



Good practice guide for Local Authorities engaging with migration and development

Migration Thematic Path

LADDER Consortium



Background

The LADDER project (Local Authorities as Drivers for Development Education and Awareness Raising) is a 3-year project focusing on raising awareness about Development Education and seeking to mobilise a greater support for actions against poverty and fairer relations between developing and developed countries from Local Authorities and Civil Society Organisations across Europe and its neighbouring countries. This project specifically aims to increase the capacity of local authorities in the field of development, improving cooperation between local authorities and civil society organizations, enhancing European citizens' information on development issues, raising their awareness on the interdependence between the European countries and producing tools and methods for the promotion of development education.

The members of the project consist in 26 co-applicants and 20 associates with their networks, coming from 18 EU Member States and 17 non-EU countries and representing different kind of actors which are interdependent:

- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs);
- Civil Society Organisations (CSOs);
- Local Authorities (LAs).

As part of this project, SOS Malta will specifically be coordinating activities within the Migration thematic path which seeks to build a body of knowledge to enable Local, National and European Authorities to impact on policies and practices related to migration and development.

The Special Initiative of this thematic path took place between the 11th and 13th November in Malta. It was organised in the framework of the LADDER Project as part of activities to promote development awareness within the European Year for Development 2015. Given the Valletta Summit on migration taking place at the same time in Malta, this conference provided an opportune moment to discuss the global perspectives of migration and how this affects development worldwide, whilst focusing on action that can be taken at the local level to combat challenges caused by migration, harness positive forces of migration and raise awareness of the issue of migration globally. The conference was attended by approximately 100 people from various sectors (Civil Society, Local Authorities, Government, and Academia) and involved 35 foreign participants from all over Europe and the neighbourhood region. Outcomes from the conference brought some recommendations for action from local authorities around the migration and development theme.

These were:

1. Local authorities should seek to collaborate among themselves to join limited resources and exchange knowledge and good practice to ensure a coordinated approach to emergency situations and to long term integration initiatives.
2. LAs should lobby national government to allocate more resources to Local Authorities to deal with immediate needs of the migration crisis and additional long term needs of integration.
3. LAs should develop local level plans for integration with adjustments to policies within their remit to ensure inclusion of migrants in health, education, employment and other public policies.
4. LAs should seek support from networks such as Intercultural cities program or network of cities in solidarity in order to achieve the above objectives.



In order to facilitate Local Authorities in their attempts to implement these recommendations, the Migration Path of the Ladder Consortium has developed the following good practices guide to Local Authorities engaging on migration and development.

We hope that this will provide inspiration and guidance for those wishing to engage on this issue.



Actions Local Authorities can take to enable the long term integration of migrants

1. Join an existing network or create a network

Networking is key. When we work together to exchange ideas and good practice we can effect greater change. There are already many local authorities working together on initiatives to increase integration efforts at the local level or to tackle challenges and take advantage of opportunities presented by migration. Below are some examples which could provide inspiration or which you could join.

i) Join an existing European network

Intercultural cities (Council of Europe)

The Intercultural cities is a capacity-building and policy development programme that supports cities across Europe and beyond with the participative design, implementation and evaluation of diversity and inclusion strategies. These strategies cut across institutional silos and mobilise leaders, policy officials, professionals, businesses and civil society towards a model of integration, called Intercultural integration.

Over a hundred cities in Europe and beyond are currently engaged, through the Intercultural cities network. The Intercultural cities programme helps cities to: create a city's sense of pluralistic identity, set up a governance model empowering all members of the community, ensure community cohesion and solidarity between the ethnic groups, make the public space and services accessible to all to end the phenomenon of exclusion, empower intercultural innovators in public institutions and civil society, build a positive public discourse to promote diversity and foster positive public perception of minority groups.

The Intercultural cities programme supports cities in reviewing their policies through a strong analysis of existing policies, applying an intercultural lens. The IC approach helps to develop comprehensive intercultural strategies for cities 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.



Any city with more than 30 000 inhabitants and 'significant level of diversity' can join the Intercultural cities network. Their leadership has to be strongly committed to make diversity an advantage and be ready to invest time, resources and political capital to this programme.



