

BUILDING RESILIENT CITY RESPONSE TO POPULATION CHANGE

A TRAINING FOR LOCAL
AUTHORITIES

THURSDAY, 18 JUNE 2026

10:00 – 15:30 CET



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10:00 – 10:10 **WELCOME** By Alexandra Weerts, Senior Project Coordinator, Eurocities

10:10 – 11:00 **WHY DO WE NEED MORE STRATEGIC RESPONSES TO MIGRATION AND POPULATION CHANGE?**

MODERATED BY [RACHEL MARANGOZOV](#) AND [DIRK GEBHARDT](#), DIRECTORS, [MIGRATIONWORK](#)

Why strategic approaches to newcomer inclusion is essential for the future of cities – Setting the scene

[Rachel Marangozov](#), Director, [MigrationWork](#)

[Susanne Millar](#), Chief Executive, Glasgow City Council

Audience Q&A

11:00 – 12:00 **BUILDING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY FOR LONG-TERM SOCIAL INCLUSION**

MODERATED BY: [DIRK GEBHARDT](#), DIRECTOR, [MIGRATIONWORK](#)

Good practice examples in cities:

- Munich – [Maria Prsa](#), Policy Officer, Department for Social Services, Office for Housing and Migration
- Prague – [Geti Mubeenová](#), Regional coordinator of strategic management in the field of adaptation-integration of temporary protection holders from Ukraine

Audience Q&A

12:00 – 13:30 **LUNCH BREAK**

13:30 – 14:20 **BUILDING CROSS-SECTOR, COORDINATED SERVICE DELIVERY AND PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE**

MODERATED BY [RACHEL MARANGOZOV](#), DIRECTOR, [MIGRATIONWORK](#)

[Nick Dreher](#), Researcher with the [Soli*City Partnership](#) at [Toronto Metropolitan University](#),

[Adla Shashati](#), Director, [Greek Migrant Forum](#)

Audience Q&A

14:20 – 14:30 **BREAK**

14:30 – 15:30 **BREAK-OUT SESSIONS**

Breakout 1: From pressure to planning: housing strategies for changing cities

Moderated by [Sue Lukes](#), Director, MigrationWork

[Birgit Wachter-Wallner](#), Advisor, Integration and Diversity, City of Vienna

[Dominique Dallabrida](#), Executive Assistant, Fonds Soziales Wien (FSW) and [Sidonia Estl](#), Strategy Manager for Refugees and Basic Care, Fonds Soziales Wien (FSW)

Breakout 2: Communicating migration: building trust and confidence with your citizens

Moderated by [Dirk Gebhardt](#) and [Rachel Marangozov](#), Directors, MigrationWork

[Javier Bokesa](#), Councillor for Economic Development, Employment, Trade and External Cooperation, City of Fuenlabrada

15:30 – 15:40 **WRAP UP AND FINAL COMMENTS** Alexandra Weerts, Senior Project Coordinator, Eurocities

About the organisers:

European Network of Migrant Women
migrantwomenennetwork.org

Eurocities
eurocities.eu

MigrationWork
migrationwork.org



Co-funded by
the European Union



ADLA SHASHATI

Adla Shashati is the Director of the Greek Forum of Migrants. She is a journalist and social activist with roots in Sudan and Greece. She holds a degree in Media and Cultural Studies and an MA in New Media Technologies. Passionate about social justice, Adla has been actively engaged in efforts against racism and xenophobia at both the national and European levels. She has represented Southern European countries in the board of the European Network Against Racism (ENAR), and currently serves on the Steering Committee of Equinox – Initiative for Racial Justice. Her advocacy focuses on inclusion, equality, and building cohesive societies that rely on care and not punishment. She has participated in conferences and public dialogues, highlighting the importance of inclusion and participation of migrants in the social dialogue in order to strengthen social prosperity and combat institutional racism. She is a member of the collective Døcumatism and founder of ROOTES, Migrants Memory Solidarity Collective.



ALEXANDRA WEERTS

Alexandra Weerts works as Senior Project Coordinator at Eurocities. She has extensive experience in managing large projects on migration, integration and child poverty. Her work focuses on strengthening local authorities' capacity and fostering the exchange of good practices to drive effective policy change.



BIRGIT WACHTER-WALLNER

Birgit Wachter-Wallner has been working for the City of Vienna's Department of Integration and Diversity since 2016, where she implements EU-funded cooperation projects and develops innovative initiatives with key stakeholders. Previously, she worked in the NGO sector and at the Ministry of Youth in Luxembourg. After completing her studies, she was a lecturer in intercultural education at the University of Innsbruck.



DALLABRIDA DOMINIQUE

Dominique Dallabrida is an executive Assistant, Funding Management Refugees and Basic Care, [Fonds Soziales Wien \(FSW\)](#), Vienna, Austria. Dominique Dallabrida has 7 years of experience as a Policy Officer in the field of Asylum and Basic Care Support. Since 2024, she has been employed at Fonds Soziales Wien (FSW) in the field of Refugees and Basic Care Support.

Her areas of responsibility include the implementation of structural, operational, and strategic initiatives, as well as the development and implementation of services. She is also responsible for budget coordination and monitoring, and the coordination and optimization of internal processes and workflows.



DIRK GEBHARDT

Dirk Gebhardt is a director at [MigrationWork](#) and has been involved in the design and implementation of transnational peer learning projects with cities and city networks including Eurocities, CEMR, Médcities and the Council of Europe. He also works as an expert for programmes under the EU Urban Agenda, such as URBACT and the European Urban Initiative on a variety of urban themes. He holds a PhD in geography from Humboldt University Berlin, and is associated lecturer at Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, where he teaches migration governance in a master's programme in political science.



