



Integrating Cities Milan Declaration

In 2006, the European Commission, represented by the Vice-President Franco Frattini, and the large cities of Europe, represented through EURO CITIES, launched the INTEGRATING CITIES process as a platform for dialogue on the implementation of the Common Basic Principles on Integration at city level.

The role of cities in the implementation of the European Common Agenda for Integration is crucial as cities are the main places where migrants settle and where integration is critical to building and maintaining social cohesion. Furthermore, cities are often responsible for the implementation of the main policies and programmes that provide pathways into society: housing, education, employment and health. Cities also play an important role in advocating a climate of non-discrimination, respect for human rights, equality, cultural diversity and in combating racism.

The INTEGRATING CITIES process is based on an annual event and a programme of work led by EURO CITIES, in close cooperation with the European Commission. Through the INTI-Cities project, coordinated by EURO CITIES, benchmarks for good local integration governance will be developed that can be used as a reference for future policies. Similarly, the construction of the European Website on Integration and the building of a European community of experts through continuous exchange between cities will further improve common understanding and the practical implementation of the European framework for integration.

On the occasion of the second INTEGRATING CITIES Conference in Milan, we commit ourselves to ongoing engagement to strengthen the voice of cities in shaping the European Common Agenda for Integration. We also commit ourselves to continuous and closer dialogue and good cooperation for the successful integration of immigrants, building our policies on the principles of partnership, empowerment and good governance.