



CONNECTION - CONNEcting Cities Towards Integration actiON - Call for participants in thematic workshops

What is this call about?

This call invites representatives from local authorities to participate in meetings of one of four Communities of Practices (CoP), each on a different theme. If you're interested in attending, please read the information below carefully and fill in the online application: <https://bit.ly/3b5mnfP>

Context: CONNECTION project

EUROCITIES, in partnership with MigrationWork, manages the CONNECTION project co-financed by the European Commission through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund to support transnational learning on and implementation of integration policies. The project runs from January 2020 to December 2022.

Why might this be of interest to your city?

If you are interested in:

- Developing strategic approaches to integration
- Building gender dimensions into integration policies
- Building pathways to employment for migrants
- Designing One-Stop-Shops as a response to integration needs

Then joining one of the four Communities of Practice which are going to be learning about these issues over the next 2 years should interest you.

Each theme is being explored by a group of cities which have committed to sharing ideas and best practice on each area. You are invited to join these cities/regions for their series of workshops. Each workshop is three-days duration, and hosted by one of the cities already committed to learning about this theme.

When will the workshops take place?

In CoP 1 and 3: the first workshop will take place in November 2020, the second one between January and April 2021, the third between August and November 2021 and the final one between March and June 2022. There are four workshops in all.

In CoP 2 and 4: the first workshop will take place in October 2020, the second between May and August 2021 and the last one between March and June 2022. There are three workshops in all.



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Here is an overview of the themes with the cities which are already in the COP (and will be hosting each of the 3-day workshops) and the outline timetable for the workshops.

| CoP | Theme | Cities/Regions already in CoP and hosting workshops which you are invited to join | When will the 3-day workshops happen? |
|-------|--|---|--|
| CoP 1 | How to develop a strategic approach to integration, participation and interaction | Paris Thessaloniki Region Turin & ANCI Piedmont Region Zagreb | Workshop 1: 17-20 November 2020 Workshop 2: Jan - April 2021 Workshop 3: Aug - Nov 2021 Workshop 4: March - June 2022 |
| CoP 2 | How to build a gender dimension into integration policies | Gothenburg Utrecht Warsaw | Workshop 1: 19-22 October 2020 Workshop 2: May - August 2021 Workshop 3: March - June 2022 |
| CoP 3 | How to build pathways to employment for migrants | Antwerp Tampere Madrid Sofia | Workshop 1: 24-27 November 2020 Workshop 2: Jan - April 2021 Workshop 3: Aug - Nov 2021 Workshop 4: March - June 2022 |
| CoP 4 | How to design one-stop-shops as an integrated response to integration needs | Athens Rotterdam Dortmund | Workshop 1: 5-8 October 2020 Workshop 2: May - August 2021 Workshop 3: March - June 2022 |

More information on themes and the Communities of practice

Community of Practice 1: How to develop a strategic approach to integration, participation and interaction?

This Community of Practice addresses the fundamentals of getting started with local integration policies in the form of setting up a coherent model or philosophy. Paris, Turin and Thessaloniki (via ANATOLIKI regional development agency) represent three cities with a longer track-record of developing and implementing integration policies at the local level, but that have an interest in measures that strengthen cohesion, in particular by fostering interaction between immigrants and the established population. Among the less experienced cities in this community, Zagreb is committed to setting up its own local integration policy model and will benefit from the exchange in the community. Smaller municipalities from the Piedmont region (via the associate partner ANCI) and from the Thessaloniki metropolitan region via ANATOLIKI will equally develop new integration strategies with the support of the community and intra-regional transfer of knowledge with their regional capitals.



Community of Practice 2: How to build a gender dimension into integration policies?

In this highly innovative community of practice the ingredients of a gender-sensitive lens in integration policies will be developed between Gothenburg, Utrecht and Warsaw. It is built on recent policy developments in the two Nordic cities, and prior informal exchanges. Warsaw will apply lessons learnt from the Nordic cities to develop an action plan in this area.

Community of Practice 3: How to build pathways to employment for migrants?

This community of practice brings together Antwerp and Tampere, two cities with a long-track record in fostering labour market integration and active labour market policies, with Sofia and Madrid, two cities which are just beginning to take into account the situation of immigrants on the labour market. Local policies supporting the recognition of qualifications and further training and working with employers to help them understand how to recruit migrants and refugees will be two key topics in this community which have been identified based on their relevance for Sofia and Madrid.

Community of Practice 4: How to design one-stop-shops as an integrated response to integration needs?

A 'One-Stop-Shop' is a type of service delivery model based around a welcoming space where migrants can access multiple specialist services to support integration, all under one roof. These services are often aimed at newcomers.

This community of practice groups Athens, a city with an existing one-stop-shop for newcomers and recent immigrants, with two cities which are in the process of planning the set-up of their own one-stop-shops, Rotterdam and Dortmund.

What is the format of a workshop?

