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THEMATIC LEARNING REPORT

Cultural Policies:
a vector for migrants' inclusion in urban context





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The report has been designed by Sarah Blum.

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ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

ABOUT MC2CM

Migration is a defining feature of urbanisation. Cities are places where people come together to live, work and find opportunities. It is also in the city where the reality of social and economic accommodation of newcomers and their interaction with host community takes place.

In this context, the Mediterranean City-to-City Migration project (MC2CM) contributes to improved rights-based migration governance in cities. Through dialogue, knowledge and action, MC2CM anchors migration governance to a process of urban planning, promoting a realistic and fair narrative on migration.



DIALOGUE

Nurturing dialogue between cities and relevant stakeholders through peer-to-peer learning and exchanges



KNOWLEDGE

Supporting knowledge generation and development of evidence-based approaches



ACTION

Providing sustainable solutions and testing tools to address migration-related challenges and opportunities

Developed in the framework of the Dialogue on Mediterranean Transit Migration (MTM), MC2CM is anchored in a network of Euro-Mediterranean cities. It is funded by the European Union and co-financed by the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency and is implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

More information at:



icmpd.org/mc2cm



[@urban_migration](https://twitter.com/urban_migration)



[Mediterranean City to City Migration \(MC2CM\)](#)

ABOUT THE REPORT

This Thematic Learning Report (TLR) draws on the results of the fourth peer-learning event of the second phase of the Mediterranean City-to-City Migration (MC2CM) project. The event was held under the auspices of the Municipality of Casablanca on 11–12 December 2019. It convened 63 participants representing 18 city administrations of the region, 3 cities networks, 3 national governments and 10 NGOs.

In addition to the documents produced in the context of the peer-learning event, the TLR integrates other relevant knowledge on cultural policies as a vector for migrants' inclusion in urban contexts. Since the TLR has been elaborated after the initial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, some references to the latter and its potential effects on cultural policies have been integrated.

MC2CM contributes to improved, rights-based migration governance at local level in a network of 20 Euro-Mediterranean cities, through Dialogue, Knowledge and Action. The project is implemented in the framework of the Dialogue on Mediterranean Transit Migration (MTM) by a consortium led by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and in partnership with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT). It is funded by the European Union and co-funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Over the course of its second implementation phase (2018–2021), MC2CM plans to produce 6 TLRs, which not only capture but also ensure a broader dissemination of the learnings of thematic peer-learning events, providing durable learning solutions within and beyond the project. TLRs cite the conclusions and recommendations stemming from the dialogue and include relevant examples and tools for local actors to draw upon in considering action on the selected theme. Because of this, throughout this TLR an attempt has been made to clarify key concepts and use accessible language.

The TLR has been elaborated by Jordi Baltà Portolés, a cultural consultant and researcher at Trànsit Projectes (Barcelona) and an advisor to the UCLG Committee on Culture.

GLOBAL AGENDAS

Since 2015, more than 20 cities and local governments have joined the Mediterranean City-to-City Migration (MC2CM) project, steered by the International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and UN-Habitat. Aligning to the Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG 17) to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, the MC2CM project aims at mainstreaming migration in urban governance by promoting evidence-based policies and transforming the narrative of migration. City-to-City knowledge transfer and cooperation lay at the basis of this project, which relies on decentralized cooperation as a tool for development.

One of the key targets of the MC2CM project is to foster effective urban migration governance in order to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility, which aligns to SDG Target 10.7 and to the Global Compact on Migration (GCM). Thematically, the MC2CM project focuses on issues such as social cohesion, socioeconomic inclusion, access to basic services and intercultural dialogue, which are also targeted by the SDGs 3, 4, 8, 11 and 16.

The joint City-to-City partnerships and programmes particularly focus on accelerating local efforts to advance priority objectives of the GCM. The priority objectives 7 - to address and reduce vulnerabilities: safeguarding migrants' human rights and protection against exploitation corresponds to SDG target 10.7. The priority objective 15 - to provide migrants with safe access to essential services corresponds to SDGs 3 and 4. The priority objectives 16 - to empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion and no. 17 - to eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration correspond to the targets of SDGs 11 and 16. Additionally, the project supports partnerships in which "accurate and timely information" are provided at all stages of migration, which corresponds to the GCM objective 3. It also pushes for the implementation of the GCM objective 1, "collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies" for improved migration governance at urban level. Another relevant thematic focus addresses migrant women vulnerabilities and needs, aiming to contribute to SDG 5 - to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Although culture is not explicitly listed as one of the main SDGs or GCM objectives, a few SDG goals implicitly highlight the value of culture in achieving the 2030 Agenda. Acknowledging that culture is one of the pillars or dimensions of sustainable development, and recognizing that the way realities are perceived and transformed cannot be explained without culture, local and regional governments and global cultural organisations and actors have long been advocating for a more strategic approach to culture as a driver and enabler of sustainable development. For instance, the #culture2015goal and the #culture2030goal campaigns call for one specific Goal devoted to Culture in the UN 2030 Agenda.

The MC2CM peer-learning event on 'Cultural Policies: a vector for migrants' inclusion in urban context', conducted in December 2019, provided cities with a platform to explore the ways local governments can support a cultural approach to migration as vector of inclusion and opportunities. It contributes to the SDG target 4.7, which aims at ensuring that learners acquire the knowledge needed 'through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development'. This approach provides recognition for the importance of cultural diversity and the role it plays in building sustainable communities and cities.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report collects evidence presented on the occasion of the peer-learning event on cultural policies and migrants' inclusion in urban contexts held in Casablanca in December 2019, in the framework of the MC2CM project, as well as other relevant data existing in this field. It aims to [provide accessible guidance for policymakers and other relevant stakeholders, on the connections existing between cultural aspects and migrants' inclusion, and their policy relevance.](#)

Participation in cultural life should be seen as an integral part of [the building of citizenship](#), and as such it can foster migrants' social inclusion. This is also in line with the understanding that [the right to participate fully and freely in cultural life is an integral part of human rights](#). In policy terms, this should involve both the [strengthening of cultural policies](#) concerned with heritage, creative expression and diversity of contents, and the [integration of an inter-cultural approach in other local policies](#) (e.g. education, health, urban planning, economic development) – these two aspects are complementary and reinforce one another. Several connections exist between these approaches and [global agendas](#), including the SDGs, the New Urban Agenda, and the Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees.

