



**OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**  
**Warsaw, 23 September – 4 October 2013**  
**Working session 2: Tolerance and non-discrimination II**  
**Contribution of the Council of Europe**

**Intercultural Cities: governance and policies for diverse communities**

Widespread criticism of multiculturalism has encouraged the Council of Europe, in co-operation with the European Commission (DG EAC) to develop and test a **novel model of integration** at the local level called “Intercultural integration” which is presented in the publication “[Intercultural Cities: Towards a model of intercultural integration](#)” (2009). Focusing on diversity as an advantage and based on a wide range of European standards, the model involves the review of policies and governance from an intercultural perspective. **It offers a range of analytical and assessment tools**, including the very successful **Intercultural cities INDEX**. The model is now being **implemented by over 60 cities** in Europe and beyond (including Mexico city, Montreal and Hamamatsu)..

The **adoption of the model** by major European capitals with a high level of policy sophistication (Copenhagen, Lisbon, Dublin, Oslo, Berlin NeuKölln, London Lewisham...) is a sign of recognition of its validity.

The Intercultural cities model is **sustainable** because it mobilises various city departments, across administrative silos, as well as civil society organisations and professional groups, including media, and involves the development of comprehensive, multi-dimensional intercultural strategies.

‘Intercultural cities’ is **versatile** – the diversity advantage concept is applicable to various diversity contexts, including migration and the presence of national minorities. The cities which have adopted the model cover a pan-European area vary significantly in terms of demography, economy and political context.

Since its inception in 2008, the Intercultural cities model of diversity management and integration has been promoted through a pan-European pilot network, and a series of national networks (Italy, Spain, Norway, and Ukraine and Portugal). A national network exists in South Korea and another one is being set up in Japan.

National **networks** have adopted action plans and carry out regular exchanges of good practice, thematic meetings and policy initiatives.

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