



## Working Group Migration & Integration

Brussels | 1-2 October 2012

### Minutes

**Venue:** EUROCITIES office, Luxembourg room, 1st floor, 1 Square de Meeûs, Brussels

**Chair:** Ramon Sanahuja i Vélez, Barcelona; **Vice-Chair:** Anu Riila, Helsinki

#### **Participants:**

Patricia Peeters (Antwerp), Ramon Sanahuja (Barcelona - Chair), Jana Sancova (Brno), Stanislav Jaburek (Brno), Janete Terrazas Macedo (CNCE Nantes), Thom Lissouere (CNCE - Nantes), Anja Van Den Durpel (Ghent), Marc Van Acker (Ghent), Anu Riila (Helsinki - Vice-Chair), Petra Hueck (ICMC), Rachel Westerby (ICMC), Anders Eriksson (Malmö), Regina Ober (Munich), Philippe Rigollier (Nantes), Sterenn de Lafargue (Nantes), Tone Skodvin (Oslo), Ilona Stalidzāne (Riga), Valērija Zirdziņa (Riga), Murat Altunbas (Rotterdam), Paul Hoop (Rotterdam), René Keijzer (Rotterdam), Eveline Kentie (Rotterdam), Marja Nyrhinen (Tampere), John Waalring (The Hague), Karin König (Vienna), Christof Meier (Zurich), Ana Feder, Silvia Ganzerla, Nathalie Guri, Ali Khan, Virag Martin, Denisa Naidin (EUROCITIES)

**Presentations and other meeting outputs** ([download here](#))

**Changes in support of the working group:** Ana Feder has replaced Dirk Gebhardt as secretariat support for the Working Group. A replacement for project coordinator of the ImpleMentoring project is being recruited

**Minutes from last WG Meeting in Amsterdam 7 March 2012 were approved**

#### **Integrating Cities:**

- The results of the evaluation survey responded by 63 out of 275 participants of Integrating Cities V were presented, a working document had been provided with more detailed comments.
- EUROCITIES and Tampere will use feedback and suggestions from said survey to inform planning of Integrating Cities VI in Tampere on 9-10 September 2013.
- A letter had been sent to Commissioner Malmström in September signed by Mayor of Barcelona and Mayor of Copenhagen in their respective roles as Chair of WG Migration & Integration and president of EUROCITIES. The letter consolidated the views expressed in the dialogue held with Commissioner and Director General Manservisi in the last year regarding some initial concerns and suggestions regarding the strategic partnership between cities, regions and the European Commission.
- EUROCITIES will try to set up a meeting with the Commissioner and some lead politicians in the coming year.
- The internal evaluation report for INTI-Cities and DIVE projects, highlighting the added value and impact for cities that undergo peer reviews. It provides a useful basis to build upon in further mutual learning projects at EUROCITIES.
- The Latvian version of the Integrating Cities Charter has been published with the aid of Riga city council. It is being disseminated by Riga to organisations and other cities in Latvia.

### **Integrating Cities Report:**

- The draft Integrating Cities Report, containing information on Charter implementation from 21 out of 27 signatories was presented.
- The method and format as well as dissemination of the report was discussed with the following terms agreed:
  - Executive summary to be included highlighting general trends
  - Key figures for report will include percentage of 'migrant' population in cities (with explanation on what each figure represents)
  - Quantitative data on indicators to be included in annex
  - Cities will be given ample time to respond and correct discrepancies in their information
  - Data collection (on indicators) to be considered part of an ongoing project to gather quantitative data on migrants from cities
  - Disclaimer to clarify that data is based on self-assessment and information provided by cities
  - Target audience of report to be: cities, EU institutions - explore possible link to European year of citizens
  - Interested non-signatory cities invited to participate in report by completing questionnaire and providing information
- Next steps:
  - EUROCITIES to develop second draft incorporating suggestions, resending completed questionnaires to cities where requested
  - Cities to comment and especially check indicators for their own cities
  - Report published early 2013
  - resend completed questionnaires to cities
  - Next edition of the report with updates to be developed after publication of first report.

