INTEGRATION AT LOCAL LEVEL
Cities as incubators of integration
8.9.2016, St.Anne’s College, Oxford
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Chair, EUROCITIES Migration & Integration Working Group,
City of Helsinki
Network of major European cities
WORKING GROUP ON MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

- Consists of practitioners working in city administrations from 35 European cities
- Mutual learning projects on integration governance and best practices
- Information sharing
- Providing peer mentoring support
- Strengthening the involvement of cities in European policies on migrant integration
- Policy statements on EU –developments
- Integrating Cities partnership between the European Commission and Eurocities
EUROCITIES Charter on Integrating Cities

Our commitment to integrating migrants and migrant communities in European cities

As policy-makers we will:
- Actively communicate our commitment to equal opportunities for everyone living in the city;
- Ensure equal access and non-discrimination across all our policies;
- Facilitate engagement from migrant communities in our policy-making processes and remove barriers to participation.

As employers we will:
- Take steps where required to reflect our city’s diversity in the composition of our workforce across all staffing levels;
- Ensure that all staff, including staff with a migrant background, experience fair and equal treatment by their managers and colleagues;
- Ensure that staff understand and respect diversity and equality issues.

As service providers we will:
- Support equal access for migrants to services to which they are entitled, particularly access to language learning, housing, employment, health, social care and education;
- Ensure that migrants’ needs are understood and met by service providers.

As buyers of goods and services we will:
- Apply principles of equality and diversity in procurement and tendering;
- Promote principles of equality and diversity amongst our contractors;
- Promote the development of a diverse supplier-base.
Integrating Cities partnership
TAMPERE MENTORING LUBLIN
2012-2014

NEEDS?
MARKET ITSELF AS A HUB OF INTERNATIONAL TALENT AND SKILL
PROMOTE DIVERSITY AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CITY
OVERCOME ECONOMIC TRANSITION AND AGING POPULATION

LUBLIN'S CHALLENGES
- Population change in age structure and decline of industry
- Backlash of migration and integration policies

STRENGTHS
- Key position for the development of the city
- "Lublin for all" approach and focus on integration
- Strength of the city charter and its initiatives

AMBITION
BRANDING THE CITY AS AN ATTRACTIVE, MULTICULTURAL, RELAXED AND OPEN PLACE
PROMOTE A POSITIVE NARRATIVE ABOUT MIGRATION & DIVERSITY

TAMPERE'S STRENGTHS
- Similar history
- Similar ambition to attract migrants
- Political commitment

WHO?
Tampere • Migration Work • Eurocities

TALKED ABOUT
- History of Lublin and Poland
- Positive narrative
- Demographic change

MET WITH
Lublin city office and Nowy Swiat Foundation • Volunteer center • Theatre • Latin Latin Family Assistance Center • Donbas Centre Migrants Volunteer Group • Lublin Strategy Department • Local Support Group organizations

SUGGESTIONS
- Appoint a coordinator of work on migrant integration within the migration and development department of the city
- Guarantee some continuity and coordination of project funded work
- General information resource for migrants exploring the options for a migrant welcome center in the city
- Collaborate with the journalism schools to increase the number of positive migration stories
- Knowledge exchange between Tamper and Lublin about campaigns they have run in the city
- Discussion with libraries to encourage migrant participation
- Discuss possible widening of cultural events to wider group of migrants
- Develop a plan for a city sponsored shared space for new migrants and existing residents

OBSERVATIONS
- Many cultural projects and events (such as the cultural market) already have a focus on relations with migrants from the East

BEST PRACTICES
- Rasmus Anti-Racist Campaign
- Experience in mobilising local actors against racism
- Use of public libraries and museums as a common space
- Immigrant advice center created

Enhancing public perception of migration and diversity
Our report is based on the findings of a survey carried out at the end of 2015 among EUROCITIES members. We collected information from 34 cities in 17 EU member states and Norway.
### In 2015

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<th>City</th>
<th>Population</th>
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Welcome

We have prepared for supporting you during your stay and as you continue your journey.

Members of the Austrian Federal Railways (ÖBB), Caritas, the Vienna paramedics and the police are here at the railway station to meet you.

You can recognise all members of the assistance team by their special clothing. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask them.

Many Viennese are supporting us as we distribute food and water to you. Interpreters (translators) are available. Any medical assistance you may need can be provided on site.

We are doing our very best to organise assistance.

You are safe.

The City of Vienna
Communication

Transparency
Population response

Volunteers and private initiatives
Rise of hate speech and anti-migrant groups
Affordable housing is crucial for creating socially sustainable communities
Education

Promoting fast-track inclusion into education system
Economic Inclusion

Refugees bring talent and skills
Efforts to speed up process of labour market integration
Resources

From reception to integration
KEY ISSUES FOR CITIES?

1. Cities are the places where integration happens. They fill the gaps left by inaction of national governments, and do the work whatever decisions taken – or not taken – at EU level.
2. Since the refugee crisis some cities have acted beyond their legal competences in terms of reception, protection and inclusion of newcomers. While handling this challenge they have to think the biggest challenge yet to come: how the integration infrastructure developed in cities cope with new reality in the long run?. New ways/tools to look into integration work? New actors to work with?
3. Many city leaders have shown great sense of responsibility and solidarity. This political leadership is one of the success factor of succesful integration and fostering a welcome society.
4. New openings for funding schemes?
WHAT DO CITIES NEED FROM OTHER ACTORS TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO FOSTER INTEGRATION EFFECTIVELY?

1. Recognition that integration work is primarily done at local level and that cities need to be involved in decision making on integration and migration issues.
2. Recognition that integration is a long-term process which has a cost and needs a well-sustained infrastructure.
3. There is a need of visibility and sustainability for integration strategies at city level.
4. Better models to cooperate with administrations at local, regional and national level.
5. Some decisions at EU and national level can have an adverse effects on integration perspectives, which can be detrimental for social cohesion in cities.