



DRAFT PROGRAMME

Background:

The Conference is part of a series of policy events underpinning the EURO CITIES [Integrating Cities Charter](#) process which started in 2010. EURO CITIES actively engages with the European Commission in establishing a strong policy dialogue to enable the city level, key for developing integration strategies for migrants, to feed into the European level. The Integrating Cities Conference series serve as a platform for this dialogue where European, national and local-level experts and decision-makers in policy areas that are crucial for the integration of migrants in European cities can meet. The importance of involving cities in the implementation of the European agenda for integration cannot be overstated and the conferences are an excellent opportunity to highlight this fact.

Objectives:

The Conference aims to enable city authorities to exchange experiences and discuss the most efficient practices and strategies for integrating migrants at local level. Cities will share their best practices in integrating third-country nationals and discuss local and European-level perspectives for the future of integration. The event will offer various opportunities for dialogue between local politicians and senior officials from Europe's major cities, representatives from EU institutions, international and non-governmental organisations, academics, and migrant communities. This year's conference is organised in the framework of the project "CITIES GROW - Cities integrating refugees and migrants through work", co-funded by the European Commission's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).

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Wednesday, 7 November 2018

Venue: Fabbrica del Vapore, Via Giulio Cesare Procaccini 4, 20154 Milan

8.30 - 9.00 Registration
Artistic exhibition sponsored by the European Commission Joint Research Centre

9.00 - 9.50 **Opening & Welcome speeches**
- Giuseppe Sala, Mayor of Milan
- Anna Lisa Boni, Secretary General, EUROCITIES

Keynote speech by European Commission representative (Name TBC)

Integrating Cities Charter Signing Ceremony

9.50 - 10.10 **Inspiring Data on Migration - Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography of the European Commission Joint Research Centre**
Charlina Vitcheva, Deputy Director General of the Joint Research Centre

10.10 - 10.30 **Global Compact for Migration - the cities' vision**
Colleen Thouez, Open Society Foundations - International Migration Initiative

10.30 - 12.30 **Parallel workshops - session I**
(20min coffee break inside workshop rooms)

Workshops will discuss different key local integration challenges and possible solutions. The format will be interactive: participants are invited to present their own experiences and share know-how and practical examples. Discussion will be facilitated by an expert and there will be an opening presentation by a participating city or organisation, kick-starting the debate. The key messages from each workshop will be put together by a workshop rapporteur and will feed into the morning panel debate on day 2 of the conference.

Workshop 1 Labour market integration at local level: partnerships, strategies and practices for effective integration

Workshop 2 Minors of migrant background in cities: challenges and good practices for integration.

Workshop 3 Solidarity Cities initiative

Workshop 4 The challenge of family reunification

12.30 - 13.30 Lunch Break

13.30 - 14.30 **Projects & best practices corner**

During this session, participants will have the opportunity to learn about innovative initiatives, city practices and projects aimed at fostering

integration of migrants. There will be five parallel presentations and the participants will be able to hear two of them in a world café style conversation in two rounds of 30mins.

- 14.30 - 16.30** **Parallel workshops - session II**
(20min coffee break inside workshop rooms)
- Workshop 5** Funding & partnerships for integration in cities: innovative schemes and better access to EU funds
- Workshop 6** Role of volunteers and civil society organisations for integration in cities - public sector/civil society partnership
- Workshop 7** Gender and migration - integration of women migrants
- Workshop 8** Undocumented migrants: possible solutions to ensure access to services

17.00 - 18.00 Networking & cocktail hour

19.00 **Guided Tour of the permanent collection of the MUDEC Museum & Dinner Reception hosted by City of Milan**

Venue: MUDEC MUSEUM, 56 Via Tortona, 20144 Milan

Thursday, 8 November 2018

Venue: Fabbrica del Vapore, 4 Via Giulio Cesare Procaccini, 20154 Milan

8.30 Registration

9.00 - 11.00 **Panel debate - Key challenges and possible solutions for integration at local level**

Moderator: **Mark Bendeich**, Bureau Chief, Southern Europe at Thomson Reuters

Short presentation of the workshops' main conclusions followed by a debate.

- **Giuseppe Mattina**, Palermo Deputy Mayor for Social Affairs
- **Andreas Germershausen**, Berlin Senate Commissioner for Integration and Migration
- **Bert Wijnbenga**, Rotterdam Deputy Mayor for Integration (TBC)
- **Michele Levoy**, Director, PICUM
- **Namaring Abkr**, European Migrant Advisory Board

11.00 - 11.30 Coffee Break

11.30 - 13.30 Panel debate - European and local level perspectives on the future of integration

Moderator: **Mark Bendeich**, Bureau Chief, Southern Europe at Thomson Reuters

Presentation of findings from the EURO CITIES Integrating Cities Charter monitoring report

- **Eleftherios Papagiannakis**, Deputy Mayor of Athens

Panel reaction, followed by discussion

- Representative of the City of Milan (Name TBC)
- **Thomas Fabian**, Leipzig Deputy Mayor for Social Affairs
- **Anna Terron**, Special Adviser to Commissioner Malmstrom
- **Laura Corrado**, Head of Unit Legal Migration and Integration, DG HOME
- **Raquel Cortes-Herrera**, Deputy Head of Unit Disability & inclusion, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
- **UNHCR** representative (Name TBC)
- **IOM** representative (Name TBC)

13.30 - 14.30 Lunch Break

14.30 - 17.30 Parallel site visits hosted by the City of Milan

Site visits will offer participants an opportunity to experience policies and projects in the city of Milan related to the integration of migrants. Site visits will run in parallel and the participants will be able to attend one visit of their choice.

Site visit 1

Reception centres for asylum-seekers and refugees

The visit will present the Milanese reception system through two different kinds of centres that belong to the Italian national model of CAS-Centres for Extraordinary Reception (first level of reception of asylum seekers) and SPRAR-Protection System for Asylum Seekers and Refugees (second level of reception for refugees, more focussed on inclusion). We will visit:

Casa Chiaravalle is the symbol of the fight against mafia in Milan. It represents the biggest real estate confiscated from mafia in Lombardy region. In May 2018 it was inaugurated to host the project called “Insieme Casa Chiaravalle” (Together Casa Chiaravalle). Thanks to this project the building has been converted in a shelter mainly for Italian and foreign women, especially victims of violence, abuse, torture and trafficking. Their families and their children are hosted in the same space. In Casa Chiaravalle women are helped to start a new life. Casa Chiaravalle also hosts a section that works as a reception centre for asylum seekers (CAS), while they are waiting for the outcome of their asylum application.

Cascina Monlué is an old school located in a park at the outskirts of Milan, now managed by a not-for-profit organisation following a public call for tenders issued by the City of Milan. The building has been turned into a centre that hosts refugees within the national Protection System for Asylum Seekers and Refugees (SPRAR) run by the Municipality of Milan and funded and coordinated by the Italian Ministry of Interior.

Delegates will meet the officers of the Municipality in charge of the CAS and SPRAR centres for adults, as well as the coordinator and professionals working in Casa Chiaravalle and Cascina Monlué.

Site visit 2**Integration projects in schools - 1**

Visit of the Muzio primary School where the association of parents is piloting the peer-parent tutoring program: it is a help desk, created thanks to the financial support of the US Consulate General in Milan. Its aim is to reach children of migrant background by helping their parents with school bureaucracy and strengthen relationships between families, the school and the community. The underlying idea is that old time immigrant families are knowledgeable both about their own culture's values, beliefs, needs and practices and about the host country systems that they have learned to navigate. They can more effectively help newcomers to understand these systems because of their own experience.

Participants will have the chance to meet with the teacher who started the project, Ms. Laura Sidoti, the US Consulate General in Milan, which funds the projects, and some mothers who volunteer in the help desk. Moreover, the Director of the Education Department will explain the work the Municipality of Milan is doing to fight the increasing "white flight" phenomenon.

Site visit 3**Integration projects in schools - 2**

Visit of the "Home of the Sun" primary school, a very special school located in a beautiful park in a neighbourhood very densely populated by foreign citizens.

Participants will have the chance to meet with the principal and some teachers of the school specialised in intercultural teaching, and the association of parents of children attending the school, who will illustrate the various activities (cultivation of the garden, animals, open air sports, intercultural readings).

Moreover, the Director of the Education Department will explain the work the Municipality of Milan is doing to fight the increasing 'white flight' phenomenon.

Site visit 4**Reserved for the WORKING GROUP MIGRATION members**

Labour integration: Visit of the Centre for Job Orientation and Placement (CELAV) of the City of Milan, Social Emergencies, Rights and Inclusion Department

The goal of CELAV is to promote the professional and socio-economic integration of people, above all people in need of greater support. There are various specialised teams in CELAV - the centre's philosophy is to work on the complexity and specificity of the different needs avoiding a standardised vision of the intervention. One of the teams focuses on refugees and asylum seekers.

During the visit the team working for refugees' labour integration will present the services offered at the centre, information about its users and the results achieved thus far. Some of the Centre's younger clients will tell their stories.

"Bella Milano" (beautiful Milan) initiative will also be presented. Through this initiative asylum seekers living in the reception centres volunteer together with

Milanese citizens in taking care of public spaces in the city (cleaning of green spaces, emptying the bins, etc). These vocational activities aim to foster the culture of integration and allow the refugees to experience the life outside the centres, practice their Italian language and establish a positive relationship with the neighbourhood they live in.

The field visit will end with a "Milanese aperitivo" (drink & some food) at SPONTINI, one of the partner companies of CELAV, which employs refugees and asylum seekers. The manager and some refugees will share their story and the delegates will have the possibility to taste the delicious Spontini pizza, made in Milan since 1953.