For more information go to:

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/interculturalcities/home>

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/interculturalcities/how-to-join->

CLIP – European network of cities for local integration policies for migrants

CLIP is a network of 30 European cities which work together to support the social and economic integration of migrants.

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the city of Stuttgart and Euro-found established it in 2006. Through a shared learning process, with separated city reports and workshops, the network enables local authorities to ‘learn from each other and to deliver a more effective integration policy’. Its main objectives are to collect, analyse and share innovative policies and ensure their successful implementation at the local level as well as their further development in the European integration policy.



The CLIP network works on four research modules, which led to set of guidelines for good practices:

- 1) Housing – segregation, access to, quality and affordability for migrants
- 2) Equality and diversity policies in relation to employment within city administrations’
- 3) Intercultural policies and intergroup relations
- 4) Ethnic entrepreneurship

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) support the network. It has also ‘formed a partnership with the European Network Against Racism (ENAR). The project was financed by Euro-found, participating cities and by additional support from private organisations’.

For more information go to:

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu>

http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ef_files/pubdocs/2008/105/en/1/EF08105EN.pdf

ii) Join an International networks

Cities of Migration

‘Cities of Migration’ showcases **good ideas in immigrant integration** and promotes **innovative practices** that create inclusion and urban prosperity. This network tries to improve local integration practice in major immigrant receiving cities worldwide and support learning exchange and information sharing. This program is based on shared learning process through accessible information about successful local practices that are inventive, practical and exportable.



Cities of Migration



Relating to these goals, the key activities tools include: Good ideas in Integration, Conversations on Integration (online community meeting for discussion and sharing experiences), E-Library (a support for a research), Integration Learning Exchange (a monthly series of webinars) and Awareness Campaign.

This international network seeks to become a catalyst for the city leadership on migration issues. In its website you can find many 'Good Ideas in Integration', successful projects and initiatives that have been carried out in previous years.

Over 15 European cities are part of this initiative: Barcelona, Berlin, Belgrade, Bristol, Duisburg, Gutersloh, Kerpen, London, Madrid, Munster, Oslo, Satriano, Stuttgart, Turin, Wolverhampton.

For more information go to:

citiesofmigration.ca/about-2/#Key_Activities

<http://citiesofmigration.ca/>

Welcoming Cities and Counties Initiative

WELCOMING AMERICA



'Welcoming Cities and Counties Initiative' provides a ready model for local governments to help them welcome newcomers and ensure their successful integration.

Welcoming Cities and Counties Initiative recruits and supports local governments to create immigrant-friendly policies, practices, and programmes. This network is led by Welcoming America and has many partnerships with non-profit organisations (44) and local governments (70) to promote initiatives that build trust, empathy, and intercultural understanding between newcomers and long-time residents. It operates like a community where all relevant actors like governments, business, and non-profit work together in order to create welcoming community climate. 'Municipalities commit to institutionalize strategies ensuring the on-going inclusion and long-term economic and social integration of newcomers.' The main benefits for members are participation in national and transatlantic learning exchanges, access to new tools and resources to advance welcoming resolutions, support long-term immigrant integration and the creation of 'immigrant-friendly' welcoming plans.

For more information go to:

<https://www.welcomingamerica.org/>

<https://interculturalinnovation.org/welcoming-cities-and-counties-initiative/>



iii) Create or join a national network

CLAII Network in Lisbon (Portugal)

The CLAII (Centres for the Integration of Immigrants) Network is composed of 87 CLAIIs in all of Portugal, 22 of which are located in the Metropolitan Area of Lisbon. It has been established in 2003 by ACIDI in partnership with local civil society organisations and municipalities in order to increase the scope of assistance and the integration and proximity with migrants and refugees. Their work through networks is very innovative. It helps to provide a faster and more effective insertion of migrants into society for example thanks to their common database with information on the number and nature of counselling provided by each unit. The results of this initiative highlight the positive impacts of the network inside the CSOs.