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The evidence available suggests that cultural policies can contribute to migrants' inclusion through the [adoption of measures in six different areas](#):

- Orientation and welcoming initiatives
- Access to culture and creative opportunities
- Visualisation of diversity, promotion of interculturalism and development of new city narratives
- Heritage institutions and programmes
- Strengthening social and economic development through culture
- Strengthening cultural governance to support migrants' inclusion

Progress in these areas may be [hindered by a range of obstacles](#), including limited competences and resources for culture at the local level, limited collaboration between local government departments, intercultural tensions, unequal access to culture, the lack of structural approaches and reluctance of some cultural organisations to engage in diversity and inclusion. In 2020, [the impact of Covid-19](#) has added a set of new obstacles, including in terms of access to and participation in culture and of competing policy priorities, which will continue to affect developments in the mid-term.

The report closes by presenting [10 key aspects that should inform work in this area](#), including the strengthening and integration of cultural and intercultural strategies, the balance of heritage, diversity and creativity aspects, diversification in the spaces and venues of culture, the active engagement of migrants and refugees in programmes that address them, the revision of local narratives, and the promotion of international and regional collaboration and the fostering of connections with global agendas.

KEY CONCEPTS AND FRAMEWORKS

CULTURAL CITIZENSHIP AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

One of the main factors behind the affirmation that culture can contribute to migrants' inclusion lies in the [understanding of citizenship as going beyond legal status](#). Indeed, citizenship also comprises aspects related to personal and collective identity and belonging, inclusion in social and economic life, and opportunities for active participation in the community.

This broader understanding of citizenship includes [participation in cultural activities such as the following](#):

- Opportunities to establish or join an association representing one's cultural identity or interests.
- Opportunities to access cultural facilities (e.g. libraries, cultural centres, theatres, museums) and events (e.g. festivals, concerts, performances).
- Opportunities to develop personal creativity and cultural knowledge, e.g. through the availability and accessibility of cultural and artistic education, language learning, etc.
- Opportunities to design cultural projects and contribute to public debates around cultural issues.
- Recognition that diverse identities are constitutive of the cultures of one city or town and that diversity is a value to be recognised, protected and celebrated.

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When opportunities to achieve full cultural citizenship as outlined here are made available to all citizens, including migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, a [range of benefits can be obtained](#), including increased sense of belonging, self-esteem, contribution to the host city, broader understanding of migration issues in the host community, a more attractive economic scene, etc. These aspects, and how to implement them through cultural policies, will be explored later in this TLR.

Understanding that cultural citizenship is one component of full citizenship in urban contexts is closely related to the affirmation that [every person has a right to take part in cultural life](#). This is recognised in article 27 of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights \(1948\)](#) and has been included in several regional statements as well as in national constitutions and other legislation. As with other human rights, violations and neglect of the right to take part in cultural life are frequent, and efforts are needed to address obstacles and inequalities that prevent citizens from exercising it.

However, the right to take part in cultural life, and related cultural rights (such as freedom of artistic expression, or the right to education), have also provided the basis for [several initiatives that emphasise their importance at the local level](#) - i.e. how it is in cities, towns and neighbourhoods where opportunities for cultural participation exist more frequently. Among them is the [Agenda 21 for culture](#), a document adopted by an international forum of local governments in 2004; [Culture 21: Actions](#), a practical guide on culture and sustainable cities, including a chapter on cultural rights, adopted by UCLG in 2015; and the recently-adopted [2020 Rome Charter](#). These initiatives share the understanding that cultural rights are frequently exercised locally, and that urban contexts can operate as laboratories to test innovative policies.

THE 2020 ROME CHARTER

The result of a consultation process involving many local governments, local government associations, networks and other stakeholders, the 2020 Rome Charter is an international statement that affirms that 'the right to participate fully and freely in cultural life is vital to our cities and commitments.' To this end, it identifies five cultural capabilities that cities should guarantee for all their inhabitants. Some of them have particular bearing on the inclusion of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees, such as the capability to discover cultural roots, so that everyone can recognise their heritage, identity and place in the city, and understand the context of others; and the capability to share cultures and creativity, so that social and democratic life is enriched by exchange. Developed initially by Roma Capitale and the UCLG Committee on Culture, the 2020 Rome Charter is now a public document that can be endorsed and used by any city.

For more information, see: <https://www.2020romecharter.org/>

CULTURAL POLICIES AND AN INTERCULTURAL APPROACH IN LOCAL POLICIES

Migrants' inclusion in host communities can be enhanced through a combination of cultural policies concerned with the exercise of cultural rights and the promotion of cultural citizenship, and the integration of an intercultural approach in other local policies. Both these aspects are important and complementary, and should be seen as reinforcing one another.

[Cultural policies](#) can be defined as the set of policies and measures that protect and promote tangible and intangible cultural heritage, creative expressions (e.g. music, theatre, dance, literature, visual arts, film, etc.), and diversity of cultural contents (e.g. supporting a diverse set of festivities, guaranteeing that local or national contents are available on TV, radio or online platforms, etc.). In a broader sense, cultural policies aim to enable citizens to make sense of their world and foster the free development of personal and collective identities. From a cultural rights perspective, cultural policies and measures should ensure full accessibility and participation for all members of the community, paying particular attention to obstacles and inequalities.

Meanwhile, [integrating an intercultural approach in all public policies](#) is the result of a commitment to the [principles of interculturalism](#). As opposed to other policy approaches to the management of diversity (such as assimilationist approaches or multiculturalism), interculturalism recognises and protects the coexistence of multiple and complex identities and hybridity. As suggested by Phil Wood in the [background document for the Casablanca meeting](#), interculturalism is a fluid and adaptive system, where dispute is to be expected but should be managed by sophisticated mechanisms and a culture of active citizenship. Rather than migrants and newcomers who are being expected to adapt to the host community, adaptation should be bi-directional. In the words of the Council of Europe's [Intercultural Cities programme](#), in an intercultural city 'most citizens regard diversity as a resource rather than a problem and accept that all cultures change as they encounter each other in the public arena.'

An implication of this is that [all public policies \(e.g. education, health, social policy, employment, public space and urban planning\) should be open to recognising diverse forms of expression and fostering mutual recognition and exchange](#). Since this affects aspects such as language, personal and collective identity, and personal behaviour and lifestyle, it goes beyond the scope that is most frequently addressed by cultural policy.

