COOPERATION AMONG EUROPEAN CITY NETWORKS ON MIGRANT INTEGRATION

The following document is the result of a series of meetings between cities of networks on migrant integration – the last of which was in Tampere in September 2010 whereby city networks agreed to draft a declaration of intent for future collaboration.

This draft declaration is meant to intensify collaboration and build synergies as well as avoid duplication. Most importantly, the statement sets out the common ground among existing networks where critical mass can be attained to leverage European migrant integration policy and practice.

Although comprising of a variety of organisations, we share the common basic belief that **integration of migrants happens at the local level**.

In order to ensure that local authorities are better equipped and can make the most efficient use of resources to innovate on migrant integration at local level, we commit as city networks to collaborate in concrete ways by:

- Exploring ways we share information with cities and avoid duplication

- Drafting joint positions on topical issues which are of shared concern

This declaration is a step forward in this collaboration and demonstrates an attempt to address synergies and duplication. It will be disseminated to relevant organizations such as the European Commission, Committee of the Regions, National Contact Points of Integration and European Parliament in hopes that it helps strengthen the strategic partnership between cities, regions and EU institutions.

Participating networks: Council of Europe Intercultural cities, European Coalition of Cities against racism, Urbact, Cities of Migration, EUROCITIES Migration and Integration working group, CEMR.

Next steps:

The above draft statement is submitted to the working group migrant integration for comments and suggestions on dissemination. A revised draft will be shared with other networks and finalised for presentation at a relevant event.

Annex: discussion paper on mapping city networks (amended with comments from other networks)

Annex: Mapping (European) city networks on migrant integration

This discussion paper was shared with city networks at the Integrating Cities VI conference in Tampere on 10 September 2013. Commissioned by the Working Group migration and integration of EUROCITIES and incorporating comments provided by other networks, it was meant to be a starting point for discussion at the session taking place in the framework of this event.

The table below lists initiatives which, despite having differing structures and objectives, share a common denominator of contributing to the work of cities on migrant integration, with a particular focus on European cities.

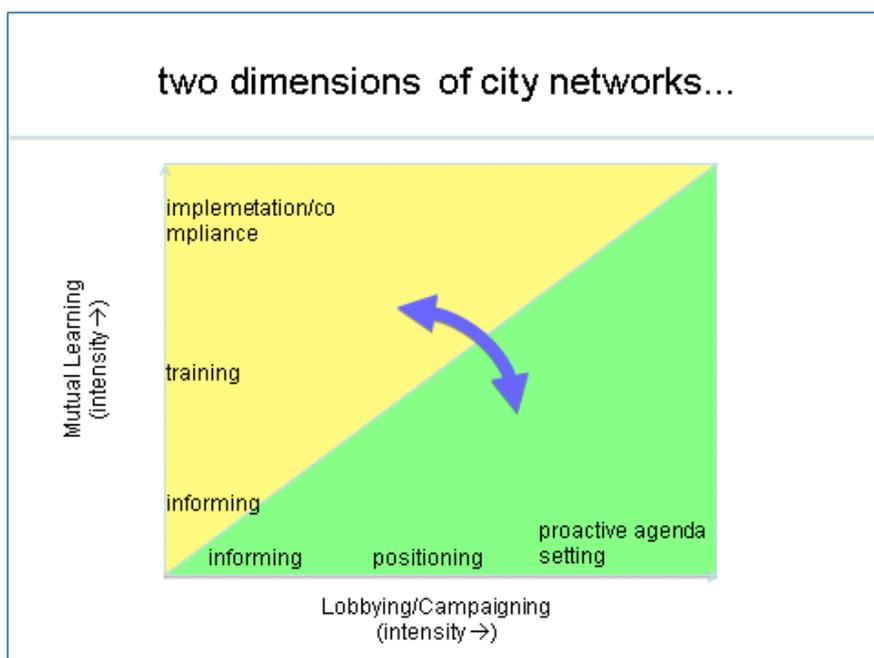Based on desk research this list is non-exhaustive and can be further built upon.

Network / initiative	Main aim(s)	Comments
At Home in Europe – project of Open Society Initiative for Europe www.opensocietyfoundations.org/projects/home-europe	- Research and advocacy for equal rights and social cohesion	- Project has undertaken research and activities in a number of European cities
Cities of Migration (Maytree Foundation) www.citiesofmigration.ca	- Information sharing - Mutual learning	- Global reach - web-based platform and communication tools
Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) Thematic network integration and diversity www.ccre.org	- Mutual learning	- CEMR represents national associations of towns, municipalities and regions - CEMR is currently supporting CLIP initiative (see below)
European Cities for Local integration policies for migrants (CLIP) www.eurofound.europa.eu/areas/populationandsociety/clip.htm	- Research on city policies and strategies, focusing on four modules	Modules: housing, diversity policy, intercultural policies (focus on Muslims), and ethnic entrepreneurship now that project from Eurofound has concluded - strategic planning for next phase of implementation of CLIP is being led by city of Stuttgart through CEMR (see above)
EUROCITIES (WG migration and integration) www.eurocities.eu	- EU advocacy on behalf of large cities - Mutual learning	- membership organisation (over 30 cities in working group) - supported by secretariat - part of cross-sectorial organisation (EUROCITIES)