For more information go to:

<http://www.acm.gov.pt/-/rede-claii-centros-locais-de-apoio-a-integracao-de-imigrante-2?inheritRedirect=true>

2. Launch a national campaign, initiative or project

You may not yet be ready to develop and implement a strategy in your city as this takes time and negotiation with different levels of administration. However, perhaps you can undertake an initiative, campaign or activity to show your commitment to enhancing the lives of migrants in your city. From these initiatives you will learn and be able to move forward to a more systematic approach. Some examples of different initiatives you can adopt, perhaps in collaboration with citizens and CSOs are:

Cities Free of Rumours

With the aim to fight discrimination and exclusion, the City of Barcelona ‘developed the BCN ‘Anti Rumour’ campaign, an innovative, multi-pronged strategy that promotes the value of ‘convivencia’ (living together in diversity and intercultural coexistence). Today this highly successful programme has been replicated in over 15 cities across Europe including Amadora and Loures in Portugal, Bilbao and Sabadell in Spain, Limerick in Ireland, Botkyrka in Sweden, Nuremberg and Erlangen in Germany, Lublin in Poland and Patras in Greece, with strategies ranging from street theatre and pop-up workshops to media campaigns and workplace awareness. The cities involved have developed a guide document, which is designed for city leaders and policy makers, who would like to learn how to build, implement and monitor anti-rumour strategy in their cities. This guide can be used by other cities and is available online.

For more information go to:

<http://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/6374912/0/Premis+079615+GBRFinal+2587+CitiesFreeRumours+WEB+21x21.pdf/c01ea15a-0195-494f-820f-00ada611f01f>

Opening of reception centre for migrants in Paris

A reception centre for migrants, asylum seekers and refugees was opened the 10th November 2016 in Paris. This initiative has been launched by the city of Paris itself. This centre is welcoming around



400 people without distinction of legal status. The migrants are allowed to stay between 5 days and 15 days. This place is providing different services to migrants like some food, and help for their administrative situation but also a place to have a rest for a little while. All the services are completely free.

For more information go to:

<http://ccfd-terresolidaire.org/infos/migrations/ouverture-d-un-centre-d-5647>

“Open schools” in Athens

In 2015, the city of Athens launched the “Open Schools” initiative. This scheme aims to turn public schools belonging to the municipality into education, recreational, cultural and sport centres for all Athenians (adults and children, refugees and migrants included). It is now including 25 municipal public schools in Athens. During the summer of 2016, 10 different sessions of activities for children were offered in 9 “Open schools”. Out of 1,250 participants, 450 were refugees. For the winter, 130 activity sessions and activities for all ages were planned in the 25 Open schools for some 6,500 participants.

For more information go to:

<http://athensopenschools.weebly.com>

Promotion of the culture of the migrants in Mardin (Turkey)

The city of Mardin has launched an interesting initiative quite innovative towards migration. Indeed, the migrants have got the opportunity to promote their own historical, cultural, religious and socio-economic realities with support from the city leaders. To reach this goal, the city gives them the tools to share their own culture at the local level. These opportunities are introduced thanks to workshops.

For more information go to:

https://www.unitar.org/dcp/sites/unitar.org/dcp/files/uploads/iom_protection_rights_recognition_access_to_services.pdf

3. Rate your cities integration/diversity approach

Evaluate your cities approach to integration and welcoming through already set methods of analysis. This rating can be used to promote your city including for business or for new residents and can show your commitment to being an open city. Different methods of analysis are available including the ICC approach already mentioned above. Another method is the following:

OPENCities

‘OPENCities’ is a collaboration project between the British Council, European Commission, City Governments worldwide and a growing range of institutional partners, which was launched in March 2008. It helps to identify the links between migration and cities competitiveness though the emphasis on internationalisation and





population strategies: they pose migration as a **competitive advantage** for cities and help integration and cohesion agendas. The project aims to help cities become **more open**, where the openness means 'the capacity of a city to attract international populations and to enable them to contribute to the future success of the city. BAK Basel estimates openness of the cities. It is possible thanks to the creation of a benchmarking system for Openness with sub-indices forming an 'index family'. 53 internationally comparable indicators, aggregated into 11 areas are used to measure the multi-dimensional phenomenon openness. These areas are grouped into three policy themes: internationalisation, leadership and governance and managing diversity. Such a targeted analysis gives politicians the necessary information to improve their policies and helps cities become more economically successful. At the moment, over 21 cities are part of the project. Some countries of Europe are part of this initiative: Belfast, Bilbao, Nottingham, Cardiff, Dublin, Dusseldorf, Edinburgh, Poznan, Vienna, Madrid, Nitra, Manchester, Bucharest, Gdansk, Sofia, Newcastle, London, New York, Sao Paulo, Singapore and Toronto.

Joining the OpenCities Monitor costs 10,000 euros per year. Cities interested in participating in the OPENCities Monitor can have more information by contacting:

Marc Bros de Puechredon :

+ 41 612 799 725,

marc.puechredon@bakbasel.com

http://www.opencities.eu/download/understanding_opencities.pdf

<http://www.opencities.eu/>

<http://www.refugees-welcome.net/#details>

4. Develop a transnational project to address specific emerging issues

The lack of budget is very often presented by the city administrations as a barrier to implement or change policies on migration and development issues. Thus, to overcome this obstacle, one option is to develop specific projects and apply for funding at the European level to implement initiatives, increase capacity, respond to particular emerging or unforeseen challenges your city is facing. These kinds of projects can also give you European exposure and a chance to learn from other cities. It is a win-win process.

ARRIVAL CITIES network

2015 was considered as a record year for asylum in European Union. That is why, in response to this new challenge, ARRIVAL CITIES was launched. It is a two years transnational project (2016-2018) of exchange of experience and mutual learning between 10 cities focused on the themes of migration and integration. It is funded by the European Commission and supported through the URBACT programme. The main aim of this initiative is to support the partner cities in reviewing their current practice and developing local actions plans that take on board the lessons emerging from the transnational exchange programme. To reach this goal, five transnational workshops are planned during the 2-year project and online conferences will be realised. 10 cities were concerned: Amadora, Val-de-Marne, Oldenburg, Dresden, Riga, Vantaa, Thessaloniki, Patras, Messina, Roquetas de Mar.



For more information go to:

<http://urbact.eu/arrival-cities>

5. Promote the regularisation, permanent residency and/or achievement of citizenship of migrants

One way to ensure that migrants can lead a full and productive life and contribute to the city is to ensure that they are able to participate in all areas of civic life and provide them with knowledge that their position and residency within the city is stable. The first step is to promote the ability of migrants to achieve residency, citizenship or regularisation of their status. Local Authorities can play a role in advocating for better policies to allow for migrants to become citizens as well as provide advice and support for those seeking to maintain or concretise their existing status.

Cities for Citizenship

‘Cities for Citizenship is a major US initiative aimed at increasing citizenship among eligible U.S. permanent residents and encouraging cities across the country to invest in citizenship programmes. Cities of Citizenship would like to expand naturalization and financial empowerment programmes nationwide and increase economic opportunity for immigrants and communities. The cities can ‘establish a new office or agency, and allocate funding to that agency to support naturalization programs’. They can establish a City Hotline to answer information about the naturalization process and connect immigrants to city services as well as create targeted initiatives and concentrate limited funding where they are most needed. Cities can also use their influence at the federal level to argue for system-wide changes that will benefit their constituents.



For more information go to:

<http://citiesforcitizenship.com>

6. Enhance your knowledge about the migration including its links with the wider global agenda for sustainable development

In order to design effective approaches at the local level, it is important to understand the wider context in which migrants live, including where they are coming from and to understand what policy approaches are being undertaken in different contexts. It is also important to have a greater understanding of who the people living in your city are. Research and knowledge exchange can be an important tool for this.

Joint Migration and Development Initiative



The Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI) imitates the commitment of the United Nations, the European Commission and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation to ‘make migration work for development and to establish a comprehensive approach to migration at the local level’. It was launched in 2012 showing the start of a ‘new migration and development agenda which aims to establish a sound management of migration at decentralised levels across regions in order to maximise its development impacts. JMDI’s main objective is to bring the development agenda forward by giving local governments, migrants and local actors a central role in the larger debate of migration and development’. JMDI wishes to strengthen the cooperation efforts at the local level and ensure that local actors are empowered and at the same time to put migration as an enabler for local development. These goals follow the larger global trend of decentralisation and support profiles of local actors active in the field of migration and development. JMDI reflects the growing interest and the strong links between Migration and Development (M&D) and aims to support the actors to effectively utilise its potential. The programme is implemented by UNDP and five other agencies such as IOM, ILO, UNHCR, UNFPA and UN Women. Currently it is working on its second phase, which aimed at ‘strengthening the contribution of migration to development by reinforcing its local dimension through the up-scaling of locally led M&D initiatives’. These initiatives show and promote the role of migrants as important actors in local development planning and decision making processes.



Through the M4D net which represent an established online platform, the Joint Migration and Development Initiative seeks to support the transnational links of local actors. The M4D Net is a key tool for the JMDI to interact with migration and development practitioners, engage them in debates, learn from their experiences and feed their knowledge and experiences into policy-making’.

For more information go to:

<http://www.migration4development.org/en/about/net>

<http://www.migration4development.org/en/about/local>

The International Metropolis Project

The International Metropolis Project is an ‘international network of researchers, policy makers, and community groups engaged in identifying, understanding, and responding to developments in migration and diversity’ and integration of immigrants in cities in Canada as well as around the world. It was founded in 1996 by Citizenship and Immigration Canada together with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, and their partnership with other federal and provincial agencies. At this time the number of countries participating in Metropolis Activities has expanded from fewer than ten at its inception to 23 including 68 partner organizations. The network is encouraging effective communication of policy-relevant knowledge amongst decision-makers, thought leaders, and practitioners. It organises various international conferences which are ‘the largest annual gathering of experts in the fields of migration, integration and diversity’.

For more information go to:

http://www.metropolis.net/index_e.html



7. Promote and support other initiatives by other actors within the city

Migration and development are multidimensional issues which need the participation of all the actors of the society to implement integration initiatives. Local Authorities should not work alone; they can support and be supported by civil society, individuals, the private sector and more, thus ensuring the implementation of effective initiatives in the city.

Civil Society- Refugees Welcome

This is a German founded initiative, which put together refugees and private accommodation providers. The process includes several steps: 1. Interested person registers himself in the project website; 2. An identification of suitable refugees (according to his preference) starts and first visit is set up. If everybody is happy, the concrete date for refugee to move in is found out; 3. Refugees' welcome initiative will help to cover the rent for a room; 4. Refugee will move in the new house. This initiative supports integration of refugees as well as relations with local people. At this time, it is running in several European countries (Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Czech Republic, Greece, The Netherlands, Poland, Italy, Canada, Romania, and Northern Ireland) and still the doors are open to the other states.

For more information go to:

<http://www.refugees-welcome.net/#details>

Private Sector- Business activities for migrants in Rotterdam (the Netherlands)

To help the migrants in the sector of the labour market, Rotterdam implemented a formal partnership between the city and the private sector. This initiative helped migrant community to be more involved and efficient in the labour market.

For more information go to:

<http://cityreportrotterdam.pdf>

Cultural Sector- In Berlin, refugees as guides in the city's museums

The "Multake" project has enabled 25 Syrian and Iraqi refugees to train to be Arab-speaking guides at the German Historical museum in Berlin. The museum of Islamic Art in Berlin has been also recruiting refugees since 2015. Since the project began, 4,500 visitors have enjoyed these guides tours. The diversity of the profiles of the refugees selected is a real asset for the museum.