On the other hand, the recognition of diverse identities and expressions and the development of an intercultural approach need to be done in full respect of all human rights. That is, as the [UN Special Rapporteurs on Cultural Rights have regularly argued](#), **cultural rights and cultural diversity cannot be used to justify abuses or violations of other human rights**, including e.g. the discrimination of women.

Table 1 below illustrates some of the practical implications of both cultural policies and the intercultural approach in local policies in terms of migrants’ inclusion, how they address different but complementary areas, and therefore hold the potential to reinforce one another.

Table 1: Local cultural policies and intercultural approaches in other local policies.

Some areas of work and how they can contribute to migrants’ inclusion

LOCAL CULTURAL POLICIES	INTERCULTURAL APPROACH IN OTHER LOCAL POLICIES
<p>Libraries: availability of books in different languages; organisation of activities concerned with migration, refuge and encounter; inclusion of libraries in local programmes welcoming newly-arrived migrants.</p> <p>Museums: involvement of migrant communities in governance structures; organisation of exhibitions addressing migration stories</p> <p>Theatres: inclusion of artists with a migrant background in shows; promotion of festivals or events related to migration and diversity, etc.</p> <p>Events: organisation of cultural events giving visibility to and celebrating cultural diversity.</p> <p>Arts education: promotion of universal access to arts education, in school and out-of-school contexts, including learning of diverse and cross-cultural expressions.</p> <p>Organisational support: provision of support to NGOs, companies or other organisations representing migrant groups and diverse expressions.</p>	<p>Education: inclusion of aspects related to cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue in formal education curriculum, non-formal education activities, and teacher training; opportunities for everyone to access the learning of different languages.</p> <p>Health and social services: involvement of cultural mediators in the delivery of health and social programmes.</p> <p>Conflict resolution: identification, analysis and understanding of factors related to cultural diversity that may generate tensions; public education and awareness-raising activities stressing the value of diversity and combatting stereotypes and prejudice; involvement of cultural mediators where and when necessary.</p> <p>Public space and urban planning: analysis of public spaces and how they may enable or hinder intercultural encounters; revision of memorials and public art which may have negative connotations (e.g. those linked to colonialism or exclusion of particular groups) and fostering of public debates around them; consideration of the diverse cultural expressions coexisting in urban contexts in the design and uses of future public spaces, with attention to environmental aspects.</p> <p>Economic development and employment: adaptation of support mechanisms to migrants with diverse backgrounds, including recognition of certificates and provision of support in different languages; recognition of diversity as a positive value in local economic development.</p> <p>Mobility and transportation: exploration of the potential of public transport as a space in which to visualise diversity, foster storytelling related to international mobility, etc.</p>

Source: own elaboration.

While this TLR focuses in particular on measures that can be adopted in cultural policies, they can be reinforced by measures with an intercultural approach in other areas of local policy. Very often, **collaboration between local services in charge of culture and other policy areas is desirable**, as the respective spheres of influence may overlap or influence one another.

EXAMPLE: THE AFRICAN STORYTELLING FESTIVAL IN CASABLANCA

The second edition of the African Storytelling Festival, organised by the City of Casablanca, was held in December 2019. Entitled ‘Storytelling – between heritage and imagination’, several stories and narratives exploring aspects of history and intangible cultural heritage were presented by experienced artists and storytellers from across Morocco and other African countries. Some events also served to recognise respected representatives from several cultural communities. The Festival was held in 16 local libraries across Casablanca, drawing a wide range of audiences. One of the sessions was held at the Moulay Rachid Cultural Complex, on the occasion of the MC2CM peer-learning event hosted by the City of Casablanca. The Festival is connected to local cultural development strategies, as well as Casablanca’s approach to migration, including the adoption of an open approach that seeks to foster migrant integration in Moroccan society through a range of cultural practices. In this respect, it is also worth noting that collaboration has been established with several cities in Morocco and abroad.

For more information, see http://casablanca.ma/Detail_Enr.aspx?Enr_Id=51481



CULTURE IN INTERNATIONAL AGENDAS

Many of the cultural policies and measures that are relevant to migrants’ inclusion in urban contexts [can be related to elements of international agendas](#) adopted by UN bodies and other international organisations. Table 2 below identifies some of these connections. In some cases, particularly the SDGs, although explicit references to cultural policies and cultural aspects are limited, effective achievement of targets may be enhanced through cultural measures (see e.g. targets 1.4 and 10.2).

Table 2: International agendas and other relevant global documents
Identification of items relevant to cultural policy and migrants’ inclusion in urban contexts

INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENT/ AGENDA	MOST RELEVANT ITEMS
UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development / Sustainable Development Goals (UN, 2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Target 1.4: promotion of equal access to basic services [which may be understood to include cultural services]▪ Target 4.7: promotion of education related to an appreciation of cultural diversity.▪ Target 10.2: empowerment and promotion of the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of origin and other status [‘inclusion’ here may be understood to comprise inclusion in cultural life]
New Urban Agenda (UN Habitat, 2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Para 26: commitment to promoting culture and respect for diversity and equality as key elements in the humanisation of cities.▪ Para 28: recognition that migration can bring significant cultural contributions to urban life.▪ Para 40: commitment to embracing diversity, strengthening intercultural dialogue and understanding, and ensuring that local institutions promote pluralism and peaceful co-existence within increasingly heterogeneous and multicultural societies.
Global Compact for Migration (UN, 2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Objective 16: promotion of mutual respect for the cultures, traditions and customs of host and migrant communities; establishment of community centres or programmes that facilitate participation and intercultural dialogue; support for multicultural activities through music, arts, etc.; and promotion of respect for diversity and inclusion in schools.

Global Compact on Refugees (UN, 2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Para 44: promotion of partnerships to increase access to cultural facilities and activities in refugee-hosting areas.▪ Para 84: fostering of cultural activities and language learning which can engage children, adolescents and youth, in order to foster good relations and peaceful coexistence between refugee and host communities.
Agenda 21 for culture (Forum of Local Authorities for Social Inclusion / UCLG, 2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Undertaking 24: guaranteeing the cultural expression and participation of people with cultures from immigration or originally rooted in other areas, and commitment from local governments to provide migrants with the means to have access to and participate in the culture of the host community, enabling intercultural relations.
Culture 21 Actions (UCLG, 2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Action 2.f: availability of policies and programmes that explicitly encourage the mutual recognition of the diversity of cultural expressions and intercultural dialogue.▪ Action 3.f: inclusion of skills and knowledge pertaining to intercultural dialogue and the recognition of the value of diversity in school curricula.▪ Action 6.I: engagement of civil society organisations in awareness-raising campaigns on cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and anti-racism, with support of public institutions and cultural organisations.

