SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Working group: education
Chair: Amsterdam
Objectives for2021
Objective 1: Promote inclusive education and equal opportunities in all areas and pedagogical pathways, including against the background of inequalities due to the COVID-19 pandemic
How do you want to achieve it - Share policies and projects developed within the different cities to prevent drop out from school and promote inclusion of all pupils and students - Step up cross-cutting work on inclusive education with WG Roma and WG Migration and Integration - Critical friend review meeting in fall 2021. Topic to be defined - Participation in WG ET 2020 on Early Childhood Education and CareTackle shortage of teachers in schools and encourage better and more diverse qualifications - Common analysis of national frameworks for school education careers with interested member cities
Objective 2 Address digitalization and prepare for the future of work
How do you want to achieve it - Online Master Class or city dialogue (World Café on different topics) with focus on digital transition in education and digital inclusion via education in the context of COVID19 - Share policies and projects developed within the different cities to promote digitalisation in different pedagogical pathways, including vocational training, adult education and teacher training - Share experience in tackling digital divide in education with particular focus on vulnerable urban settings

	- Cooperation with WG Employment and Eurocities Knowledge Society Forum (KSF) – Taskforce Digital citizenship on digital skills and digital inclusion

Objective 3

Alignment with EU and Eurocities priorities

How do you want to achieve it

- Establish new topics for working group: European Green Deal and the role of education for sustainable development, climate and citizen participation
- The Erasmus+ programme for 2021-2027 (raising awareness on important calls in the area)
- Monitoring and enforcing the Digital Education Action Plan
- Monitoring and enforcing the European Education Area, European Research Area
- Promote the role of cities in the new European Digital Education Hubs

Which Eurocities strategic objectives are you contributing to?

1.1 Fight urban poverty and social exclusion;

1.3 Facilitate the inclusion of refugees, migrants, ethnic minorities and people…;

1.4 Ensure quality and inclusive education;

1.5 Deliver quality public services, accessible to all;

2.4 Tackle mismatches in local skills and future needs;

5.2 Tackle rising inequalities;

5.3 Drive digital transformation;

6.5 Explore strategic partnerships and the co-creation of public services;

6.6 Promote gender equality and fight all discrimination;

6.7 Plan for the cities of the future;
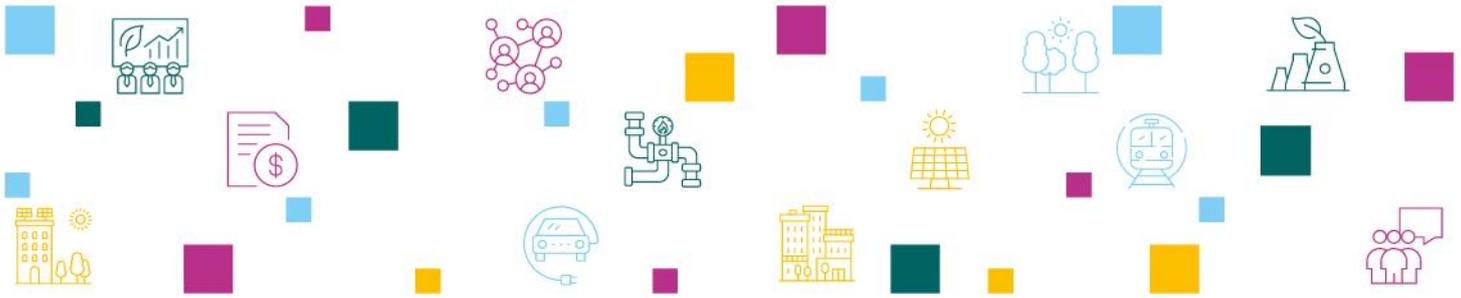
Achievements 2020

Achievement 1

Dialogue and exchange of experience on COVID measures taking by the cities with a special focus on ECEC in May 2020 with participation of DG EAC and Dialogue with WHO Europe on Schooling in the WHO European Region in the time of Covid-19 in November 2020

Achievement 2

Common learning on tackling the digital transition at the meeting in November 2020 through case study by the Interreg Project Digita(a)l Euregio Education on promotion of new digital concepts in education

Achievement 3

Participation on ET2020 WG on Schools (by Koen Bastians/Antwerp) and ET 2020 on ECEC (Lieve De Bosscher /Ghent) with preparation of a Toolkit for inclusion in ECEC

Working group: Employment
Chair: Barcelona
Objectives for2021
Objective 1: Skills and career pathways
How do you want to achieve it - Exchange knowledge: Policy transfer on skilling and re-skilling youth people through local youth employment schemes (Youth Guarantee)- mutual learning activity for cities to peer review, transfer policies and replicate good practices and innovative approaches on fighting youth unemployment with a focus on gender dimension and the most vulnerable youth (NEETs, LTU, migrants and digitally excluded people) – depending on the EaSI funding. - Building skills and careers pathways – developing pathways to digital and green jobs as part of the economic recovery with a focus on pathways to future growth, including interventions that target young people but also older people who need to retrain too. - Exchange knowledge on how to work with employees on a strategic way, focusing on groups such a disable, youth and people with migrant backgrounds. - Developing adult education to meet the big number of people with low educational background that are unemployed due to Covid -19. - Focus groups and online workshops with members; Contribute to the EU initiatives on skills development - Policy focus: Skilling and up-skilling programmes, Digital and green jobs, adult learning, life-long learning, - EU policy to follow: EU skills agenda, Digital Education Action Plan, Vocation Education and Training, Renovation Wave, Youth Guarantee
Objective 2 Working conditions (Decent Work)