### **Work Plan:**

- The 2012 Work Plan of the Working Group was reviewed with the following conclusions:
  - Outputs were duly completed and objectives met overall
  - WG has not achieved success in involving National Contact Points of Integration (NCPI)
- The 2013 Work Plan was discussed and the following suggestions have been incorporated in a draft programme:
  - ImpleMentoring project running from 2012-2014
  - Publication of Integrating Cities Charter (early 2013)
  - Integrating Cities VI, Tampere, 9-10 September 2013
  - Integrating Cities toolkits
  - Follow up meeting with Commissioner Malmstrom and politicians
  - Explore involvement in European Year of Citizens 2013 and contribution to citizenship report

- Further build cooperation with other city networks (CLIP, ICC, Open Cities, ECCAR, Cities of Migration...) - Ana to draft a paper on how to approach this cooperation, Murat from Rotterdam to help.

#### **Initiatives on EU framework on non-discrimination:**

- Relevant EU initiatives on the field of anti-discrimination were presented including:
  - The European Commission plans to assess the Anti-Discrimination Directives and publication of a report of network of socio-economic experts in anti-discrimination on multi-level governance on non-discrimination (to be made available at [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/experts/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/experts/index_en.htm))
  - A separate initiative led by the Fundamental Rights Agency that is publishing a toolkit on joined-up governance in 2013, EUROCITIES is contributing as member of advisory committee.

#### **Report from AMICALL final workshop**

- Anja van den Durpel from the city of Ghent presented her experience and impressions of the final workshop of the Attitudes to Migrants, Communication and Local Leadership (AMICALL) project.
- Anja presented in the conference Ghent's strive towards a comprehensive local anti-racism strategy within the context of a National and European Migration Policy
- The project findings and more information is available at <http://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/research/amicall>
- The discussion in this session focused on the experience of cities in campaigns as well as collection of information on how people feel in the city and the unintended consequences and risk such approaches can have.
- Related to this, Rotterdam mentioned their involvement in a new FP7 project on social media monitoring and decision support tools enabling sustainable integration policies and measures' (or 'UNITE-EUROPE') - which will look at the role of communication strategies in influencing media in cities.

#### **Update on new EUROCITIES migrant integration project, ImpleMentoring**

- ImpleMentoring is the new EUROCITIES project on migrant integration which will begin in 15 November, co-financed by European Integration Fund
- Participants offered the following input to the project:
  - IC toolkits published under MIXITIES - useful model to follow. Toolkits could better highlight the steps rather than examples
  - Importance to incorporate sharing of bad experiences
  - Importance of facilitator role to translate practice of one city into context of another - this will be a key factor for transferability
  - Idea for videos to illustrate the process of how the benchmarks are developed and what the key factors mean for cities
  - Managing expectations of mentor cities - offering examples of how things can be done differently
  - Managing expectations of support groups, suggestions included:
    - Having a clear mandate with explicit limitations

- Involving politicians
- Careful about involvement of right NGOs
- Critical of how group is selected - partners that are needed to implement
- Having a smaller number of partners involved

### Update Integrating Cities VI Conference, Tampere 9-10 September 2013

- Marja Nyrhinen from the city of Tampere gave an overview of planning of the next Integrating Cities conference.
- The conference will be held alongside the Metropolis International conference and links will be bridged among these two events. Marja shared the latest developments of the Metropolis conference planning. The main theme of the Metropolis conference will be *The New Mobility: Managing Growth, Security, and Social Justice*, working titles of plenaries included:
  - Growth, security, and social justice in restructuring welfare states
  - International competition for talent
  - Irregular migration and human smuggling: what are the solutions?
  - Managing migration for security, trade, and the movement of people.
  - Religion, integration, and social cohesion
  - Social justice for ethnic minorities
  - Immigration and Russia: a little told story
  - The role of transnational migrants in diplomacy
- It was suggested that a joint plenary focus on a positive discourse of migrant integration and address priorities for both Metropolis and Integrating Cities - a poll would be conducted to determine the most appropriate theme for a joint plenary.
- With regards to logistics, venues had been secured for both events. While Metropolis charges a fee for the running of the event, Integrating Cities is free of charge to participants, expenses are covered by the ImpleMentoring project and co-financing from Tampere.
- Some ideas from the WG members included:
  - linking workshops to ImpleMentoring themes
  - following format of past ICV of roundtable with politicians (open/closed door?)
  - idea for panel - city to city migration - how migration patterns are not between states but among cities/localized
  - suggested IC conference titles:
    - Global meets local: European cities for integration
    - Global meets local: Integrating Cities
    - Fostering integration in cities in a global Europe
- WG members were encouraged to send suggestions on potential speakers, themes of workshops, formats or any other suggestions relating to the development of the conference.

### Projects/Cooperation requests:

- Participants split up into parallel sessions to discuss and hear about requests for input on:
  - SHARE project on refugee resettlement
    - WG members are encouraged to take advantage of this project and involve their respective departments in various activities such as 'look and learn' visits funded under the project
  - Religion and Belief and multilingual communities
    - Interested cities will be sent more up-to-date information about LUCIDE project and activities on multiculturalism [www.urbanlanguages.eu](http://www.urbanlanguages.eu)
    - Religion of interest to some cities setting up programs or convening inter-faith communities - possible theme for future discussion among WG members
  - Irregular migration
    - This is a delicate matter for many cities. Barcelona will represent EUROCITIES at PICUM event on access to healthcare for undocumented migrants in Europe in Brussels on 12 December 2012. Cities that signalled interest will be contacted by Sarah Spencer for the research on motivations for cities to grant basic services.

### Participation of migrants in shaping integration policies for newcomers in Nantes

- Representatives from city of Nantes presented innovative projects used to provide a space for non-citizens to contribute and make their voice heard in city politics. Two projects were highlighted, that of **co Prod migrants** which provides quality welcoming services for these new residents of the city as well as the **elderly migrants project** which helps elderly migrants access services for the elderly in the city.
- In the discussion and questions it was highlighted that the issue of growing migrant elderly population is an issue for a number of cities who are looking at ways to adapt services to this segment of the population.

### EU policy update

- Eva Schultz from DG Home Affairs gave an update of developments on the European Commission's integration agenda. The main points included:
  - Working with cities and regions continues to be a priority area for the Commission
  - Strategic partnership is being formalised with Committee of the Regions, to be a bottom up process and avoid duplication of existing initiatives
  - An initial idea consisted of bringing together local and regional stakeholders on an annual basis to consult on EU developments on migrant integration
  - The shape or format of this dialogue is still to be decided. Proposals on the table include using existing instruments such as the European Integration Forum and European Website on Integration to facilitate exchange
  - The Commission is looking to identify pilot cities and regions to illustrate innovative practice in this field to promote across the EU

- Manolis Dardoufas from Committee of the Regions presented current developments with regards to the strategic partnership:
  - There is strong political support from the CoR for the strategic partnership. This idea was approved by the bureau at the beginning of September and there is a mandate for the Secretariat to begin negotiations with EC and associations of LRAs to bring this work forward.
  - The opinion of the CoR on the new agenda for integration (February 2012) called for cities and regions to come together to discuss the issue. The branding as 'network' is not set in stone and options are being discussed.
  - Basic preoccupation of the partnership is not to duplicate existing networks but add to what is happening on the ground
  - A mapping is being carried out to show what exists and inspire decision-makers at the national level
  - CoR counts on the cooperation and know-how of EUROCITIES and members to contribute to the partnership as it takes shape

Comments from WG on strategic partnership:

- The added value of the strategic partnership needs to be clarified - the costs of setting up a new structure are high and this must be grounded on existing needs
- The European Integration Forum may not be the best placed mechanism to link administrations and public authorities - the 'civil society organisation' aspect may be diluted and vice-versa
- It must be acknowledged that big cities play a different role than smaller cities
- A suggestion was made to make use of existing Integrating Cities process, which will see its next conference in Tampere on 9-10 September, as a way to link it up to the work the EC and CoR are carrying out.
- It was suggested that DG Home may consider a longer-term partnership (as it currently exists between EUROCITIES and DG-Employment) to develop a 3-year plan to link cities to DG Home agenda. This would ensure continuity and move away from project cycle which does not allow sustainability. It would also ensure participation of cities.
- A value-added of the partnership could be:
  - bringing the national level and local level together, National Contact Points of Integration (NCPis) can help to bridge local-national divide
  - get the voices of cities and regions heard when seeking agreement on asylum and other sensitive EU legislative processes
  - explore how funding should target local integration and strategically channelling these funds and ensure more long-term planning outside project cycle
- EUROCITIES would pursue a meeting with Commissioner Malmström in the coming months, Ms. Schultz suggested for this meeting:
  - Making concrete proposals
  - Linking how integration realities are related to EU decisions
  - Presenting IC report to commissioner

**Update Asylum and Migration Fund 2014-2020**

- An update was given on the Asylum and Migration Fund developments (download at <http://nws.eurocities.eu/MediaShell/media/WD%2013%20Briefing%20Asylum%20and%20>

[Migration%20Fund\\_update.pdf](#))

- Given the mostly favourable proposals from European Commission and Parliament, cities were encouraged to lobby their national governments to upkeep the proposed involvement of local authorities that is most at risk in council negotiations.
- EUROCITIES will follow up developments and inform cities of relevant updates.

#### **Reporting from Rotterdam conference on EU mobility**

- Paul Hoop of Rotterdam reported on the conference which took place in Rotterdam in September on intra-EU mobility
- The WG was asked to consider the issue of integration of EU citizens and potentially getting involved in the follow up of this conference which will be organized in Austria by the national ministries
- Paul Hoop will send more information on the proposals to the WG once this is available and was also encouraged to present this item to the Roma Inclusion Task Force as this may be of interest

#### **EUROCITIES involvement in Cyprus presidency conference on integration, 20 November**

- Regina Ober presented the case that will be presented by Dr. Margaret Spohn from the city of Munich in representation of EUROCITIES at the upcoming presidency conference to be held in Nicosia on 20 November. The presentation will focus on multi-level governance of integration funding - other cases were presented from the group
- Annika Forsander from Helsinki will also be present in this conference as part of the Finnish delegation
- The conference findings will be shared with the working group members

#### **Next Meeting:**

- The next meeting of the Working Group will be held in Riga in April 2013, date proposal will be sent to group shortly
- The meeting after will take place in Tampere on 11 September, immediately following the Integrating Cities conference
- Working Group members were invited to attend the Intercultural Cities Conference taking place in Dublin on 6-8 February 2013

## Summary of action points

- Working Group Work Programme 2013
- EUROCITIES to set up a meeting with Commissioner Malmström and lead politicians in 2013
- Integrating Cities Report to be published in early 2013 - process of consultation on second draft to take place end of 2012
- Ana, in cooperation with Murat Altunbas, to draft paper on city networks and scope for cooperation
- Poll to be conducted among WG members to determine the most appropriate theme for a joint plenary between Integrating Cities Conference VI and Metropolis
- Members of Working Group to send suggestions on speakers, formats and themes for Integrating Cities VI to EUROCITIES secretariat
- Members of Working Group to lobby national authorities in maintaining favourable proposal of Asylum and Immigration Fund
- EUROCITIES to organise a follow up meeting with European Commission and Committee of the Regions to follow up on strategic partnership
- EUROCITIES to keep Working Group up to date with developments in Asylum and Migration Fund negotiations
- Paul Hoop to send WG members more information about follow up of conference on intra-EU mobility and integration of EU citizens for potential cooperation and involvement
- Ana to share results of Cyprus presidency conference on multi-level governance on integration taking place on 20 November 2012
- Date proposals for next meeting of the Working Group in Riga in April to be circulated