Source: own elaboration. Note that only the elements most directly relevant to the nexus of culture and migration have been identified. Several others may have indirect implications in this area (e.g. SDG Target 11.4, which relates to the protection of cultural heritage, could be understood to be relevant also for migration-related heritage, but this is not its main purpose).

EXAMPLE: RAMALLAH, A CITY OF RESILIENCE THROUGH CULTURE AND EDUCATION

The City of Ramallah participates in the 100 Resilient Cities network, an initiative originally established by the Rockefeller Foundation in 2013 and which relaunched as an independent network in late 2019. In this context, in 2017 Ramallah adopted its Resilient Ramallah 2050 strategy, which addresses long-term resilience challenges and also connects them with the 2030. The document stresses that Ramallah's identity has been influenced by a wide range of civilisations that have shaped Palestinian culture, and refers to the need to consider the 26,000 refugees who live in camps around Ramallah's city region. Cultural aspects are a significant component in the strategy. In this context, with support from the British Council, a study on the connections between culture, education and resilience and how to strengthen them was developed in 2019. Among other things, it proposed developing extra-curricular arts and culture provision for refugees and other disadvantaged groups. The City of Ramallah has recently received support from UCLG in the development of a cultural policy document which will also stress connections with the SDGs. The Resilient Ramallah strategy has also informed Ramallah's work in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

For more information, see: https://www.ramallah.ps/ar_page.aspx?id=GOWgX7a2856210753a-GOWgX7 and <http://obs.agenda21culture.net/index.php/en/good-practices/ramallah-city-resilience-through-culture-and-education-report>



Ramallah Resilience Strategy 2050



KEY LEARNINGS

This section summarises the evidence gathered in the Casablanca meeting and other relevant sources, with regard to a set of cultural policy areas in which measures for the inclusion of migrants may be adopted. Details of some potential challenges, as well as of the specific types of measures that may be adopted have been included. The section also presents some examples to illustrate how cities are effectively implementing policies and measures in these areas.

ORIENTATION AND WELCOMING INITIATIVES

In line with the understanding that participation in cultural life is one of the aspects that enhance full citizenship, some cities have included cultural aspects in programmes welcoming new migrants and refugees and providing them guidance in their new surroundings. Activities in these areas **enable new residents to make sense of their host community, establish personal connections** with some neighbours and, in some cases, be able to **present their own experiences and be publicly recognised**.

Among the measures that can be adopted in this area are the following:

- Inclusion of libraries, cultural centres, cultural associations and other relevant cultural sites in **online or printed maps or in guided visits** offered to recently-arrived migrants and refugees.
- Establishment of **specific programmes and spaces**, e.g. a dedicated room in the local library, meetings with associations representing migrant communities, or a mentorship programme connecting migrants with local volunteers, to enable access to materials in different languages and providing tailored information and new personal connections.
- Provision of **local language learning courses and socio-cultural guidelines** to help migrants feel part of the host society and contribute to their personal and professional success (for more on this, see the **Policy Recommendations** from phase 1 of MC2CM).
- Provision of opportunities for newly-arrived migrants and refugees to **explain their stories in creative ways**, which may later be presented in exhibitions, media initiatives or educational activities.

EXAMPLE: STORY TIME – CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH THE POWER OF ART

This two-year project funded by the European Commission involved five partners in Austria, Croatia, Germany and Slovenia, with the aim of creating spaces where refugees and EU citizens could discover the culture of each other through literature and art. In the course of the project, children’s books from different European countries and from Syria were translated and published in bilingual editions, enabling children to come into contact with one another’s cultures. A handbook for educators was developed and art workshops aimed at enabling refugees to create new works were organised. A final exhibition was presented in five cities.

For more information, see: <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/projects/ce-project-details/#project/579292-CREA-1-2016-1-HR-CULT-REFU>

ACCESS TO CULTURE AND CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

Providing migrants and refugees with regular, equal and inclusive opportunities to access cultural initiatives and venues and take part in cultural activities can **contribute to their expressive skills, self-esteem and confidence** in contributing to the host city, provide **a space of encounter** with other members of the host community, and **give visibility to diverse stories** and points of view.

Very often, local cultural organisations have developed expertise in making their venues and programmes accessible, inclusive and relevant to diverse groups of citizens, overcoming the obstacles and hindrances that often prevent full participation. As with other disadvantaged or vulnerable groups (e.g. people with disabilities, those experiencing poverty, etc.), fostering access for migrants and refugees may require

- **Moving activities out of the main cultural facilities**, e.g. carrying out activities in public spaces or in schools or community centres, rather than in museums or theatres, which often generate fear or respect in those who are less used to accessing them;
- **Having dedicated mediators**, i.e. professional or volunteer staff, drawn from diverse communities or groups, who can bridge the gap between the activities and relevant participants;
- **Providing opportunities for active involvement in cultural activities**, rather than passive attendance, e.g. workshops to develop creative skills and opportunities to join a choir or a theatre group, as opposed to visiting an exhibition or viewing a theatre play; and
- **Integrating a gender perspective and an intersectional approach**, e.g. ensuring that women and girls have equal opportunities to take part and that the range of activities where they can do so is not predetermined and reductive, and that the specific implications of gender aspects in particular migrant or refugee communities are taken into consideration and inform policy approaches.

This set of guiding principles may lead to a wide range of diverse specific measures. Among them could be the following:

- Inclusion of artistic expression and other cultural contents in formal and non-formal education programmes, engaging artists and art groups and establishing partnerships with cultural organisations where possible.
- Decentralisation of cultural activities to ensure that they reach neighbourhoods with a significant migrant population, including through the use of public spaces (e.g. streets, public squares) and regularly-used facilities (e.g. schools, health centres, community centres), as well as partnerships with community organisations (e.g. associations representing migrants or working with them).
- Use of diverse languages and media when disseminating information about cultural opportunities, including migrants' own languages as well as cartoons or other accessible forms of visual media.
- Involvement of members of migrant groups as 'ambassadors' or 'mediators', who can disseminate information about cultural opportunities, tailor it to the needs and life-styles of migrants, and facilitate cultural participation.
- Training of staff in cultural venues and programmes to understand the context and needs of migrants and refugees, potential obstacles to their participation in cultural activities and possible practical solutions.