How do you want to achieve it

- Working conditions – consider the topic of 'decent work' – Building Decent Work and Working Conditions for Everyone including aspects such as the Living Wage, flexible working policies that enable those with caring responsibilities to succeed, inclusive recruitment – including disabled people
- Cross-sectorial work with Economic Development Forum, also with Migration and integration
- Policy focus: platform workers, resilience at work, self-employment
- EU policy to follow: EU Skills agenda, Improving working conditions of platform workers, Strategy on the Rights of Persons with disabilities

Objective 3

Long term unemployed and (new) vulnerable groups out of COVID-19 crisis - tackling the Covid 19 employment crisis amongst communities most at risk of social exclusion and poverty

How do you want to achieve it

- Exchange knowledge: Policy transfer on local strategies to support inclusive labour markets through social economy, back-to-back with the European social economy summit (mutual learning programme) - mutual learning activity for cities to peer review, transfer policies and replicate good practices on supporting inclusive labour markets through social economy, with a focus on innovative approaches with social outcome contracting (EPSR principle 4).
- Look at innovative community engagement and employment support measures that are reaching those hardest hit by Covid 19 – for example, homeless people; people with mental health problems; those using drug and alcohol; ex offenders etc
- Common work with WG Smart Social Inclusion and Economic Development Form
- Policy focus: Digital inclusion of vulnerable groups, long-term unemployment, new ways of including vulnerable groups into labour market
- EU policy to follow: Action Plan for European Pillar of Social Rights, Action Plan for the Social Economy

Which Eurocities strategic objectives are you contributing to?

1.1 Fight urban poverty and social exclusion;

1.3 Facilitate the inclusion of refugees, migrants, ethnic minorities and people…;

1.5 Deliver quality public services, accessible to all;

1.6 Support inclusive local labour markets;

2.1 Stimulate the creation of quality jobs;

2.4 Tackle mismatches in local skills and future needs;

2.5 Support the transition to a circular economy;

2.2 Manage disruptive economic business models and trends;

5.2 Tackle rising inequalities;

5.3 Drive digital transformation;

6.3 Manage the use of disruptive technologies to transform public services;

Achievements 2020

Achievement 1

Digital mutual learning on attractiveness of care jobs on 25-26 November

On 25-26 November, Eurocities WG employment met online to learn from Lyon Metropole approach to increase the attractiveness of the care jobs. City's Department for Elderly and Disability and the Department for Inclusion and Employment are jointly running an action plan to promote the inclusion of Registered Work Welfare Beneficiaries into the care sector. The aim is to create the conditions that will allow job seeker to access first-level jobs while meeting the challenges of the sector. Cities from the WG had also the opportunity to share local challenges and opportunities for care jobs in your cities. Barcelona, Munich and Solna have presented their practices. All materials can be found here: https://bit.ly/36GZwZn

Achievement 2

Digital meetings of the WG to support cities react to COVID19 challenges
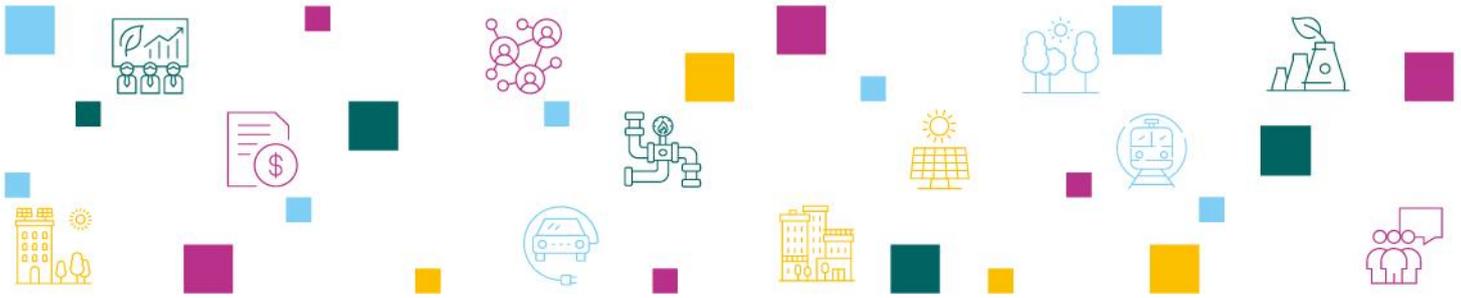
1WG employment online meeting on recovery plans to boost employment at local level, 18 June

The Working Group employment met on 18 June, between 10.00-12.00 to discuss about cities' plans to support people in employment in the COVID-19 recovery period. Cities part of the working group employment exchanged information about long-term plans to support people in employment focusing on skills development, life-long learning and job matchmaking at local level. The dialogue also focused on the challenges faced by young people, the sectors that are at risk and new emerging jobs. All documents can be found here: https://bit.ly/3g99ENl

Achievement 3

Report on 'Reinforcing Youth Guarantee: Lessons learnt by cities in implementing the Youth Guarantee 2014-2020'

