



Intercultural cities

Building the future on diversity

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

What is Intercultural cities

Cities can gain enormously from the entrepreneurship, variety of skills and creativity associated with cultural diversity, provided they adopt policies and practices that facilitate intercultural interaction and inclusion. The Council of Europe has analysed the experience of a range of cities across the continent which are managing diversity as an asset, rather than as a threat.

The collective input of these cities has shaped a unique concept to migrant/minority integration called [Intercultural integration](#). The concept is supported by extensive [research evidence](#) and a [range of international legal instruments](#).

The [Intercultural cities programme](#) supports cities in reviewing their policies through an intercultural lens and developing comprehensive intercultural strategies to help them manage diversity positively and realise the [diversity advantage](#). The programme proposes a set of analytical and practical tools to help local stakeholders through the various stages of the process.

Why join Intercultural cities

60 Cities across Europe and beyond (Japan, Mexico, Canada) are now embracing the principles of intercultural integration and using the Intercultural cities tools. Cities participating in the Intercultural cities programme enjoy the advice of leading international experts and privileged access to the Intercultural cities tools, and engage in intensive exchanges with other cities through [thematic events and study visits](#). Member cities benefit from the international exposure and credibility of the Council of Europe and the support of the European Union which is a partner to the programme.

The Intercultural cities network is suitable for cities of at least 30 000 inhabitants with a significant level of diversity¹, whose leadership is strongly committed to making diversity an advantage in city-making and who are ready to invest political capital, time and resources in the programme.

How to join the network

¹ Including at least 5% foreign residents, foreign-born or people belonging to national minorities

In order to ascertain that a city is able to benefit from the Intercultural cities programme, the admission process involves several steps:

1. Candidate cities complete the [Intercultural cities INDEX](#) questionnaire and receive an analytical report on the results with examples of good practice from other cities.
2. An expert visit takes place (2 experts, 1 Council of Europe representative) meet city officials and a wide range of local stakeholders in order to confirm INDEX results and make an in-depth "diagnosis" of the city's achievements and needs in relation to intercultural policies and governance. The visit results in a report ([intercultural profile](#)) which is the basis of subsequent work with the city.
3. If both parties are satisfied, an agreement is signed for participation in the programme.
4. Conditions for participation are outlined in the draft agreement in appendix

What do member cities do?

Following the accession process, member cities set up an intercultural support group and start the process of reviewing different urban policies from an intercultural perspective, re-shaping them and integrating them into a comprehensive policy strategy. Detailed guidelines for this process are provided in the [Step-by-step Guide to Building the Intercultural City](#) (also available in hard copy).

The cities are encouraged to involve citizens broadly in the strategy development process, in identifying indicators for success, monitoring progress and implementation. A [methodological guide](#) for this work is available, as well as excellent moderators/advisers.

In order to support this process, the Council of Europe provides experts and facilitators for the policy discussions within the city. To motivate and help city officials and other local stakeholders learn from the experience of other cities, it organises (and funds, including travel/subsistence for city delegates) [thematic workshops and study visits](#). High-level meetings are also organised for the city leaders to exchange and manifest/reinforce their commitment.

What are the costs for member cities?

Members contribute 5000€ a year towards the administrative costs of the programme. The rest of the expenses (index analysis, expertise, international meetings and visits) are covered by the Council of Europe within the limits of its available resources.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND THE CITY OF... IN RELATION TO THE INTERCULTURAL CITIES PROGRAMME

The city of ... becomes a member of the Intercultural cities network and participant in the Intercultural cities programme. The objective of the programme is to support cities in developing intercultural strategies for the management of diversity and the integration of migrants and minorities. As a participant in the programme, the city will review, with the participation of international experts, officials, citizens and peers from other cities, its policies and governance from an intercultural perspective, learn from successful practice in other cities, and identify a set of objectives, indicators and a plan of action which will form its intercultural strategy. An assessment of the first results of the strategy will take place one year after the end of the programme.

In order to fulfil the above

1. POLITICAL COMMITMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The City authorities shall

1.1 seek the commitment of the local Council (or equivalent) to the principles and objectives of the Intercultural Cities programme and its endorsement of the participation of the city in the entire duration of the programme;

1.2 announce publicly the city's engagement with the Intercultural Cities programme and commit to work towards a local intercultural strategy and action plan;

1.3 seek to engage the representatives of the local community, both elected officials on a cross-party basis and civil society members, in the development of the intercultural strategy and its implementation;

1.4 encourage and facilitate the participation of local media and civil society organisations in the process of preparation of the local intercultural strategy and its subsequent implementation.

The Council of Europe shall

1.5 provide political endorsement, visibility and support for the city's participation in the Intercultural cities programme;

1.6 enable the linking between the Intercultural cities programme and other related programmes at local, national and international levels;

1.7 ensure adequate communication and networking between participating cities.

1.8 carry out the INDEX review, organise the expert visits and prepare the Intercultural profile of the city, advise on the review of the city policies from an intercultural perspective and the development of the city's intercultural strategy.

1.9 organise thematic events and study visits according to the programme agreed with member cities.

2. RESOURCES

The City authorities shall

2.1 allocate the necessary staff time, political support and resources for the participative development of the intercultural strategy and action plan;

2.2 ensure the allocation of the necessary resources for the city's participation in the programme of as indicated in Appendix I and report to the Council of Europe regularly on progress made with the development of the strategy, its action plan and its implementation;

2.3 support and facilitate the implementation of programme activities and any supplementary activities in consultation and agreed with the city authority in the course of the programme;

2.4 support and participate actively in the baseline assessment (before the programme begins) and in the evaluation of the project's impact and results.

2.5 contribute 5000€ a year as an administrative fee for the implementation of the programme

The Council of Europe shall

2.5 provide human and financial resources, within the limit of its appropriations, for the implementation of the programme, in particular as concerns expert support, international co-ordination, expert visits and international events;

2.6 ensure the contribution of experts and partner organisations in the implementation of the programme;

2.7 ensure overall co-ordination and administration of the programme.

3. VISIBILITY

The City authorities shall

3.1 mention the Intercultural cities programme and partner organisations, using an agreed formulation, whenever opportunities arise and circumstances justify it (in public documents and publications, handouts, press releases, public relations material, speeches, meetings, interviews etc.);

3.2 support the preparation of an Intercultural cities exhibition;

3.3 support and facilitate the preparation of any other documentary and media material agreed in the course of the programme;

3.4 agree to the publication of its good practice examples and any non-confidential material resulting from the programme, by any means and in any format deemed necessary for the adequate visibility of the programme and dissemination of its results.

The Council of Europe shall

3.5 Council of Europe officials shall mention the cities participating in the Intercultural cities programme, whenever opportunities arise and circumstances justify it (in public documents and publications, handouts, press releases, public relations material, speeches, meetings, interviews etc.);

3.6 Organise the preparation of an Intercultural cities exhibition and/or other visibility material;

3.7 Support and facilitate the preparation of any other documentary and media material agreed in the course of the programme;

3.8 Seek to involve city representatives in good practice exchange and international events whenever this is deemed to be beneficial and practical.

4. DURATION

The present agreement shall have the duration of the Intercultural Cities programme and will expire on 31 December 2014 or on an alternative date agreed in writing by both Parties.

5. TERMINATION

Should a party fail, without any justification, to fulfil any one of its essential obligations under the present Agreement, the other party may terminate the present Agreement by serving a one month written notice.

6. ENTRY INTO FORCE

This Agreement shall come into force on signature by the Director of Democratic Governance of the Council of Europe and ...

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or the City of ...

For the Council of Europe

Claudia Luciani
Director of Democratic Governance