



Working Group Migration & Integration

Tampere | 11 September 2013

Draft Minutes

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

Participants:

Semra Celebi (Amsterdam), Ramon Sanahuja (Barcelona - Chair), Jana Sancova (Brno), Stanislav Jaburek (Brno), Anja Van Den Durpel (Ghent), Marc Van Acker (Ghent), Anu Riila (Helsinki - Vice-Chair), Regina Ober (Munich), Philippe Rigollier (Nantes), Sandra Broering (Nuremberg), Tone Skodvin (Oslo), Ronald Derks (Rotterdam), Agneta Berner (Stockholm), Marja Nyrhinen (Tampere), John Waalring (The Hague), Christof Meier (Zurich), Ana Feder (EUROCITIES), Keizo Yamawaki (Meiji University), Dirk Gebhardt (Pompeu Fabra University)

Action points from last WG Meeting in Riga 15-16 April 2013 were approved

- Committee of the Regions opinion on the Social Investment Package would be voted on 9 October in plenary

Debrief from Integrating Cities conference - feedback session

- The working group provided feedback on the event which took place immediately preceding, on 9-10 September
- Some of the constructive points raised:
 - A stronger focus on practical aspects (for example speed networking) was welcomed
 - There was no real space to debate with European Commission
 - There was not enough time for discussion during panels
 - Integrating Cities 'got lost' in Metropolis - difficult to get sense of group and involvement - theme was fluid which also lost this sense of bringing together
 - Missing role of 'master of ceremonies' (as was the case in Amsterdam)
 - Keynote presentation from Martiniello was appreciated
 - Too many parallel workshops (competition for audience) - mixed reviews

Conclusions:

- Overall, the conference was a positive experience for the working group members. For the next integrating cities conference, the feedback is:
 - Allow enough time for sharing and discussion
 - Ensure there is a group feeling (have it as stand-alone conference if possible)

- Ensure there is a direct link between political sessions and goals and practical sharing of experiences

Policy update:

- A meeting will take place at end of November with national contact points of integration in Brussels - EUROCITIES has been invited
- There will be a consultation on the next 'Stockholm' programme - WG will organise a contribution
- Ernst & Young are conducting an evaluation on local impact of EU mobility. Information will be disseminated when this becomes available

Cooperation among networks:

- A session during integrating cities gathered networks of local authorities working on migrant integration to explore synergies, a paper produced by the working group migration was presented as a basis of discussion. Anu Riila represented EUROCITIES network as vice-chair of the working group
- It was decided that a declaration would be drafted on common grounds shared by these networks
- Council of Europe announced it will host a conference on 2015 gathering state, region and local authorities to address a concrete issue such as citizenship
- EUROCITIES secretariat will prepare a note to be agreed by other networks (intercultural cities, ECCAR, Urbact, Cities of Migration, etc) which can be presented and disseminated in fora such as the European Integration Forum

Mutual update:

- Cities shared latest updates from national and local level affecting practice and implementation of migrant integration - some highlights are included below

Amsterdam:

- monitoring report on anti-discrimination and gay emancipation
- 150th year of remembrance of slavery - 5 December - discussion on symbols and language
- 3 October - city organising event 'rules of city game - how free do we let the other be?'
- 2014 elections
- 19 November - *the just city* - Susan Feinstein - London, NY and Amsterdam - invited by city
- December - high level gathering with employer and employers networks and

unemployment agencies - discuss unemployment of youth from migrant background

Barcelona:

- national fund for hosting policies going to cities abolished
- undocumented migrants from sub-Saharan Africa
- in spite of outgoing migration, net migration still positive due to family reunification
- welcoming centre changed to 'human advice centre' - hosting policies, return policies and emigration policies

Brno:

- Minister of labour and social affairs - no budget for 2014 for integration - operation costs for asylum policies from home affairs. Lack of funds earmarked by ministries shows level of commitment to 'hosting' and integration policies
- European primary school cancelled because lack of interest
- New project - position of crime prevention assistance - Roma communities working with police