EUROCITIES has put together a technical report to showcase the role of cities in implementing the Youth Guarantee 2014-2020 programme and what is needed to further support them to deliver youth guarantee schemes. The report shows that many cities have used the Youth Guarantee 2014-2020 with positive results. The programme has enabled the experimentation of ideas to address youth unemployment and it mostly had a positive effect on the pre-exiting measures. Cities used Youth Guarantee for tailored measures to fight youth unemployment, strengthen the integrated

EUROCITIES working group work plans 2020-2021

Working group: roma inclusion
Chair: Glasgow
Objectives for2021
Objective 1: Advocacy: Having cities identified as key actors in homelessness policies and involved in EU policy making on the topic.
How do you want to achieve it - Advocating for cities to be represented in the high-level event on homelessness on June 21st. We will be pushing for a presentation of our report at this event. - Dissemination and promotion of the Eurocities report 'Access to affordable and social housing and support to homeless people.' - Video on mobilising private housing in the fight against homelessness to show innovative approaches in cities to expand the stock of housing for vulnerable people by way of presenting good practices from cities (could be used for a high-level event and in view of the EU toolkit on housing exclusion)
Objective 2 Mitigating the impact of the Covid pandemic and the recovery on homelessness.
How do you want to achieve it - Online meeting (Q1) on the consequences of the pandemic increase in poverty leading to increased risks of becoming homeless; recovery of the hospitality sector could lead to the loss of emergency housing solutions such as hotel rooms) - Discussion on innovative funding schemes which could be used to counter the potential risk of reduced budgets in cities and limitations on longer term investment. Cities which are experimenting with innovative funding schemes (with EIB, social impact bonds etc.) could be invited to present.

Objective 3

Tackling homelessness amongst migrants and EU mobile citizens.

How do you want to achieve it

- Migrants coming from outside the EU as well as EU mobile citizens are two groups which are identified as being at an increased risk of homelessness. Their legal status often impacts on their access to social services, therefore many cities have to develop innovative approaches to address their situation.
- Mutual learning on homelessness amongst migrants and EU mobile citizens (September) The WG Roma inclusion and WG Migration will be invited to the meeting in order to promote links between different services and encourage a more integrated approach.
- A specific focus will be put on children and young people and their specific needs as well as on opportunities for cities to benefit from EU actions on this (child guarantee, ESF+, AMIF etc.)

Which Eurocities strategic objectives are you contributing to?

1.2 Ensure access to adequate and affordable housing;

1.3 Facilitate the inclusion of refugees, migrants, ethnic minorities and people…;

1.1 Fight urban poverty and social exclusion;

5.2 Tackle rising inequalities;

Achievements 2020

Achievement 1

We recognised that the working group homelessness could benefit from exchanges with more cities that are active in the field. Therefore in 2020, we worked towards reaching out to new members. This was done in particular through the collaboration with the ROOF project, the French cities collaborating with Lyon as well as targeting cities which have indicated their commitment to work on homelessness through a pledge on principle 19 of the EPSR. As a result, 13 Eurocities members newly joined the WG homelessness (Bordeaux, Bratislava, Bristol, Dublin, Grenoble Alpes Metropole, Leipzig, Munich, Strasbourg Metropole, Thessaloniki, Toulouse Metropole, Uppsala, Utrecht). The WG also reached record levels of participation during the Autumn meeting (72 registrations).

Achievement 2

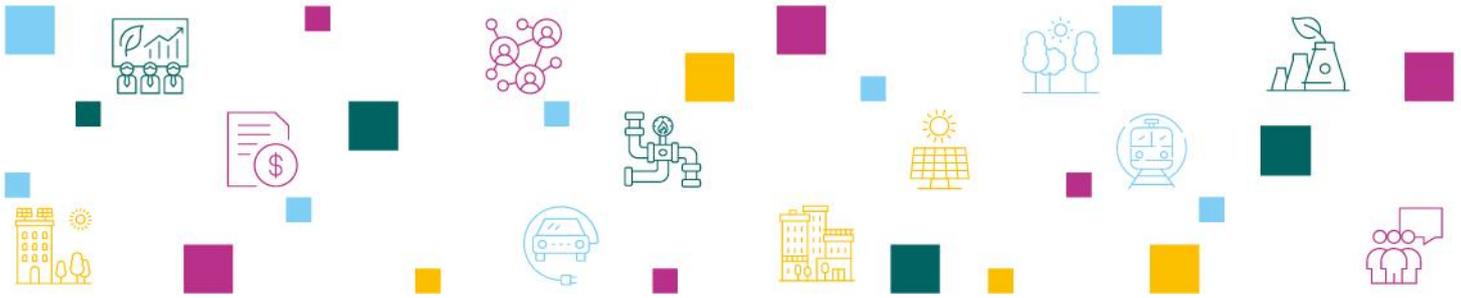Capacity building of cities on managing the Covid crisis and developing Housing First approaches.

Despite working online, the WG Homelessness successfully built capacities of the participants. The programme was adapted to the changing situation allowing for cities to share their experiences in managing the crisis (providing emergency accommodation and support to homeless people, using the momentum for developing sustainable approaches etc.) A report on cities measures to support homeless people in times of Covid was produced. Additionally, the cities had the opportunity to learn from Lyon how they implemented Housing First. The collaboration with the ROOF cities, many of which are Eurocities members, and other French cities involved in the HF programmes, as well as the policy transfer format provided many learning opportunities and exchanges.

Achievement 3

Advocacy on the need for EU action in the field of homelessness, with the support of cities.

