

# Integrating Cities Conference Programme



#IntCities2022



### **Background:**

The conference is part of a series of policy events underpinning the Eurocities [Integrating Cities process](#) which started in 2006. Eurocities actively engages with the European Commission in establishing a strong policy dialogue to enable the city level, which is key for developing integration strategies for migrants, to feed into the European level. This year we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Integrating Cities Conference, strengthening the dialogue between European, national and local level experts and decision makers in policy areas that are crucial for the integration of migrants in European cities can meet. The importance of involving cities in the implementation of the European agenda for integration cannot be overstated and the conferences are an excellent opportunity to highlight this fact.

### **Objectives:**

The conference aims to enable city authorities to exchange experiences and discuss the most efficient practices and strategies for integrating migrants at local level. Cities will share their best practices in integrating third-country nationals and discuss local and European-level perspectives for the future of integration and inclusion. The event will offer various opportunities for dialogue between local politicians and senior officials from Europe's major cities, representatives from EU institutions, international and non-governmental organisations, academics, and migrant communities. This year's conference is organised in the framework of the project 'CONNECTION – CONNEcting Cities Towards Integration actiON', co-funded by the European Commission's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and focuses on "**Inclusion for all. Empowering vulnerable migrants in cities**".

### **Contacts:**

**Alexandra Weerts**

[alexandra.weerts@eurocities.eu](mailto:alexandra.weerts@eurocities.eu)

CONNECTION Project Coordinator

**Carolina Picot**

[carolina.picot@eurocities.eu](mailto:carolina.picot@eurocities.eu)

CONNECTION Project Support Officer

**Raphael García de Souza**

[raphael.garcia@eurocities.eu](mailto:raphael.garcia@eurocities.eu)

Communication Specialist

**Wednesday, 16 November 2022**

**Venue: Jaarbeurs MediaPlaza – Address: Jaarbeursplein, 3521 AL Utrecht**

**08:30 – 09:00**

*Welcome desk*

Registration & Welcome Coffee

**09:00 – 09:45**

*Auditorium*

**Conference opening & welcome speeches**

Moderator: Ali Al-Jaberi

09:10 – 09:25 **Rachel Streefland**, Deputy Mayor, Asylum and Integration, Utrecht & Chair of Eurocities Social Affairs Forum

09:25 – 09:45 **Rutger Groot Wassink**, Deputy Mayor, Amsterdam & Chair of Eurocities Working Group Migration & Integration

**9:45 – 11:00**

*Auditorium*

**Panel debate I – Cities welcoming refugees: exploring opportunities for multi-level cooperation and funding**

**Michał Olszewski**, Deputy Mayor, Warsaw (new signatory of the Integrating Cities Charter)

**Birgit Zoerner**, Deputy Mayor in Charge of Labour, Health, Social Affairs, Sports and Recreation, Dortmund

**Yves Pascouau**, Municipal Councillor in charge of European Affairs, Migrants and Travellers, Nantes & Vice Chair of Nantes Métropole in charge of European Affairs

**Hans Uneken**, Director of the Department of Social Development, Utrecht

**Giuliana Benedetto**, Policy Officer for Integration, Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission

**11:00 – 11:30**

*Bar zone*

Coffee break & network around **Projects corner**

**11:30 – 13:00**

**Parallel workshops - session I**

**Workshop 1**

*Auditorium*

**Undocumented migrants: possible solutions to ensure access to services**

Moderator: Dirk Gebhardt, Director, Migration Work CIC

**Christof Meier**, Head of Integration Department, Zurich

**Jacqueline Broadhead**, Director, Global Exchange on Migration and Diversity, COMPAS, University of Oxford

**Michele LeVoy**, Director, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)

**Workshop 2**

*Media Arena*

**Shaping local narratives on migration and diversity through decolonisation**

Moderator: Ceri Hutton, Director, Migration Work CIC

**Lydia Mutyebele Ngoi**, Alderwoman of Housing, Public Patrimony and Equal Opportunities, Brussels

**Saraya Gomis**, State Secretary for Diversity and Anti-Discrimination, Berlin

### Workshop 3

#### Breakout 2

#### How to create safer spaces for LGBTQI+ refugees?

Moderator: Sue Lukes, Director, Migration Work CIC

**Florencio Chicote**, Head of LGBTI Division, State Office for Equal Treatment and Against Discrimination, Berlin Senate Department for Justice, Diversity and Anti-Discrimination, Berlin