For more information go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtCfPbl0xA&app=desktop>

Citizens: Neighbourhood integration in Cupertino

The city of Cupertino (California) has experienced an extraordinarily fast demographic transition: The population includes almost two-thirds Asian. To prevent the social distance among long-time



residents and the immigrants from Asian countries a variety of efforts have been undertaken. In February 2002 the city created the Block Leader Program, which aimed to build relationship at the street and neighbourhood levels and shape residents to articulate on common interest. Block leaders were received training sessions and materials with information about city services, processes and awareness about cultural communication. In 2002 twenty-seven residents accomplished the first block leader training. In 2014 there were almost 350 leaders, responsible for coordinating and interacting with more than 90 households within their local communities. 'This program serves as a model for promoting social cohesion among diverse and rapidly changing population and facilitating civic inclusion and engagement. The program has also strengthened local governance by building residents relationships with government leaders, processes, and services.'

Volunteers: Inclusive community in Littleton

The city of Littleton(Colorado) faced in the 1990s a massive influx of Latino immigrants. About 60 city leaders decided to help Littleton become an inclusive community. Due to grant support, the city launched the Littleton Immigrant Integration Initiative (LI3) in 2003. It included: One-stop information centre, housed at the city's central library, which provides important information from the navigation of city services to employment. More than 250 assistance requests were reported. Since 2014 it has become a permanent program of the city library. Another initiative called 'A citizenship mentoring program and adult English classes' coordinated volunteer community mentors and immigrants attempting to become U.S. citizens. It also offers adult English classes and the mentoring program connect newcomers and native-born residents. The last initiative undertaken in 2003 established a cross-agency network, which tried to connect immigrants to health and wellness programs as well as improve the cultural competence of local health-care providers. This effort was successfully institutionalised in 2009.

NGOs- MyRar and its work with migrant entrepreneurs in Buenos Aires (Argentina)

MyRar is a microcredit programme for migrants and refugees located in Buenos Aires. It provides vocational training and capacity building for migrant entrepreneurs. It also offers urban microcredit for entrepreneurial refugees and migrants. This NGO has got contacts too with the business community which provides commercial opportunities for entrepreneurial migrants. Thanks to this, migrant entrepreneurs are able to sell their products in some commercial centres instead of illegal selling it in the streets of Buenos Aires.

For more information go to:

<http://thehaqueprocess.org/wordpress/wpcontent/uploads/2014/04/BuenosAiresTHP.pdf>

8. Develop a Strategy for integration and Migration management at local level

In order to have a truly comprehensive approach to tackling migration and integration at the local level, the most effective approach is to mainstream intercultural integration within city policies and practices by developing a specific policy or strategy dedicated to this. This policy could include some of the steps above. By joining a network such as ICC experts can help you design your policy and



adapt it to the specific needs of your city. An essential element of the strategy is to make your intent public with a statement or visibility of what the city stands for. Strong leadership is required to ensure that intercultural integration can become a reality.

Some specific examples of integration strategies can be found at the following links:

Valletta Intercultural city Strategy: <http://www.sosmalta.org/vallettalivingtogether>

Barcelona Interculturality plan:

http://www.bcn.cat/novaciutadania/pdf/en/PlaBCNInterculturalitatAng170510_en.pdf

Limerick Intercultural city strategy: <http://dorasluimni.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/publications/Towards-Intercultural-Limerick-Integration-Plan-2013-16-Cover.pdf>



Conclusions

The migration and development issues are multidimensional and require the participation of all the stakeholders in society, from citizens to the political sphere. If a city or local authority has the commitment and desire to really make a change to ensure migrants become a productive part of the city, then the city itself has an obligation and a role to play in facilitating and ensuring this is possible. The city administration can make many changes ranging from a small initiative such as community consultations that needn't cost the earth to full blown integration strategies backed up with sufficient resources and expertise to make this a reality. The above document highlights some actions that can be taken and provides examples of these being done in practice. IN summary it finds 8 actions that can be taken:

1. Join an existing network or create a network
2. Launch a national campaign, initiative or project
3. Rate your cities integration/diversity approach
4. Develop a transnational project to address specific emerging issues
5. Promote the regularisation, permanent residency and/or achievement of citizenship of migrants
6. Enhance your knowledge about the migration including its links with the wider global agenda for sustainable development
7. Promote and support other initiatives by other actors within the city
8. Develop a Strategy for integration and Migration management at local level

There are many more. Each city needs to analyse its capacities and wishes and design their response accordingly seeking support where available across Europe.