In 2020, we worked with the European Parliament on the report on the access to decent and

affordable housing for all (meeting with the rapporteur and shadow rapporteur) and successfully managed to get our points and priorities included. This work, alongside the publication of Eurocities' report on Access to affordable and social housing and support to homeless people led to the recognition of Eurocities as a key actor in the field. The collaboration with other stakeholders also resulted in the European Commission announcing a new initiative on homelessness, including a study, the production of a toolkit and the creation with the Portuguese of a platform on homelessness.

Working group: Housing

Chair: Vienna

Objectives for2021

Objective 1:

Advocate for the crucial role of affordable housing for post COVID-19 recovery in cities.

How do you want to achieve it

- Work with EU Commission and Parliament on making references on affordable housing as key for the recovery in cities.
- Being a core group of Eurocities dealing with affordable housing for European cities, connect and work with other WGs
- Capitalizing on the project work: mutual learning focused on affordable housing, implementing the action plan of the EU Partnership on Housing
- Exchange on practices for emerging models of collective housing
- Follow new trends on affordable housing as a result of COVID-19 crisis (eg. empty offices buildings, "city escapce", etc.)
- Further promote the implementation of principle 19 EPSR (disseminate Eurocities report, encourage cities to pledge under the 'Inclusive cities for all' campaign)
- Cross-sectorial work with EDF (LTI), ESF and ENVI
- Policy focus: affordable housing, social housing, crucial role of how to finance social infrastructure for cities
- advocacy action towards main EU economic and financial monitoring institutions to include reflections on social and affordable housing in cities in their monitoring reports

Objective 2

Promote housing as key sector in implementation of the Green Deal and the Renovation Wave

How do you want to achieve it

- Advocacy work on public investments with special focus on recovery and EU Green Deal

including the Renovation Wave. Cooperation with relevant working groups, forums, activities on the mission for climate cities in a social just way
- Workshop on capacity building in the green deal / renovation wave. Together with EDF and ENVI.
- Cooperation with ENVI Forum for joint advocacy activities on renovation wave, social justice, energy poverty, EU affordable housing and Bauhaus Initiative.
- Cooperation with Housing Europe especially on the green deal / renovation wave
- Policy focus: energy poverty, renovation wave, green deal, social just transition

Objective 3

Capacity building for cities to invest in affordable and social housing

How do you want to achieve it
- Capacity building activities on blending and further funding possibilities for cities.
- Mainstream affordability of housing in EU programmes (Invest EU and other available funding for housing).
- Cross-sectorial work with EDF
- Policy focus: social infrastructure, affordable housing in EU programmes

Which Eurocities strategic objectives are you contributing to?

1.1 Fight urban poverty and social exclusion;

1.2 Ensure access to adequate and affordable housing;

5.1 Fight climate change and enable the energy transition;

5.2 Tackle rising inequalities;

6.2 Ensure the financial sustainability of cities;

Achievements 2020

Achievement 1
1. Contributing to the EU agenda on affordable housing
2. 8th of April 2020: Joint meeting with WG Long Term Investment. Contribution to Eurocities Statement "Unlocking long term investment in European cities"
3. 16 June - Focus group with MEP Kim van Sprrentak rapporteur of the European Parliament's report on 'Access to decent and affordable housing for all'.
4. Report Housing Responses to COVID crisis and potential post-recovery measures. WG housing has published a report on cities housing responses to COVID-19 crisis and measures to ensure that people will not lose their homes. Read more: https://bit.ly/3qJa9m9
5. Eurocities European Pillar of Social Rights principle 19 – 'Cities delivering social rights: Access to affordable and social housing, and support to homeless people'. EUROCITIES published a new report mapping cities' existing policy measure to address the housing and homelessness challenge at local level. The report shows that the lack of access to affordable and social housing was already putting new groups of Europeans at risk of poverty and social exclusion before COVOD-19 pandemic. Read more: https://bit.ly/3m23Tm1

Achievement 2

Promote Cohousing programs - emerging models and established ones, also in the area of accessibility for generations.

On 16 June, Working Group housing met to discuss about cities' long-term approach on new
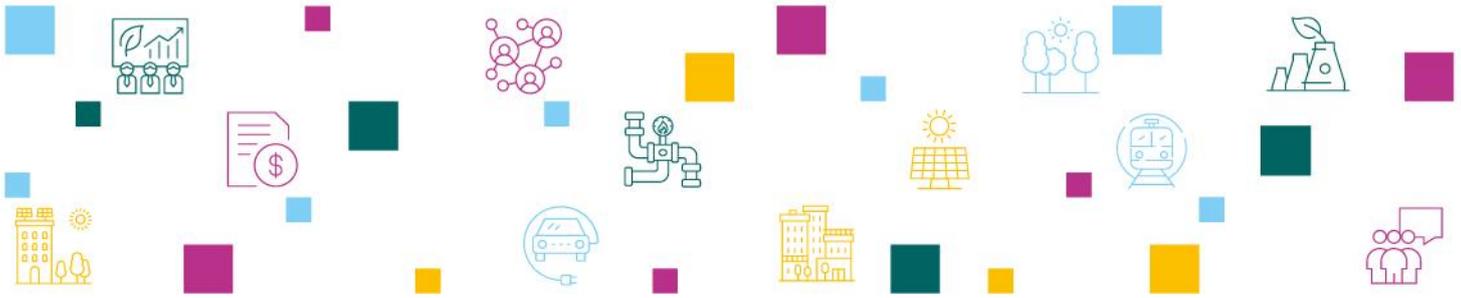
methods and innovative ways to address the affordability of hosing, social cohesion and community belonging. Cites looked into the possibilities of an EU project proposal based these practices as a mechanism to address affordability and post- COVID challenges. All documents can be found here: https://bit.ly/2VX7XcO

Achievement 3

Raise the awareness of urban renewal and new buildings for a more climate neutral city and the need for further financial means to make sure that climate neutral buildings are affordable for broad levels of society.

