

Local responses to address discrimination and foster participation for migrants and refugees

Tackling Discrimination, Fostering Participation Peer Learning on LRGs' Actions for Migrants and Refugees November 14-15, 2023

Local and regional governments (LRGs) play a crucial role in tackling discrimination and fostering the participation of migrants and refugees in their territories. By promoting universal access to services and space, as well as by addressing diverse sources of discrimination, they create welcoming environments that not only uphold human rights but also enhance social cohesion and economic vitality. Engaging migrants and refugees in local decision-making processes not only enriches diverse perspectives but also empowers these individuals to contribute to their communities, fostering mutual understanding, local innovation and a sense of belonging.

Cities in very different contexts are working on processes to integrate migrants and address discrimination with participatory mechanisms. These go from Buenos Aires' (Argentina) [automatic registration of foreign residents](#) to participate in local elections after two years of residency, to initiatives that give migrants the possibility to be actors in political life despite not having the recognised right to citizenship and suffrage, like specific councils for migrants or process like the [Participatory Budgeting for Migrant Workers in Taoyuan](#) (Taiwan). There are also experiences in which the whole population is mobilized generating citizenship, a sense of belonging, and exchanges among different groups, such as Tunja's (Colombia) "[A city with rights](#)" approach, or Rennes' (France) [European Citizens' Initiative](#).

Organized by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) as part of the [Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees](#) by the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)'s Mayor's Mechanism, this peer learning event will build on the discussions taking place during the 22nd IOPD Conference "Participatory Democracy for Diverse, Inclusive and Transparent Cities" (6-8 November) and the "Building territories of citizenship" event (9-10 November) by the Brazilian National Network of Welcoming Cities (*Rede Nacional de Cidades Acolhedoras*), and will inform the report presented by the LRG constituency at the [Global Refugee Forum](#) (13-15 December).

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Tentative Program

- November 14, 2023
15:00-18:00 Central European Time (UTC+1) / 11:00-14:00 Rio de Janeiro (UTC-3)
Introduction, interactive exercise and feedback from IOPD Conference and Cidades Acolhedoras' event
(with interpretation in English, French, Spanish & Portuguese)
 - November 15, 2023
9:00-12:00 Central European Time (UTC+1) / 15:00-18:00 Jakarta (UTC+7)
Presentations and peer review of local practices (focus on cities/regions from the Eastern Hemisphere) and open discussion
(with interpretation in English, French, Spanish)
- 15:00-18:00 Central European Time (UTC+1) / 11:00-14:00 Rio de Janeiro (UTC-3)
Presentations and peer review of local practices (focus on cities/regions from the Western Hemisphere), open discussion and conclusion
(with interpretation in English, French, Spanish & Portuguese)

Registration

If your municipality or region has developed and implemented practices and policies to tackle discrimination against migrants and refugees and/or to ensure their utmost public participation, and you are interested in exploring, learning from, and identifying how local and regional governments can further advance these initiatives, we invite you to [express your interest and register for this virtual peer learning through this form](#), open till November 03.

Kindly note that participation is limited and that preference will be given to technical staff from local and regional governments. Please feel free as well to use this form to suggest fitting local practices and policies that you would like to recommend or invite to present at the event.