EPI- European Pact for Integration
Challenges and Solutions for Cities design IngIntegration Policies and Strategies

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

EPI Integration Strategies Launch Events

From July 2021 until the end of the year, the EPI cities are organising events intended to launch the City Integration Strategy and raise awareness on the pilot actions to be carried out in the last year of the EPI project.
Let's give a look to the launch events organised so far.

Riga (Latvia), 1 July 2021

The launch event was attended by 26 people, including representatives of Riga city departments, NGOs and state institutions working with migrants. The event showcased few integration best practices in Latvia as examples for discussing the EPI pilot actions to be implemented by the City of Riga, one of the EPI cities.
For example:

● Ērika Pičukāne from Latvian Language Agency presented a digital application providing resources for Latvian language learning for different levels of language proficiency.

● Alvis Šķenders from NGO "Shelter "Safe House" continued with a presentation of the pilot project Latvian language discussion clubs for newcomers.

● Indra Vilde from Riga City introduced the last pilot project, namely a full and relevant update of the "Guide for newcomers in Riga Municipality".

Lublin (Poland), 31 July 2021

The launch event took place in July in Lublin, one of the EPI cities. For the occasion, the city of Lublin organized a flash mob action, full of joy, participation and fun. We have enclosed everything in a video that you can view by clicking here.

Replication Workshops

Building on the EPI cities activities and more specifically on the City Integration Strategies, EPI is organising 4 replication workshops aimed to broaden and spread the experience gained and lessons learned during the EPI project to other cities (follower cities), easing and enabling them to implement similar inclusion and integration city initiatives successfully while adapting it to their contexts.
This ensures that the project results will not be confined to the EPI cities – it is rather the case that the inclusion and integration strategic solutions implemented in these cities will serve as good examples and practices for other cities and encourage them to learn from the EPI experience on their way to becoming more inclusive and intercultural.
The EPI replication and sustainable plan would thus support follower cities to boost their own EPI city journey and learn from the EPI experience.

Where: the workshops will cover the main regions of Europe, from North to South, going through East and West.
When: between September 2021 and March 2022
Who: EPI national partners in association with other local authorities and NGOs/CSOs working in the field of integration and inclusion.
What: the workshops will introduce EPI and will include collaborative activities aimed to share knowledge and good practices on integration. While the starting point of the workshops will be the strategies developed by the EPI cities, the main focus of the workshops will be the support to cities and local authorities willing to develop engaging and innovative actions benefitting their communities.

PILOTING OF THE CITIES INTEGRATION STRATEGIES

After the end of the design phase, we entered the piloting phase of the cities' integration strategies. In particular, the EPI cities have identified the following key areas as main focus of their pilot actions:
INTERACTION: open up spaces and opportunities for deep interaction and co-creation between people of different cultural origins and backgrounds, to build trust and cohesion, and thus realise the creative potential of diversity

PARTICIPATION: stimulate active engagement of local communities in policy-making, guaranteeing the participation of every citizen

GOVERNANCE: make integration of migrants a key priority in the cities agenda and build an intercultural narrative and competences among cities' staff

Cities and local authorities are responsible for a wide range of services and activities and they play an important role in shaping the interaction between migrants and the receiving society. They are, thus, best positioned to achieve integration objectives and their contribution is strongly considered at the EU and national-level. Yet, only 54% have a specific strategy covering all sectors involved in migrant integration according to OECD.
This is the reason why the EPI cities are considering several features in the development of their engagement actions, summed up by the keywords below:
COMMITMENT – cities are investing in developing the EPI actions and they are not afraid of doing this: they are all over EPI with their staff, who is supporting the project with passion and dedication

PARTICIPATION – actions are designed through a process that involve several stakeholders, from cities staff to other local authorities, from local NGOs to communities who want to improve interaction with migrants and foreigners

ENGAGEMENT – actions are supposed to involve local communities, leaving no one behind and accepting that integration and inclusion are sensitive topics, where listening concerns and accepting challenges are crucial prerequisites for success

SUSTAINABILITY – EPI is only considering actions that are in line with social and environmental challenges, conceiving measures that will last on long run and contributing to make an impact on the European migration ecosystem

FACTS & FIGURES –
The Atlas of Migration

Are you looking for information and good practices on integration and inclusion? Are you in need of inspiration on actions and measures that can help your city and your organisation to improve its work with foreigners and migrants? Then check the new and updated EU website on integration, bringing together data and information on what EU institutions, national and local authorities and country stakeholders are doing in the field of integration and inclusion.

www.epi-project.com
hello@epi-project.com

Project Partners: