



INTERCULTURAL CITIES

A
JOURNEY
THROUGH
23
EUROPEAN
CITIES

Foreword

**Jozias
Van Aartsen**

The European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008 just came to an end. This initiative from the European Commission has generated immense interest from our member cities and has been particularly important for them.

Large cities in Europe are meeting places of different cultures and are becoming more and more diverse. Within cities, intercultural dialogue is being put into practice on a daily basis in different ways and by different groups: in the cultural life of the city, in public spaces, in schools, in daily working life and in the media.

Cities play a key role in terms of facilitating and supporting intercultural dialogue, promoting mutual understanding and acceptance, and overcoming barriers between different groups. They bring together different stakeholders at the local level and have a wide range of experience and knowledge to share regarding dialogue between cultures.

In particular, cultural activities and events can make a unique contribution to promote cultural diversity by encouraging interaction between people, the expression of cultural identity, enabling better understanding between people and tackling racist behaviour and intolerance.

Cities have to celebrate diversity while providing a framework that enables the development of a shared sense of belonging, civic pride, citizenship and urban identity. As politicians, it is our role to foster intercultural dialogue in the everyday life of citizens, increase awareness of cultural diversity, promote the integration of immigrants through social and cultural activities and develop dialogue between people with different religious and spiritual beliefs.

This is extremely challenging and is necessary if we want cities of the future to remain attractive and creative places to live, work and visit.

I hope you will enjoy exploring examples of policies and events taking place throughout Europe and presented in this publication.

It is our duty to develop even more intercultural cities!



*Jozias van Aartsen
Mayor of The Hague
President of EUROCITIES*

Intercultural Cities, EUROCITIES strand – A brief presentation

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On the occasion of the **European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008**, EUROCITIES cooperated with the Council of Europe in the framework of the Intercultural Cities programme, joint action of the Council of Europe and the European Commission.

The programme has two strands:

- **Strand 1 “governance and policies” (January 2008-end 2009)** run by the Council of Europe, together with 12 cities, aimed to provide policy-auditing expertise and strategy-development guidance to cities¹.

- **Strand 2 “awareness and exchange” (March 2008-March 2009)** run by EUROCITIES together with 23 cities of the network (**Amsterdam, Barcelona, Belfast, Bergen, Berlin, Bologna, Bristol, Cologne, Espoo, Genoa, Ghent, Glasgow, Lublin, Lyon, Malmo, Nantes, Nottingham, Oslo, Riga, Turin, Toulouse, Warsaw, Zaragoza**) and aimed to facilitating dialogue and exchange on good practice between politicians, citizens and municipal service providers across Europe and highlight the important role of local level action to achieve real intercultural dialogue. Lublin, Lyon and Oslo also took part to Strand 1 of the programme.

At the heart of the “Awareness and exchange” strand was a **chain of visits from city to city**. Each participating city sent a team of ambassadors (**politicians, young persons and officers**) to one other participating city in order to exchange experiences on how to foster intercultural dialogue through specific policies, structures or events. All in all **23 visits took place in 2008**. These visits took place on the **occasion of major local events and festivals around the theme of intercultural dialogue**.

Experiences implemented in cities have been compiled by the ambassadors in order to be presented in this publication. The publication was presented at the occasion of the final conference of the EUROCITIES strand of the programme in Amsterdam on 5 March 2009. The conference served as a meeting point of policy-makers from local, national and European level.

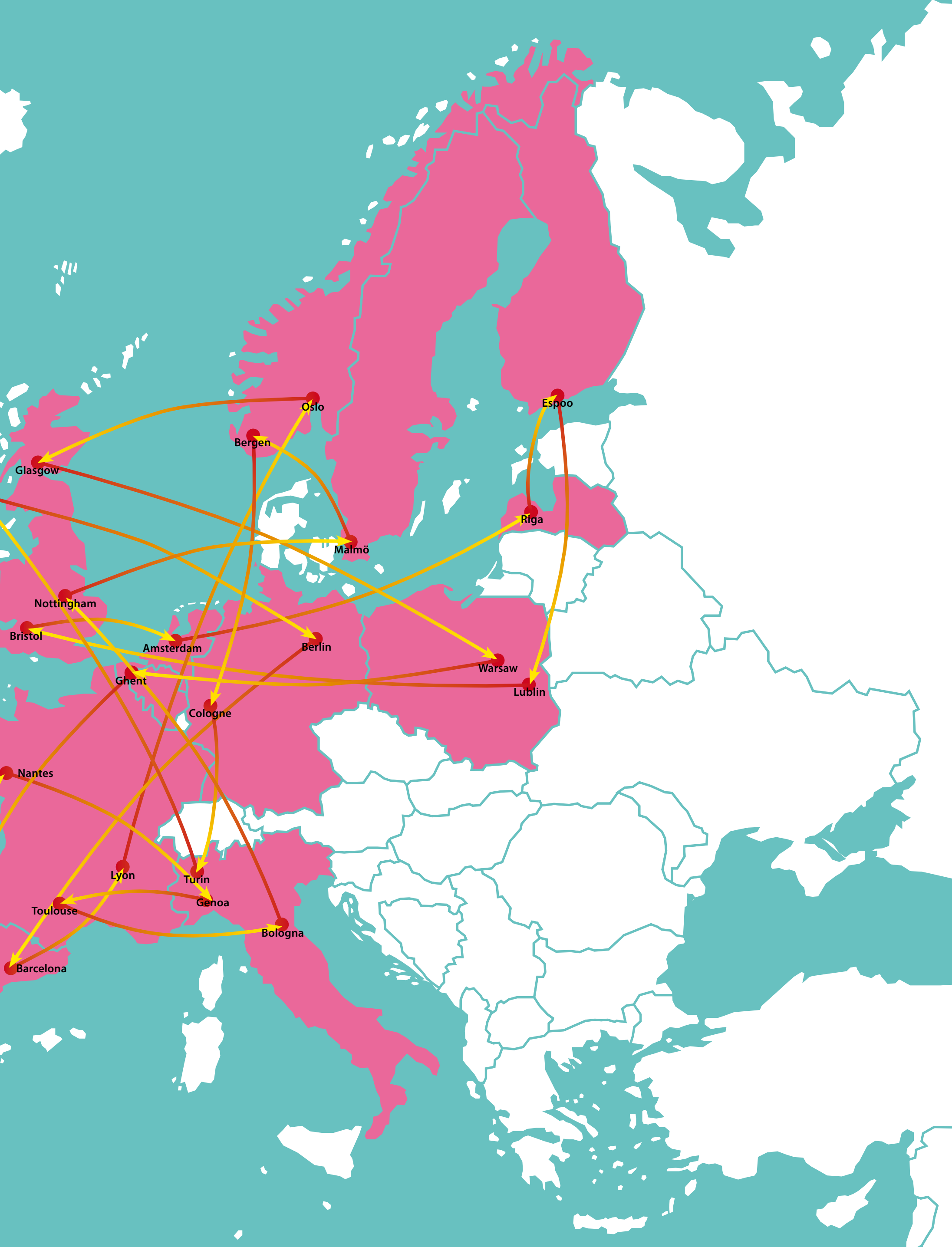
The objectives of the EUROCITIES strand of the programme were:

- highlight at European level the role of cities in promoting intercultural dialogue;
- contribute to making sure the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue reached out from Brussels to citizens across Europe;
- engage cities and citizens across Europe in an exchange on the significance and forms of intercultural dialogue;
- combine the promotion of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue at popular high-visibility events with activities that will ensure a lasting impact.

¹ For more information please see :

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/policies/cities/default_en.asp





Amsterdam



Amsterdam is the capital of the Netherlands and the country's cultural, financial and commercial services centre. Of the 1.3 million inhabitants of the Greater Amsterdam region, 758,000 live in the city of Amsterdam.

The historical centre with its concentric canals was largely built during the Dutch Golden Age in the 17th century.

The city's long immigrant tradition goes back to the 17th century. The first mass immigrants in the 20th century were people from Indonesia, who came to Amsterdam after the independence of the Dutch East Indies in the 1940s and 1950s.

They were followed in the 1960s by 'guest workers' from Turkey, Morocco, the former Yugoslavia, Spain and Portugal. After the independence of Suriname in 1975 a large wave of Surinamese settled in the city. Other immigrants, including asylum seekers and illegal immigrants, come from Europe, America, Asia and Africa.

All in all, Amsterdam is home to 177 nationalities. In the 1970s and 1980s many 'old' Amsterdammers moved to the suburbs. Nowadays around 30% of the population, and more than 50% of children, have a non-western migrant background, and another 11 % have a western migrant background.

The Eastern Europeans are the fastest growing population group in the city. Amsterdam offers a wide range of world class cultural facilities. Many of the most important Dutch museums are in Amsterdam, including the Rijksmuseum, the Vincent van Gogh Museum and the nationally renowned Municipal Modern Art Museum.

Cultural policy and diversity

The city's strategic cultural policy gives considerable attention to the challenges of a diverse society. One of the key themes, 'shareholdership', in the long-term plan for culture to 2015 aims to strengthen participation of all citizens in arts and culture. This is mainly carried out by Amsterdam's cultural institutes, 135 of which are partly funded by the city council. These cultural institutes develop special programmes for reaching out to different target groups, especially the city's youth.

Special policy programmes have also been developed under the titles 'Talent Development' and 'Beautiful Boroughs'. Emphasis is given to cultural education at primary schools via voucher systems and strengthening the local amateur arts.

There is constant debate as to whether the balance is right between supporting general art institutes and those with more focus on diversity. The City Council decided in 2008 to give more support to a number of cultural initiatives focused on diversity and working in districts and reduced its support for more internationally operating institutes such as the Holland Festival. The City Council also introduced a talent development programme with a budget of €1.1 million, part of which is the so-called 'Apollo fund', named after the famous theatre in New York where many stars took their first steps in their career. Despite this, participation in cultural activities by citizens from ethnic minority backgrounds is not at the same levels compared to others.

'Wij Amsterdammers' We, the people of Amsterdam

Wij Amsterdammers is an Amsterdam City Council programme for Amsterdam residents, focusing on integration and creating links between Amsterdammers of different cultural and social backgrounds. The programme was launched in 2006 by Mayor Job Cohen after the murder in November 2004 of Theo van Gogh, a Dutch film maker who made a controversial film about Islamic culture. For the first time Amsterdam had to directly address issues concerning radicalisation among youngsters and polarisation in the city. 'Programme Amsterdam Together' (PAS), a special project bureau, was established to implement the programme.

Wij Amsterdammers aims to fight against radicalisation and polarisation and to stimulate social cohesion amongst all people living in Amsterdam. Its main objectives are:

- Stimulating social cohesion, by building and connecting networks, investing in good contacts with key figures in communities and using social capital by connecting elites
- Making society resilient to polarisation by encouraging public debate, implementing a wide range of anti-discrimination activities and supporting teachers and stimulating the commitment of parents
- Countering radicalisation, in addition to the work done by the police, prosecution and security services, by supporting mosques and Muslim organisations and organisations that show diversity within Islam and stimulate dialogue, by involving and supporting professionals and by expressing resistance to radicalism.

www.pas.amsterdam.nl

Ambassadors from Bristol

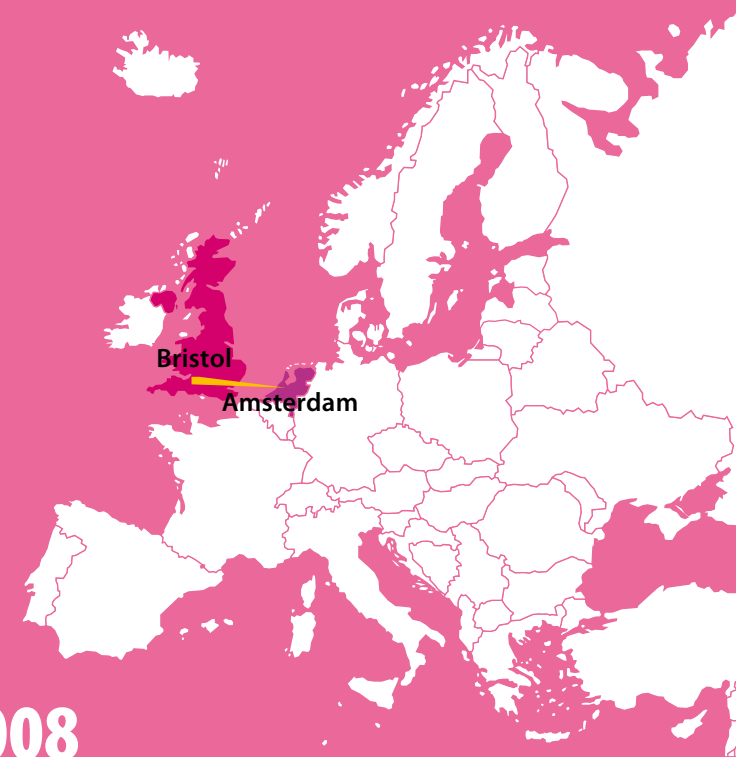
Peter Hammond
Deputy Leader
Bristol City Council

Asif Saleem Khan
Community Engagement Manager
Bristol City Council

Tim Crawley
Eshed Co-ordinator at the Watershed Media Centre

Leshana C. Keen
Young Film Maker
Young Ambassador

Cinekid Festival



13>19 OCTOBER 2008



Cinekid Festival (13th -19th October 2008) is an annual film, television and new media festival for children aged 4-14 years held in Amsterdam. Every year since 1986 more than 35,000 children are given an opportunity to attend one or more of the 200 media productions presented by Cinekid: films, children's documentaries, short films, animations, TV series and single plays, cross-media productions, interactive installations and set-ups and workshops. The main festival is held in the Westergasfabriek Culture Park in Amsterdam. It also includes activities in 30 satellite festivals held in other cities in the Netherlands and a parallel programme in Suriname.

Cinekid helps promote intercultural dialogue through the diversity of its programming and through international collaborations. The festival is run by the Cinekid Foundation and supported by the City of Amsterdam. The foundation aims to elevate the quality of visual culture for children and to stimulate their active and creative participation with a view to strengthening their position vis-à-vis the media and their critical abilities. To achieve its goals, Cinekid encompasses:

- The Cinekid Festival itself, preceded by a series of school performances in Amsterdam
- Cinekid International, which stimulates co-productions and includes a programme market, co-production markets, seminars, master classes, expert meetings and international training programmes. One seminar focused on the problems of role models for boys and girls in today's children's movies and the ways to overcome them. This is an even bigger challenge regarding role models for Muslim girls. This issue was a central theme in the full-length feature film 'Dunya and Desie', a type of road movie about two Dutch and Moroccan girls. Following the screening a discussion took place between the audience, the film's scriptwriter and the Bristol delegation.

Cinekid helps promote intercultural dialogue through the diversity of its programming and through international collaborations

Cinekid also encompasses a fully integrated educational programme held throughout the year that includes:

- Cinekid Studio for kids to make their own short films. This enables and encourages communication at home in a special 'educational environment' and with project partners
- Cinekid Professionals for anyone involved with children and the media (offering readings, seminars, the latest research and developments, opportunities to meet fellow professionals), to promote an understanding of how children from different cultures and sexes perceive and bond with characters or heroes of their favourite films.

www.cinekid.nl

"To be able to have a chance to understand how other countries and cities have embraced and appreciated the different backgrounds and cultures around them, was truly a wonderful event to be a part of. Not enough young people have the chance to step back and look at what is going on around them or to have the opportunity be with someone who has worked, studied, understood and appreciated that the different ways have of life around us are all wonderful."

Leshana C. Keen, Young Ambassador from Bristol

Amsterdam

Jan Heeren

Strategic Policy Advisor for Art and Culture
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City of Amsterdam

Barcelona



Barcelona is Spain's second largest city. It's also the capital city of the Autonomous Community of Catalonia, with a population of 1,616,000 (more than 3,000,000 in the metropolitan area).

Barcelona's cultural roots go back 2000 years. Catalan and Spanish are the city's official languages, but more than 50 languages are spoken on its streets. Since the arrival of democracy in the late 1970s, the Catalan culture has enjoyed a renaissance, arising from the reclamation of its past heritage and by encouraging the creation of new works.

Barcelona and its metropolitan region first attracted economic migrants from other parts of Spain. There was a wave of immigration from Castile and Murcia in the 1920s and 1930s, followed by an influx during the 1960s and 1970s of around one million people - 15% of the population - from Andalucía and Extremadura in southern Spain.

Immigration from other countries is a recent phenomenon and mostly economic. In January 2000, 3.5% of Barcelona residents were foreign nationals, increasing to 17.5% by 2008. The largest groups come from South America (Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, Argentina), but there are also significant Pakistani, Moroccan, Chinese and Italian communities.

The Barcelona Intercultural Dialogue programme

The city's government initiated the Barcelona Intercultural Dialogue programme in 2008, coinciding with the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue. The programme aims to foster initiatives, actions and debates which contribute to addressing the new challenges of the future and to building collaborative city projects. It aims to promote and strengthen existing actions, to lead the way with new projects and to call upon the city's organisations and institutions to work together within a programme that's open to all its residents. It encompasses a cultural programme, academic, social and political debates, educational actions aimed at schools and the young and fostering Catalan and intercultural mediation.

http://www.interculturaldialogue2008.eu/fileadmin/downloads/documents/500-projects/530-other%20projects/Mesura_govern_dialeg_intercultural_def_en.pdf

The Commissioner for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue

Promoting social cohesion represents one of Barcelona City Council's strategic lines of action. The Commissioner, Daniel de Torres, is responsible for co-ordinating immigration policies and intercultural dialogue at the city level and works with all departments of the municipality.

Agenda 21 for Culture

Barcelona has led the process of developing Agenda 21 for culture, which is the first document with worldwide mission that advocates establishing the groundwork of an undertaking by cities and local governments for cultural development. It was agreed by cities and local governments from all over the world in Barcelona in 2004 to enshrine their commitment to cultural diversity, human rights, sustainability, participatory democracy and creating conditions for peace. The process has raised the interest of international organisations, national governments and civil society.

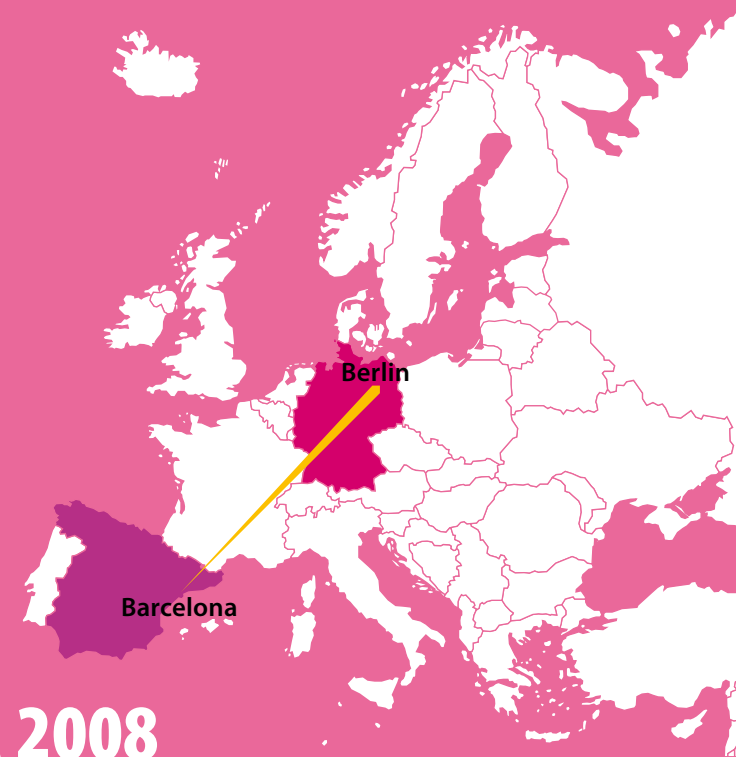
www.agenda21culture.net

Ambassadors from Berlin

Andreas Germershausen
Head, Integration Unit,
Office of Berlin Commissioner of the Senate
on Integration and Migration

Stephanie Steinkopf
Young Ambassador

La Mercè



19>27 SEPTEMBER 2008



La Mercè, Barcelona's annual festival, was celebrated 19-27 September. It dates back to the 1930s, and has existed in its current form since the early 1980s. One of the highlights of the Barcelona Intercultural Dialogue programme, around 1,000,000 people attended more than 50 activities, including concerts, open-air events, traditional performances from different cultures. La Mercè symbolises social cohesion and integration and puts special emphasis on the promotion of intercultural values, the integration of new immigrants and strengthening links between communities.

In recent years La Mercè has launched new programmes to foster cultural cooperation with countries outside the EU. The main one, 'The guest city' programme, invites artists from a foreign city to participate in the festival. Immigrants from Ecuador represent the city's biggest foreign community, and in 2008 Quito, the country's capital city, was invited to present its own cultural programme. This was an invitation to all those new citizens to participate in La Mercè with everyone, to mix and enjoy the festivity traditions, but also an opportunity to present artists from Quito.

La Mercè symbolises social cohesion and integration

A civic fair, 'El carrer de les persones', organised by NGOs and other bodies working with local disadvantaged groups, also takes place in the city-centre during La Mercè. It gives voice to representatives from disadvantaged social communities who are invited to participate in the city festivities.

Ramadan nights are another of La Mercè's highlights, when over three nights after sunset, the city's Muslims and non-Muslims enjoy open air concerts put on by musicians from East-Asia, the Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan Africa.

<http://www.bcn.cat/merce/ca/index.shtml>



"Barcelona succeeded in incorporating new elements - immigration and newcomers' own traditions - into a traditional festival"

Andreas Germershausen, Ambassador from Berlin

Barcelona

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**Institut de
cultura**

Turin visits > United Kingdom

Belfast



The capital of Northern Ireland, Belfast expanded very rapidly from market town to industrial city during the course of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century. The city's population peaked around the start of the period known as 'the Troubles', when the 1971 census recorded almost 600,000 people in the Belfast urban area. By the 2001 census the number of inhabitants had fallen to 277,391, with 579,554 people living in the greater Belfast Metropolitan Area.

The Troubles were a time of conflict and destruction that lasted from the late 1960s until the conclusion of the peace process in the late 1990s. Belfast saw the worst of the Troubles in Northern Ireland, particularly in the 1970s, between rival paramilitary groups of Roman Catholics and Protestants.

Even now, despite a period of relative peace, most areas and districts of Belfast still reflect the divided nature of Northern Ireland as a whole. Many areas are still segregated along ethnic, political and religious lines, especially in working class neighbourhoods. These zones - 'Catholic' or 'Protestant', 'Republican' or 'Loyalist' - are invariably signed by flags, graffiti and murals.

There have been ethnic minority communities in Belfast since the 1930s, the largest groups being Chinese and south Asians. Since the expansion of the European Union, numbers have been boosted by an influx of Eastern European immigrants. The 2001 census showed that ethnic minority groups represent 1.3% of the population (4,584 people). Over half live in South Belfast, accounting for 2.63% of the population in this area. The majority of the estimated 5,000 and 200 Hindu families living and working in Northern Ireland live in the Greater Belfast area.

Engaging ethnic minorities culturally

Belfast's Mela Festival has become one of the summer highlights. Organised by Arts Ekta, an Indian cultural organisation, and funded by Belfast City Council, the Mela is held on a Sunday afternoon during August in the Botanic Gardens. There is a packed programme of dance and entertainment and dozens of craft and food stalls for people to browse and experience another culture and cuisine. Approximately 10,000 visitors attend the Mela and luckily the sun usually shines!

www.belfastmela.org.uk

Another arts organisation which works closely with ethnic minorities is **Beyond Skin**, which was set up in 2004 and uses music and the arts to challenge racism and sectarianism. Beyond Skin has run a number of successful projects with schools and community groups with whom it holds world music workshops with tutors from different countries. The initiative provides local residents with an opportunity to learn about and meet different people, and develops the confidence of the individuals who take part in the music workshops and performance.

www.beyondskin.net

Belfast City Council also funds the Chinese Welfare Association and the Mandarin Speakers Association, who organise showcase events for the Chinese New Year (25 January in 2009).

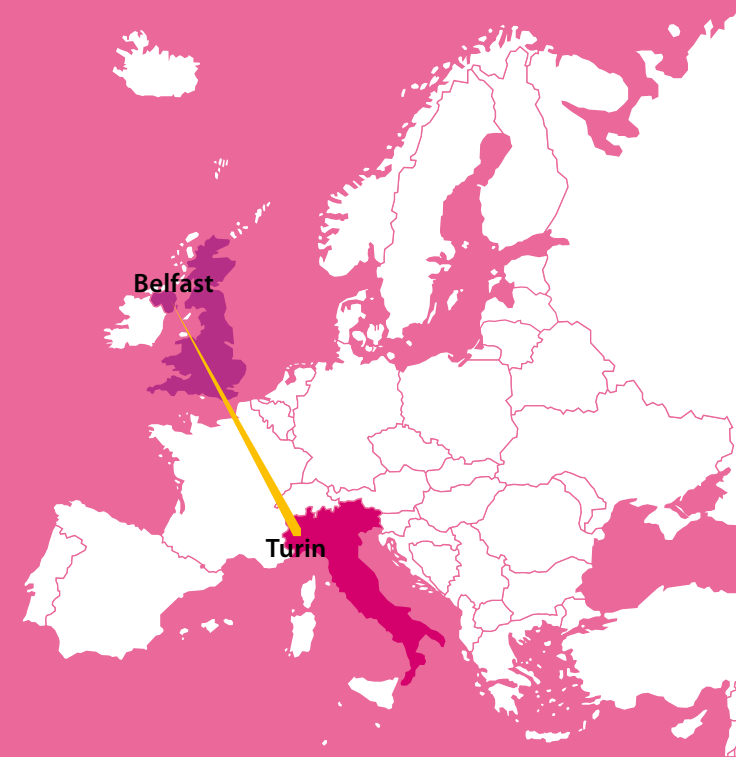


Ambassadors from Turin

Giovanni Bianco
Youth Policies Department
City of Turin

Nadia MAGNANINI
young ambassador

Belfast City Carnival



27>28 JUNE 2008



The Belfast City Carnival is a celebration of arts and creativity culminating from months of city-wide planning and float-making. It is delivered by the Beat Initiative in partnership with Belfast City Council to celebrate the start of Belfast's new Lord Mayor's term of office.

Every year since 1995 street performers and the parade of colourful floats have brought droves of people into the city. For the first year this event had a new objective: to foster intercultural dialogue between Belfast's wide range of communities. It focuses on building and resourcing the artistic creativity of local communities, facilitating multi-ethnic collaboration and social inclusion and encouraging peace building.

The Carnival fosters intercultural dialogue between Belfast's wide range of communities



The 2008 carnival was attended by around 10,000 people, and 817 volunteers were involved in its preparation. The theme for the parade was 'Land of the Giants', from Gulliver's Travels, the famous novel by Jonathan Swift, who has connections with the city. The theme was adopted by the parade's floats, inflatables, tightrope walkers and penny farthing cyclists. More than 30 local groups were involved in the creation of the five main floats, including local youth and community groups, community arts projects, groups working with children with special needs, the Special Olympics and the city's performing arts school.

Community groups participating in the event reported an increase in self confidence, cross community understanding and artistic skills in their communities. The Carnival has successfully engendered a sense of achievement, pride and hope for individuals and provided a positive community focus.

www.belfastcarnival.com

<http://www.bcn.cat/merce/ca/index.shtml>

"Carnival parade a symbol of peace and intercultural cooperation."

Giovanni Bianco, Turin, Youth Policies Department, City of Turin

"I think that the City Council of Turin is already working hard to foster intercultural dialogue, with many local projects and initiatives. The Belfast City Carnival was a great experience and has given us some ideas for future activities."

Nadia Magnanini, Young Ambassador from Turin

Belfast

Frances Murray
European Officer
City of Belfast
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Bergen



Bergen is the second largest city in Norway, with around 251,000 inhabitants, and an important economic and cultural hub for both the country and Europe. It is the capital of western Norway, which is the centre of all significant Norwegian export industries, including offshore petroleum, fisheries and shipping. Today, Bergen's harbour is Norway's largest port and a key European port.

Bergen has attracted immigrants from all corners of the world since its foundation in 1070. At the end of the 13th century, the city was recognised as Norway's centre of trade and one of the most important trading posts of the Hanseatic League. Throughout the 15th and 16th centuries, Bergen was one of the largest cities in Scandinavia.

As a city open to exchanges and to trade, Bergen is also open to the peoples of the world. Over the past centuries, during which the majority of the population – particularly merchants, sailors and students – was foreign, the city has gained a special spirit which distinguishes it from the rest of Norway and Scandinavia. Today, 5% of the population originates from other countries, mainly South America, the Middle East and Asia.

Bergen is a major centre for art and culture and was a European Capital of Culture in 2000. Birthplace of composer Edvard Grieg, the city has one of the world's oldest symphony orchestras, the country's first national theatre, a whole range of museums and cultural institutions and also hosts the Bergen International Festival. Bryggen, Bergen's old quayside, has been a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1979.

Operation Days work programme

For more than 30 years, Norwegian students have volunteered in their local community for one school day a year to raise money for an educational programme supporting a project in a developing country. 2008's project, 'Knowledge gives superpower', focused on girls in Bangladesh. The students select the country through a nationwide election, and prior to taking the day off to work in the community, spend a week learning about the country's culture, history and problems. The Operation Days work programme has become an important contributing factor in Norway's ability to make the world's highest per capita contribution to developing countries.

www.od.no

The Kaleidoscope project

Kaleidoscope is an arts project developed in Bergen to help young refugees and immigrants integrate into the community. Some were experienced, some not, but all were drawn into everyday cultural life and expressed great talent in singing and dancing in the final showcase performances. The four-year project, supported by the city of Bergen, was originated by a school attended by recently arrived immigrants and involved artists, teachers and a new intake of pupils every year. In 2007, there were 15 performances in various venues, including schools. The project's methodology proved successful in terms of developing tolerance, respect, self-respect and a sense of belonging to the community.

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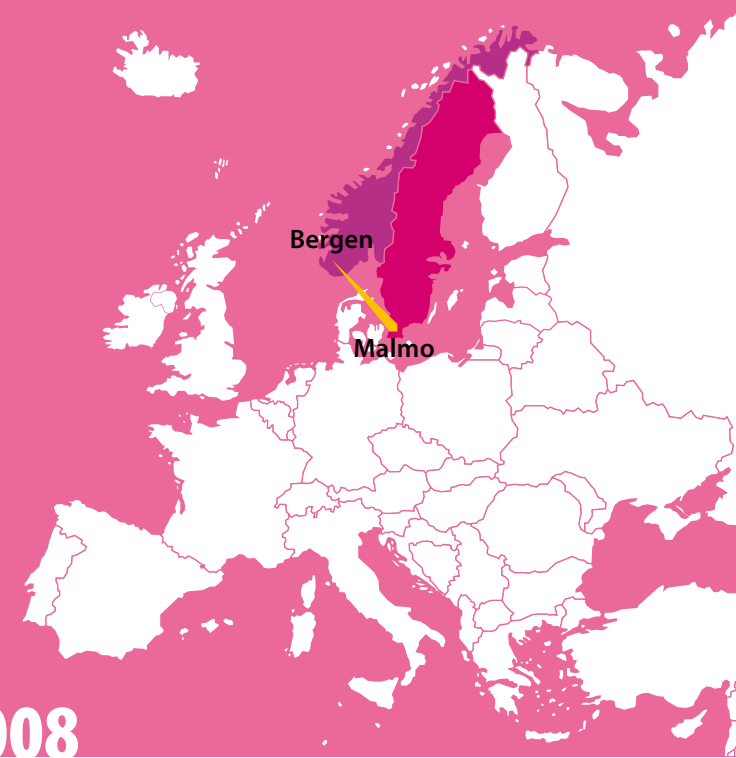
Ambassadors from Malmö

Carina Nilsson
Deputy-Mayor for Culture and Recreation
City of Malmö

Eva Klamméus
Department of Culture
City of Malmö

Mona Hassan
Young Ambassador

The International Week



17>25 OCTOBER 2008



Bergen's International Week was launched in 2004 by the Norwegian Government's Foreign Office, born from a desire to organise a special event for United Nations Day on 24th October.

The week features a wide-ranging programme of activities and events open to everyone in the community and focused on a specific theme, HIV in 2007 and water in 2008. It takes place at the same time as the International Music Week, the International Students' Week and the Bergen International Film Festival.

Music at the festival demonstrates how Norwegian culture is enriched by immigration

International Week aims to further open Bergen to the rest of the world and tries to help people from other countries to integrate by encouraging dialogue and exchange. Music at the festival demonstrates how Norwegian culture is enriched by immigration; the International Student Day establishes a meeting place for foreign and Norwegian students; and the film festival screens a great mix of new feature and documentary films from all over the world. Participants, and schools in particular, were invited to play an active role in the week's many activities, which included debates, seminars, lectures, concerts, films and art projects.

[Jorge Dahl](#), Tel 00 47 55 54 84 90

"It is important to organise events to foster intercultural dialogue between young people. They should be involved in the processes, as they are going to be a part of them. We are the next generation."

Mona Hassan and Jon Eide Pettersen Young Ambassadors from Malmö and Bergen

"Through events and activities, Bergen creates greater interest, understanding and engagement for international development issues."

Mona Hassan, Young Ambassador from Malmö

"The history of Bergen as a harbour city has always been international and everybody is somehow immigrant."

Trude Drevland, Chair of Bergen City Council's Committee for Culture, Sports and Business

Bergen

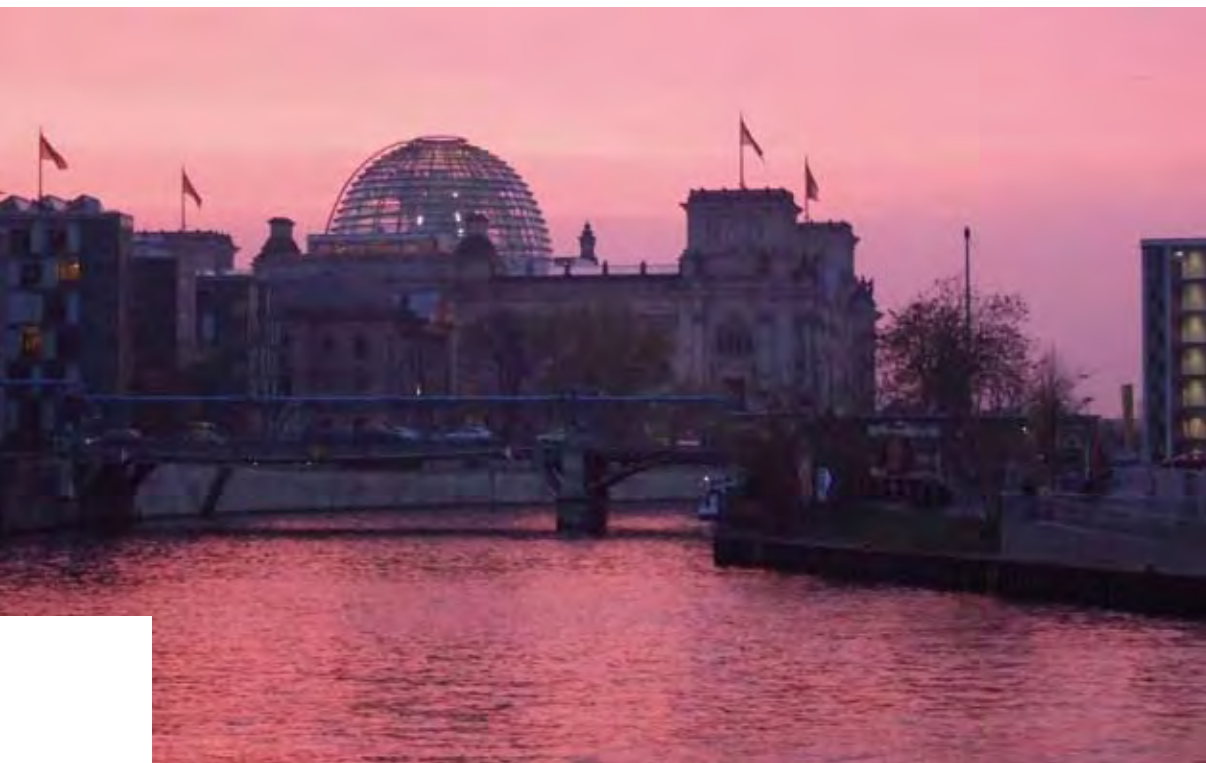
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BERGEN KOMMUNE
BYRÅDSAVDELING FOR FINANS,
KULTUR OG NÆRING

Belfast visits > Germany

Berlin



Berlin is the capital of Germany and a federal state. With a population of close to 3.5 million inhabitants, it is the largest city in Germany and the second most populous in the European Union.

Berlin is a capital with a turbulent past, and has risen to the urban and environmental challenges of rebuilding itself. On 3 October 1990 the city finally saw nearly 40 years of political and economic separation come to an end. Since the unification, Berlin has once again regained its status as the capital of Germany. Having largely lost its industries when the city was isolated after WW II until 1989, Berlin's economy is nowadays primarily based on the service sector, encompassing a diverse range of creative industries, media corporations, environmental services, congress and convention venues.

Berlin has regarded itself as a city of knowledge and culture since the days of Friedrich the Great in the 18th century. The political and cultural developments of the 19th and 20th centuries are visible throughout Berlin's cityscape, reflecting both its history of architecture and the manner in which it has handled the consequences of war and destruction.

The city has a long history of national and international migration. In June 2008, 14% of residents were of foreign nationality and more than a third of its present population arrived within the last 15 years. Another 11.7% of citizens are descendants of immigrants and have either become naturalised German citizens or obtained citizenship by virtue of having been born in Germany. The largest groups come from Turkey, Poland, Serbia, Russia and Italy.

Integration and cultural politics in Berlin

Among Berlin's new arrivals are large numbers of artists, academics and students, leading the city's government to assess the role of culture in the immigration and integration processes. The Berlin Senate, Berlin's executive body, is reflecting on the challenges that come with immigration. Underpinning the city's government's integration strategy are the participation of immigrant representatives and an inter-cultural orientation in all administrative bodies and social services.

The concept of cultural diversity is deeply rooted in the Senate's integration policy. Fostering cultural diversity, however, is a potential benefit and at the same time a challenge that requires a new line of approach from the city's major cultural institutions. For the time being, this is being achieved through events like the Carnival of Cultures and bodies such as the House of the Cultures of the World. However, theatres, opera houses and museums are proving less successful in attracting an immigrant audience.

Another issue is participation by institutions with a mandate for adult education on a local level. A significant role is being played by the Volkshochschulen (peoples' universities) in Berlin's 12 boroughs, and also by libraries and community centres. A number of these institutions are developing inter-cultural strategies with the aim of a more lively exchange of cultures and better inclusion of immigrants. The Senate supports such initiatives through a consultation programme promoting inter-cultural development in government and service institutions.

andreas.germershausen@intmig.berlin.de



The Schlesisches Tor Intercultural Youth Project

Ten 17-24 year-olds from each of the three participating nationalities in this project – French, German and Turkish – took part in a 10-day workshop of music, dance and art. This year's theme was the 'Ship of Fools', which required the young people to identify fools within each culture and the means to express them. The objective of the project was to learn about each other's cultures, improve language skills, inspire an interest in each other's carnivals and create friendships that would continue after the project.

Steph.Steikopf,sun4be@hotmail.com

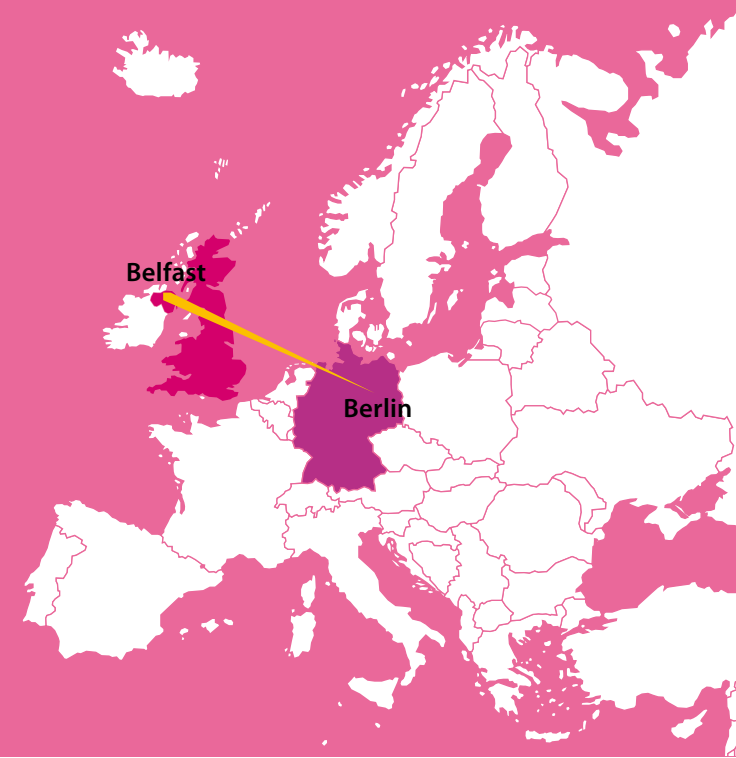
Ambassadors from Belfast

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Deirdre Robb
Arts & Culture Development Officer
Belfast City Council

Matthew Vernon
Young Ambassador

The Carnival of Cultures



9>12 MAY 2008



Berlin's Carnival of Cultures is a four day street festival held in May to celebrate the city's cultural and ethnic diversity. It originated in 1995 from a need identified by the Commissioner for Integration & Migration to promote integration and peaceful co-existence and combat racism. While there were policies at Senate level to support migrant integration, actions were needed at a local level to facilitate social and cultural integration.

The carnival is one means of attempting to balance the elements that go into Berlin's melting pot. In 1995 the city was undergoing major repercussions following the fall of the wall in 1989, including social, economic and cultural change. It was also a time of recession and of heated community tensions. There had been physical attacks on people from the migrant communities living in Berlin; people felt unsafe, and wanted to reclaim the streets.

The fall of the wall opened Berlin up and it began to attract more and more professional artists, from all over the world. The city developed into one of Europe's centres for electronically generated music. This, combined with the fact that there was political pressure to address the inter-racial hostilities, led to the development of the Carnival of Cultures.

The carnival is one means of attempting to balance the elements that go into Berlin's melting pot

The 2008 carnival attracted 1.4 million visitors to see the parade of more than 100 floats representing over 100 cultural groups. Approximately 6,000 participants took part in the street festival, including professionals, volunteers and artists. The initiative is organised by the Factory of Cultures on behalf of Berlin's Senate. The Factory is responsible, in partnership with other agencies, for the logistical operations such as promotions, marketing and cleaning up after the event.

The children's carnival kicks off the celebrations, and incorporates a wide variety of street events. The main parade takes place in the culturally diverse Kreuzberg area of the city. This five-hour event showcases the many cultures that co-exist within the city's boundaries, such as Chinese, African, Turkish, European, Asian and Caribbean.

Doris.Nahawandi@IntMig.berlin.de
www.karneval-berlin.de

"It is worthy to note that this festival was fully inclusive of all age ranges, social backgrounds and religious beliefs."

Frances Murray, European Officer, Belfast City Council

"Belfast could learn from Berlin's example and foster strong links with new migrant groups as well as established community groups. They should be given the chance to get together and celebrate, with an appreciation of the diverse multicultural community that is emerging in modern day Belfast. This should include all age ranges from children to young adults, the middle aged and elderly."

Matthew Vernon, Young Ambassador from Belfast

Berlin

Andreas Germershausen
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Toulouse visits > Italy

Bologna



Bologna is the capital of the region of Emilia-Romagna in northern Italy. The city has around 370,000 inhabitants, with 1 million in the greater Bologna area, and is renowned for its university which is the oldest in Europe.

Bologna is an important hub in Italy, owing to its strong industrial tradition and its excellent road and railway links with the rest of the country. Its economy is based on a healthy industrial sector that includes food production, footwear, textiles, engineering, chemical printing and publishing industries, as well as a flourishing commercial sector.

In 2006, 91.9% of the population was Italian. In recent years, Bologna and its greater metropolitan area have witnessed a significant increase in immigration, largely from Romania and Albania, the Philippines and Bangladesh. Integrating these new groups, especially second generation youths, and increasing their participation in the city's social life are key challenges facing Bologna's administration. Accordingly, the city has developed specific policies focusing on intercultural activities and fostering collaboration with local ethnic minority associations.

Bologna was European Capital of Culture in 2000 and was appointed a UNESCO City of Music in 2006. The city has shown a strong commitment to promoting music as an important vehicle for inclusion in the fight against racism and as a means of encouraging economic and social development.

M Zonarelli Intercultural Centre

The M Zonarelli Intercultural Centre is a place where around 80 immigrant communities can meet and exchange their experiences and points of view, both among themselves and with other Italian and multicultural associations. The Centre was created in 1997 on the basis of an agreement between the Municipality of Bologna and a number of associations. In 2007 it was designated an 'intercultural project' under the direct authority of the Vice Mayor of Bologna in charge of Social Affairs.

The Centre hosts non-profit activities such as language courses, cookery, dance and music courses, intercultural events, film shows, events for children, ethnic music concerts, conferences and study seminars. It also promotes projects dealing with information, computer science, communication and citizenship-building for migrants and foreign citizens.

Fausto Amelii fausto.amelii@comune.bologna.it

"The Zonarelli Intercultural Centre is a good example of a project which seeks to foster cultural exchange and mixing. A number of associations share offices there and collaborate on projects."

Morgane Gogry, Young Ambassador from Toulouse



Intercultural services at Sala Borsa Library

Since 2004 the Sala Borsa city library, located in the former stock exchange, has run a range of intercultural services for library users such as: foreign language books and periodicals in, for example, Arab and Chinese, and most recently Russian and Polish; access to the internet and other new technologies (with several internet stations catering for writing in non-Latin characters), communication and access to services (the online catalogue has simplified entries in non-Latin alphabets to facilitate consultation); special collections and services for children and young adults (using fairytales for intercultural education and enabling people from different cultural backgrounds to share their stories and experiences); and a book loan service for prison inmates.

www.bibliotecasalaborsa.it

Ambassadors from Toulouse

Vincentella de Comarmond
Delegate Counsellor for the Living Arts

Eva Neukum
Project Officer
Department for International Relations
City of Toulouse

Morgane Gogry
Young Ambassador

Par Tòt Parata



20>23 JUNE 2008



Par Tòt Parata is an intergenerational and multicultural parade featuring dance, performances and theatre. 'Par tòt' is local dialect meaning 'for everybody'. The parade was created in 2002 following a local intercultural initiative started in 2000 by the cultural association 'Oltre', which is still involved in the organisation of the festival. Since then, a number of partner organisations have become involved in the festival programme.

The objectives of the Par Tòt Parata are to foster intercultural relations and dialogue between the city's different generations and ethnic groups. There is a special emphasis on encouraging all Bologna's residents to participate directly in the planning and implementation of the festival and contribute to the cultural life of the city. The whole population is targeted, young people and immigrant communities included, and there is a special parade for children.

Par tòt' is local dialect meaning 'for everybody'

In 2008 the parade was relocated from the city centre to the suburbs. It is the fruit of the hard work of hundreds of people. 2,000 took part in the 2008 festival, which was attended by about 15,000 spectators, confirming it as one of the most important cultural events in Bologna.

www.fest-festival.net

"For a city to promote equity and solidarity within its boundaries, it must develop a voluntary cultural policy for its entire territory and its neighbourhoods. One aspect this must include is recognition of the diversity of immigrant cultures."

Vincentella de Comarmond
Delegate Counsellor for the Living Arts in Toulouse



Bologna

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International Relations
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Lublin visits > United Kingdom

Bristol



Bristol, the regional capital of England's South West region, has approximately 416,000 inhabitants. It is England's sixth and the United Kingdom's ninth most populous city. For much of its history Bristol prospered as a maritime hub and for a brief period was England's primary slave trading port. In more recent years the economy has been built on insurance, banking and the aerospace companies British Aerospace and Rolls Royce. The city's economic regeneration showpiece is Cabot Circus, an international award-winning shopping development that was opened in September 2008. Bristol is England's second city for creative industries and is home to Aardman Animations, the producers of Wallace and Gromit. Bristol is the only UK city to have been short-listed for the European Green Capital award.

As a maritime port Bristol has traditionally been a multicultural city. Black and ethnic minority residents currently make up around 10% of the total population. In primary schools the figure is at least twice as much and growing rapidly. New and developing migrant communities include Somalis, Poles, Indians and people coming from countries that recently joined the EU.

Bristol's cultural diversity policy focuses on three key areas. The first is to promote community cohesion between established communities and new migrants, and includes reducing incidents of racial hate crime, preventing Islamic extremism and tackling Islamophobia. The second is to recognise the professional qualifications of new migrants, particularly graduates and skilled workers. The third is to make public services and participation in local democracy and citizenship accessible to all, particularly to people who have little or no English. The Council's primary strategy is to enable grassroots organisations to take the lead in intercultural dialogue. Bristol is piloting neighbourhood partnerships, which will set local level priorities and delivery targets.

Abolition 200 and the Bristol Legacy Commission



In 2008 Bristol City Council launched a Legacy Commission to take forward the work started in 2007 as part of the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave in the United Kingdom. Composed of councillors and community members, the Commission has three priorities: Education, Health and Wellbeing and Cultural Representation. It delivers legacy projects to make Bristol more inclusive by tackling inequality, in particular by improving education, training and cultural opportunities for African Caribbean residents.

legacy.commission@bristol.gov.uk

Bristol community radio

Community radio is making a positive, sustainable difference to the quality of life in Bristol's neighbourhoods. Stations such as BCfm, 93.2fm, Radio Salaam Shalom and Ujima 98fm are collectively working to support skills development, lifelong learning and intercultural dialogue. The stations broadcast programmes for the city's diverse communities, including the Muslim, Jewish, Polish, Somali, African and African Caribbean communities. More than 300 volunteers from these communities help to deliver and promote programmes.

Bristol City Council partnered with the three stations to promote an 'Invest in Community Radio' conference on November 20 2008 under the Year of Intercultural Dialogue banner.

BCfm started broadcasting in March 2007, and is a legacy of a Government-funded New Deal in the Community project. The station broadcasts in nine community languages and is aided by volunteers from the city's migrant communities.

BCfm is working with Bristol's 10,000-strong Polish community to broadcast a Polish language programme providing information and entertainment in both English and Polish. The station targets recently arrived Polish migrants to inform them about public services that they can access. One important aspect of Polish language broadcasting is to support a broader social support network for new Polish migrants and to provide an opportunity for dialogue between the new and established Polish communities, and with other communities. Bristol's Anglo-Polish Society has been working with the Legacy Commission on a number of intercultural events.

www.bcfm.org.uk



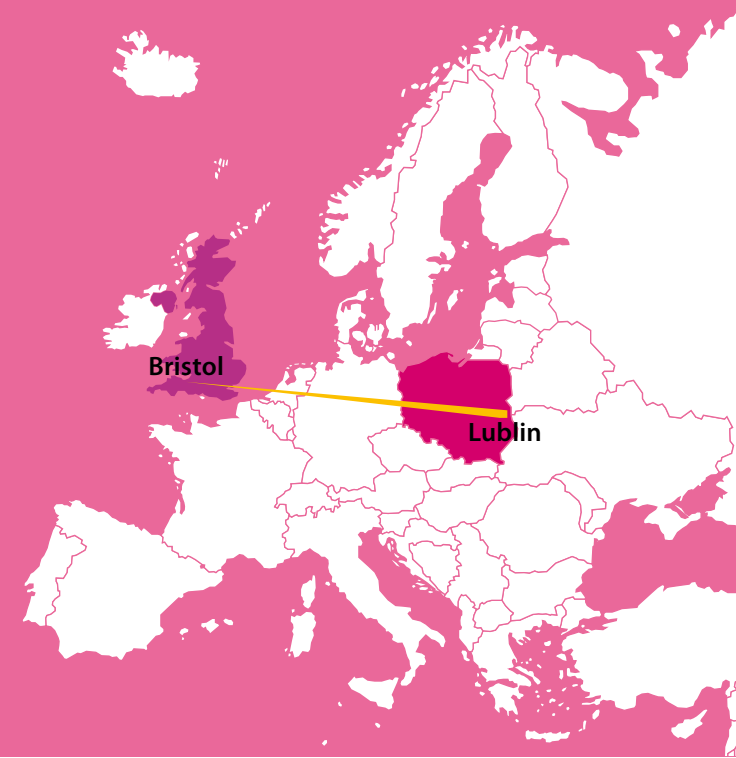
Ambassadors from Lublin

Mr Włodzimierz Wysocki
Deputy Mayor of Lublin in charge of Culture
Sport and Education

Mr Rafal Sadownik
Project Manager
Culture Centre
Lublin

Michał Karapuda
Project Manager
Culture Department
City of Lublin

Bristol Harbour Festival



1>3 AUGUST 2008



The Bristol Harbour Festival is an annual celebration of the city's maritime heritage, and has been running for 29 years. It is the city's main summer cultural event, attracting more than 250,000 visitors. Activities include live music from local, national and international bands, dance, circus acts, street theatres, international food stalls and children's activities. Activities targeting young people include the Remix Stage for young musicians, the children's play area tent and the dance stages.

The festival started out on a smaller scale in the form of maritime regatta. It provides an excellent platform for intercultural dialogue between artists and local performers, and for providing new opportunities to experience music, dance and circus from across Europe and the world. Since 2004 the cultural programme has broadened out to include a number of city centre open spaces to accommodate a 'dance village', food markets and a twinning zone.

The Bristol Harbour Festival is an annual celebration of the city's maritime heritage

Keys to the event's success include:

- The diversity and quality of cultural activities aimed at all ages
- The geographical spread of events within walking distance
- Good marketing and promotion
- A mix of internationally-renowned artists and local performers.

"To use the analogy of driving a car, when planning a route for the city's cultural programme one has to regularly glance at the rear view mirror of our shared past. Bristol's history is embedded in the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Through the Abolition 200 year of events and the Bristol Legacy Commission we are recognising the positive contributions that our African and African Caribbean communities have made to our city socially, economically and culturally. Through active participation in community radio and festivals, new Bristolians are recognising and valuing our common heritage and are investing in our common purpose."

Peter Hammond, Deputy Leader, Bristol City Council

Bristol

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Bergen visits >Germany

Cologne



KÖLN - Luftaufnahme September 2003 / © EmserBild

Lying on the river Rhine, Cologne is the fourth largest city in Germany and the largest in North Rhine-Westphalia. The city has 1,025,000 inhabitants, with more than 2 million people living in the Greater Cologne area.

Cologne is one of the oldest cities in Germany, having been founded by the Romans in the year 38 BC. As a former Hanseatic city, Cologne can look back on a long tradition as a centre for trade. Every leading industrial sector is represented here: the automotive industry, large international chemical and pharmaceutical firms, the electrical and mechanical engineering industries and food production. Over 40% of the entire gross domestic product of the European Union is generated within a radius of only 300 km of the city.

Cologne is a major cultural centre of the Rhineland and has a vibrant arts scene. It is home to more than 30 museums and hundreds of galleries. The city's Trade fair Grounds are host to a number of trade shows such as the Art Cologne Fair. Cologne is also renowned for its Carnival.

180 different nationalities live together in Cologne. 31.4% of the population migrated to the city, and 17.2% are non-German. The largest group, comprising 6.3%, is Turkish.

The Integration Council

The Integration Council was set up and met for the first time in May 2006 by invitation of the Mayor with the objective of improving the participation of immigrants in political activities. Representatives of around 20 religious communities of Cologne are elected to the Council, putting the already existing bilateral dialogue between religious communities on a broader basis. The Council's Committee also includes representatives of other groups, including migrants, older people, gay and lesbians and the disabled. Committee members may attend 'round table' conferences with politicians, administrators and other interested parties. The right of representation for all these groups is specifically stated in Cologne's by-laws.

"Politicians should set a political framework and actively support the integration of people with different cultures and religions into the society. The setting up of permanent round tables like the Integration Council where representatives of different cultures meet and discuss issues like integration and intercultural dialogue are a key element in the migrant politics of the City of Cologne."

Stephan Pohl, Member of the Committee for Social Affairs and Senior People, Cologne City Council



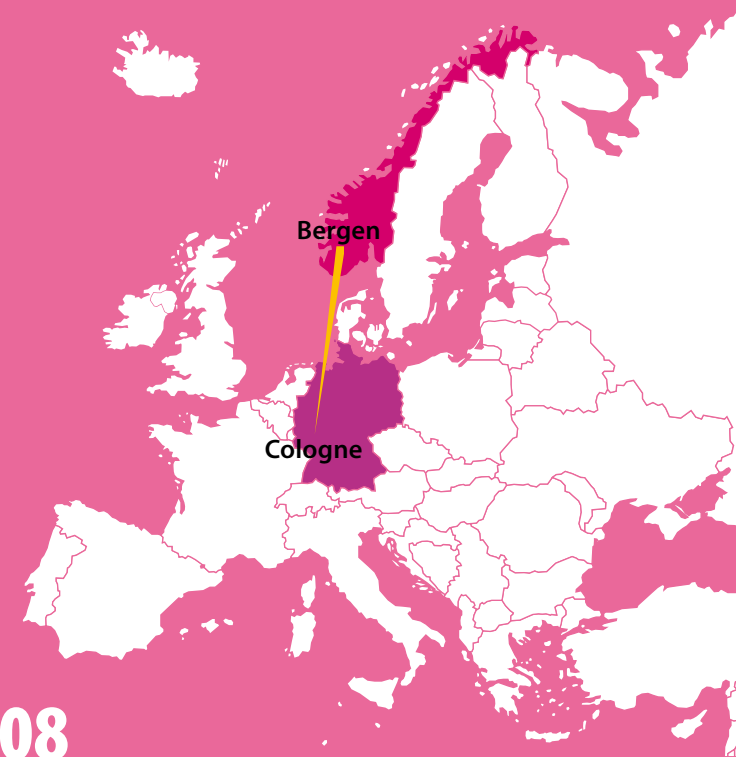
Ambassadors from Bergen

Trude Drevland
Deputy Mayor, Chairman of the Standing Committee of Culture
Business Development and Sports

Øyvør Johnson
Section leader, Department of Culture
Business Development and Sports

Jon Eide Pettersen
Young Ambassador

Cologne Intercultural Week



3>9 NOVEMBER 2008



Intercultural Week has taken place all over Germany, usually during autumn, since 1975. A central organisation chooses a theme for two years, with 2008's being 'Fleeing from persecution'. The aim of the week is to bring people together to enhance their knowledge and understanding of one another through culture and religion. The initiative has made an important contribution to the integration of immigrants and to the general improvement of intercultural dialogue in Germany.

The aim of the week is to bring people together to enhance their knowledge and understanding of one another through culture and religion

12,500 visitors attended the various events during the course of the week. Activities, all free of charge, included documentaries and films set in Cologne's twinned cities, including Istanbul, traditional cuisines organised and presented by women from a variety of ethnic groups, international dancing for senior citizens, bilingual seminars, literary soirées and gay festivals. There were also events for young people, for example, featuring hip hop and its various derivatives.

Part of the programme is run by immigrant groups and organisations that don't normally take part in the city's cultural life to any great extent, who begin their preparations for the week in April each year.

www.interkulturelle-woche-koeln.de

"Food, art, dancing and music are great ways to improve the intercultural dialogue and by that preventing xenophobia and racism. It is thus very important that the local administration makes sure that the conditions for the immigrants are good when it comes to art and culture. It is also important to make sure that different forms of art and culture are presented to the locals in a good way."

Jon Eide Pettersen, Young Ambassador from Bergen

Cologne

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Espoo



Espoo is Finland's second largest city, with a population of approximately 240,000. The city's development took off in the 1950s, its population growing from 22,000 to 210,000 by 2000. Surrounded by nature, Espoo is part of the Helsinki Metropolitan Area. There is no distinct city centre, but five regional centres, each the size of a medium-sized Finnish city.

Espoo is a major centre of technology, with tens of thousands of residents working for high-tech businesses. Espoo's science community includes Helsinki University of Technology, numerous startups and the headquarters of major multinationals like Nokia and Kone. 39% of the population is educated to higher education and university levels, and the city is currently implementing a large education programme focusing on children and young people.

Finnish and Swedish are the official languages of Finland. Finnish became the language of the majority of citizens towards the end of the 1940s, before which Espoo had been predominantly Swedish-speaking. Today, about 8.5 % of the population still speak Swedish. More than 120 languages are spoken in Espoo, the largest groups being Russian, Somali, Estonian, English and Chinese. About 19,200 inhabitants are of foreign origin from 40 European countries, 38 African countries, North and South America and Asia.

Fostering intercultural dialogue through education

Espoo strongly believes that education is the most important channel for integrating immigrants and offering them equal opportunities to participate in the city's social life. Espoo provides the following services to foster intercultural dialogue in schools:

- Pre-school education: as well as Finnish and Swedish language nurseries, Espoo offers English, French, Spanish and Swedish 'language immersion' nursery groups. Language immersion is regarded as a way of learning languages with the ultimate goal of becoming fully bilingual. The families of the children in language immersion groups are Finnish, and their children are unable to speak Swedish when they first join a group. The parents are not supposed to speak Swedish to them, only the children's mother tongue.
- Preparatory instruction: preparatory education is provided for pupils who have recently arrived in Finland or are about to enter school, and whose ability in the Finnish language and educational level are insufficient for general group instruction.

Espoo has an official multicultural network of members representing the city's different ethnic minority groups. The network puts forward proposals to the City Council and its committees to improve services for immigrants and their living conditions, particularly with regard to employment and increasing their level of participation in the work force. There is also an emphasis on improving and promoting the position of immigrant women. Education and employment are just two of the many issues on which the City Council and the multicultural networks cooperate in the Metropolitan Area.

Opportunities for adult immigrants to learn Finnish and to get know Finnish culture and society are provided by information and activity centres. Upper schools and the Työväenopisto Adult Institute also organise language courses and other relevant group activities.

Ambassadors from Riga

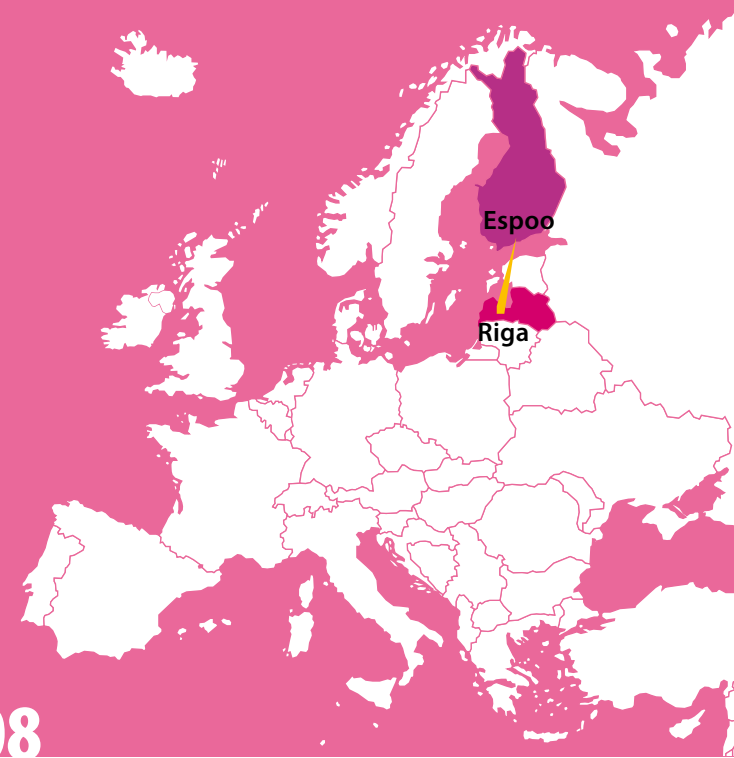
Juris Zakis
Chairman of the Committee of Education
Youth and Sports
Riga City Council

Ilze Scegolihina
International Projects Coordinator
Culture Department

Rita Garnaka
assistant of Chairwomen Committee of Culture
Art and Religious Matters

Riga City Council
ex Chairperson of Latvian Student association
young ambassador

The House of Friendship



7>12 OCTOBER 2008



Espoo's Cultural Centre organises an annual culture week for children based on different themes, which offer a varied programme of performances, workshops and exhibitions for children and their families. The event is a joint venture with different art institutions in Espoo and other third-sector actors. It attracted around 10,000 participants - children attending day-care centres, school children and their families.

The objective was to teach both Finnish and immigrant children about each others' traditional fairytales and popular stories

The theme for 2008 was fairytales. The objective was to teach both Finnish and immigrant children about each others' traditional fairytales and popular stories, such as Sweden's Pippi Longstocking and Belgium's much-loved comic strip hero Tintin. Immigrant children had the chance to familiarise themselves with Finnish fairytale figures and stories which are common references in the everyday life of their new homeland, such as the Moomin family of trolls. Rooms were dedicated to fairytale characters to help youngsters understand these different cultural aspects, while at the same time showing them that we all are feeling, thinking and dreaming the same.

Tiina Kasvi, Culture Unit, City of Espoo tiina.kasvi@espoo.fi

"The policy will be successful in reaching its objectives only if politicians find ways of using values we can find in every culture. By honouring the values of other cultures, politicians can gain the confidence of society and support for their ideas."

Juris Zakis, Chairman of the Committee of Education, Youth and Sports, Riga City Council and Tuija Kapala, Chairperson of Youth Committee, member of Espoo City Council

"Visiting Espoo was a wonderful example of balance not only between nature and industrial areas, but also between different cultures and nationalities, and between kids and grown-ups."

Rita Garnaka, Young Ambassador from Riga



Espoo

Piia Rantala
Director of the Community Education and Culture Unit
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Nantes visits >Italy

Genoa



Genoa is a major Mediterranean seaport on northern Italy's Ligurian coast. Its history dates back at least to the ancient Greeks and it flourished under Roman rule. The city is the birthplace of Christopher Columbus, and the occasional home to both Rubens and Van Dyck. During the 16th century Genoa was at the forefront of developments in architecture, painting and sculpture, along with international finance.

The city has a population of about 610,000, and about 890,000 in the greater Genoa area. About 37,000 of its inhabitants have an immigrant background. 35% come from Ecuador (the highest percentage in Italy), 20% from other South and Central American countries, 17% from Africa, 12% from Asia, 11% from Albania and 5% from other countries. The percentage of weddings between foreigners and natives is on the increase, typically between native men and female immigrants.

The port of Genoa is the city's principal source of income. It leads all other Italian ports in volume of passengers and freight traffic and shipbuilding remains the city's major manufacturing industry. Genoa also is a major centre for finance and commerce. The old harbour was recently redeveloped by the Genovese architect Renzo Piano and features the Piazza delle Feste, a theatre on the sea. Genoa was European Capital of Culture in 2004.

Genoa's Council of Religions

Genoa has a tradition of ethnic, cultural and religious pluralism and is home to a variety of faith communities and places of worship. The Council originated from an initiative of the local religious communities, representatives of which spent a year collaborating together to define its purpose and procedures. At the end of this process, in May 2005, the Municipality of Genoa formally accepted the convention establishing the Council of Religions.

The Council currently comprises representatives from 18 religions as well as associations promoting inter-religious dialogue. Its main objectives are to:

- promote inter-religious dialogue
- foster communal living between people of different cultures and religions
- cultivate mutual knowledge and communication between citizens and the city's administrative bodies.

Carla Turinetto, responsible for Intercultural Dialogue, Culture Department of the
cturinetto@comune.genova.it

European Project MELT(2007-2009)

Along with other major cities, Genoa is a partner of Migration in Europe and Local Tradition (MELT) project co-funded by the EU Culture programme. MELT aims to develop new strategies for social inclusion and cultural interaction, and to create a network between the city's different ethnic groups to encourage expression of their cultures and traditions as a means of dialogue at European level.

www.melt-europe.eu/

Ambassadors from Nantes

Philippe Malinge
European Officer
Nantes Métropole

Amandine Ciappa
Advisor to the Mayor

Mathilde Belna
Young Ambassador

SUQ a Genova: 10th Festival of the Cultures



7>21 JUNE 2008



The SUQ Festival is an annual multi-ethnic bazaar which takes place in the city's old harbour. Restaurateurs, traders and craftsmen from different ethnic backgrounds display a wide array of cuisines and merchandise. The festival also features free concerts, theatrical presentations, workshops for children, dance, cooking and language classes, a book fair and a book loans point organised by the city libraries and by the Province of Genoa. There are also stands providing information on the main associations and religious and ethnic minority communities in the Liguria Region.

Stands provide information on the main associations and religious and ethnic minority communities in the Liguria Region

Around 50,000 visitors attended the 15-day SUQ festival, which is supported by the City of Genoa, the Province of Genoa and the Liguria Region. It is organised in collaboration with study centres, universities, libraries, the main Ligurian associations and local ethnic communities, with each day co-produced with NGOs from a particular ethnic minority.

As part of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, the festival hosted a special exhibition, 'Piazze d'Europa, Piazze per l'Europa' (Squares of Europe, squares for Europe). The event showcases 60 'ideal' city squares, including the SUQ, and was realised by the town planning department of the City of Venice in collaboration with universities and study centres from France, Spain, Greece and Poland.

www.chanceeventi.it/suq/home.htm

"The SUQ festival takes place during about ten days from 4pm to midnight and with totally free access. The surprise for our delegation was to discover that there were no safety measures, such as police and guards, because there was no need for them. The active involvement all year round of the various communities made it possible to create a festive event without violence. In my opinion, it is their biggest success, beyond the success of the festival, and it is the conclusion of a real intercultural dialogue."

Philippe Malinge, European Officer, Nantes



Genoa

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Warsaw visits > Belgium

Ghent



Ghent is Belgium's fourth largest city, with about 238,000 inhabitants. The city centre is a showcase of medieval Flemish wealth and commercial success while modern Ghent, thanks to its harbour and university, continues to grow in importance. The presence of many young people and students has turned Ghent into an important Flemish cultural hub.

Ghent's inhabitants originate from about 170 different countries. Around 15% belong to ethnic minority groups, some of whom have acquired Belgian nationality. Around 45% are of Turkish origin and approximately 11% are from Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. Together, they constitute approximately 56% of the city's ethnic minority groups. The past few years have seen the arrival of a great many asylum seekers from all over the world, especially from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. There are also Roma people originating from Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Romania and the former Yugoslavia.

The city's ethnic diversity policy

The municipal government of Ghent implements an ethnic diversity policy to prevent the exclusion of immigrant groups. This policy consists of a series of initiatives conducted by the municipality's various departments, including education, employment, staff, youth and culture. Key initiatives include: encouraging immigrants' self-reliance, welcoming newcomers, helping illegal migrants, teaching the city's existing inhabitants how to cope with cultural diversity and acquainting all citizens with the city's ethnic minority policies.

The Municipal Integration Office coordinates the city's main diversity initiatives. Other departments, such as the Department of Culture, are responsible for their own initiatives. A new operational strategy is developed every three years.

Programmes to improve integration and dialogue

Kom-Pas, the newcomer's office, organises training programmes for new immigrant families, migrant citizens, migrants with refugee status, human traffic victims and minors. The training programme includes a course of the Dutch language (up to 1200 hours) and 75 hours of social awareness training, the latter covering practical and administrative issues. The participants are also provided with information concerning social and cultural life in Ghent. The courses are held in Dutch and other languages such as French, English, Spanish and Turkish.

All municipal staff are offered the opportunity to attend a training course in dealing with diversity. Additionally, a basic diversity course is provided to key groups such as the police, teachers, students, welfare workers, migrants' associations and local groups representing different ethnic minorities.

De Centrale Intercultural Centre

De Centrale opened in 1995 as part of the Department of Welfare's Municipal Integration Office. Its main objective is to put into practise the 'right to culture' of ethnic-cultural minority groups. It acts as an intercultural open house for the performing arts, offering a stage for the artistic expression of the cultural diversity of Ghent and Flanders. The centre is located in a former electric power station in a multicultural neighbourhood on the city's outskirts, near the port of Ghent.

De Centrale is a dynamic force for organic cultural diversity, stimulating co-operation between actors and creating bridges between Ghent's different ethnic-cultural communities. Initially, the centre's activities were mainly directed towards the Turkish community, and were then extended to other groups, such as the North-African, the Black African and the East European communities.

Since 2007, De Centrale has operated directly under the Department of Culture to emphasise the intrinsic values of cultural diversity in the city from a cultural rather than a welfare perspective.

www.decentrale.be

Ambassadors from Warsaw

Malgorzata Zakrzewska
Chair of the Culture Committee of Warsaw City Council

Leszek Napiontek
International Relations
City of Warsaw Culture Department

Ewa Czeszejko-Sochacka
Deputy Head of Culture Department
in charge of European Capital of Culture Warsaw 2016

Sylwia Kujawska
Young Ambassador

Les Goûts de Gand festival



26 APRIL 2008



Les Goûts de Gand (Tastes of Ghent) festival took place on 26 April 2008. Twenty-two concerts were held in pubs, churches and mosques, close to where migrant people live. The majority of the concerts had a multicultural aspect, with inspiration coming from exciting cultural mixes and collaborations such as Romani-Belgian and Spanish-Turkish.

The festival aimed at animating the cultural life of Ghent's ethnic groups

The main objective of the festival was to acquaint the Flanders community with the cultures of its ethnic minorities. The festival aimed at animating the cultural life of Ghent's ethnic groups, working closely with their representatives. The audience had an opportunity to meet the artists during the closing concert in De Centrale. The involvement of the migrant organisations in the festival from the very beginning broadened the target audience of the festival to about 700.

During the year artists had free access to rooms in De Centrale where they could rehearse their performances for the festival, encouraging the active participation of amateur groups and economically unprivileged people of foreign origin.

"The project had a significant impact on the improvement of intercultural communication using music as a universal tool in the process of integration."

Sylwia Kujawska, Young Ambassador from Warsaw

"I believe that fine arts are particularly useful in the process of integration of various ethnic groups, since art is a universal language, comprehensible to all nations."

Małgorzata Kobus, Member of the Warsaw City Council



Ghent

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ivo.bultheel@gent.be



Glasgow



Glasgow is Scotland's largest city and the commercial capital of Scotland. The city grew from the medieval Bishopric of Glasgow and the establishment in 1451 of the University of Glasgow. By the 18th century it had become one of Europe's main hubs for transatlantic trade with the Americas.

Glasgow has a population of around 580,000. It is a relatively young city, with around one-third of residents aged 15-34. The population of the City Council area peaked in the 1950s at 1,200,000 people, then declined as many inhabitants relocated to 'new towns'. Since the 2001 census the population decline has stabilised. Glasgow has had a migrant population for decades, and considerable experience in integrating a wide range of cultures. Since the 1840s, massive numbers of Irish immigrants have settled and contributed actively to the city. In the early 20th century, many Lithuanians and Italians settled in Glasgow. In the 1960s and 70s, many Asian-Scots arrived in Glasgow, mostly from Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and China.

Glasgow has expanded rapidly in terms of economic output and employment since the mid-1990s. More than 153,000 jobs have been created since 2000. Once dominated by manufacturing, industries such as shipbuilding and heavy engineering have gradually lost their importance to financial and business services, engineering, food and drink, printing, publishing, chemicals and textiles, as well as new growth sectors such as optoelectronics, software development and biotechnology.

Prioritising inclusion and anti-discrimination

A key objective of Glasgow City Council is to promote social inclusion, tackle poverty, and improve health and well-being. The Council's corporate Equality Policy recognises the need to promote equality and challenge discrimination. The policy has identified faith communities as a priority group and defines the Council's commitment to promoting good relations between different communities.

Culture & Sport Glasgow delivers the city's cultural, leisure and outdoor recreation services. Glasgow Museums runs 12 venues and aims to provide a socially inclusive and stimulating museums and galleries service which addresses the barriers to access, connects with the lives of everyone and reflects the cultural and social diversity of the city.

www.csghlasgow.org

Tackling sectarianism

St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art opened in 1993 with the aim of challenging bigotry and promoting mutual understanding and respect between people of different faiths and of no faith. Staff from St Mungo Museum develop and deliver programmes to raise awareness of religious divisions, promote understanding of world religions and tackle social issues such as racism, Islamophobia and anti-Semitism.