EXAMPLE: FACTORÍA CULTURAL, SEVILLA

Factoría Cultural is a new public venue established by the City of Sevilla in one neighbourhood affected by poverty and hosting large Gypsy, North African and Latin American communities. A range of challenges had been identified in the area, including inter-community tensions, educational disadvantage, and limited opportunities to take part in cultural life. In this context, the new facility aims to become a space of encounter and a creative space open to the local community, enabling the emergence of local creative initiatives and potential economic opportunities in this field. Spaces for workshops and other educational activities, artistic residencies and performances are part of the complex. Furthermore, activities will also be conducted outside the building. The project involves a team of six cultural mediators and has established partnerships with several cultural and educational associations.

For more information, see: <https://icas.sevilla.org/espacios/factoria-cultural>

VISUALISATION OF DIVERSITY, PROMOTION OF INTERCULTURALISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW CITY NARRATIVES

Cultural life has a strong public and collective dimension. It involves activities that may be done as part of a group or which may be held in public, open spaces and seen by others. Because of this, cultural and creative expressions have the potential to give visibility to migrants and refugees and to have them recognised as members of the community, in a more balanced, equal manner than what would be usual in the economic or institutional spheres.

While opportunities for visualising diverse identities and expressions are important, they should be complemented with activities with an intercultural approach, which enable dialogue and the creation of new works and expressions, where both host and migrant communities feel represented in a way as equal as possible. Intercultural processes are complex, and they will sometimes need to be facilitated by trained staff, capable of mediating misunderstanding or potential conflicts between different staff. At the same time, as suggested by Phil Wood, culture and the arts 'give us sentiments with which to empathise with those who would feel threatened by the stranger and those who are threatened as the stranger, and offer new languages of inclusion by which all may communicate.'

Ultimately, one of the aims of cultural policies concerned with the inclusion of migrants should be to contribute to the emergence of new local narratives, images and symbols which embrace diversity and make it one of the constitutive aspects of local culture. The emergence of new narratives should go hand-in-hand with the reflection on the 'inherited narratives' that have shaped a city over the years, involving diverse voices and approaches. This is closely connected to a dynamic understanding of culture, which sees it as being made and re-made continuously by citizens. Also related to this is the understanding that, although preserving migrants' and host communities' cultures of origin is important, this should not be done in a way which 'freezes' them as they were in the past, but rather, ideally, in a way that recognises and fosters their potential to evolve.

The MC2CM meeting in Casablanca discussed several examples of initiatives in this field, including festivals, parades and other cultural events, library programmes, the creation of new public art, etc.

Among the measures that can be adopted in this area are the following:

- [Organisation of intercultural festivals and events](#), which give visibility to the diverse communities living together in a city and foster opportunities for dialogue and the emergence of new, intercultural expressions.
- Promotion of [intercultural creative dialogues and processes](#) involving members of the host community and migrants, facilitated by artists and other mediators, with the aim of exploring experiences of diversity and generating new creative works (texts, music, images, etc.) that may result from these encounters.
- Involvement of artists and cultural groups in [awareness-raising, communication and public education activities](#) that celebrate diversity, foster mutual recognition and dialogue and generate more contemporary images of the city (e.g. a new city brand around diversity).
- Involvement of architects, urban designers and artists in the [design of new public spaces and public art](#) which can facilitate collective gatherings and become a symbol of a diverse city.

EXAMPLE: MAKING SOUSSE A SUSTAINABLE CULTURAL DESTINATION, WITH THE CONTRIBUTION OF ARAB AND AFRICAN MIGRANTS

With the aim of making Sousse a sustainable cultural destination for Arab and African migrants, students, workers and residents, integrating migrants into Tunisian society and enabling them to exercise their basic rights, collaboration between cultural associations (including the Arab African Council for Sustainable Development), the Sousse Municipality, the Sousse Regional Commission for Culture and the University of Sousse has contributed to increasing the participation of migrants and foreign students in local cultural activities, and has also enabled them to develop cultural activities connected to their countries of origin. Thanks to this, barriers between the host and migrants communities have been overcome, the city has become a more culturally diverse and attractive destination and migrants are contributing to local cultural life with their creative ideas.

HERITAGE INSTITUTIONS AND PROGRAMMES

Heritage institutions and sites, including museums, archives, monuments and memorials, hold a very important place in cultural life, by preserving, presenting and helping to interpret and reinterpret history, collective memory and related narratives. Since every place has a heritage of immigration, although this is not always reflected in prevailing, official narratives, there is potential [room to identify common aspects among host and migrant communities](#) living together in a city.

As in other intercultural practices, the joint exploration of heritage can lead to the emergence of new, shared narratives, embodying the dynamic, changing nature of cultural life. [This has particular implications in the Mediterranean](#), where local communities have engaged in migration and exchange for centuries and there are substantial shared legacies.

Another important role for heritage institutions lies in [helping to visualise the heritage of migrant communities](#), providing them with support in preserving it and interpreting it for the host communities, through exhibitions, living archives and other programmes.

Among the measures that can be adopted in this area are the following:

- [Inclusion of heritage related to migration](#) (e.g. artifacts, documents, oral and intangible heritage, etc.) [in mainstream heritage institutions](#), such as museums or archives, for preservation, research and educational purposes.
- Establishment of [heritage institutions or sites dedicated specifically to the exploration of migration](#) (e.g. migration museums, monuments, research centres), with an intercultural approach.
- Identification of [stories and topics which are shared in the histories of host and migrant communities](#), including those that are often neglected or lesser-known, and exploring them together in the form of exhibitions, publications and other tools.
- [Involvement of migrants as mediators, educators or guides](#) in museums and exhibitions that present heritage related to them, enabling a contemporary and personal reinterpretation of historical aspects.
- Provision of [support to migrant communities](#) in activities that aim to preserve and present their tangible and intangible heritage.

EXAMPLE: THE HOUSE OF THE EXCHANGE OF POPULATIONS IN NILÜFER

The House of the Exchange of Populations is a museum addressing the history of forced migration and the exchange of population that involved Greek and Turkish groups between 1922 and 1924, following the Greek-Turkish War in Anatolia. It is based in Nilüfer, one of the three municipal administrations constituting the Metropolitan Municipality of Bursa, in Turkey. The House is particularly interested in following critical, non-nationalistic international academic scholarship, by basing its narrative on direct testimonies and enabling the intertwining of Turkish and Greek stories around common themes of everyday life and folk culture. The institution consists of a permanent exhibition and an archival section. The collection was formed mainly through donations, as well as some acquisitions, publications, and oral history testimonies collected by the Municipality of Nilüfer.