GETI MUBEENOVÁ

Geti Mubeenová has long been engaged in migration and integration issues. She studied Social Work and Migration and Development Studies and has experience in both the non-profit and academic sectors. Since 2022, she has been working in public administration, contributing to the City of Prague's crisis response related to the war in Ukraine. At the [Prague City Hall](#), she works as Regional Coordinator for Strategic Adaptation and Integration Management, focusing on policy coordination and inclusive approaches for refugees and foreign residents



JAVIER BOKESA ABIA

Born in Madrid on October 27, 1984, with Bubi heritage from Bioko Island (Equatorial Guinea), and residing in Fuenlabrada since 1989. Academic background with a Degree in Economics from Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, complemented by a Master's in International Business from Grenoble École de Management and a Master's in Development Economics from Universidad Carlos III de Madrid. Professional career developed in the private sector in both London and Madrid. During the period at Animajoven SAL, service as a UGT union representative on the company's Works Council. Active involvement in the social and political life of Fuenlabrada as a member of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) and its Local Committee at present. Engagement in organised civil society in previous years, including the presidency of the Bubi Sociocultural Association, participation in the Working Group of the Local Table for the Coexistence, and membership in the LGTB association Fuenla Entiende. Since 2023, incorporation into the City Council of Fuenlabrada as Elected Councillor. Between 2023 and 2025, responsible for the areas of Citizen Participation and International Cooperation. From 2025 onwards, in charge of the areas of Economic Development, Employment, Commerce, and International Cooperation.



NICK DREHER

Nick Dreher is a PhD candidate in policy studies and migration at Toronto Metropolitan University. He is also a researcher with Bridging Divides, Global Migration Institute, and the [Soli*City Partnership](#). His dissertation research focuses on how international and local actors collaborate to support the needs of precarious migrants and refugees in Mexico and South Africa. Other research interests include translocal migration governance, digital nomads and the future of work, qualitative methodologies, and decolonial approaches to migration studies.

Prior to his PhD, Nick worked in non-profit and higher education settings in a variety of roles including program coordination, teaching, and research. This included roles with community organizations supporting migrants and refugees in South Africa, Uganda, and several cities in the United States. Nick has also led and participated in strategic planning initiatives and justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion programmes at various institutions. He currently serves on the steering committee for the Global (De)Centre, a network dedicated to rethinking and decolonizing the ways we produce and share knowledge on migration, teaching, the arts, and more.



MARIA PRSA

Maria Prsa has extensive experience in education, media and migration. Currently, she coordinates (inter)national city networks and cooperation related to migration, housing and refugee policies for the city of Munich. Maria Prsa joined the Office for Housing and Migration at the City of Munich in 2015. Before that, she spent several years working internationally, including a posting within the OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 2000 to 2006. She also has a substantial background in journalism, public relations, training and facilitation.



RACHEL MARANGOZOV

Rachel Marangozov is a Director of MigrationWork and has over twenty years' experience working on labour market integration and disadvantage, particularly in relation to refugees, economic migrants, and minority ethnic communities. During this time, she has worked at the UK-based think tank, IPPR, and the Institute for Employment Studies (IES), and has held expert/ advisory roles for the UK Parliament, the European Commission, and (currently) the Scottish Government. Rachel holds MPhil and PhD degrees in International Studies from the University of Cambridge.



SIDONIA ESTL

Sidonia Estl is Strategy Manager for Refugees and Basic Care (Geflüchtete und Grundversorgung) at Fonds Soziales Wien (FSW), focusing on strategic development, stakeholder coordination, and policy implementation at the municipal level.

She has 10 years of experience in Vienna's refugee support system, including Basic Care and supported housing. From 2023 to 2025, she served as Executive Assistant to the Head of Department for Supported Housing, supporting departmental coordination and organizational development.

Her areas of expertise include refugee support, stakeholder engagement, and process optimization. She holds an M.A. in Diplomacy & Strategic Negotiations.



SUSANNE MILLAR

Susanne Millar became Chief Executive of Glasgow City Council in May 2024, after more than 30 years working for the city.

She was previously Chief Officer of Glasgow's Health and Social Care Partnership, having spent her earlier career working in social work and social care services in the city – starting in residential care for older people, then working with vulnerable children and families.

After holding strategy and planning roles, she became the Head of Children's Services and Head of Homelessness and Asylum Services.

In 2012, Susanne became Assistant Director of Social Work Services in Glasgow, then Chief Officer for Planning, Strategy & Commissioning for the newly-formed Glasgow City HSCP.

From 2019, Susanne led a team of more than 12,000 people as Chief Officer.

READING LIST

NAVIGATING DATA CHALLENGES FOR LOCAL MIGRANT INTEGRATION

Dreher, N., Bauder, H., 2026. Migrant and Refugee Solidarity in European Cities: A Meta-Synthesis of Key Themes and Approaches. *Cities*, Volume 169

[ACCESS HERE](#)

Seiger, F., Kajander, N., Neidhardt, A.-H., Scharfbillig, M., Dražanová, L. et al., 2025. Navigating migration narratives - Research insights and strategies for effective communication, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg.

[ACCESS HERE](#)

Weihmayer, M., 2026. Proactive local government: How London borough councils build capacity to respond to asylum. *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*.

[ACCESS HERE](#)

Weihmayer, M., 2024. How London's Local Councils Build Proactive Responses to Asylum. London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

[ACCESS HERE](#)