		- with broader mandate than migration issues
European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (UNESCO) www.eccar.info	- Mutual learning - Political commitment to combat racism and discrimination	- Over 100 city members - Reporting requirement for signatory cities on 10-point action plan - Mobilisation for anti-racism day (21 March) - Annual conference
European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS) http://efus.eu/en/	- One of their topics is migrants and minorities analysed under the security and conflict management angle - Mutual learning, practices sharing	- Efus is a network of some 300 members – cities, other local elected governments and associated institutions and partners
European Resettlement Network – SHARE project www.resettlement.eu/page/share-project	- To build a European resettlement network of cities, municipalities and regions within the European Resettlement Network	- Implementing mutual learning activities on issue of refugee resettlement
IMISCOE www.imiscoe.org/	- Mutual learning and training of researchers - Research	- Network of research institutions/university institutes researching in the field of migration
Intercultural Cities (Council of Europe) www.coe.int/interculturalcities	- Mutual learning - promote intercultural integration strategies among cities	- About 20 partner cities and over 30 associated partners to project - Intercultural Cities index and other tools produced and implemented by network of experts
The Hague Process on refugees and migration thehagueprocess.org	- seek policy solutions to migration challenges	independent, multi-disciplinary, global network of over 2,000 individuals, public and civil society organisations and institutions Although not a city network, one of the main strands of work is the involvement of cities in evidence-based approach

URBACT urbact.eu/	- European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development	Not in itself a network of cities but has supported various networks of relevance on migrant integration, including: - My Generation network focus on youth http://urbact.eu/en/projects/active-inclusion/my-generation/homepage/ - MILE: (Migration and Integration at Local Level) focus on labour market http://urbact.eu/en/projects/active-inclusion/mile/homepage/ - Open Cities network – focus on city attractiveness http://urbact.eu/en/projects/human-capital-entrepreneurship/open-cities/homepage/

There are also some national networks of cities such as the *Conseil Français de la Citoyenneté de Résidence* (co-fra-cir) in France and *Associazione dei Comuni Italian*i (ANCI) in Italy that address national migrant integration issues.

According to Guentner, there are two dimensions of city networks: mutual learning and lobbying/campaigning (see graph below). City networks can be classified according to the range of their activities and prioritisation of their actions/missions. For example, EUROCITIES' mission would position it somewhere in the upper right gradient of the dimensions as it has as main objective to influence EU agenda while it also implements practical projects for mutual learning (peer review and more recently mentoring) using the EUROCITIES Charter on Integrating Cities and its implementation as a basis.

two dimensions of city networks...

Graph by Simon Guentner of Hamburg University of Applied Sciences

The above can be a useful framework to distinguish roles and objectives of networks and the field within which they operate.

For the sake of clarity, particularly in view of the advocacy purpose of these networks, a distinction can be made between membership organisations which group municipalities and local government in general (EUROCITIES, CEMR, CLIP, European Forum for Security, ECCAR, Intercultural Cities), programmes that are run by private foundations (Cities of Migration, At Home in Europe, SHARE, The Hague Process) or by the EU (URBACT) and networks that do not involve cities (e.g. IMISCOE, research network). They all are relevant and interesting for local and regional authorities when it comes for exchanging experience/data/practices (mutual learning), however they do not have the same legitimacy when it comes to speaking on behalf of local governments (lobbying/campaigning). One could even think of singling out networks grouping local and regional authorities focussed on migrants integration, which are part of broader and generalist networks/assemblies of local and regional authorities, such as the EUROCITIES WG, the CEMR thematic network and Intercultural cities within the CoE/Congress of local and regional authorities.

Building synergies and cooperation

In spite of differences among networks, there are identified overlapping goals and objectives. Cooperation is thus desired as a way to add value to existing work and, more importantly, avoid duplication. This is particularly important for reasons of effectiveness and efficiency. For example, cities that belong to different networks are being approached with similar requests emanating from different sources as can be the case with surveys and questionnaires, among others.

There are a number of ways to build upon existing cooperation among these networks, below as some initial suggestions:

- **Carrying out mapping and feasibility study** - some efforts have been carried out in this regard. Cities of Migration conducted a survey of networks in 2010. A seminar on this topic was organised in the Integrating Cities conference in Amsterdam in 2012 and followed by a workshop during Intercultural Cities conference in Dublin in

2013. A recent effort by the Committee of the Regions has yielded a mapping on local and regional authorities' practices which has been published on the European Website on Integration (The mapping of local and regional authorities' practices on the European Website on Integration could be mentioned here, http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/news/newsdetail.cfm?ID_ITEMS=35402). This paper is intended as another step in this consultation process among networks and their members on cooperation.

- **Establishing systematic communication among network secretariats** – as already demonstrated, efforts have been carried out already to establish links among networks. However, what is missing is the on-going systematic communications beyond meetings and the action-oriented nature of such meetings. It is also important that this communication reaches network members so that they are aware of links.

- **Cooperation in joint projects/initiatives** – some examples of this also exist. For example, EUROCITIES has used some indicators from the Intercultural Cities index for reporting on the integrating cities charter. In the same way, where similar interests and initiatives are taking place, collaboration can be explored.

- **A strategic partnership with Committee of the Regions and European Commission as** a channel for coordination and advocacy - as the strategic partnership proposed by the Commission is taking shape, city networks can use this opportunity to join voices to advocate for stronger local voice at EU level, make policy proposals and at the same time use the platform offered by the EU institutions to build synergies.

A number of factors can hinder cooperation. Networks vary greatly with regards to organisational structure and processes, interests of networks may not always be compatible or aligned and, finally, competition for limited resources and sustainability is a reality.