1. Joint work with ENVI Forum to contribute to the Renovation Wave through:
a. Public feedback on the roadmap initiative
b. Public consultation on the Renovation Wave
c. Eurocities statement on Renovation Wave: https://bit.ly/3nhyoWo
2. Joint meetings with WG AQEECC:
a. May on the advocacy for Renovation Wave
b. 12 November on the debriefing on the Renovation Wave Strategy
3. Building capacity of cities on the Renovation Wave implementation

On 19 November Working Group Housing met to discuss about the potential opportunities from the latest policy update on housing and renovation at EU level - Renovation Wave Strategy along with the New European Bauhaus and affordable housing initiative, and the set of recommendations on energy poverty. During the meeting cities had the opportunity to engage in a discussion with Professor Padraic Kenna, Director of the Centre for Housing Law, Rights and Policy at the Law School NUI Galway, Ireland and Sorcha Edwards, Secretary General of Housing Europe in the area of "Investments and opportunities: how cities can benefit from all the financial investment and the new policy environment?". All the materials can be found here: https://bit.ly/2W30EQR

Working group: migration & integration
Chair: Amsterdam
Objectives for2021
Objective 1: Children & Migration – strengthen network and increase focus on education and the transition from childhood to adulthood.
How do you want to achieve it Organise a mutual learning activity for cities to transfer policies and replicate good practices on integrated approaches for the children of migrants and refugees, as supported by the EaSI programme proposal for a mutual learning activity on the topics of unaccompanied minors, education & language and the transition from childhood to adulthood. Work together on these topics with the WGs Education and Children, to increase the synergy and collaboration between the working groups.
Objective 2 Work towards a bigger network for knowledge exchange on improving labour market conditions for migrant workers and access to the labour market for migrant women.
How do you want to achieve it - Connect to WG groups on Housing and Employment to increase synergies between WGs on the topic of labour market integration/conditions. - Explore new digital possibilities for knowledge exchange and networking. - Connect to the C-Mise project on the topic of working conditions of undocumented migrants.
Objective 3 Strengthening positive narratives on migration and social cohesion

How do you want to achieve it

- Providing cities with tools and expertise on how to create a positive narrative, in a follow up and reinforcement of the Solidarity City Initiative .
- Cooperating with the European Commission DG Justice-led task force to tackle racism and anti-Muslim intolerance, hatred and discrimination.
- Organise a city dialogue through online workshops in which good practices and literary research will be disseminated.

Which Eurocities strategic objectives are you contributing to?

1.1 Fight urban poverty and social exclusion;

1.3 Facilitate the inclusion of refugees, migrants, ethnic minorities and people…;

1.6 Support inclusive local labour markets;

5.2 Tackle rising inequalities;

6.6 Promote gender equality and fight all discrimination;

6.7 Plan for the cities of the fu

Achievements 2020

Achievement 1

Mutual Learning meetings

EUROCITIES WG Online Business Meeting May 6th 2020

Member cities discussed the impact of Covid-19 on services provided for migrants and refugees and shared examples on good practices and creative solutions with regards to topics such as communication, information, working with NGOs, providing online language classes and support for people that had lost their job due to the pandemic.

Out of the discussion, the WG created a note on policy responses to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the integration of migrants and refugees.

EUROCITIES WG Migration & Integration Meeting "International talent attraction & labour market integration of migrants", Tampere, 7/8-10-2020 (digital event)

The meeting discussed the role of cities in international talent attraction and labour market integration along initiatives in three different cities. The initiatives illustrated a key role for cities in

- personalizing and service orientation in labour market support beyond what national integration programmes can deliver;

- forging and managing partnerships with actors from business, university, NGO and government to jointly steer these policies from the local or metropolitan level;

- cooperation with employers to better tailor employment measures and meet skills shortages

It helped to initiate further processes of intercultural orientation of services, and to forge new alliances (e.g. with employers, chambers of commerce etc.) on refugee integration.

With view to the new EU Action on integration, the discussions with two deputy mayors and two representatives of the European Commission highlighted key points that were used in the submission for the consultation on the Action Plan.

Achievement 2

Lobbying and advocacy

Eurocities lobbying on the Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion.

Resulting from the discussions with the cities during WG Migration meeting and throughout this year, the WG gave input on the consultation on the Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion, comprising suggestions for the Action Plan on funding for integration, structures for multi-level dialogue, capacity building in cities, and thematic policy priorities, and to underscore the importance of the role that cities play in integration. Some of the recommendations that were made are:

- Provide more and direct funding to cities

- Expand structures for multi-level dialogue

- Invest in capacity building for cities

The Commission has taken these into account, highlighting the importance of the voice that cities have and the influential role of communicating this through EUROCITIES.

