and the UK). He is a board member of the Higher Education Network (Ellen MacArthur Foundation), Future Leaders Fellowships (UKRI), Climate Change Committee (West Yorkshire and Harrogate HCP) and Stronger Communities Partnership Board (Bradford Metropolitan District Council).



Maja Johannessen is an interdisciplinary generalist with a background in circular economy and systems thinking. She has worked at the Ellen MacArthur Foundation for over four years, where she amongst other responsibilities led policy insights development and coordinated policy research activities, which also included leading the analysis of the 'Circular Economy in Cities' project. Currently she is a manager at Nordic Sustainability, a Danish sustainability strategy consultancy, where she supports corporates, governments and NGO in driving sustainable development through an evidence-based and strategic approach.



Gemma Pinyol-Jiménez is coordinator of the RECI-Spanish Network of Intercultural Cities, ICC expert, and associate researcher at GRITIM-Pompeu Fabra University. She has further acted as expert for the Committee of the Regions and the Economic and Social Committee. Her main areas of interest are the EU migration and asylum instruments, integration and inclusion policies and multilevel governance of migration and integration. She has been involved in several European projects such as the C4i-Communication for Integration project (CoE/EU), the European Task Force on Irregular Migration and the SSH-FP7 TEMPER. Currently, she participates in the AwArtMali project and the REGIN project.



Ivana d'Alessandro is a human rights lawyer specialised on migrants and refugees' rights. She joined the Council of Europe in 2004, and served in the Migration Division, the Roma and Travellers Division, the Bern Convention, and the Anti-Discrimination Department. She is currently the Head of the Intercultural Cities Unit and the Secretary of the Working Group on Intercultural Integration, the first CoE multilevel specialist body in the field of migrant integration. She will moderate this webinar.