A key programme, Bigot Busters! Tackling Sectarianism, explores the subject of sectarianism in more detail. Diverse audiences, including faith communities, young people, teachers, gang members and politicians, can take part in workshops. Objects on display in the museum, some of which can be handled, are used to facilitate discussion of how people's views and beliefs can be shaped by their upbringing, and which factors are likely to promote racism and sectarianism.

The programme is one of the UK's largest and most popular anti-sectarian programmes, with over 1,200 people taking part each month.

Maggie MacBean, Education & Access Curator, Tel. +44 141 553 2557

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Participate at Tramway

Tramway is Scotland's most internationally acclaimed venue for contemporary visual and performance arts. The venue's Participate at Tramways programme offers people of all ages and communities a wide range of opportunities to engage in arts practice, discussion, performance and skills development. The programme is grounded in Tramway's depth of experience as an international contemporary arts venue and tradition of groundbreaking visual and performance art.

www.tramway.org

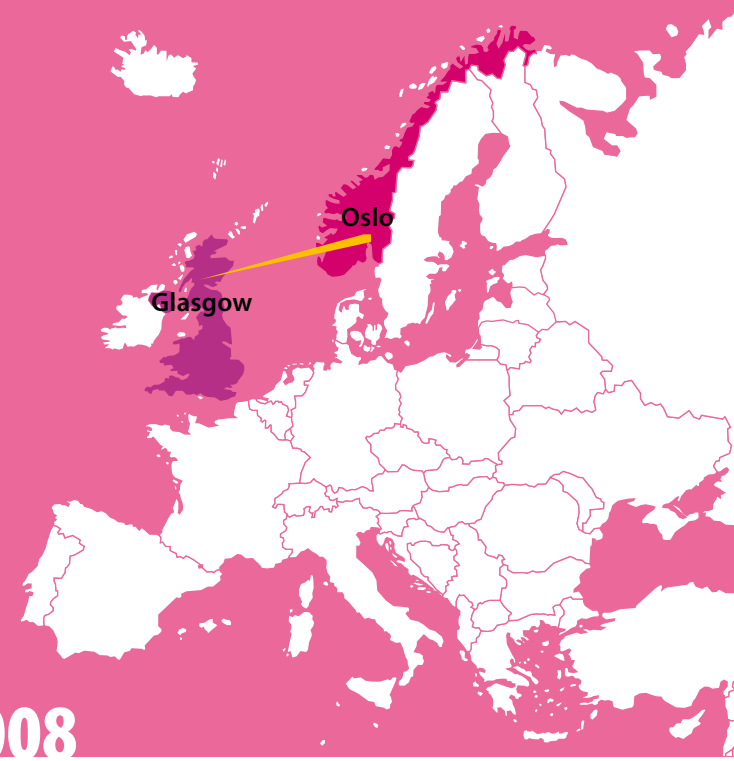
Ambassadors from Oslo

Tone Skodvin
Chief Adviser
Department of Education and Cultural Affairs
Oslo City Administration

Elisabeth Appa Beveney
Senior Advisor
Oslo City Administration

Manvi Rohatgi
Young Ambassador

Intercultural Dialogue Celebration Week



13>17 OCTOBER 2008



Glasgow's museums and art institutions hosted a week-long programme of intercultural activities for schoolchildren, students and, in particular, young people living in deprived circumstances. The initiative, part of the Glasgow City Council Plan (Objective 5: Improving health and wellbeing), was developed as a key element of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue. Workshops held during the week included:

Intercultural dialogue celebration week was developed as a key element of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue

Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum: 'Scottish Identity in Art'

This session utilised Kelvingrove's 'Scottish Identity' gallery to instigate discussion and reflection on what it means to be Scottish in today's multi-cultural society. Sessions were coordinated with Learning & Access (Glasgow Museums & Community Action Teams) and included a discussion session on 'Living Together in Europe' between invited representatives of young people in Glasgow and the visiting Oslo delegation.

Performance Programme - Kelvingrove Main Hall

Performers included: McKillas, an Urban dance trio from Kingsway Court Scotstoun; The Dirty Demographic, Jazz with an urban twist; The Maryhill Girls, Bollywood stars; and Salon Society, winners of the Sunday Herald Connect Festival competition.

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Inside Out - Tramway 5

Tramway's newest space was transformed into an urban arts environment by young people from the local areas of Govanhill and Pollokshields. They are the most ethnically diverse areas in Scotland, with white Scottish people live alongside an established community of Scottish south Asians and new immigrants from Eastern Europe, Africa and the Middle East. The event was devised in consultation with local young people to make the event accessible and relevant to all these groups. They devised a programme of events which included graffiti art, hip-hop dance, music production, beat boxing, DJ-ing and skateboarding. Some workshops were structured, while others operated on a drop-in basis. Heather Lynch, Education Manager, Tramway, Culture & Sport Glasgow

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"Museums play a huge part in the lives of the youngsters in Glasgow. They create a safe environment for the children in addition to fostering cultural knowledge and being a part of the educational system. Tramway, as both an arts and culture centre, provides facilities for people of any age and nationality to come and express their thoughts, feelings and emotions. This place creates a fusion of arts, where you can attend workshops and classes from break-dance to poetry, painting and music."

Manvi Rohatgi, Young Ambassador from Oslo

Glasgow

John Ferry
Senior Learning and Access Curator
Culture and Sport Glasgow
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Espoo visits > Poland

Lublin



NN Theatre Centre at the Grodzka Gate

The Centre is a municipal cultural institution, working for the preservation of Lublin's multicultural heritage and education. Through its programmes the Centre evokes the symbolic and historical significance of its location, the Grodzka Gate, which formerly linked the Christian and Jewish parts of the city, and its function as a meeting place of cultures, traditions and religions for the city of Lublin and its environs.

The NN Theatre was founded in 1990. At first its activities concentrated on presenting original works of theatre, and then it opened up to other social and educational activities beyond the arts. The Centre's programme of activities now focus on restoring the memory of Jewish life in Lublin. It organises and hosts arts activities, exhibitions, meetings, book and magazine promotions, films, concerts and public activities. It also runs a publishing house, which distributes books, poetry and the *Scriptores Scholarum* literary magazine.

Educational programmes at NN Theatre

In 1998, the Centre launched a programme entitled *The Great Book of the City*, gathering archive materials of photographs, oral history and documents connected with the Polish-Jewish history of Lublin. A constantly expanding documentary exhibition based on these materials describes Lublin's pre-war bicultural life and is accompanied by an educational programme devoted to perpetuating the legacy of the Lublin Jews. Since 1999 the Centre has been organising classes for students and workshops for teachers and cultural leaders in the field of multicultural education. Underpinning these initiatives is the 'A Portrait of the Place' exhibition, which has been visited by young people from all over the world, including Germany and Israel.

The Centre also runs a programme entitled 'The Forgotten Past: The Multicultural Traditions of the Lublin Region', mainly for the city's younger residents and their teachers. In creating the programme, the organisers started from the assumption that school should become a setting for education about the past and the multicultural heritage. The main aim of the programme is to help students understand their native region and encourage them to actively participate in its life.

Other projects run by the Centre include the 'Roads of the Past' School Discovery Club, a network of almost 100 clubs from all over Lublin Province, and 'the Virtual Library of Lublin and the Lublin Region', a four-part computer database comprising texts, pictorial material, sound, and educational resources.

Ośrodek Brama Grodzka-Teatr NN, +48 81 532 58 67, teatrnn@tnn.lublin.pl
www.tnn.lublin.pl

Lublin is the biggest city in eastern Poland with a population of 360,000. Located on the eastern border of the European Union, Lublin was once a very important commercial centre and the meeting point of various trade routes since the early Middle Ages. During the renaissance period, its economic and cultural heyday, Lublin was one of most important cities in Poland. It cultivated its religious and political freedoms, and for centuries was home to many ethnic and religious minorities. During the Second World War and the Communist period, Lublin's cultural diversity was greatly reduced and its rich multicultural heritage was censored and suppressed.

Today Lublin is rediscovering its traditions of cultural diversity. The city's diverse population includes small but active communities of Jews, Roma, Ukrainians, Belarussians and Russians as well as Catholics, the Orthodox churches, Protestants, and Muslims. There is also an increasing number of refugees and migrant workers from neighbouring countries, mainly from Belarus and Ukraine but also from the Caucasus, Asia and the Middle East.

Lublin is one of the biggest academic centres in Poland with five universities and nearly 100,000 students. The city is also home to the European College of Polish and Ukrainian Universities, a unique trans-border educational institution. In recent years culture has been a major focus of Lublin's strategy for developing the city. The city has several international theatre and music festivals, regularly organises programmes of intercultural and ecumenical events, enjoys well-established cultural cooperation with neighbouring countries and has very active cultural institutions and NGOs. Lublin is currently competing to become the European Capital of Culture in 2016.

www.lublin.eu

www.lublin2016.eu

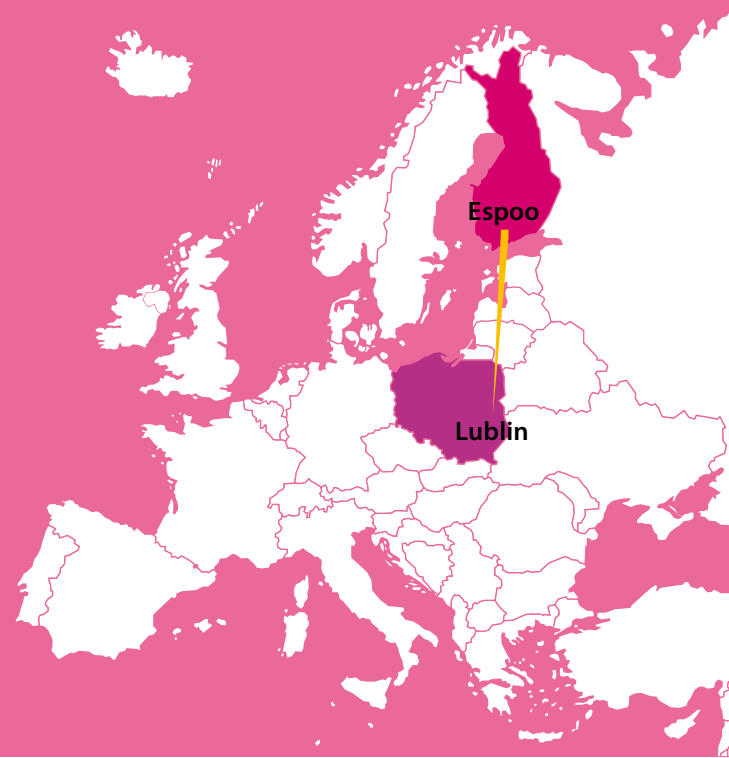
Ambassadors from Espoo

Tuija Kalpala
Member of City Council
Chair of City Council Youth Committee

Jukka Paju
Head of Youth Office

Hanna Järvisalo
Chair of Youth Council

Central Europe Theatre Festival: 'The Neighbours'



10>12 JUNE 2008



The festival is an annual programme of theatre plays, street performances and various forms of children's theatre as well as other artistic activities (concerts, exhibitions, meetings with artists) connected with the cultural traditions and national identities of Central and Eastern Europe. It is a platform for exchanging artistic experiences and encountering the theatre traditions of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The festival was held under the auspices of the 2008 European Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

*It is a platform for exchanging artistic experiences
and encountering the theatre traditions
of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe*

The festival, which has a different theme each year, offers visitors, particularly the young, an opportunity to admire the cultural richness of their eastern neighbours, familiarise themselves with their own traditions and experience contemporary culture. Theatres taking part in the festival were invited to present productions concerning common past themes, the co-existence of regional nations, Poland's place in the region's past and their visions for a common future.

Grzegorz Reske, Centrum Kultury w Lublin, +48 81 536 03 18, sasiedzi@ck.lublin.pl

www.festiwal-sasiedzi.pl

"The starting point to improve intercultural dialogue is the recognition of differences. The best way to foster intercultural dialogue is to implement it through different municipal projects and programmes. We need to communicate and build common actions not just through official educational or school systems but through people's hobbies, every day consuming, international enterprises, media, politics etc."

Tuija Kalpala, Member of Espoo City Council,
Chair of City Council Youth Committee



Lublin

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Barcelona visits > France

Lyon



©Muriel Chaulet ville de Lyon

The second largest city in France, Lyon's history goes back to the Romans in the first century BC. The city grew very prosperous in the 11th century, reaching its peak during the Renaissance, and continued to develop during the 17th and 18th centuries courtesy of the silk industry. The 1980s saw a new drive to improve the city's infrastructure and the momentum continues today. Important town planning projects have been completed in strategic locations, including the development of the banks of the Rhône, while adhering to a policy of preserving the city's historical cultural assets. The city has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1998.

The Lyon region is France's second largest business capital after Paris. It is a major industrial centre specialising in chemical, pharmaceutical, and biotech industries and there is also a significant software industry with a particular focus on video games. Lyon also hosts the international headquarters of Interpol and Euronews.

Today the inner city of Lyon has about 480,000 inhabitants. France does not maintain official statistics regarding people's origins. However, in 1999 it was estimated that 14% of the city's inhabitants were born abroad, including 4.2% in Algeria, 1% in Morocco and Tunisia respectively and 3.3% in the European Union. The French model of assimilation and integration is followed by Lyon's urban policy in its widest sense.

Lyon's multitude of cultural facilities includes 30 museums, a national opera house and a network of 15 libraries. The Lumière brothers invented cinema here in 1895.

Cultural Cooperation Charter

In 2007 the main cultural institutions of Lyon, including the opera house and the museum of contemporary art, signed the Cultural Cooperation Charter, committing themselves to setting up new services and initiatives to better embrace cultural diversity. They are collaborating with local associations and social centres on urban renewal projects in depressed areas and with groups at risk of social exclusion. The Charter sets out targets for 2007-2009 within the framework of the new Contrats Urbains de Cohésion Sociale. It encompasses the following themes: cultural diversity, memories, urban cultures, cultural and artistic practices of local ethnic minority groups, cultural inclusion and digital culture.

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www.polville.lyon.fr

Keeping memories alive

Two major initiatives have been carried out in historic areas of Lyon's city centre to collect sacred and profane music and songs of local inhabitants into an Atlas Sonore, or 'sound atlas'. This work has been led by the city's Centre de Musiques Traditionnelles and was a way of seeking out people from different countries and cultures who are often invisible in the city. Video and sound recordings made it possible to produce a musical atlas that recognised and permanently recorded this cultural diversity. Festive events have been organised to present the results of this work, and a choir created to give a weekly recital of the songs collected from these different countries and cultures.

cmtra@cmtra.org



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Ambassadors from Barcelona

Daniel de Torres

Mayor's Commissioner for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue
Barcelona City Council

Sergi Diaz

Responsible for the Programme Barcelona Intercultural 2008

Annalisa Terrizzi
Young Ambassador

The Dance Biennale Parade



14 SEPTEMBER 2008



©Muriel Chaulet ville de Lyon

The Lyon Dance Biennale celebrated its 25th anniversary on 14th September 2008 with 17 new co-productions, nine French premieres, and 42 companies from 19 countries. Some 600 artists converged on Lyon from Beijing, Montreal, São Paulo, Taipei, Ouagadougou and all over Europe. A highlight of the Dance Biennale is le Défilé, an outdoor dance parade which takes place in the historical centre of Lyon. In 2008 it featured 4,500 participants and attracted 300,000 spectators. Le Défilé is one of Lyon's events under the auspices of the 2008 European Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

The Dance Biennale Parade has proved an excellent platform for the general public, and especially the underprivileged, to take an active, visible part in an artistically demanding project



©Muriel Chaulet ville de Lyon

Choreographers, artists, social cultural agencies, social workers, social integration professionals and institutions worked together to organise le Défilé. Groups of amateurs took part in workshops for up to a year before the parade under the direction of professional choreographers and other artists, learning to dance, play music, sing, make costumes and build floats.

As part of Lyon's anti-exclusion, community development and urban regeneration policy, le Défilé has proved an excellent platform for the general public, and especially the underprivileged, to take an active, visible part in an artistically demanding project.

A specialist follow-up group on integration has been created to provide a concrete link between the world of art and that of social and professional integration. Assessments conducted in 1998 and 2000 showed the positive impact of this initiative on people involved in integration.

www.ledefile.org

www.biennale-de-lyon.org/danse2008/angl/

"In Lyon there is a clear commitment to improving the quality of life by fostering artistic activity, promoting the cultural diversity of the citizens and generating a feeling of ownership of the neighbourhood and the city based on a common background and memory."

Daniel de Torres, Mayor's Commissioner for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue, Barcelona City Council

"What should our local administration do in order to foster intercultural dialogue both in Barcelona and Lyon? The answers are similar: more visibility to urban socio-artistic intervention associations, more funding for long-term community development projects fostering social cohesion and integration and more freedom for people in the use of public space for community interventions and actions."

Annalisa Terrizzi, Young Ambassador from Barcelona

Lyon

Joëlle Moliera
Project Manager for Culture
International Relations Department
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Nottingham visits > Sweden

Malmö



Situated in southernmost Sweden, Malmö is the third most populous city of the country.

Malmö was one of the earliest and most industrialised towns of Scandinavia, but is currently undergoing transition to a city of knowledge. The strongest sectors in Malmö are logistics, retail and wholesale trade, construction and property. There are also a number of well-known companies in biotechnology and medical technology, environmental technology, IT and digital media. Malmö University, which opened in 1998, is Sweden's latest venture in the field of higher education, accommodating some 15,000 students.

Malmö has approximately 280,000 residents who between them speak some 100 languages and belong to 174 different nationalities. Almost 30% of the population has a background from another country, linked to an influx of immigrants in the early 1970s to provide low-skilled labour for shipbuilding and the construction industries. The largest groups of immigrants come from Denmark, the former Yugoslavia, Iraq, Poland, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Lebanon and Iran. 50% of pupils in schools in Malmö are first or second generation citizens with family backgrounds from another country. The city has a young population, with almost 50% under 40 years old.

The Welfare For All Programme

The City Executive Board and City Council took the decision in March 2004 to adopt an action programme entitled 'Welfare For All' to tackle the city's problems of deprivation, alienation, segregation and insecurity and to improve the welfare of socially and economically vulnerable groups.

The programme covers five areas: work (reducing unemployment), education (improving skills for new students from other countries), security (developing local anti-violence programmes), housing (building new rental apartments and new single-family houses) and growth. It facilitates cooperation between the relevant central government authorities and the distribution of responsibility between these and Malmö's municipal authorities. The interest groups cooperating to meet the objectives of the programme include trade unions, government authorities, the business community, housing and property companies, Malmö's trade associations and cultural bodies and the people of Malmö.

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Access, Diversity and Inclusion Plan for cultural activities

The aim of the 2007-2009 plan is to create opportunities for more people to participate in cultural life, regardless of their social, cultural and economic situation or their physical or other functional disabilities.

The city's Culture Department's additional objectives are to:

- increase the number of visitors to the city by at least 10% by 2010
- increase the proportion of visitors born outside Sweden, or whose parents were born outside Sweden, to at least 20% by 2010.

The plan's two specific areas of focus are: audience development, including the involvement of target groups in planning and implementation and removing obstacles such as language to accessing culture; and skills provision, to ensure the Culture Department's various sections take full advantage of the diversity of Malmö when planning their activities.

