About

Over the past decades, migration has transformed towns and cities across Europe. Creating inclusive cities for migrants and refugees can be a challenge for local communities, especially in small and medium-sized cities with limited human resources and access to funding.

Running from 2020 to 2022, IncluCities aims to improve integration of third-country nationals in small and medium-sized cities through city-to-city cooperation. Eight cities and their national associations of local and regional governments are taking part. The initiative is led by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and funded by the European Union’s Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).

Objectives

- Facilitating the exchange of knowledge between 4 mentor and 4 mentee cities and associations to improve integration practices.
- Enhancing capacities to better deliver policies on integration.
- Strengthening the role of national associations as key players in reinforcing coordination between levels of government and fostering knowledge-exchange.

The method

The strength of IncluCities lies in providing concrete local solutions for cities while getting inspiration from local experiences from across the EU. By scaling-up what works well, we also aim to influence EU policies on integration that would better respond to local needs. We support city-to-city cooperation by establishing mentoring activities between cities to improve integration at the local level. Moreover we want to inspire others to use this method in the future.

IncluCities helps mentee cities develop integration action plans by defining benchmarks based on EU-wide and mentors’ experience. By defining these benchmarks, as well as identifying the key factors necessary to achieve them, IncluCities facilitates the design and implementation of action plans.

Cities paired in groups of 2, will work together on a concrete topic related to integration after identifying needs and strengths with the help of Migration Work. A series of good practices from participating cities and other local governments around Europe and the CEMR network will provide additional inspiration for the Action Plans.

Expected outcomes

1. Improved long-term integration of third-country nationals in medium-sized cities
2. Improved transnational local cooperation between cities and associations of local and regional governments
3. Increased capacities of cities and associations of local and regional governments
A network of eight cities and national associations of local and regional governments:

- The city of Livadia and the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece (KEDE)
- Saint-Jean-de-la-Ruelle and the French Association of CEMR (AFCCRE)
- Partinico and the Italian Association of CEMR (AICCRE)
- Fuenlabrada and the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP)
- City of Brussels and Schaerbeek, together with the Association of the City and Municipalities of the Brussels-Capital Region (BRULOCALIS)
- Mechelen and the Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG)
- The city of Jelgava with Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments (LPS)
Mentoring process steps

1. Needs assessment and matching between the 8 cities

2. Definition of thematic benchmarks (standards or goals) for each group of 2 cities
   - Collecting good practices
   - Definition of key factors

3. Mentoring training (for all cities) and establishment of local support networks (NGO’s, city officials, migrant associations, etc.) to participate in study visits.

4. 1st study visit:
   - Action planning

5. 2nd study visit:
   - Consolidation of action plans

6. Training academies and transfer workshops for all partners and cities

7. 3rd study visit:
   - Review of all action plans

Outputs:
- Action Plans (mentees)
- Online one-stop-shops with basic information for migrants/refugees (language courses, legal advice, etc.)
- Infographics
- Methodological guide
- Integrated toolkits

Study Visits:
- Needs / Action Planning
- Refine
- Review

Example of benchmarks and key factors:
- **Benchmark:** Migrant children’s access to education.
- **Key factors:** Enough financial resources and willingness from families to bring.
The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) is the oldest and broadest European association of local and regional governments. We bring together the national associations of local and regional governments from 41 European countries.

Partners

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