For more information, see: <http://obs.agenda21culture.net/en/good-practices/nilufer-house-ex-change-populations>

STRENGTHENING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH CULTURE

21 | As the [policy recommendations](#) emerging from phase 1 of MC2CM argued, “Diversity is a lever for social capital and economic development. If dealt with in an effective manner, cities can make use of their diverse population to boost social transformation, innovation and local development, as well as long-term prosperity.”

Indeed, if equal opportunities for the visualisation of diversity as well as for mutual encounter and collaboration exist, diversity [holds the potential to foster social innovation and progress](#). Furthermore, as cities and businesses in different parts of the world have observed, it can be a factor in [enhancing attractiveness and competitiveness](#) (e.g. attraction of investment and skilled migrants, better understanding of diverse markets, design of innovative products, etc.).

More specifically, the [cultural and creative sectors have been seen to provide increasing employment opportunities](#) and contribute to economic development in many urban contexts. The knowledge and skills of migrants and refugees and their ability to use these in developing diverse cultural expressions, goods and services, can be a particular asset in this respect. This includes migrants or refugees with previous experience in culture or the arts, who should have opportunities to resume and develop their careers in the host city.

Progress in these areas requires a degree of social consensus around diversity as a positive value, as well as [encouragement and support measures from local authorities](#).

Among the measures that can be adopted in this area are the following:

- Integration of creativity and diversity, including that related to migration, as a positive value in [local strategies addressing social and economic development](#).
- Integration of [cultural and creative sectors as recognised pathways to employment](#), as reflected in training and professional development programmes, including those that address migrants and refugees.
- Commitment of local authorities and civil society organisations active in cultural life to [facilitating opportunities for artists and refugees with a record of work in culture and the arts](#), to resume their careers in the host city.

EXAMPLE: THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF SYRIAN REFUGEE WOMEN IN AMMAN

The Greater Amman Municipality has developed several initiatives to enhance women's economic empowerment, including through vocational training courses and business development support. Drawing on the results of a study on the obstacles to the integration of Syrian refugee women, a comprehensive set of measures was designed, including psychological support, child care facilities, and financial support to attend training courses, with the ultimate aim of enabling business development in areas related to crafts and cooking. Refugee women were also later involved in delivering training courses to women from the local community. The programme has contributed to increasing family incomes and strengthening women's position in their families, disseminating specialised knowledge and building new partnerships with several organisations. Support has been obtained from national authorities, foundations, NGOs and international donors.

STRENGTHENING CULTURAL GOVERNANCE TO SUPPORT MIGRANTS' INCLUSION

The measures outlined in previous sections can be best supported when strong capacities in cultural policy and programme development exist, as well as when frameworks for collaboration among all relevant stakeholders are put in place. In this respect, the governance of culture at local level involves [an active role of local governments, the private sector, civil society organisations and citizens](#), including migrants and refugees. While public authorities have a fundamental leading role, they need to act in dialogue and collaboration with other actors, understanding that migrants' inclusion requires contributions by all of them.

Adequate means to [strengthen public debate, consultation and engagement in policy design, implementation and evaluation](#) are relevant tools as well. They should ideally include transversal or ‘joined-up’ mechanisms across government (e.g. between cultural, social inclusion, education and employment services) and participatory mechanisms, enabling citizens and civil society organisations, including those that represent migrants, to voice their interests and priorities, as well as to engage in programme management. The principle of ‘[nothing about us, without us, is for us](#)’, of relevance both to migrants and refugees and to other disadvantaged groups (e.g. people with disabilities), should be applied here, thus ensuring active participation from the groups concerned. Indeed, cultural governance should ultimately ensure that all citizens are represented in participatory processes.

Among the measures that can be adopted in this area are the following:

- Provision of [training, financial and in-kind support to civil society organisations](#) active in cultural life, including those that represent or work with migrants and refugees.
- Provision of [training and guidance to migrants and refugees](#), enabling them to actively engage in civic life, through a better knowledge of existing civil society organisations and other opportunities for participation.
- Provision of [training to local government staff in culture and other relevant fields](#), addressing aspects such as the connections between culture and migrants’ inclusion, as well as the promotion of participatory mechanisms in policy consultation, design and implementation.
- Establishment of [working groups, joint strategies and other collaborative arrangements](#) between different local government departments in areas relevant to culture and migrants’ inclusion, with an intercultural approach prevailing throughout.
- [Inclusion of migrants and refugees in public consultative processes](#) related to cultural life (e.g. when designing cultural strategies or programmes).
- Development of collaborative arrangements which enable civil society organisations and informal groups to [engage in the co-design and co-management of public programmes](#) contributing to cultural life (e.g. community centres, festivals, etc.).

EXAMPLE: PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION OF CULTURAL AND INTERCULTURAL POLICES IN LISBON

The City of Lisbon has developed a range of mechanisms to foster active participation and co-ordination among stakeholders relevant to cultural life and intercultural relations. The Municipal Council for Interculturality (CMIC), a consultative body involving associations representing or working with migrants and minorities, was first established in 1993 and meets monthly. A bottom-up approach, involving consultation with migrants and civil society organisations, has been adopted by the City when designing strategies related to migration, such as the Municipal Plan for the Integration of Immigrants 2018-2020. The latter refers to the importance of migrants in local cultural life and involves coordination with the City Council’s cultural services. Indeed, the Local Cultural Strategy adopted in 2017 also stresses the aim to broaden migrants’ opportunities for cultural participation. Several cultural events celebrating diversity, such as Festival Todos and Festival Lisboa Mistura, rely on collaboration between the local government and civil society organisations.