Eva Klamméus, Communication officer, Culture Department

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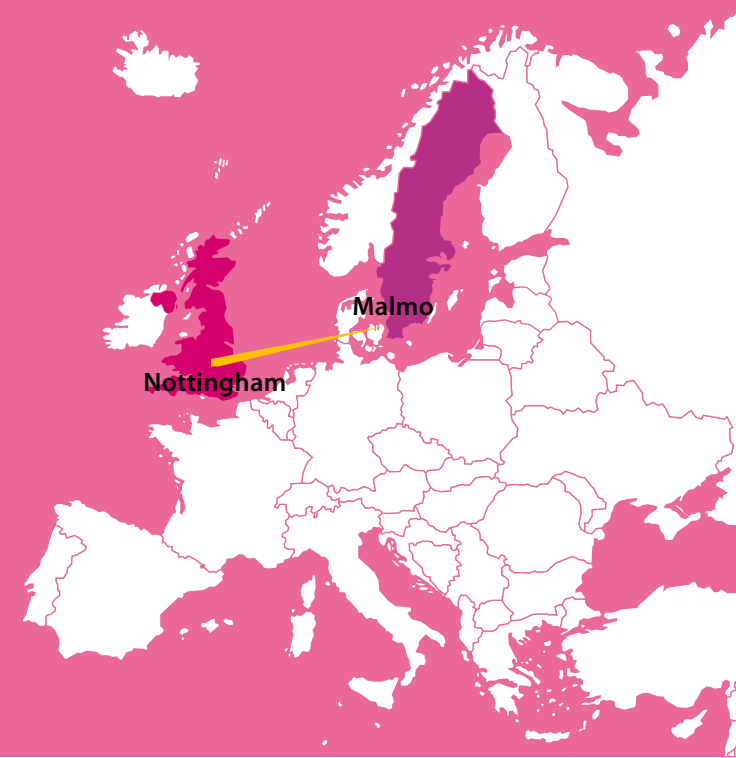
Ambassadors from Nottingham

Malcolm Wood
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny
Nottingham City Council

Sharon Scaniglia
Principal Arts Officer
Nottingham City Council

Sam Walker and Keiron Powis
Young Ambassadors

Borrow a Living Book at Malmo Library



9 NOVEMBER 2008



Borrow a Living Book' is an ongoing project run by Malmo City Library as part of its programme of activities, which took place once a month during spring and autumn 2008. The project's message is 'don't judge a book by its cover', and it aims to break down the barriers, prejudices and stereotypes that citizens can often have about specific groups of people and communities in society. The project works with volunteers who give their time for a few hours to tell their story to another person as if they are a living book. Anyone can 'take out' a living book by putting their name on the schedule, and spend up to 45 minutes hearing about that person's story or questioning them about their background, beliefs or specific issues relating to them personally, their culture or the job or responsibility they hold in society.

*it aims to break down the barriers,
prejudices and stereotypes*

The Living Books project is a unique way of learning more about people with different ethnic or religious backgrounds and encourages people to discuss life, culture, religion, politics, work ethics, life choices or any other issues in a one-to-one session in the library. The project allows participants to speak liberally about subjects that can often be taboo or sensitive in society.

Borrowers had the option of taking out the following Living Books at the event held on 9th November: an Imam, a Rabbi, a rehabilitated drug addict, a transsexual, a Muslim housewife and a traffic warden. The Living Books were fully booked for the duration of the session, demonstrating the popularity of the project.

Katarina Forsstrom, Librarian
katarina.forsstrom@malmo.se

"The Living Book project is a very unique and dynamic way of being able to interview people who come from different backgrounds and have their own terrific stories."

Keiron Powis, Young Ambassador from Nottingham

"There are a number of things politicians can do to foster intercultural dialogue and perhaps one of the most important is to ensure that the local authority has a robust policy on equality, which staff both understand and actively work to."

Malcolm Wood, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny, Nottingham City Council

Malmo

Eva Klamméus
Communication Officer
Culture Department
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Zaragoza visits > France

Nantes



Nantes is the major city of western France, located at the mouth of the Loire estuary on the Atlantic coast. With a population of 295,000, Nantes is the sixth largest city in France, and its metropolitan area the seventh largest with 590,000 inhabitants.

Nante's once busy industrial port lost many thousands of jobs, but since the 1980s the city has turned into one of the most dynamic in France. Its renaissance is built on research, innovation, culture, knowledge and the creative industries. In 2004, Time magazine described Nantes as 'the most liveable city in all of Europe'.

Nantes is the most important city of the historic province of Brittany, and is culturally still strongly identified with the region. Fittingly for the birthplace of author Jules Verne the city is today a centre of imagination and creativity that includes the worldwide famous Royal de Luxe theatre company, the extraordinary giant robotic animals of the Machines de l'Ile, the annual classical music festival Folle Journée and the Estuaire Festival, a contemporary art exhibition that takes place every two years along the Loire estuary.

Nantes's population is one of the youngest in France. One in three is under 25, and the city has 50,000 students. Young people congregate in the old part of the city and in the new Ile de Nantes district, with its music bars and clubs. Open to all cultures, Nantes hosts a major jazz festival and the Three Continents Film Festival which showcases movies from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Council for the Citizenship of Foreigners

For several years now the city has operated a policy to promote integration and fight discrimination. The Council for the Citizenship of Foreigners (CCF) was created in 2004 to represent the interests of non-EU foreign nationals and enable residents without the right to vote to exercise their citizenship locally. The CCF also facilitates dialogue with the city's immigrant population and participates in policy-making vis-à-vis integration. The policy's three major strands are:

- Improving the integration of immigrants
- confronting racial discrimination
- promoting the active citizenship of immigrants.

The CCF will be contributing to an exhibition planned for 2010, located at the Castle of the Dukes of Brittany, which will focus on the city's history of immigration.

Eur@dioNantes

Eur@dioNantes is a Nantes-based radio station, launched in May 2007, providing political, social and cultural news from the perspective of the diversity of European cultures. It aims to help build a common awareness of the diversity of Europe's cultures, viewpoints and innovations and to put its citizens at the heart of what goes on across their continent. Eur@dioNantes aims to lead a pan-EU network of local 'branches' in other cities where the station has partnerships with the local universities.

The multicultural editorial team currently includes three French journalists and a dozen journalism students from all over Europe who are being coached by experienced French professionals. Eur@dioNantes programmes are broadcasted on FM radio in the metropolitan area of Nantes and via the internet.

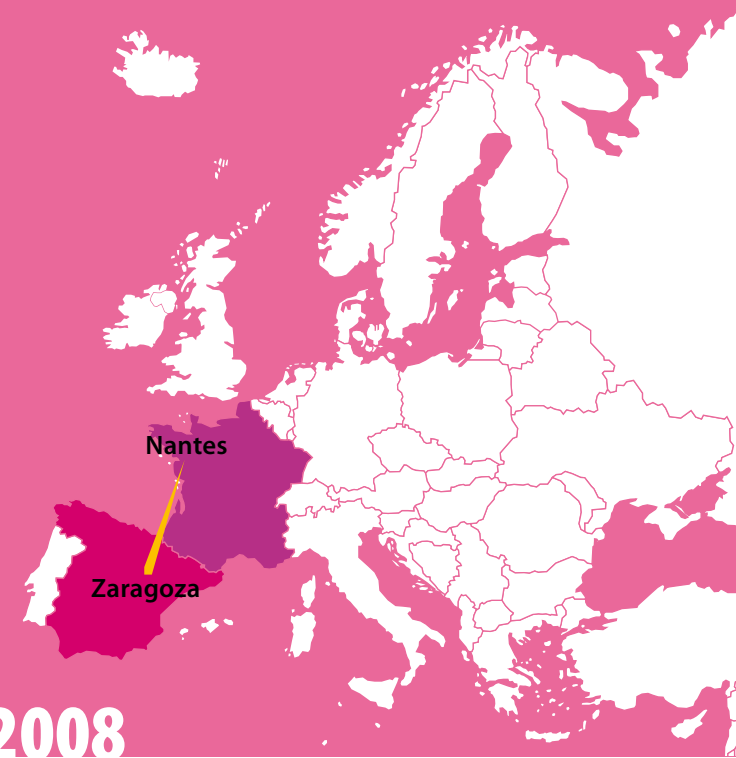
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Ambassadors from Zaragoza

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Cultural coordinator
Networks and Projects

Victor Domeque
Cultural Programmes Manager

Tissé Métisse Festival



12>13 DECEMBER 2008



Tissé Métisse is an intercultural community-organised festival of concerts, dance, theatre, discussion meetings and tastings. A tribute to the city's rich diversity of cultures, it takes place at the end of each year at the Cité Internationale des Congrès. Nearly 20,000 participants of all ages and generations attended the 2008 festival.

Diversity is key to Tissé Métisse Festival

Diversity is key to the "Tissé Métisse Festival": diversity of cultural influences and artistic forms of expression (music, drama, dance, circus, conferences, exhibitions and audiences with authors); diversity in forms (staged and ad hoc performances and improvisations); and diversity of the performers (well established professionals performing alongside new talents, local groups and community-based amateurs).

One of Tissé Métisse's key objectives is to make culture accessible to everyone and promote intercultural mixing. The festival caters for all ethnic groups, with special emphasis on socially and culturally excluded people, socially deprived communities and immigrant communities. All year long, activities, conferences, encounters, workshops, concerts take place thanks to the involvement of hundreds of voluntary workers from more than 100 company-based workers' associations, community associations and local social and cultural centres. This work is lead by the Tissé Métisse Association, whose objective is 'to work against all form of discrimination and exclusion in the work place, at school and in the city, through cultural expression or any other appropriate form, in order to further the three following goals: getting to know other people, living together and solidarity.'

Marie-Hélène Nivollet MH.NIVOLLET@acener.fr



"Intercultural dialogue is both the meeting between diverse cultures and a means to build together a common culture. In Nantes, intercultural dialogue builds itself during events such as Tissé Métisse, which gather young people of all the districts of the city and from all social and cultural background. Cities can help in this dialogue by supporting the civil society, local associations, trade unions and citizens in all their cultural projects."

Jean-Marc Ayrault, Mayor of Nantes and President of Nantes Metropole

Nantes

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Bologna visits > United Kingdom

Nottingham



Nottingham has a population of approximately 300,000 inhabitants and is the seventh largest urban conurbation in the United Kingdom. Until the middle of the twentieth century, Nottingham's economic life was dominated by manufacturing, principally bicycles, cigarettes and textiles, with the city famous for its lace. The decline of manufacturing in the UK led to the disappearance of many manufacturing companies and the emergence of new industries, changing the dynamics of the city. The many large buildings left vacant by the decline of traditional industries have been converted to apartments and commercial and retail outlets, or have become home to creative industries.

Today, Nottingham's economy is largely service sector based, comprising tourism, creative industries and pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. The city has recently been awarded the title of 'Science City', one of six cities in the UK to receive this accolade.

Nottingham is multicultural, with the local Black and Asian communities contributing significantly to the city's cultural make up and cultural calendar. The number of immigrants is regularly increasing in line with national and European trends in migration, especially from Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Fostering intercultural dialogue and integration

Given the number of new migrants making the city their home, the City Council has an important role to play in facilitating social cohesion and tackling integration issues among its ethnic minority communities. Some problems are linked to cultural diversity, exclusion and poverty, and also to difficulties within a community itself. Arts and culture are considered major tools to help further the integration of communities:

- Through the Nomadica project young people, the majority of whom are refugees and asylum seekers, have worked alongside professional artists to devise a dance performance inspired by themes of migration, belonging, identity and the sense of home.
www.artscouncil.org.uk/aboutus/project_detail.php?sid=15&id=1004
- A number of projects have been developed to help adults to learn English. The City Library provides English conversation classes for refugees with the aim of fostering not only an understanding of the language, but also to enhance their sense of belonging to the city and to share some thoughts about their original cultures. Another of the library's initiatives, the 'Tastes of the City' project, celebrated the rich culinary traditions of Nottingham's communities and fostered the exchange of views about favourite foods and culture among library visitors.
- The recently opened New Art Exchange is a national venue that promotes black arts.
www.thenewartexchange.org.uk

Nottingham Inter Faith Council

The Nottingham Inter Faith Council (NIFC) was created in 1983. It aims to improve understanding of the different world religions practiced in the City, create a more tolerant society and make connections between the different faith groups. NIFC is presided over by the city's Lord Mayor and funded by Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council. NIFC organises meetings, visits, social events and discussions for its members and provides information and advice on faith matters to businesses and public organisations. Membership is open to individuals, organisations, faith groups and places of worship.

www.bluecoat.nottingham.sch.uk/InterFaith/

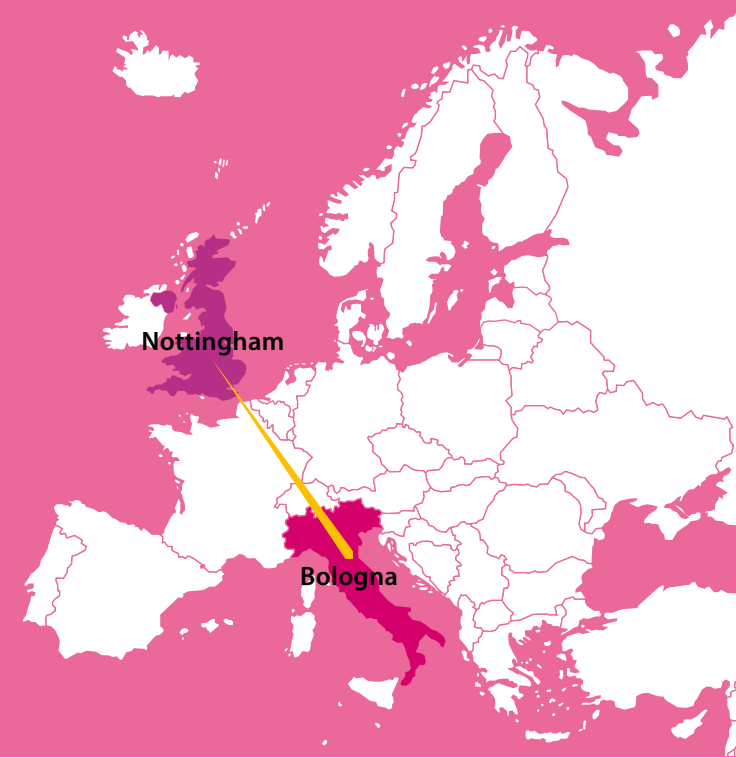
Ambassadors from Bologna

Valentina Castaldini
City Councillor and Young Ambassador

Matteo Lepore
City Councillor and Young Ambassador

Elena Di Gioia
Culture and relations with University Department
Municipality of Bologna

The One City One World festival



12>13 JULY 2008



One City One World takes place in Old Market Square in the centre of Nottingham and is a programme of music, dance and performances from all over the world. The festival's objectives are to promote and communicate the cultural traditions of the city's ethnic minority communities and get citizens involved whether as performers, participants and audience. The initiative is part of a broader intercultural programme run by Nottingham's City Council and is a success thanks to the active participation of communities and the contribution of the local and international cultural performers who have made Nottingham their home.

The event provides a snap shot of Nottingham's many different cultures

The free event provides a snap shot of Nottingham's many different cultures and is complemented by a world market featuring food and products and street performances in several city locations. Professional international artists and local groups and clubs join together to celebrate the city's cultural diversity. For many people, the festival offers a 'window on the cultures of the world', with traditional music and dance from the UK, other European countries and also India, Africa and Armenia. A highlight of the 2008 festival was Sambaradàn, a group of dancers and musicians from Bologna with different backgrounds and a common passion for Afro-Brazilian culture.

"Politicians are key players to foster intercultural dialogue, they could give political support, ideas and money."

David Trimble, Portfolio Holder for Community and Culture, City of Nottingham

"Many City Councillors with different origins have been elected in Nottingham. An Inter Faith Council has been created to develop mutual knowledge. This is the point. In the UK there is more political inclusion for the cultural minorities than in Italy. It means that intercultural dialogue is an open issue rather than hidden."

Matteo Lepore, City Councillor and young ambassador from Bologna



Nottingham

Sharon Scaniglia
Principal Arts Officer

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Nottingham
City Council

Oslo



A city of peace and tolerance, Oslo is the capital of Norway with approximately 560,000 inhabitants. The city is characterised by a mix of old and new architecture, parks, hills, museums, monuments, lakes, forests and the Oslo fjord. A wealthy city - the Oslo region has one of the highest per capita GDPs in Europe - its most active business sectors are the shipping industry, information technologies, telecommunications and multimedia, offshore and engineering activities, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals.

Oslo is one of the fastest growing cities in Europe in terms of population (17% over the last 15 years), due in almost equal degree to high birth rates and immigration. The birth rate for 2007 was the highest for 50 years. Over the last 25 years Oslo has grown into a diverse and multicultural city with an immigrant population accounting for over 20%. In 2005, there were around 118 000 immigrants in Oslo: 22,000 from western countries (immigration from Poland and the Baltic states has significantly increased since 2004), 96,000 from other countries, mostly Pakistan, Somalia and Sri Lanka. About 40% of school children are of migrant background.

20% of the members of the City Council of Oslo are of foreign origin, which shows the high level of integration of immigrants in the city and in the country as a whole. However, living conditions are much more difficult for the immigrants than for the Norwegians and it is getting harder to get a job or a house in the capital. The unemployment rate for immigrants is over 6%, while the average rate is between 2 and 3%.

OXLO makes the city more tolerant

Since 2001, the city has introduced social cohesion policies which have made considerable impact on tolerance and enhanced intercultural relations. Following a racist murder in 2001 Oslo launched OXLO (Oslo Extra large), a long-term awareness-raising campaign to make the city more tolerant. OXLO is managed by the City Council in partnership with the Board of Immigrant Organisations which represents more than 300 bodies.

Focusing primarily on children and young people in schools and youth centres, OXLO aims to encourage local activities in city districts, provide help with homework, help immigrants to qualify for the labour market, ensure equal treatment and increase recruitment of people from minority backgrounds to positions in the City Council. The City Council also created 'the OXLO ambassadors' - institutions, services and associations that promote antiracism and diversity. Each year, the OXLO Prize is awarded for special achievement in antiracism.

innvanderradet@radhuset.oslo.kommune.no

X-Ray Youth Cultural House

X-RAY is a key element of the city's strategy to promote intercultural expression among young people. Managed and directed by its young members for the past 15 years, the centre is located in east Oslo's Grünerlokka district, a less privileged area than the west of the city.