**Aïda Yancy**, Diversity and Inclusion Expert

**Elisabeth Palmero**, Project Manager, Equality, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

13:00 – 14:15

Bar zone

Lunch break and **Projects corner**

**CONNECTION – CONNEcting Cities Towards Integration actiON**, presented by Migration Work CIC and Eurocities

Check out the how-to guides produced by CONNECTION partners on (1) the development of integration strategy, (2) the integration of migrant women, (3) the integration of migrants into the labour market and (4) the setting up of one-stop-shops

**UNITES – Urban InTEgration Strategies through co-design**, presented by Eurocities

This project trains and accompanies local authorities to co-design integration strategies with other stakeholders and migrants, improving integration outcomes and fostering the participation of citizens

**Plan Einstein Hubs – Involving art students in enhancing the design of reception centres**, presented by students from Academie van de Stad, Utrecht  
Academie van de Stad involved students from HKU (University of the Arts Utrecht) in the design of Plan Einstein to create inclusive safe meeting places. Here, residents of the asylum centers and residents from surrounding neighborhoods can live together, learn together and work together. Everyone can join. Everyone is equal.

**Gothenburg – Increasing the job prospects for people in long-term unemployment**, presented by the city of Gothenburg and representatives from “Working Life and Health Northeast” project

The projects presented in this corner focus on the challenges and the ways to increase the job prospects for people in long-term unemployment

**Antwerp – Shortcut to Work**, presented by the city of Antwerp

This project facilitates the integration and active citizenship of underprivileged young people in society by guiding them on their track toward a sustainable job.

**Riding the Rainbow**, presented by Afrilanthropy

The project has distributed hundreds of bikes to young refugees in Luxembourg. The initiative has developed an app and is now expanding around Europe

14:30 – 16:00

**Parallel workshops - session II**

### Workshop 4

#### Breakout 2

#### Unaccompanied minors: challenges and good practices for integration

Moderator: Lia Barrese, Social Affairs Policy Advisor, Eurocities

**Antonella Angela Colombo**, Head of Unit, Migration and Inclusion Policies,

Social Affairs Department, Milan

**Iris de Kok**, Policy Advisor on Asylum and Integration & **Krista van der Heijden**, Strategic Advisor on Policy Issues from Asylum to Integration, Tilburg  
**Aaron Greenberg**, Regional Advisor for Social Policy, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

**Workshop 5**  
*Auditorium*

**Creating bridges for refugees' integration at neighbourhood level**

Moderator: Ceri Hutton, Director, Migration Work CIC

**Fanny Köhler**, Team Leader for Promoting Participation, Düsseldorf  
**Niene Oepkes**, Plan Einstein Founder, Utrecht & External Expert on Migration, Integration and Multilevel Governance, Intercultural Cities  
**Sue Lukes**, Director, MigrationWork CIC & Former Local Councillor and Executive Member, London Borough Islington

**Workshop 6**  
*Media Arena*

**Crisis management at the local level: initial reception of refugees and beyond**

Moderator: Katharina Bamberg, Policy Advisor Migration and Integration, Eurocities

**Tomasz Pactwa**, Director of Social Affairs, Warsaw  
**Lefteris Papagiannakis**, Former Deputy Mayor, Athens & Director, Greek Council for Refugees  
**Steven Bunce**, Senior Integration Officer, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

**16:00 – 18:00**

**Free time**

**18:00**

**Meeting point at Jaarbeurs (in front of MediaPlaza entrance)**  
Buses to bring you to the Railway Museum leave from Jaarbeurs at **18.00**.