For more information, see: <https://www.lisboa.pt/cidade/direitos-sociais/interculturalidade> and <https://www.lisboa.pt/cidade/cultura/estrategia>



CHALLENGES AND OBSTACLES

The implementation of measures presented in the previous section needs to face a set of challenges and obstacles, including the following:

- **Limited competences and resources:** although, as the [Synthesis Report](#) emerging from phase 1 of MC2CM showed, local governments in most EU and Mediterranean countries can intervene in the cultural field, this is often an area to which only limited resources are devoted. Some local governments do not have a dedicated department in charge of culture, or lack suitably trained staff, and this limits their ability to develop ambitious policies in this area. Furthermore, competences in other relevant areas, such as educational policy, frequently lie at the national level, thus limiting the capacity of local governments to innovate in areas such as arts and cultural education.
- **Limited policy integration and collaboration:** several of the measures outlined above rely on collaboration between different local government departments, as well as between public authorities and civil society organisations. However, collaboration is frequently limited or non-existent, and only in some cases are cultural aspects (e.g. language, creative expression, heritage) taken into account when local authorities design policies in areas related to migrants' inclusion, participation and citizenship.
- **Myths and misconceptions regarding culture:** as Nancy Duxbury, Jyoti Hosagrahar and Jordi Pascual [have argued](#), a set of misconceptions about culture prevail in many communities, which prevent further integration of cultural aspects in local policies. Among them is the belief that culture is an obstruction to development, as well as the assumption that the culture of a place is fixed, timeless and should not be modified. As the evidence presented in the previous section has shown, culture can be seen as a pillar of local development and it is in the interest of cities and local communities to adopt a dynamic understanding of culture. Suitable training, awareness-raising and policy development initiatives are needed to address these misconceptions.
- **Intercultural tensions in the community:** alongside the potential for positive change that lies in diversity and intercultural relations, this remains a complex terrain – culture can be both a space for encounter or one in which differences are emphasised and lead to tensions. This is particularly the case when differences in habits and lifestyles, historical resentments and social tensions are exploited for political or economic purposes. The active role of public authorities and civil society organisations in identifying sources of tension, addressing misinformation (see e.g. the [TLR on communication around migration in cities](#)), carrying out educational activities and embracing the potential of diversity in a positive light is necessary in this respect.

- **Inequalities in access to culture:** a range of factors, including the frequent centralisation of cultural venues in city centres, the price of activities, limited visibility and poor communication, or lack of suitable mediation mechanisms, mean that cultural activities are often accessed only by specific segments of the local population, whereas others – including migrants and other disadvantaged groups – are left aside.
- **Prevalence of short-term, rather than structural approaches:** initiatives aimed at fostering migrants' inclusion in cultural life often are short-lived or one-off, in the form of festivals, events and short-term projects. While festivals and celebrations can make positive contributions to inclusion, they should be complemented with permanent measures and structural approaches which can lead to more sustainable results – e.g. the role of public facilities or venues dedicated to or contributing to cultural diversity (libraries, community centres), long-lasting partnerships and strategies, municipal programmes with a dedicated budget, etc.
- **Reluctance of some cultural organisations to engage in diversity and inclusion:** in some cases, cultural organisations tend to maintain very traditional approaches and cater for their established audiences and participants only, and are disinclined to engage in projects beyond their 'comfort zones', such as those that would lead them to address diversity and foster migrants' inclusion.

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

Throughout 2020, Covid-19 has affected many dimensions of life in cities, including the opportunities for participation in cultural life. In this respect, although the findings and key learnings presented throughout this TLR remain valid, a set of observations derived from this context, and which may continue to be relevant in the foreseeable future, need to be made:

- The forms of **celebrating culture collectively**, which are important in terms of intercultural encounters, mutual recognition and social cohesion in urban contexts, are particularly affected. Local governments and civil society organisations are encouraged to identify and promote alternative ways to enable local exchanges, including through in-person encounters when conditions allow, and combining them with online means where necessary.
- **Opportunities for accessing culture are also being reduced**, particularly for some social groups, including those living in neighbourhoods with limited cultural infrastructure or where venues have been closed (since mobility in cities may increasingly be restricted), and those experiencing disability or health issues, who may prefer to stay at home and tend to avoid crowded and public spaces. Public authorities should be ready to identify these difficulties and adopt measures to facilitate safe cultural participation for everyone when conditions allow.

- The cancellation of live events, the closure of many cultural venues and the restrictions on mobility are **threatening the ability of artists and cultural professionals to maintain a regular income**. In this respect, some of the earlier observations on the potential of culture to provide migrants with useful pathways to employment may need to be taken with caution. Local and national governments should be aware of these developments and take measures to contribute to the sustainability of cultural employment, as in other sectors of the economy.
- **Covid-19 may lead to an increasing fear of the other**, including disadvantaged groups such as migrants and refugees, who may in some cases be seen as potential threats for public health purposes. Local governments and civil society organisations should be aware of this risk and, where necessary, join forces in public education campaigns and other initiatives that contribute to generating trust and cohesion. Artists and cultural professionals may be engaged in activities in this respect.
- The current crisis is adding pressure on public resources, which need to be spread between **increasingly competing priorities**. Local governments should try to ensure that basic provision of cultural services is accessible to everyone, in line with cultural rights, and that steps are taken to ensure the sustainability of cultural infrastructures and organisations.

In June 2020, the UCLG Committee on Culture published a report entitled [Culture, Cities and the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), presenting evidence of measures adopted by cities around the world in the wake of the crisis. The report argued that, in a foreseeable context of reduced international mobility, there was a potential to renew the ‘connection between cultural institutions and citizens, and therefore cultural empowerment of communities’, including vulnerable groups. Also of particular interest for the inclusion of migrants and refugees was the report’s affirmation that ‘[The pandemic confirms the need to understand the world in all its diversity, more than ever](#). There could be increased awareness of the protection and promotion of cultural diversity and the importance of cultural co-operation and solidarity.’

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: 10 KEY ASPECTS

This TLR has aimed to summarise the extensive evidence available, both in the Casablanca peer-learning event and elsewhere, about the importance of cultural policies and other cultural aspects in fostering migrants’ inclusion in urban contexts. This final section highlights 10 key aspects that could inspire local governments in the region when taking action in this area.

1. Strengthen and integrate strategies.

Cultural policy and the intercultural approach to local policies are complementary aspects. They each deserve attention on their own and should be resourced adequately, while coordination among them should also be fostered. In this respect, local intercultural strategies should address aspects such as creativity and heritage, whereas local cultural policies should also reflect on diversity, including that which is connected to migration and refuge. The themes addressed in the paragraphs below (2-10) could inspire policy priorities and measures to be included in these strategies.