The house is communal territory, offering creative activities which are run by the young people who initiate them, and providing experience and training for those who take part. X-Ray plays a vital role in preventing young people from becoming involved in crime and drugs, with the group leaders serve as positive role models.

www.x-rayukh.no

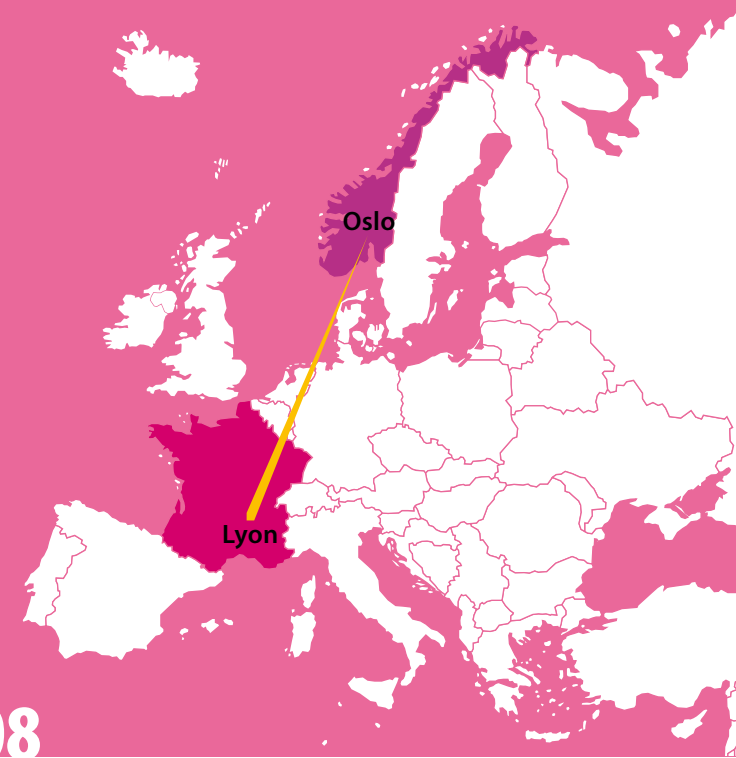
Ambassadors from Lyon

Sylvie Pierron
Municipal Councillor in charge of Cultural and Social Cohesion

Joëlle Moliera
Project Manager for Culture Affairs
International Relations Department

Eléonore Fourniau
Young Ambassador

The Mela Festival



21>23 AUGUST 2008



A major annual event, the Mela festival was first arranged in 2001 by the city's Pakistani community to create a cultural meeting place for people and promote diversity in cultural expression. In 2008, 300 artists from 20 countries participated in the festival at City Hall Square. The festival is open to everyone and entry is free.

in a multicultural city like Oslo, all ethnic groups should be encouraged to interact

The festival's organisers worked on the assumption that, in a multicultural city like Oslo, all ethnic groups should be encouraged to interact. They believed in music's ability to foster tolerance and change people's perception of others – and so it has proved. Today, the festival allows the inhabitants of all districts, especially those of the city's east side, to claim 'ownership' of downtown Oslo.

The Mela festival is now a very important event in Oslo, and of political as well as cultural importance. One of several key festivals sponsored by the Norwegian government, it is supported financially by the City of Oslo and organised by a non-governmental organisation.

www.horizont.org/

"It is important to know something about other cultures, it is gratifying from a human point of view, but working together to improve the city where you live is without doubt the best way to acknowledge equality. I admired the voluntarism of the all-embracing OXLO campaign and the growing success of the Mela festival."

Sylvie Pierron, Municipal Councillor, Lyon

"... delegations were convinced that discussions with other cities are very important because of increasing globalisation, changing demographic composition of cities and diversity of experiences."

Eléonore Fourniau, Young Ambassador from Lyon

Oslo

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Amsterdam visits >Latvia

Riga



Riga is the capital of Latvia, which regained its independence from the USSR in 1991. Founded in 1201, the city is situated at the mouth of the river Daugava on the Baltic coast, and its historic centre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

With 722,500 inhabitants, Riga is the largest city of the Baltic States, although its population has decreased since 1991 largely owing to emigration and low fertility rates. Latvia experienced both German and Soviet occupation in the last century. Industrialisation and large-scale immigration from other Soviet republics, particularly Russia, changed the demographic composition of Riga. Today, 58% of the population have a migrant background, and 42.1% of these are Russian.

Riga accounts for about half of Latvia's total industrial output, focusing on the financial sector, public utilities, food and beverages, pharmaceuticals, wood processing, printing and publishing, textiles and furniture and the manufacture of communications equipment. Improved infrastructure have led to a significant increase in business and leisure to the city travel in recent years.

To preserve the city's cultural heritage and foster intercultural dialogue, Riga City Council's Culture Department subsidises 28 local groups, including choirs, vocal groups, dance, bands, theatres and folklore. Among the ethnic minority groups represented are Russians, Poles, Lithuanians, Estonians, Byelorussians, Ukrainians, Germans and Livs, who all participate actively in the city's cultural events, as well as in international festivals and competitions. The Livs, also known as Livonians, are Latvia's only indigenous minority, whose ancestors have lived in the country at least as long as the Balts.

Nowadays, Liv is the rarest language in the European Union, and Latvia regards its preservation and promotion as a matter of honour and duty.

XXIV Latvian Nationwide Song and XIV Dance Celebration

The XXIV Nationwide Latvian Song and XIV Dance Celebration took place in Riga July 5-12, on the 90th anniversary of Latvia's independence. Thirty-nine concerts and events, half of them free of charge, were held during the eight day festival, which has been held every four or five years since 1873.

The festival's activities encompass folk dances, applied arts, amateur theatre and choral singing ranging from folk and classical to modern popular songs. Latvia is unique in the way it expresses its national identity through song. In recognition of the Latvian Song Festival's importance to this identity UNESCO has bestowed on it the title 'Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity'.

The 2008 festival had a record number of 38,601 participants, including 48 principal conductors and artistic directors, 394 choirs and 54 vocal ensembles (totalling 18,464 singers), 544 dance groups, 13,700 dancers, 55 brass bands and 5 professional orchestras. Additionally, the festival boasted 913 master craftspeople from 103 traditional applied arts studios, who exhibited 2,942 pieces of traditional applied art at the City's Railway History Museum.

Ambassadors from Amsterdam

Carolien Gehrels
Alderman Art and Culture
Amsterdam City Council

Esmeralda Huizen
Policy Advisor
Amateur Art
Amsterdam Culture and Art Department

Yassine Boussaid
Trainee Policy Advisor International Cultural City
Amsterdam Culture and Art Department

Latvijas vainags (Latvia's Crown)



9>13 JULY 2008



Since 1998, national minority concerts have featured in all Latvian Song and Dance Festival programmes. A regular highlight is 'Latvijas vainags', a festival dedicated to Latvia's minority groups, which aims to foster a multicultural society by preserving Latvia's minority languages, cultures and traditions and publicising their benefits, increasing tolerance and strengthening all citizens' sense of belonging to Latvia. The festival unites the creative groups of Latvia's minority communities through a programme of concerts ranging from classical music to different kinds of folk music (Baltic Crown, Slavic Crown and Russian Autumn), poetry readings, Jewish cultural events, a children's festival and exhibitions.

Dedicated to Latvia's minority groups

Major highlights of the 2008 Latvijas vainags festival, which was attended by Latvian president Valdis Zatlers and thousands of local and foreign visitors, were events at Riga's Vermanes Garden and Ave Sol concert hall at which groups representing 15 ethnic minorities dressed in national costume performed their national songs and dances. Among them were Blagovest, Riga's orthodox chamber choir; the Accolada Russian youth choir; the Shofar Jewish choir; the Dnipro Ukrainian choir; the Leelo Estonian community choir; and the Polonez Polish choir. For additional information about Latvijas vainags contact Irina Vinnika zelta.kamolins@baltinet.lv

Joint EUROCITIES and 'Living together in Europe' meeting

A joint session of 'Living together in Europe' and the EUROCITIES Culture Accessibility Working Group took place during the festival on 11 July, highlighting issues concerning intercultural dialogue, culture accessibility and sustainability. Among the presentations were:

- Ethnic Minorities NGOs in Latvia and Latvia's Garland festival of ethnic minorities by Irina Vinnika, Director, Secretariat of the Special Assignments Minister for Social Integration Affairs in Latvia, Department of Minority Affairs
- Intercultural Dialogue and Tradition of the Song and Dance celebration by Dace Melbarde, Deputy State Secretary for Culture Policy, Latvian Ministry of Culture
- Riga City Culture Policy: Culture Accessibility and Sustainability of Amateur Arts by Ilona Vanadzina, Head of the Division of Amateur Art and Culture Institutions, Riga Culture Department
- The Livs in Latvia by Julgī Stalte, Head of the Livs Society, Riga Group
- Multicultural City Amsterdam by Esmeralda Huizen, Policy Advisor Amateur Art, Culture and Art Department, City of Amsterdam

For more information contact

Ilze.Scegolihina@riga.lv



"The Latvian Nationwide Song and Dance Celebration is a beautiful example of re-identification of cultural diversity of a 'young' state like Latvia."

Yassine Boussaid, Young Ambassador from Amsterdam

Riga

Ilze Ščegolihina
Coordinator of International Projects
Culture Department
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Turin



Turin is the capital of Italy's Piedmont Region, located on the Po River and surrounded by the Alps. It is the country's fourth largest city, with 910,437 inhabitants, and 1.7 million in the greater Turin area. Approximately 5.7% of the population is composed of immigrants, the largest numbers coming from Romania, Morocco, Albania, Peru, China and Moldova.

Turin was founded more than 2,000 years ago. The 17th century brought about a renaissance in terms of culture, architecture and art. Turin was one of the first cities in Italy to take advantage of the industrial revolution and maintained its position at the forefront of Italian industry throughout the 20th century. The giant Fiat car factories brought thousands of jobs and led to the mass migration of Italian labourers from the south of the country. Turin is also the home of other major national and international companies.

Turin hosted the 2006 winter Olympic Games. It is the birthplace of the Italian cinema and one of its major landmarks is the Mole Antonelliana, which houses the National Museum of Cinema Museum. Turin is considered one of the major European capitals of contemporary art and was the first World Design Capital in 2008.

The Intercultural Centre

The Intercultural Centre was established in 1996 to provide all citizens, both natives and immigrants, with opportunities for education and training and to foster and promote dialogue and understanding on topics and issues of common interest. The Centre is responsible for:

- Organising intercultural training activities for teachers, social, cultural and healthcare workers, educators, mediators, citizens and youth groups
- Running seminars, conferences and thematic workshops
- Providing intercultural materials and publishing the proceedings of its seminars and conferences
- Organising, in collaboration with the Centri Territoriali Permanenti and other public bodies, the Mondì lontani Mondì vicini Film Festival
- Promoting the activities of the city's intercultural groups and associations through events and meetings
- Hosting Certificate of Italian as a Foreign Language (CILS) examinations.

Since 1996 the Intercultural Centre also collaborates with other institutions, in particular the University and other associations, to organise social events, seminars, territorial researches, film shows, exhibitions and debates, to encourage people from the city's diverse communities to get together to exchange ideas and viewpoints.

'A heritage for all' Programme

In 2004 the City of Turin set up the Department of Cultural Heritage Education to make local museums more culturally inclusive and accessible to 'new citizens'. Within this framework, the three-year 'A heritage for all' programme was launched in close cooperation with a number of adult education group of centres and other local partners. A cycle of public events entitled 'Let me introduce you to my museum: new points of view on cultural heritage' invited Turin's immigrants to remember and share their personal heritage.

As part of the 'A heritage for all' programme a survey was carried out - the first ever in Italy - on the museum attendance patterns of migrant communities. The survey results provided a sound base for identifying, discussing and articulating the needs and interests of these communities with a view to developing a culturally inclusive approach to the interpretation of collections.

The programme has recognised the need for a long-term commitment to actively engaging the participation of museum audiences and providing opportunities to represent their communities or viewpoints. The 'A heritage for all' programme is a clear example of how often in Italy the most interesting cultural programmes and pilot projects to foster intercultural dialogue are being undertaken at a local level through collaborative initiatives by local authorities, cultural and non-governmental institutions and local citizens.

Vincenzo Simone, Head of Department of Cultural Heritage Education. Tel. +39.011.4434472

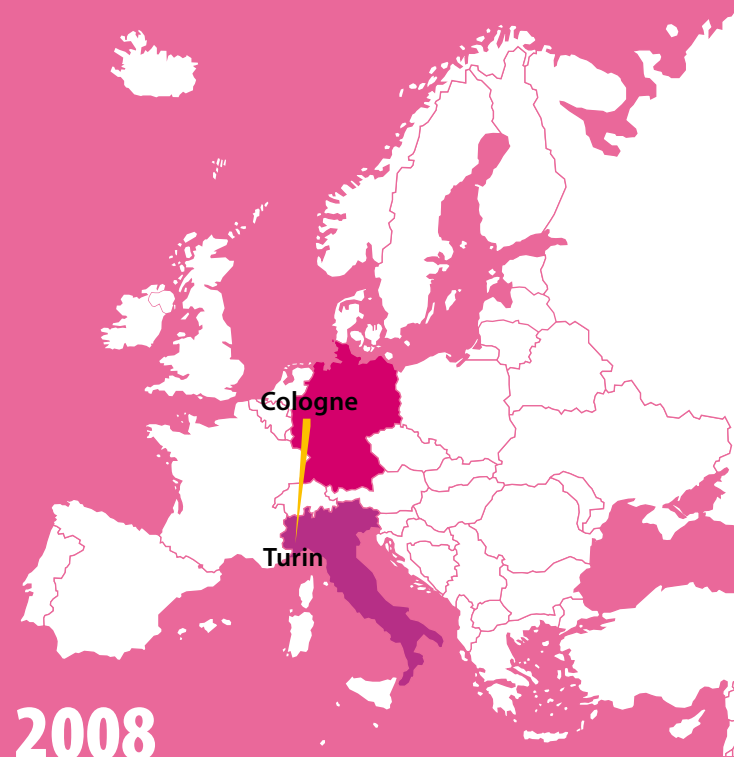
Ambassadors from Cologne

Stephan Pohl
Committee for Social Affairs and Senior People
City Council

Uwe Korch
International Affairs
Mayor's Office

Estifanos Samuel
Young Ambassador

Torino Spiritualità Turin Spirituality



24>28 SEPTEMBER 2008



This annual event arose from a theatrical project 'Questions to God. Questions to mankind', produced by Turin's Stable Theatre in 2002 for the first anniversary of September 11th. It aims to gain knowledge and understanding of the spiritual themes and beliefs that characterise the cultures and religions present in Turin, and the country as a whole.

Though remaining faithful to the original approach, this year Turin Spiritualità was expanded to include opportunities for interreligious and intercultural dialogue and reflection on themes pertaining to the ethical and spiritual dimension of mankind.

It aims to gain knowledge and understanding of the spiritual themes and beliefs

Each year has a different theme, which for 2008 was 'Turin Spirituality. Questions to God. Questions to Mankind'. It covered a wide range of issues such as doubts on bioethics, deadly conflicts and natural and unnatural disasters. Intercultural dialogue and spirituality are the keywords around which political dialogue with the citizens of Turin is supposed to move forward.

Turin Spiritualità 2008 comprised 73 activities and events in 165 locations, and gathered 35,000 participants of different nationalities and cultures to discuss spiritual and religious issues relating to the integration of migrant people. Over four days the city hosted a comprehensive programme of debates, workshops, performances, readings and commentaries on the sacred texts of different religions, together with screenings of films and documentaries, seminars and discussion groups with theologians, philosophers, historians, journalists, writers, scientists, politicians and economists from all over the world.

www.torinospiritualita.org

info@torinospiritualita.org



"I was astounded that so many people from Turin and the Piedmont Region came to discuss religious subjects with experts or went to the theatre. It seemed that almost the whole city was in the streets."

Uwe Korch, Office of the Mayor of Cologne

"Intercultural dialogue and dialogue between religions were the main topics at the conferences and workshops this year. The activities took place all over the city and it was a real enrichment in my life. I can only say: Just carry on like this!"

Estifanos Samuel, Young Ambassador from Cologne

Turin

Nathalie Jabalé

Young Representative of Torino Spiritualità
Organising Committee

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Antonella Parigi

Director
Torino Spiritualità



Toulouse



Toulouse is the capital of the Midi-Pyrenees region in France. Toulouse is known as the 'Ville Rose', the 'Red Brick City', due to its distinctive brick architecture. The city was founded during the Roman Empire and remained a major metropolis until the 18th century. Relatively unaffected by the industrial revolution of the 19th century, Toulouse began attracting industrial activities during the 20th century. This, coupled with thriving aeronautics and space industries, together gave Toulouse a new-found prosperity. The headquarters city of Airbus and Galileo, today Toulouse is one of the European aerospace industry's centres. It also boasts high value-added development in other fields such as healthcare, biotechnologies and nanotechnologies.

Historical developments spanning back 2,000 years have left the city scattered with an architectural heritage that is representative of the Southern French style at various moments in history. Toulouse is home to the Saint-Sernin basilica, an important stage on the Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage; the Jacobins convent buildings; Renaissance townhouses; the Capitole (currently the City Hall) and its immense square with its Occitan cross. Toulouse boasts some outstanding cultural assets: the Capitole theatre, museums, libraries, the Halle aux Grains concert hall, the National Theatre of Toulouse etc. offering an array of cultural activities. Furthermore, several 19th century industrial buildings have been renovated as cultural venues such as the Musée des Abattoirs (former slaughterhouses) which houses modern and contemporary art.

With 435,000 inhabitants in the city, and 761,100 in the metropolitan area, Toulouse is the fourth-largest city in France after Paris, Marseille and Lyon. Over the past 15 to 20 years, Toulouse's metropolitan area has grown by around 2.2% yearly, making it the fastest growing metropolitan area. With about 97,000 students, Toulouse has the third-largest student population in France after Paris and Lyon. It is also home to 400 scientific laboratories and 11,000 researchers.

Toulouse's council of foreign residents

Following the example of other French towns such as Grenoble, Rennes, Nantes and Paris, in 2009 Toulouse set up its own foreign residents' council (CoTRE - Conseil Toulousain des Résidents Étrangers), the objective of which was to gather suggestions from non-community foreigners on how to break down barriers of discrimination.

Every effort has been made to reflect the size of each community and equality between men and women among the Council's members. The Council has 40 designated members (30 individuals and 10 representatives of associations) who submit suggestions to the city council. The city council then assesses the feasibility of these suggestions.

Four permanent commissions have been set up to focus on:

- Access to rights
- Quality of life in housing, education and health
- Cultural diversity, remembrance and the history of immigration
- Economic activities and employment
- Diversity and secularism – this is to be discussed by a temporary commission in 2009

www.toulousecitoyenne.fr

Ambassadors from Genoa

Carla Turinetto
Culture Department of the City of Genoa
responsible for Intercultural Dialogue

Emanuela Scagno
International Affairs
Young ambassador

Le Printemps de Septembre



26 SEPTEMBER > 19 OCTOBER 2008



Set up in 2001, Le 'Printemps de Septembre' ('September Springtime') is an annual contemporary art festival involving young artists renowned at international level. The festival is dedicated to the visual arts and live shows and presents a review of contemporary national and international artistic creations. It also features a lit-up trail to guide visitors through the town at night, indicating events for different audiences etc. Through art in particular, le Printemps de Septembre promotes dialogue and exchanges among different generations.

le Printemps de Septembre promotes dialogue and exchanges among different generations

Cultural mediation events, free of charge and open to all, are held for school-goers in particular. In addition, artists give visiting performances at schools and 'visiting workshops' are held at leisure centres for the 5-15 age group. For adults, mediators provide commentated visits, or 'artistic tours' to enhance the visitor's experience and interaction with exhibitions. The festival's programme can be explored through a series of discovery events, meetings and debates.

Le Printemps de Septembre takes place at several venues in the city and neighbouring parts. Entrance is free. All-day shows and exhibition places are held as well as some special events at night. The Printemps de Septembre is not perceived as an exhibition but as a cultural programme of mixed encounters with contemporary visual and performing arts in and around the historic centre of Toulouse.