Achievement 3

Projects

VALUES

Due to the measures taken by almost every country in Europe, the working visits that were planned as part of the VALUES project got cancelled. Some digital meetings were organized as part of a contingency plan, but the project deadline (originally December 31st of this year) has been extended to Spring 2021. This way the participating cities can still organise activities related to the project in the early months of 2021.
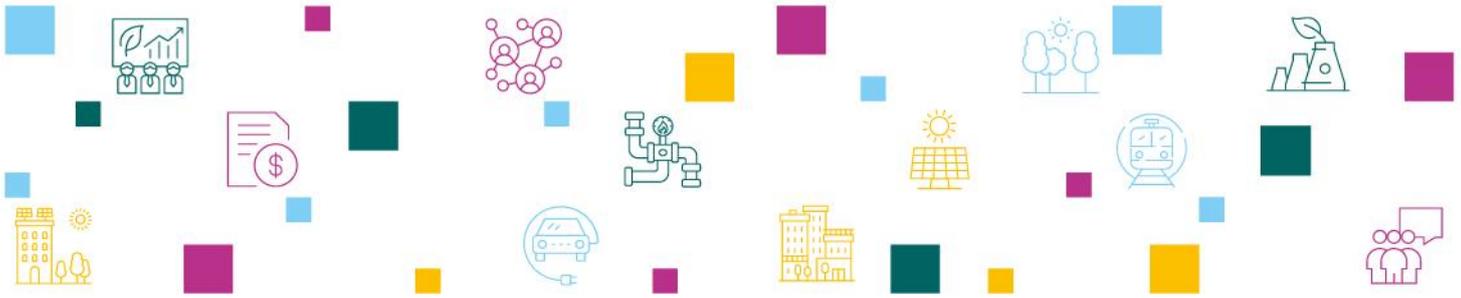
CONNECTION

Due to the sanitary situation across Europe, the first workshops of the CONNECTION project were either postponed or successfully moved online. The first three-day workshop held online was hosted by the city of Antwerp and focused on labour market integration, the second one was hosted by Paris and explored how cities can approach developing integration strategies.

Integrating Cities Report

The 4th Integrating Cities Report has been launched in December. The report gives a direct insight into how cities are integrating migrants today. It has been written with direct input from our Eurocities members and the support of the European Commission.

The report provides an overview of the relevant EU policy context, national developments, the impact of COVID-19, and local action in cities over the past two years. While integration practices vary between cities, there are several essential developments that can be found in all of them. The report covers cities' work on:

- Developing integration policies in a structured and sustainable way
- Mainstreaming integration across different policy areas
- Focusing on the specific integration needs of particular groups
- Creating low-threshold access to integration services
- Communicating openly about equal opportunities
- Implementing an inclusive and participatory integration approach
- Working towards more inclusive city administrations and procurement practices
- Participating as key actors in the EU policy context and global governance
- Cities, in their roles as policymakers, service providers, employers, and buyers of goods

EUROCITIES working group work plans 2020-2021

Working group: Smart Social Inclusion
Chair: Rotterdam
Objectives for2021
Objective 1: Contribute to more inclusive cities by supporting the development of social economy ecosystem at local level, including the tradition of business to move to resilient green, digital and social models.
How do you want to achieve it - Exchange knowledge on impact investment and capacity building on social economy ecosystems: Policy transfer on local strategies to support inclusive labour markets through social economy, back-to-back with the European social economy summit (mutual learning programme) - mutual learning activity for cities to peer review, transfer policies and replicate good practices on supporting inclusive labour markets through social economy, with a focus on innovative approaches with social outcome contracting (EPSR principle 4). - Create synergies between forums by collaborating with EDF and with WG employment - Action: Deliver on the advocacy tool 'Report on social economy' to feed directly into the European Commission initiative for Action Plan on the Social Economy, planed for the second part of 2021. - Active role during the Social Economy Summit in Mannheim on 25-27 May 2021. - EU policy to follow: EU social economy action plan
Objective 2 Building capacity for cities to deal and benefit of disruptive technologies in order to enable social change
How do you want to achieve it - Exchange of good practice on gathering and using data in making social services more effective: Action: Joint meeting with KSF on the use of data in the social domain (e.g. developing digital twins, using disruptive technologies for good etc) focusing on concrete emerging challenges at local level.

- Establishing and developing a working relationship with ESPON and other relevant stakeholders to pull resources on the use of data in the social domain and position our queries as joint challenges to be addressed.

Objective 3

How do you want to achieve it

Which Eurocities strategic objectives are you contributing to?

1.1 Fight urban poverty and social exclusion;

1.6 Support inclusive local labour markets;

2.1 Stimulate the creation of quality jobs;

2.2 Manage disruptive economic business models and trends;

2.3 Promote the attractiveness of cities for people, business and investments;

2.4 Tackle mismatches in local skills and future needs;

2.5 Support the transition to a circular economy;

4.1 Enhance cultural policies and spaces for inclusive urban development;

5.2 Tackle rising inequalities;

5.3 Drive digital transformation;

6.2 Ensure the financial sustainability of cities;

6.3 Manage the use of disruptive technologies to transform public services;

6.7 Plan for the cities of the future;

Achievements 2020

Achievement 1

Exchange with WG Entrepreneurship and SMEs on 'The role of the entrepreneurship and SMEs in the economic recovery'
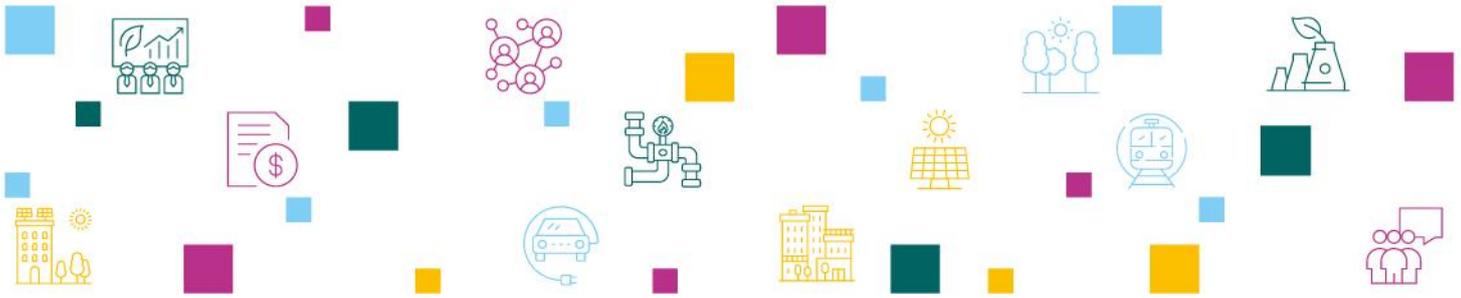
On 23 June, the working group Smart Social Innovation joined the WG Entrepreneurship and SMEs to discuss about the role of the entrepreneurship and SMEs in the economic recovery. Cities had the opportunity to exchange views with NESTA UK on the future sectors and upskilling of the workforce. We have also discussed about the latest development on social economy and the EU policy developments in 2020-2021.

Achievement 2

Survey on social economy

Together with Economic Development Forum we have launched a survey to collect evidence about the situation of social economy (SEO) and social enterprises (SE) in cities in Europe. We wanted to identify the main challenges and opportunities for supporting the development of social economy and what are cities doing to benefit from them. The survey is planned to help the advocacy work on social economy in 2021.

Achievement 3

Working group: urban ageing
Chair: Amsterdam
Objectives for2021
Objective 1: Promote active and healthy ageing by using the public environment
How do you want to achieve it Take stock of the European Commission's Green Paper on Ageing and discuss the role and actions of cities in the implementation of the Silver Deal. Explore synergies between Silver and Green Deal by addressing changes to build and natural environment and other key determinants of healthy ageing, as well as the role of older workers. Exchange practices and step-up mutual learning in the form of both online dialogue and (when possible) physical meeting, including through collaboration with the mobility forum (WG Barrier Free Cities) forum as well as other SAF working groups.
Objective 2 Mental health and well-being
How do you want to achieve it During, and especially after the pandemic, mental health and well being will play a very important factor in how our (ageing) cities will react and recover. Since urban ageing targets the entire population (not just older people) members of the working group will be able to share their experiences, practices and projects. The key messages should feed into the evolving debate on the wellbeing economy, the value of care, relevant EU projects and the City Science Initiative (CSI) working group on Mental Health.
Objective 3 How can cities support the social inclusion of the elderly and people with disabilities through better service integration?

How do you want to achieve it

Mutual learning activity for cities to peer review, to be held in Riga, transfer policies and replicate good practices and innovative approaches for integrating health and social care services, with a focus on quality, accessible and user-friendly long-term home-care services (EPSR principle 18). Use insights from the meeting to promote best practice exchange in the area of decentralized and independent living services in line with the UN CRPD and the new European disability strategy 2020-2030.

Which Eurocities strategic objectives are you contributing to?

1.1 Fight urban poverty and social exclusion;

1.2 Ensure access to adequate and affordable housing;

1.3 Facilitate the inclusion of refugees, migrants, ethnic minorities and people…;

1.5 Deliver quality public services, accessible to all;

2.6 Strengthen sustainable mobility within and beyond cities;

4.3 Regenerate and design open and inspiring public spaces for and with people;

4.5 Strengthen safety and security in public spaces;

5.2 Tackle rising inequalities;

6.5 Explore strategic partnerships and the co-creation of public services;

Achievements 2020

Achievement 1

June:

- Impact of COVID-19 on our cities discussed, including possible activities to be undertaken.
- Overview of challenges and actions in all our cities taken discussed to promote mutual learning of cities
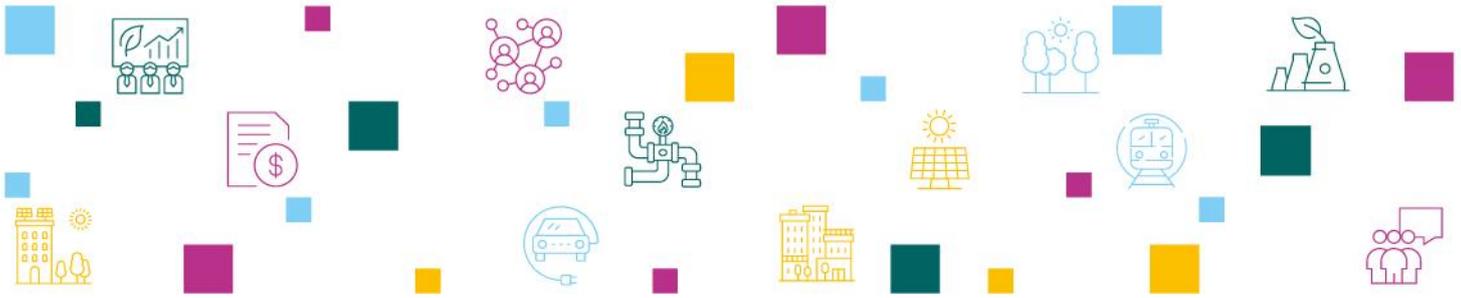
Achievement 2