Each workshop will be designed to highlight good practices and will use a range of learning techniques to help participants learn about the themes. Workshops will differ from theme to theme and city to city, but each will be 3 days 'on site' in the host city (one of the cities listed above), will be facilitated by MigrationWork CIC (which has a long experience of these types of visits and exchanges across Europe) and may involve some or all of the following:

- Exchanges on common issues and challenges with each theme
- Meetings with key stakeholders to hear their experience and ideas on the theme, such as migrant community organisations, other NGOs and city services
- Visits to see how projects are being implemented on the ground in the host city
- Meetings with decision-makers
- 'Best practice' discussions, sharing examples from across Europe collected by MigrationWork
- Problem-solving sessions, where cities bring challenges they are facing and are encouraged to think these through and solve issues with peers in a supportive learning environment

Workshops are about helping participants identify success factors, get ideas for good practice and learn about transferable solutions for their own city environment.



What are the objectives of the workshops?

The CoP workshops will first of all be about participants learning from one another around a common theme. In addition to that, each workshop will help to achieve the following additional outcomes:

- 1) How-To Guides will be produced at the end of CONNECTION on each theme. These guides will be a manual-type document that gives a steer on how to approach and implement the theme in question. The guides are likely to involve sections such as ‘dos and don’ts’, challenges, step-by-step guidance, experiences from other cities and will be developed over the course of CONNECTION. The workshops will be a critical source of material for these;
- 2) Action plans will be developed by 5 cities and 2 regions (Zagreb, Warsaw, Madrid, Sofia, Dortmund, municipalities in Piedmont and municipalities in Thessaloniki region) which have joined the CONNECTION project specifically to develop their expertise and ‘move on’ a project in their city/region. These will, during the course of the project, receive support for implementing a new policy with the help of their peers, and 5 of them (Zagreb, Warsaw, Madrid, Sofia, Dortmund) will additionally receive an implementation grant.

What are the benefits of joining a community of practice?

It is intended that all parties - both cities with considerable experience in the theme and those with less experience - will benefit. This is all about learning and sharing good practice. Even the most experienced cities have serious migration challenges that they can solve by working together.

The Communities of Practice will also be action-orientated, helping cities think through what they need to do to develop new policies and strategies.

This ‘communities of practice’ methodology was developed directly in response to feedback from cities in previous projects. It is designed to allow all to ask questions, contribute ideas and gain learning, allowing cities to jointly define challenges and solutions.

It is strongly advised that you join the whole series of workshops (3 or 4) in the community of practice of your choice. In doing so, you will have the opportunity to learn about best practices from the different cities taking part in each community of practice, but also to learn how to design and implement an action plan and how to overcome the obstacles that exist between planning and implementation.

Who can attend the series of workshops?

Applications to participate in the workshops are open to representatives from cities from EU Member States participating in the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (i.e. all Member States except Denmark). Given the terms of the agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, cities in the UK are entitled to apply.

Each workshop will be attended by between 10 to 15 participants:

- Two representatives from 4 or 3 different cities (depending on the community of practice)
- Two or three experts from MigrationWork (facilitating) and Eurocities
- Depending on the host city, representatives of local/ national NGOs and national and



regional government representatives

How many series of workshops can I attend?

Your city is allowed to apply for **up to two** CoP workshop series (you can also just apply to join one series). If your city does want to apply to two communities of practice (i.e. two series of 3 or 4 workshops), please fill in **one form per community of practice**.

How will participants be selected?

The following criteria will be taken into account when selecting:

- Overall quality of application
- Motivation and ability to participate in all 3 or 4 workshops of the community of practice of your choice
- Degree to which the theme of the community of practice theme will meet the needs of the applicant
- Commitment to take part in the visit and commitment to allocate sufficient time to preparation and follow-up (preparation is light, but will involve a discussion with the facilitator before attending workshops)
- If more cities apply than there are places on the workshop, preference will be given to Eastern and Southern cities
- If more cities apply than there are places on the workshop, preference will be given to cities that commit to attend all workshops of the CoP.

Selected cities will be informed of the results by EUROCITIES by 31 July 2020. EUROCITIES will select a maximum of two cities per community of practice. Be aware that we expect a lot of interest in this call, therefore please pay attention to the quality of your application.

I would like to participate in a workshop. What will be the costs for my city?

We will cover the following costs for one person:

- Accommodation costs (Cities will do the booking and EUROCITIES will reimburse based on the invoice)
- Travel costs (Cities will do the booking and EUROCITIES will reimburse based on the invoice)
- Subsistence (meals)

What will I need to prepare?

If you are selected to participate, you will be expected to:

- Have a discussion (virtually) with your MigrationWork facilitator to find out your interests, experience and needs and for them to explain the methodology and expectations more fully.
- Provide some information on your city and the specific circumstances there, including (potentially) good practice.
- You may be also invited to participate in group calls to prepare workshops.



How to answer this call?

Please fill in the [online questionnaire](#) by 30 June 2020.

If your city wants to apply to be part of two communities of practice, please note that only one person should coordinate the applications, i.e. the same person should submit both applications.

If you have any questions, please contact Alexandra Weerts (project coordinator at EUROCITIES): Alexandra.weerts@eurocities.eu



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