Helsinki:

- new strategy plan from last spring
- writing new equality strategy with priority areas on education, talent retention, language courses
- inflow of EU nationals seeking employment
- homeless migrants becoming a focus
- city has joined ECCAR

Munich:

- EU-mobility big issue - perceived as 'poverty immigration from Bulgaria and Romania' problems with housing, qualification courses
- 12,000 Romanians and Bulgarians registered - 50% increase recently - but not big group compared to other migrants
- small projects by city, NGOs
- working on strategy - roundtable to bring together all actors, October conference on this issue with politicians
- Report on integration strategy will be finished in January and presented to city council

- Refugees - unaccompanied minors - problem with housing - programmes for schooling, language courses
- Participating in resettlement programme - 25/year 300 from Syria arriving - 1100 accommodated
- Will establish new strategy on welcome culture - started as initiative for high-skilled workers now strategy addresses all groups

Nantes:

- New regulation on undocumented migrants by national level - Reform on integration and asylum process expected from national level
- Change in criteria to access French nationality
- TCNs arriving from other parts of Europe
- Large flow of asylum seekers - now addressed by national government
- Project co-prod-migrants and project with Migration Policy Group on supplier diversity
- Online technical guide on administrative process dealing with foreigners - to be used by professional foreigners
- Translation service by phone will be piloted
- Meeting next week -association of French municipalities- discuss new asylum legislation
- Will participate in ICMC visit to Sheffield on resettlement

Nuremberg:

- Establishing new project - 'voice for diversity' to promote culture of mutual recognition and receive funding from national government (3 years)
- *looking for experience in diversity campaigns / viral campaigns - partner cities to leverage EU funding*

Oslo:

- Europeans arriving in great numbers
 - no right to language education
 - Private housing sector - high rental market
 - Services to match education levels to job - new project 'job-match'
- Attracting talent - key priority of migration policy

Rotterdam:

- City and university put together bid to host IMISCOE secretariat from 2014
 - Increase collaboration between city and academia
- MPI - transatlantic council to take place in Rotterdam - high-level session with mayors and advisors around a topic of interest (later this year) - will ask if interest from other cities
- ECCAR - Rotterdam only city from NL - candidacy for steering committee, 17 October Nancy

Stockholm:

- Discussion around causes of riots in May
 - city of Stockholm - intensified work with youth, ex-criminals, new priority area: Migrant women - get them closer to labour market
- New law - easier for refugees to bring families - information centres to help families arriving
- Mentor project for young Somalis
- Social orientation services now open to all newcomers (before only for refugees)

The Hague:

- new groups arriving mostly of Polish, Bulgarian origin
- working with language, children and young people - schooling, employment

Zurich:

- National changes in 2014 - more resources but change in competence to cantonal programmes of integration (no link to national level)
- Report on anti-discrimination - positive aspects inside administration, positive with regards to integration outcomes
- New focus on searching for talent - signposted as possible future topic for discussion among WG members

To facilitate further communication and exchange, as requested, a list of working group members and emails is available on the working group website of EURO CITIES (<http://www.eurocities.eu/eurocities/contactlist&concat=WKG33§or=wk33> - login required)

Integration paradigms:

- A brief discussion took place on the basis of the document which summarised responses from cities on approaches to 'integration'

- In spite varying definitions, 'integration' is the preferred term for most cities (with notable exceptions from Amsterdam and Rotterdam)
- There is a need to discuss the importance of words and their meaning as well as the variety of contexts and how city citizenship is defined
- define difference between 'mobility' - being mobile and 'integration'
- Working group members requested that next meeting allocate at least 2 hours to delve into these issues and:
 - Arrive at a possible common understanding
 - discuss structures
 - address context / competences

Next meeting:

- Next meeting of the working group will be in February/March 2014 - dates and place TBC
- Mandate of chair and vice-chair will end - candidates invited
- Working group members to consider using EUROCTIES website interactive section to share information on a more regular basis

Working group members joined ImpleMentoring partners for a presentation of outputs and feedback session on the project.