**19:00 – 22:00**

**Integrating Cities Charter signing ceremony & Reception dinner**

*Spoorwegmuseum,  
Railway Museum,  
Maliebaanstation,  
Utrecht*

*New signatory cities: Antwerp, Pesaro, Vantaa, Warsaw, Zagreb*

**Rachel Streefland**, Deputy Mayor, Asylum and Integration, Utrecht & Chair of Eurocities Social Affairs Forum  
**André Sobczak**, Secretary General, Eurocities

Animation and music: New Dutch Connections & Nawras Althaky

**22:15 – 22:30**

**Buses to go back** leave the Railway Museum at 22.15 and 22.30. Please be on time.

**Thursday, 17 November 2022**

**Venue: Jaarbeurs MediaPlaza – Address: Jaarbeursplein, 3521 AL Utrecht**

**8:45 – 09:15**

Registration

*Welcome desk*

**09:15 – 10:30**

*Auditorium*

**Panel II – The gender dimension of integration policies: How to include and identify migrant women's needs when looking at migrant integration?**

**Asher Craig**, Deputy Mayor, Children's Services, Education and Equalities, Bristol

**Thomas Fabian**, Deputy Mayor, Leipzig

**Signe Grūbe**, Political Advisor to the Mayor on Municipal and Social issues, Riga

**Halleh Ghorashi**, Professor of Diversity and Integration at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

**Anila Noor**, Founder and Managing Director, New Women Connectors

**10:30 – 11:00**

Coffee break & network around **Projects corner**

*Bar zone*

**11:00 – 12:30**

**Training by CONNECTION Integration champions**

*Media Arena*

**Training 1: How to develop a strategic approach to integration, participation and interaction?**

Moderator: Sue Lukes, Director, Migration Work CIC

**Jana Radić**, Head of the Department for the Promotion of Human Rights and Civil Society, Zagreb

**Jan Janoušek**, Foreigner Integration Specialist, Prague

*Round Control*

**Training 2: How to build a gender dimension into local integration policies?**

Moderator: Ceri Hutton, Director, Migration Work CIC

**Turkay Rahimova**, Former Head of the Integration Centre, Gothenburg

**Jan Braat**, Senior Policy Advisor, Migration and Integration, Utrecht

*Breakout 2*

**Training 3: How to build pathways to employment for migrants?**

Moderators: Dirk Gebhardt & Richard Williams, Directors, Migration Work CIC

**Mina Bouhlal**, Business Coordinator, Tampere

**Sevdalina Voynova**, Director of Programmes, Sofia Development Association

**Carmen Gutierrez Olondriz**, Head of Communication, European projects, Agency for Employment, Madrid

**Training 4: How to design one-stop-shops as an integrated response to integration needs?**

*Breakout 3*

Moderator: Bella Tamsin & Tamsin Koumis, Directors, Migration Work CIC

**Andriana Cosciug**, Researcher, Cluj-Napoca

**Anna Almén-Bergström**, Project Coordinator, Stockholm

**12:30 – 13:30** Lunch break around **Projects corner**  
*Bar zone*

**13:30 – 16:00** **Parallel site visits hosted by the city of Utrecht**  
*Meeting point:* For all the site visits a bus will pick you up at **13:30** in front of the conference venue and bring you back at **16:00**.  
*in front of*  
*Jaarbeurs -*  
*Mediaplaza*

**Site visit 1** **Plan Einstein**  
*Bus transport* Since 2019, Plan Einstein is a hub for asylum seekers where the neighbourhood, the associations and local authorities work together. It offers services aimed at integration and empowerment of newcomers, involving the local community. The visit to plan Einstein centre will also be an opportunity to meet representatives of **Welkom in Utrecht** and the **Refugee Council** providing courses on Entrepreneurship, build your own business.

**Site visit 2** **Foundation for Emergency Care for Homeless Foreigners (SNDVU) and De Toevlucht Foundation**  
*Bus transport* This visit focuses on the work of two foundations working in access to housing and temporary shelter for undocumented migrants.

**Site visit 3** **MOWAD Foundation**  
*Bus transport* MOWAD is a migrant organisation funded for and by African people in 2014. It is engaged in encouraging the social, economic and political participation of West African youth, and in empowering them to strengthen their position in the labour market.

**Site visit 4** **Het Wilde Westen (The Wild West)**  
*Bus transport* The goal of Het Wilde Westen (The Wild West) is the organisation of a range of activities and facilities in the field of art and culture through a neighbourhood approach. Het Wilde Westen is a partner of **Plan Einstein**. It focuses on the development of activities for specific target groups that do not automatically come into contact with art and culture (migrants, for example).



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