

# Integrating Cities online conference – workshop 3

## **Integrating cities IX: Invest in local solidarity - Cities and volunteers building inclusive society**

The Integrating Cities Conference is part of a series of events underpinning the [Integrating Cities process](#). Having started in 2006, this partnership between EUROCITIES and the European Commission seeks to maintain a policy dialogue between the local and the European EU level and brings together cities, civil society and EU institutions in a multi-stakeholder approach. It is an important opportunity to highlight the crucial role cities play in developing innovative strategies for the integration of migrants.

This year's conference is organised in the framework of the VALUES project - Volunteering Activities to Leverage Urban and European Social integration of migrants, and co-hosted by the city of Nuremberg, partner of the VALUES project. It will focus on building cohesion and inclusive society at the local level, by involving and engaging communities and citizens.

Kicking off on 2 December, our very first online Integrating Cities Conference takes place at a time when integration is moving up on the policy agenda of the EU. As such, the European Commission's Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion, which will be released by the end of 2020, will set the policy context in which a closer involvement of cities in designing integration policies is indispensable. A series of workshops is organised during the week before the conference and will tackle different key local integration challenges and possible solutions.

### **List of workshops**

- Protecting the rights of migrant children and youth: good practices and challenges (25 November, 10:00-11:30 CET)
- How to work on human rights and anti-racism at local level. The contribution of human rights education to anti-racism and equality (26 November, 10:00-11:30 CET)
- The role of civil society and volunteering organisations in contributing to integration policies at the local level: a tool for social innovation? (27 November, 10:00-11:30 CET)
- Labour market integration: how can the EU support the labour market integration of migrants at the local level? (30 November, 10:00-11:30 CET)

### **Workshop title: The role of civil society and volunteering organisations in contributing to integration policies at the local level: a tool for social innovation?**

#### **Workshop's objective**

Volunteering and civil society organisations play a crucial role in building inclusive societies. They work together with city officials in understanding migrants' needs and provide an invaluable insight of challenges on the ground. Their role has become even more important during the current pandemic. During this workshops, civil servants from different European cities will engage in a dialogue with NGOs, volunteering associations and civil society, to present best practices in cities, discuss how to improve cooperation between volunteers and local authorities and effectively contribute to the integration of migrants and refugees.

The workshop will discuss the following topics:

- How city staff and volunteers/civil society can best cooperate to promote the integration of migrants and refugees.
- What type of support volunteering organisations and civil society would need from local authorities to effectively contribute to migrant integration.

- Good practices and lessons learnt from the VALUES project.

## Programme

Moderator: Jean-Paul Judson

### Friday 27 November

09.30 - 10.00 **Connection to meeting**

10.00 – 10.10 **Welcome and introduction by moderator**

10.10 – 11.10 **Speakers**

**Marlet Schreuder**, project coordinator Amsterdam Approach for Refugees, Amsterdam

**Sofia Burioli**, European project officer, Municipality of Cesena

**Sara Bagnoli**, Social worker at Cesena's Foreigners Centre, Cesena

**Colin Havard**, Community Development Coordinator, Sheffield

**Elina Schnuerer**, Department for Youth, Family and Social Affairs, Directorate for Integration, City of Nuremberg

Q&A

11.10 – 11.25 **Lessons learnt from VALUES project** – Ceri Hutton, Director, MigrationWork

11.25 – 11.30 **Conclusions** – Rossella Nicoletti, project coordinator, EUROCITIES

## Background note

Led by EUROCITIES, the network of major cities in Europe, [VALUES](#) - Volunteering Activities to Leverage Urban and European Social integration of migrants, enables cities to exchange know-how, expertise, and good practices on how best to implement local actions. It builds on the experience and success of past EUROCITIES projects (CITIES GROW, MIXITIES, DIVE, INTI-Cities, ImpleMentoring) that together addressed the gaps in the implementation of the Integrating Cities Charter, which embodies the cities' commitment to third-country national's integration.

By connecting city authorities and volunteer organisations through communities of practices and staff exchange, VALUES aims to improve structural cooperation and build partnerships between cities and volunteer organisations in integrating third-country nationals, by building and developing 4 communities of practices or clusters, on the following themes:

A. Community building in cities to foster a welcoming culture

B. Innovative voluntary activities in integration: engaging migrants and refugees in volunteering activities for integration activities

C. Cities and volunteer cooperation in migrant integration at neighbourhood (or 'community') level

D. Mobilising volunteers in engaging young migrant population in community life.

In these thematic clusters, city officials and volunteers learn from each other in targeted workshops, sight visits, staff exchanges, on-the-ground training and action planning to identify and implement best practices in integration and overcome shared challenges.