2. Balance heritage, diversity and creativity when considering culture.

Local cultural policies should address culture comprehensively, including aspects related to heritage, diversity and creativity and their interrelations. This involves reflecting on heritage through a lens of diversity and interculturalism (e.g. in the work of museums and archives), and ensuring that both the legacies of the past and the ability to foster new creative expressions are taken into account and balanced. In this regard, local cultural policies should also consider the complexity inherent to cultural expressions and identities, developed at individual and collective level, reflecting beyond stereotypes associated with established national cultures.

3. Seek universal access, and adopt tailored measures when relevant.

A concern with cultural citizenship and cultural rights implies that cities should aim to enable all citizens, regardless of their origins, to take part fully and freely in cultural life. In the path to making access universal, it is also necessary to address specific obstacles and inequalities, and to adopt measures that are tailored to specific groups or seek to ensure their visibility (e.g. programmes catering for newly-arrived migrants, or initiatives celebrating the diverse communities that make up the local population).

4. Emphasise the positive potential of culture and diversity.

Coexistence among groups of diverse origin can lead to misunderstanding and tension, and at its worst can be exploited for multiple purposes and engender some conflicts. A detailed, sophisticated analysis and understanding of these factors, political leadership, the promotion of active citizenship and intercultural encounters, and the fostering of new narratives and opportunities based on diversity should tend to prevail. This is of course part of a long-term effort.

5. Consider structural change, beyond short-term measures.

Efforts towards migrants' inclusion in cultural life and towards the achievement of full citizenship more broadly, should involve making policies and programmes long-term, structural. While short-term events and activities (e.g. festivals) and one-off projects can be positive in symbolising change and innovating in some areas, a concern with the lasting legacy is important, and should lead to privileging long-term, stable initiatives.

6. Diversify the spaces of culture.

A key step in making culture accessible to everyone and fostering active participation and intercultural encounter is to hold cultural activities outside and beyond the more traditional cultural venues. While theatres, museums, cultural centres and libraries are all important, they should be encouraged to reach out beyond their physical location and partner with community organisations. Furthermore, schools, health centres, streets and public squares can also host some cultural activities, thence reaching a broader set of citizens.

7. Ensure migrants' and refugees' participation in programmes that concern them.

Participatory mapping exercises, consultations and identification of needs, co-design of programmes and projects, the involvement of migrants and refugees as mediators, and community engagement in the management and delivery of programmes and services are some of the formulas that local governments can adopt to respond to the principle that 'nothing about us, without us, is for us'.

8. Move towards more horizontal, participatory and fluid governance of culture.

In addition to active participation by migrants and refugees, collaboration between public authorities and civil society organisations, as well as transversal or 'joined-up' collaboration between different departments of local government is necessary, given the complexity of the issues being addressed. Depending on the distribution of competences applicable, multi-level collaboration between local, regional and/or national authorities can also be necessary.

9. Consider local narratives, and how cultural diversity features in them.

Cities are generally more capable of integrating plural, diverse narratives than nation states. Increasingly diverse cities should consider how they present themselves to local and international audiences. Revising official discourses and city brands through an acknowledgement of the diverse influences that have helped to shape the city in intercultural processes, and continue to do so, can be a source of increased self-esteem and cohesion. This is of course a complex exercise, which requires care – it should avoid both the neglect of host communities' efforts and contributions throughout history, and an overemphasis on migrants' contributions unless this is reflected in actual policies.

10. Connect with global agendas and foster international collaboration.

Cultural policies and programmes fostering migrants' inclusion has substantial potential to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs, and to respond to international commitments outlined in the New Urban Agenda, the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees, among others. Cities should be able to make this explicit, through suitable policy documents, local accountability and evaluation frameworks, and the submission of SDG Voluntary Local Reviews and other tools where relevant. Furthermore, this is an area where local challenges are often shared – as a result, there is potential to foster peer-learning, collaboration and networking involving both local governments and civil society organisations, both at the international level and in regional spaces such as the Mediterranean basin.

TOOLS AND RESOURCES FOR CITIES

This section provides a non-exhaustive selection of additional resources (handbooks, guidelines, webinars and others) to further learn about what works in other cities, to inspire cities to take action and support local policy development.

WEBSITES

The Intercultural Cities programme

This Council of Europe programme provides resources and advice to support cities in reviewing their policies through an intercultural lens and developing comprehensive intercultural strategies. Over 140 cities across Europe, North Africa and other world regions currently take part.

 <https://www.coe.int/en/web/interculturalcities>

Good practices on culture and sustainable development

The UCLG Committee on Culture manages a database of approximately 200 local cultural policies and programmes connected to sustainable development, in areas including cultural rights, diversity and inclusion. A search engine allows projects to be identified on the basis of their connection with the 17 SDGs, among other criteria.

 obs.agenda21culture.net/index.php/en/home-grid

GUIDES AND TOOLKITS

UCLG (2015), Culture 21 Actions. Barcelona: UCLG

A practical guide adopted by UCLG in 2015, presenting 100 actions that cities can implement to connect culture and local sustainable development. They include sections addressing cultural rights, diversity, the connection between culture, equality and social inclusion, and the governance of culture.

 <http://www.agenda21culture.net/documents/culture-21-actions>

EU Working Group on Intercultural Dialogue (2017), How culture and the arts can promote intercultural dialogue in the context of the migratory and refugee crisis. Luxembourg: EU

Elaborated by a working group involving representatives of EU member states, this publication provides guidance and presents examples to foster intercultural dialogue through cultural projects, with a focus on relations with migrants and refugees. Most of the examples presented relate to urban contexts.

 <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/4943e7fc-316e-11e7-9412-01aa75ed71a1>

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS


UNESCO (2016), Culture Urban Future: Global Report on Culture for Sustainable Urban Development. Paris: UNESCO

This global report on cities and culture, comprising regional and thematic analyses, as well as many case studies, was published by UNESCO on the occasion of the adoption of the New Urban Agenda. It provides state-of-the-art evidence of why heritage, diversity, creativity and cultural policies matter for local sustainable development.

 <https://en.unesco.org/creativity/publication/culture-urban-future>


Yasmin Fedda, Daniel Gorman and Tory Davidson (2016), Creation and displacement: Developing new narratives around migration. Brussels: IETM


A report commissioned by international performing arts network IETM to showcase artistic initiatives that support and involve migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees. The study comprises an Annex with additional examples and was complemented with an update in 2019 ([Everybody wants a refugee on stage: Conversations around contemporary artistic engagement with migration](#)).


 <https://www.ietm.org/en/publications/creation-and-displacement-developing-new-narratives-around-migration>

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