October:

- Discussion on the forming of area targeted teams (social superblocks) in Barcelona
- Presentation by the European Commission (DG Employment) on the Green Paper on Ageing in the EU: drawing their attention to the consequences of urban ageing. Invited to take part in the consultation round of the green paper
- Digital mutual learning exercise with a great number of challenges facing our cities on the longer term impact of COVID-19, combined with possible solutions.

Achievement 3

7 member cities have participated in a research project Adapting European Cities to Population Ageing (ACPA): Amsterdam, Hengelo, Barcelona, Nantes, Gothenburg, Oslo, Greater Manchester. Project was developed and conclusions shared with members of the WG. On 30 November a workshop on the outcomes was held with a key note from Commissioner Dubravka Šuica and contributions from the WHO and the AGE platform. Manchester, Oslo and Amsterdam were on the panel of this event.

EUROCITIES working group work plans 2020-2021

Working group: homelessness
Chair: Glasgow
Objectives for2021
Objective 1: Advocacy: Having cities identified as key actors in homelessness policies and involved in EU policy making on the topic.
How do you want to achieve it - Advocating for cities to be represented in the high-level event on homelessness on June 21st. We will be pushing for a presentation of our report at this event. - Dissemination and promotion of the Eurocities report 'Access to affordable and social housing and support to homeless people.' - Video on mobilising private housing in the fight against homelessness to show innovative approaches in cities to expand the stock of housing for vulnerable people by way of presenting good practices from cities (could be used for a high-level event and in view of the EU toolkit on housing exclusion)
Objective 2 Mitigating the impact of the Covid pandemic and the recovery on homelessness.
How do you want to achieve it - Online meeting (Q1) on the consequences of the pandemic increase in poverty leading to increased risks of becoming homeless; recovery of the hospitality sector could lead to the loss of emergency housing solutions such as hotel rooms) - Discussion on innovative funding schemes which could be used to counter the potential risk of reduced budgets in cities and limitations on longer term investment. Cities which are experimenting with innovative funding schemes (with EIB, social impact bonds etc.) could be invited to present.

Objective 3

Tackling homelessness amongst migrants and EU mobile citizens.

How do you want to achieve it

- Migrants coming from outside the EU as well as EU mobile citizens are two groups which are identified as being at an increased risk of homelessness. Their legal status often impacts on their access to social services, therefore many cities have to develop innovative approaches to address their situation.
- Mutual learning on homelessness amongst migrants and EU mobile citizens (September) The WG Roma inclusion and WG Migration will be invited to the meeting in order to promote links between different services and encourage a more integrated approach.
- A specific focus will be put on children and young people and their specific needs as well as on opportunities for cities to benefit from EU actions on this (child guarantee, ESF+, AMIF etc.)

Which Eurocities strategic objectives are you contributing to?

1.2 Ensure access to adequate and affordable housing;

1.3 Facilitate the inclusion of refugees, migrants, ethnic minorities and people…;

1.1 Fight urban poverty and social exclusion;

5.2 Tackle rising inequalities;

Achievements 2020

Achievement 1

We recognised that the working group homelessness could benefit from exchanges with more cities that are active in the field. Therefore in 2020, we worked towards reaching out to new members. This was done in particular through the collaboration with the ROOF project, the French cities collaborating with Lyon as well as targeting cities which have indicated their commitment to work on homelessness through a pledge on principle 19 of the EPSR. As a result, 13 Eurocities members newly joined the WG homelessness (Bordeaux, Bratislava, Bristol, Dublin, Grenoble Alpes Metropole, Leipzig, Munich, Strasbourg Metropole, Thessaloniki, Toulouse Metropole, Uppsala, Utrecht). The WG also reached record levels of participation during the Autumn meeting (72 registrations).

Achievement 2

Capacity building of cities on managing the Covid crisis and developing Housing First approaches.

Despite working online, the WG Homelessness successfully built capacities of the participants. The programme was adapted to the changing situation allowing for cities to share their experiences in managing the crisis (providing emergency accommodation and support to homeless people, using the momentum for developing sustainable approaches etc.) A report on cities measures to support homeless people in times of Covid was produced. Additionally, the cities had the opportunity to learn from Lyon how they implemented Housing First. The collaboration with the ROOF cities, many of which are Eurocities members, and other French cities involved in the HF programmes, as well as the policy transfer format provided many learning opportunities and exchanges.

Achievement 3

Advocacy on the need for EU action in the field of homelessness, with the support of cities.

In 2020, we worked with the European Parliament on the report on the access to decent and

affordable housing for all (meeting with the rapporteur and shadow rapporteur) and successfully managed to get our points and priorities included. This work, alongside the publication of Eurocities' report on Access to affordable and social housing and support to homeless people led to the recognition of Eurocities as a key actor in the field. The collaboration with other stakeholders also resulted in the European Commission announcing a new initiative on homelessness, including a study, the production of a toolkit and the creation with the Portuguese of a platform on homelessness.