

“URBAN REGENERATION: EUROPEAN NETWORK OF TOWNS” PROJECT



In today's Europe we are reaching alarming levels of urban fragmentation, inequality and structural socio-spatial divisions within our cities, feeding extremism and radicalisation. Most vulnerable people are often bound to concentrate in disadvantaged areas where social exclusion and deprivation usually overlap with multi-ethnicity, which further challenges social cohesion. Increasingly marginalised and stigmatised, these areas and their inhabitants are pushed into a vicious circle of poverty. In this context, and through a bottom-up approach to raise local awareness on the urgent need to establish new connections among inhabitants of marginalised neighbourhoods and those of central areas, URGENT aims to tackle the growing fear of immigration, which feeds Eurosceptic attitudes.

[More Information on the URGENT project](#)

SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS: CURRENT INITIATIVES

International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion in Europe (IMISCOE)

IMISCOE is Europe's largest network of scholars in the area of migration and integration. The network involves 39 member-institutes and over 500 scholars from all over Europe and focuses on comparative research, publications, the organisation of events, PhD training and awards, and communication. [Visit IMISCOE's website](#)

“Social Innovation for Refugee Inclusion: Maintaining Momentum and Creating Lasting Change”

On 16 and 17 November 2017, MPI Europe, the United States Mission to the European Union, the Mission of Canada to the European Union, and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) hosted a two-day event that examined how successful new approaches to support the social and economic inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers can grow beyond pockets of innovation and inspire structural change. In the event, a special focus was put on newcomers' integration in the labour market and the role of the private sector in fostering their employment and advancement.

[Read the report of the event](#)

4th European Migration Forum: “Towards a more Inclusive Labour Market for Migrants: Seizing the Potential by Addressing the Challenges”

On 6 and 7 March 2018, the European Migration Forum took place for the fourth time at the EESC, in partnership with the European Commission. Besides plenary sessions on “Testimonies of migrants Successful at Integrating into the EU Labour Market”, and “Access to EU Funding”, 8 workshops were organised to foster debate. The topics ranged from “How to foster a multi-stakeholder approach in the labour market?” to “Concrete solutions for better cooperation at the local level” or “Tackling discrimination and promoting diversity at the workplace”. [Read the report of the event](#)

“Working together for the local integration of migrants”

On 18 April 2018, the European Commission and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) published a joint report identifying the main challenges to the integration of migrants and setting out concrete policy recommendations in response. As well as case studies and best practices, the report also presents a 12-point checklist any city or region in Europe and beyond can use in their efforts to promote more effective integration of migrants.

[Find the report and a factsheet summarising the core results](#)



“Equality, diversity and inclusion” – CEMR Conference 2018

From 11 to 13 June 2018, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) will hold its annual conference in Bilbao, Spain. The main themes of discussion will be: how to make equality, diversity and inclusion flourish at local level; how Europe's towns and regions can move towards more diverse, equal and inclusive societies; human rights, public management and services, employment, intersectional discrimination, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life.

[Learn more about the event and register](#)

UN Global Compact for Migration

The “Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration” will be adopted on 11 December 2018 in Morocco after a consultation, stocktaking and negotiation process that is scheduled to last from April 2017 to July 2018. [Learn more and read a revised draft](#)



URGENT PROJECT UPDATES:

- ❖ 24/05/2018: [URGENT: “Reactivating European urban citizenship: a network of inclusive towns”](#)
- ❖ 16/02/2018: [Fighting stigmatisation of migrants and building a new narrative together](#)
- ❖ 18/09/2017: [The URGENT community on its way to Mostar](#)

LOCAL PATH ACTIVITIES

Vlore, Albania

On 9 March 2018, the Albanian Association of Municipalities (AAM) organised the seminar “Local Stakeholders Involvement in Migrants’ Inclusion” in Vlore, in partnership with the LDA Albania. Mr. Agron Haxhimali, Executive Director of the AAM, shared the good practices gathered by the international partners of the URGENT project. Then Ms. Aurora Sulce, Economic Expert, assessed the challenges posed by the socio-economic impact of migrants’ integration and central policies in Albania.



Mostar, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Throughout the Summer of 2017, the LDA Mostar organised a variety of events to promote intercultural dialogue in the city of Mostar. On 29 July 2017, actors from the Mostar Youth Theatre presented an interactive performance for the ceremonial promotion of the book “Mostar jokes”. On 21 August 2017, young people involved in the #AšikMostar workshop presented a performance during the Mostar Summer Festival. From 4 to 8 September 2017, during the festival “New Hopes”, a cultural tour was organised by the participants to the workshop “Monuments in Motion” to review the role of monuments and their relations in society.



Rome, Italy

On 13 and 14 April 2018, SPES participated in the Good Deeds Day 2018 at Piazza Vittorio, the main square of the Esquilino district, which is the most multicultural area of Rome. SPES organised its own initiative called “Beyond the Garden” during which various stands were set up and different activities offered to the public such as tailoring and carpentry workshops, African dances lessons, foreign languages workshops or games for children.



Lisbon, Portugal

Over a period of 3 days in February 2018, the ALCC, in partnership with the Rede DLBC Lisboa, organised a workshop in the Ameixoeira neighbourhood where members of the community sew together a “blanket of diversity” with pieces of fabric gathered from multiple sources. Later on, from March to May 2018, the Rede DLBC Lisboa partnered up with CATR to organised various sports activities such as a football match, a capoeira class, a table football tournament and a yoga session. It allowed different people from different nationalities to come together over fun activities.



Barcelona, Spain

On 12 March 2018, the Fundación Indera organised a seminar on “Migrant women as builders of social cohesion: bodies, relations and jobs”. The seminar was divided in three thematic panels to allow stakeholders to present their perspective on the topic, as well as migrant women themselves to share their experiences, without intermediary. “Bodies” allowed for a reflection on how the migratory experience goes through the body in the first place; “Relations” reflected on how the migratory expression is articulated in the different kinds of relationships at different levels; “Jobs” discussed the links between the migratory experience and wage labour, as well as care work.

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