People from different backgrounds, and particularly young people, are invited to explore 'transformed Toulouse' through city walks and particularly to its most diversified cultural places. 'Nocturnes' held during the first two weekends of the festival along an illuminated city circuit featuring projections, illuminated trails and late-night events as well as the 'Soirées Nomades' (Nomadic nights) with concerts, performances and choreographies, are a particular highlight.

This festival is part of a broader programme of intercultural dialogue initiatives for the public. The 2008 festival attracted some 160,000 participants. Being a city with a very high number of students attending the several Universities and the music schools, the festival attracts a high number of young people.

www.printempsdeseptembre.com



"I think that awakening young people to arts and culture and helping them work together on common projects can represent the best way for an effective and lasting integration."

Emanuela Scagno, young ambassador from Genoa

Toulouse

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MAIRIE DE  TOULOUSE
www.toulouse.fr

Glasgow visits > Poland

Warsaw



Warsaw, the capital of Poland, is the country's largest city with an estimated population of 1,706,624 and a metropolitan area of approximately 3,350,000 as of 2007. It is also the 8th largest city in the EU. Warsaw has a booming economy with low unemployment. Public spaces attract heavy investment, so that the city has gained entirely new squares, parks and monuments. Warsaw's current urban landscape is one of modern and contemporary architecture.

Historically, Warsaw has been a destination for internal and foreign immigration, especially from other parts of Central and Eastern Europe. Before the Second World War, Warsaw was the most diverse city in Poland: around 20% of its population was either Jewish or foreign born. During the war, Warsaw lost its major minorities as almost all of the Jews and Romani people fell victim to the Nazi dictatorship. After that, the incoming communist regime tried to create a homogeneous society. Following the demise of communism, traditional ethnic minorities including Jews, Ukrainians, Germans and Tatars, began to revive themselves. Most of Warsaw's current population growth is based on internal migration and urbanisation. Nowadays, the city has a 90% population made up of indigenous Polish. Only recently has the city seen influxes of migrants and despite lots of good work by NGOs, the local government seems to be struggling to recognise that this as an issue to be dealt with.

Working with local non governmental organisations to foster intercultural dialogue

At the occasion of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, Warsaw City Council launched a call for proposal for NGOs aimed at stimulating the local community acting in the field of culture and to

- have a deep reflection about the changes currently taking place in the city
- undertake actions to engage ethnic and national minorities into the city's cultural life
- create an atmosphere of acceptance towards newcomers and to present cultures of groups temporarily and permanently settled in Warsaw

Around 70 project proposals were submitted by local NGOs, among which 20 were awarded financial assistance. In their assessment, the judges paid attention to the quality of organisation and logistical capacity, past experience, and the level of real involvement working with minority communities. Awarded projects focused on:

- Dialogue in history: the history of national minorities in Warsaw;
- Social and cultural dialogue: building social acceptance and mutual understanding among different socio-economic classes; and
- Dialogue through the arts: cooperation and common projects with artists' participation from different countries.

A range of cultural activities such as seminars, conferences, discussions, concerts, festivals, exhibitions, artists residences, were carried out under each of the awarded projects.

A free online game to discover Intercultural Praga

Praga is a historical borough of Warsaw and a once-dangerous quarter which today is undergoing a complete renaissance. As Praga's multicultural history isn't widely known to the public, 'InfoPraga', an organisation which promotes the borough's cultural and social development, has created the first online game with information on the district's unusual role in Warsaw and Polish culture. The interactive game is intended to help meet the perceivable growing hunger for knowledge about Praga's intercultural and multicultural life. 'Wielokulturowa Praga' is free and will soon be made available at www.infopraga.com.pl. The game offers a virtual experience of Praga throughout the centuries.

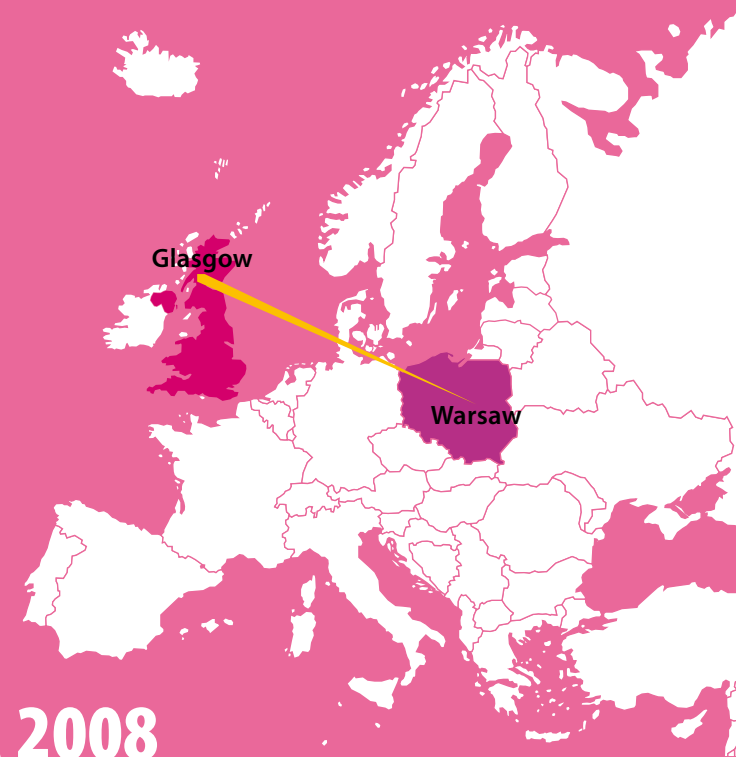
Ambassadors from Glasgow

Councillor James Dornan

Heather Lynch
Education Programmer
Tramway

Mohammed Aamir Riaz
Member of Scottish Youth Parliament

Warsaw Cross-Culture Festival



13>21 SEPTEMBER 2008



The Warsaw Cross-Culture Festival, initiated by the city's authorities in 2005, is an exceptional week-long gathering of the world's most interesting music and culture producers and pundits. The festival is the biggest event of its kind in Poland and one of the largest in Central and Eastern Europe. Every year it features a packed programme of concerts, theatre plays and films of well-renowned artists from all over the world, as well as music workshops, discussion groups and vernissages.

unique international cultural crossings and exchanges

The festival was created to show Warsaw's citizens and guests, the diversity of the world cultures that can be experienced in the city and to create new, unique international cultural crossings and exchanges. Another objective was to make the people of Warsaw more open and curious about artistic diversity, as well as more interested in, and interesting for visitors as part of the programme.

The festival organisers also wanted it to find a permanent place on Warsaw's cultural map and to make the festival a 'cultural visit card' of the city in the world. Its motto has been taken from 'Travels with Herodotus' by the great Polish writer and voyager, Ryszard Kapuscinski: "Other worlds and other cultures are the mirrors in which we can see ourselves".

In figures, the festival's four editions organised to date have amounted to a total of 40 concerts, 27 theatre plays, 30 movie shows, 20 workshop meetings, 6 discussion groups and 2 vernissages. One literary anthology has also been issued. More than 100 solo artists and groups from more than 40 countries have taken part. The festival's next edition on 12-20 September 2009, will bring more remarkable artistic features. Concerts by artists including Jordi Savall; Bassekou Kouyate; Ladysmith Black Mambazo; Rokia Traore; Lo Cór de la Plana; Totó la Momposina; Mory Kanté; Kayhan Kalhor and Erdal Erzincan, are already planned. The programme will also include theatre plays, films, music workshops, vernissages and discussion groups. Before the festival kicks off, everyone in Warsaw will be invited to participate in the 'Culture-Cross Non-Stop' series of events which will feature concerts, discussions, exhibitions, film shows in Warsaw clubs and cultural sites. They will undoubtedly open the city up to the world's diversity and colours every day.

biuro@festival.warszawa.pl

http://festival.warszawa.pl/index_eng.html

"Politicians can seek out the views of the migrant populations and those working with them at grassroots level to see what problems they face and what we can do to assist"

Councillor James Dornan of Glasgow and councillor Malgorzata Kobus of Warsaw

"Arts and culture act as mediums when choosing to foster intercultural dialogue, as arts in all its forms can be found enjoyable by a large number of people from many different backgrounds, intercultural and socially, and on this platform can communicate"

"During a trip to one of the art and culture programmes in a more deprived part of the city, it seemed that art was used as a tool to bring the community together, and for both young and old people of different backgrounds to come together to share a common interest".

Mohammed Aamir Riaz, young ambassador from Glasgow and member of the Scottish Youth Parliament for the Glasgow Pollok area

Warsaw

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City of Warsaw

Zaragoza



Zaragoza is the capital of the Autonomous Community of Aragon in central Spain, and is strategically situated between Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, Bilbao and Toulouse. In 2008 the population of the city was 682,283, ranking fifth in Spain, while the metropolitan area has about 783,000 inhabitants.

Zaragoza is the economic centre of Aragon and the Ebro Valley. A relatively high proportion of the population is employed in the industrial sector, despite the growth of services in the last few decades. In 2008 the city hosted Expo 2008 on the theme of Water and Sustainable Development, an event which transformed the city and boosted the local economy.

Zaragoza is a historical city with a long multicultural tradition. During its 2000 year existence it has been influenced by four great cultures: Roman, Muslim, Jewish and Christian, all which have left their footprint on the city.

At the beginning of the 20th century Zaragoza had less than 100,000 inhabitants. Since then, it has been a magnet for the people of Aragon, followed by, from the end of the 20th century, migrants from abroad. About 11% of the population is composed of immigrants, the largest groups coming from Morocco, Africa, Ecuador and other South American countries and, a recent phenomenon, Romania.

Zaragoza History Centre

Zaragoza History Centre was co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund and is located in the ancient convent of San Agustín. The Centre depicts Zaragoza's evolution using state of the art technologies, giving an insight into the city from a historical, patrimonial, town-planning, cultural and tourist perspective. The Centre has been designed as a space offering historical information, while, at the same time, bearing very much in mind the city's future perspectives.

centrodehistoria@zaragozacultural.com

The House of Cultures and Solidarity

Open since 1998, the House of Cultures and Solidarity (Casa de las culturas) is a municipal centre aiming at promoting the social integration of immigrants and ethnic minorities and encouraging the development of activities to raise public awareness of immigration and diversity issues.

The House provides language courses, job training and orientation, support services for immigrants in a number of languages (including interpreters, welfare and legal rights) and also offers support to the socio-cultural organisations of the city's immigrant communities.

Serviciosinmigrantes@zaragoza.es



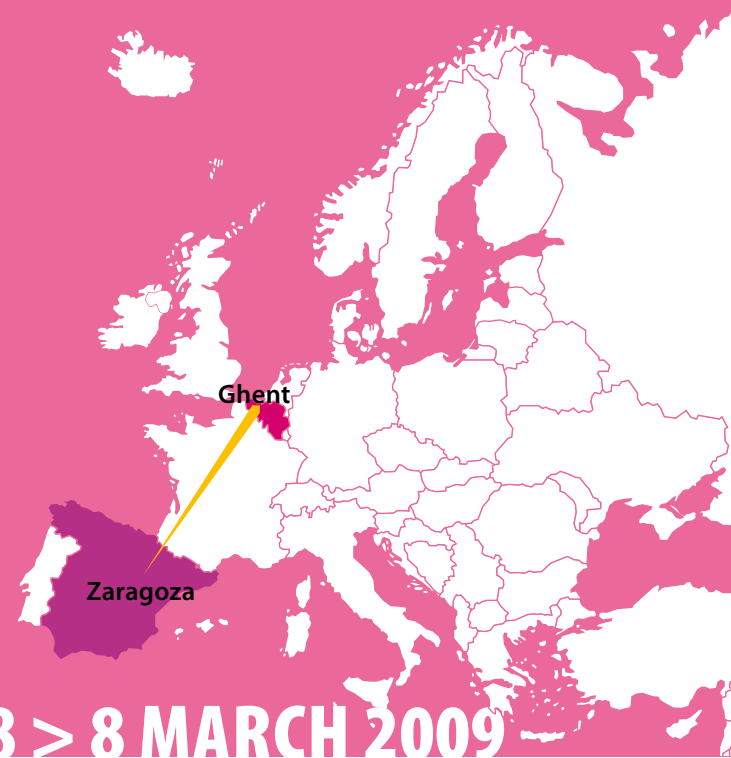
Ambassadors from Ghent

Katrien Laporte
Assistant to the Alderman in charge of culture

Ivo Bultheel
Integration Department
City of Ghent

Ufuk Kokur
Young Ambassador

Zaragoza Latina Festival



27 NOVEMBER 2008 > 8 MARCH 2009



Zaragoza Latina is a multidisciplinary event organised by Zaragoza City Council and Zona de Obras, an influential magazine on Latin-American culture based in the city. The aim of the festival is to turn Zaragoza into a national and international hub of Latin culture through a programme of exchanges and cultural activities themed around Latin culture. Zaragoza Latina has created a platform for cooperation and communication between cultural and social agents in Europe and America, and a meeting point between Latin culture and the rest of the world.

*a platform for cooperation and communication
between cultural and social agents
in Europe and America*

www.zaragozalatina.com



"Diversity is an asset"

"Politicians should encourage all departments of the municipality to work together on intercultural dialogue. It would strengthen the results in the short and in the long run. Diversity should be faced from a welfare, cultural and socio-economic point of view at the same time."

Pilar Alcober, City Councillor for Culture & Education, Zaragoza

"Arts and culture act as mediums when choosing to foster intercultural dialogue, as arts in all its forms can be found enjoyable by a large number of people from many different backgrounds, intercultural and socially, and on this platform can communicate"

"During a trip to one of the art and culture programmes in a more deprived part of the city, it seemed that art was used as a tool to bring the community together, and for both young and old people of different backgrounds to come together to share a common interest".

Ufuk Kokur, Young Ambassador from Ghent

Zaragoza

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12 points for encouraging

1. Recognise that an intercultural policy if applied in a city requires an integrated approach, taking into account all major policy areas (social cohesion, planning, housing, culture, education...).

Cities should acknowledge that such an approach requires cooperation and transversal work between various services of the city council and between the different politicians in charge.

2. Stimulate diversity and intercultural cooperation by serving as an example to citizens.

Politicians, civil servants in the city's administration and local organisations should reflect the cultural diversity of the city. The extent to which it does should ideally be assessed and improved when necessary. Exchanges between politicians and local young people are also part of intercultural cooperation.

3. Facilitate and promote intercultural activities and gatherings throughout the city by involving art institutions and civil society actors more closely.

Local authorities need to join forces with civil society actors (NGOs, volunteers...) in order to pay special attention to the participation of citizens with different cultural backgrounds in the local cultural life.

4. Emphasise the benefits of cultural diversity on the prosperity, attractiveness and the creativity of the city.

City leaders should acknowledge the positive contribution of migrants and of minorities to the city and should encourage citizens to see diversity as an asset.

5. Make sure policy makers and civil servants are well trained and have basic intercultural competences.

In order to work with different cultural groups, officials must have basic intercultural competences and be able to deal with diversity on an everyday basis.

6. Target different groups living in certain areas to discuss new developments of common and public interest.

Involving and consulting representatives of the various local communities when developing policies, regardless of ethnic origin and religion, is a way to foster living together and to favour mutual knowledge and communication between citizens and public administration.

Recommendations to cities

intercultural dialogue

7. Support structural exchange and cooperation within the city between schools (and other formal youth structures over and above educational establishments) that are predominantly attended by children from majority groups and those that are attended predominantly by children from minority groups.

Structured contact through school activities enables children to make intercultural friendships, enabling them to have a positive attitude towards people with other cultural backgrounds than their own.

8. Encourage teachers and students to use existing concepts and practical applications of intercultural education in elementary schools.

Teaching material for children should enable learning about all aspects of culture: history of religions/religious backgrounds, language, art, music, heritage. Intercultural competences and communication could also be part of the curriculum.

9. Work closely with the local media and use new technologies.

Cities can bring across their policies and strategies by using local media channels and encouraging local reporters to include material on the situation in the city in their reports getting input from local reporters about 'the situation in the city' and about the benefits of cultural diversity.

10. Measure and evaluate progress of the city's strategies by using indicators of openness and interculturalism.

Cities developing policies and actions to foster intercultural dialogue should assess their results through examining indicators or mass surveys. Progress made by the local public services providers should also be monitored.

11. Where applicable consider developing interfaith consultative bodies.

By involving representatives of the main religions present in the city such structures can foster exchange of opinions and mutual knowledge and communication between citizens and public administration.

12. Learn from other cities, engage and stimulate constant exchange of policies and practices with other cities in Europe. Make the most of the EUROCITIES network.

Exchanging experiences with colleagues from other countries provide opportunities to look at issues from a different point of view and question existing assumptions and practices.

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Final recommendations to the European Commission -

making sure the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008 has an impact on cities

23 member cities have used their experience to develop a series of recommendations to the European Commission and to cities themselves. These recommendations are aimed at making sure that the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008 has a long term impact in large European cities.

1. Set up a strategy for intercultural dialogue in order to ensure long-term sustainable results and capitalise on the “momentum” represented by the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008.

Actions and activities aimed at fostering intercultural dialogue set up in 2008 need to be followed up in order to achieve sustainable results across Europe.

2. Mainstream intercultural dialogue in all relevant EU policies and programmes for 2007-2013 and beyond.

Intercultural dialogue transcends cultural policies and should be integrated in other policies and programmes.

3. Support European-wide projects aimed at identifying and sharing best practices implemented in cities.

Cities have implemented a whole series of interesting experiences that need to be shared throughout Europe such as policies, structures, events or specific artistic tools. Peer reviews, a dedicated website, valorisation conferences or an ‘intercultural city’ award are examples of effective tools to ensure knowledge-sharing. Cities need incentives to share their successful policies.

4. Encourage concrete actions and measures for young people from different countries to meet each other.

By getting to know peers from different backgrounds from an early age, children learn to interact with other groups than their own. The European Commission should promote projects focusing on long-term cooperation between schools and other formal youth structures in different countries and develop specific exchange frameworks for young people representing the local civil society (for example those involved in youth boards or youth councils of cities).

5. Create a mobility programme for politicians and civil servants in policy areas such as culture, youth, education, equal opportunities, inclusion, innovation, etc.

Exchanges foster intercultural cooperation and bring cities closer together. A mobility programme would allow local politicians to exchange experiences with peers and duplicate successful policies and activities aimed at fostering intercultural dialogue.

6. Increase the importance of the intercultural dialogue criteria for “European Capitals of Culture”.

Cities bidding to be European Capitals of Culture and awarded cities should pay special attention to fostering intercultural dialogue would be a way to raise awareness on intercultural dialogue at city level.

In order to help build a long term European strategy on intercultural dialogue that will reach the cities, EUROCITIES offers its cooperation and partnership to provide:

- A platform to identify good practices implemented by cities and to develop experimental projects regarding specific aspects of intercultural dialogue
- EUROCITIES Culture Forum meetings (3 meetings per year) as a platform for discussion and exchanges with representatives of the European Commission
- An opportunity to organise meetings with elected politicians in Europe’s major cities, given their close link both to the citizens and to the national governments

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PROGRESS

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The seven-year Programme targets all stakeholders who can help shape the development of appropriate and effective employment and social legislation and policies, across the EU-27, EFTA and EU candidate and pre-candidate countries.

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