

REPORT

International Intercultural Cities Comparative Meeting in Sabadell, Catalonia, Spain

September 9th, 2022
Casal Pere Quart



With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Universitat
Pompeu Fabra
Barcelona



Ajuntament
de Sabadell

The International Intercultural Cities Comparative Study (2021-2023).
Funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union
<https://iiccs.com/>

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Research Assistant, GRITIM-UPF

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1. INTRODUCTION

On September 9, from 9 am to 5 pm, the International Intercultural Cities Comparative Meeting was held in the city of Sabadell, with the aim of discussing the conditions that foster the success of cities that implement intercultural policies and compare the contextual facts that operate behind the process.

The activity was an opportunity for both public officers and local stakeholders to discuss the governance of interculturality, critically review the aspects to be improved and expose different daily situations of institutional and territorial management. In addition, academics and experts with a long history in the theoretical and practical implementation of this policy approach attended the event and contribute to collect specific intercultural data.

The Conference brought together two large groups, namely: in the morning, nineteen (19) policy officers and, in the afternoon, fourteen (14) members of social entities. The division was due to methodological criteria, in order to collect impartial and objective information, in a context of total freedom of opinion.

Both groups expressed their satisfaction with the possibility of having an interactive space to discuss intercultural issues. In a similar fashion, they shared their and highlighted the good/regular relationship between the two. Lastly, they emphasized some of the frustrations typical of managing interculturality, the most fragile aspects of the approach, and a series of recommendations to improve the strategy for designing and implementing intercultural policies.



Opening session

2. PROGRAMME



With the support of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union



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Sabadell Intercultural Comparative Conference

September 9th, 2022

Location: Sala d'actes del Casal Pere Quart. Rambla, 69, Sabadell

Program rationale and justification

The Comparative Study of International Intercultural Cities (ICCS, 2021-2023) is a research project of three countries (Australia, Spain and Canada). Funded by the Erasmus+ program of the European Union, this project is coordinated by the Swinburne University of Technology (Australia).

International researchers will join Sabadell's policy makers and social agents to discuss the conditions that foster the success of cities that implement intercultural policies and compare the contextual drivers. This could be a unique opportunity for Catalan politics and the social network to contribute to the governance of interculturality to review critically with each other and with international scholars the more than a decade of implementation of this approach politician.

This study is an opportunity to compare the success factors and weak points we have in 4 cities: Ballarat and Salisbury (Australia), Sabadell (Spain) and Sherbrooke (Canada). The purpose of this day is to summarize the main diagnoses, challenges and recommendations, and coordinate an open discussion. Likewise, it will serve as a contribution to reflection and planning among the participating groups (Intercultural Cities, local administrations and interest groups) and to introduce good practices and useful tools in the field of intercultural cities.

To collect and share this important data, the project will hold two events in Catalonia on September 9 and 22, 2022, which will be attended by political leaders, interest groups and experts.

We intend for the day to be interactive and ask all attendees to participate actively and openly. We will share the final results with everyone through a final report and acknowledgment of your participation.

INTERCULTURAL DAY - SABADELL September 9 at Casal Pere Quart

Morning session

10,00h a 10,05h

Welcome by the Mayor's Office for Feminism, Animal Welfare and Participation, Marta Morell.

10,05h a 10,45h

Presentation, description and objectives of the project by

- Ricard Zapata-Barrero, professor of the Department of Social and Political Sciences at Pompeu Fabra University. Director GRITIM-UPF. Catalonia
- Olga Jimenez, Coordinator of the Feminism, Animal Welfare and Participation Area of Sabadell City Council

10,45h a 11.00h

Break

11.00h a 12.00h

Discussion group 1 (Workshops) Questions: Policy makers

Part one: Interpretations and policies

In this part of the focus group, we would like to hear your views on what interculturality is and how your city has translated it into policies and practices.

Our first set of questions concerns what you understand as the core characteristics of interculturality and how it differs from other diversity policy approaches.

1. How would you describe the basic principles of interculturality? What keywords characterize your policy?
2. Which texts or concepts have you found useful for reflecting on intercultural politics?
3. What, in your opinion, differentiates interculturality from multiculturalism?
4. Do you consider interculturality and multiculturalism to be opposing or complementary approaches to diversity policy? Why/Why not?
5. [If they are complementary] I see, so you think the two are complementary, but how exactly? How should they be combined?
6. What relative weight do you think should be given to strategies and policies that (1) encourage recognition of diversity, (2) address discrimination and inequalities, and (3) promote dialogue and interaction?

Our second set of questions concerns how your city has translated the intercultural idea into strategies and policies.

1. First of all, could you tell me what are the "main" intercultural strategies and policies adopted in your city?
2. Now we would like to ask about policies in some specific areas. First, what strategies have been developed in your cities to involve citizens in interactions between cultural groups?
3. What strategies and policies have been introduced in your city to deal with inequalities, racism and discrimination?
4. What strategies or policies have been used to develop intercultural competence among people in your city?
5. Now we have a question about the kind of shared identity image your city promotes. How would you describe it? For example, could you tell us how you balance ethnic and civic or place-based elements?
6. Finally, could you tell us what you have done to get support for intercultural strategies in different sectors or divisions within your city administration?

12.15pm to 1.15pm**Second part: Contextual factors and conditions for success**

In this part of the focus group, we would like to hear your views on how successful you think the intercultural strategies and policies introduced in your city have been and how the policy context and

wider governance has influenced the way interculturality has developed in your city. . Our first set of questions concerns how successful you think the implementation of intercultural policies has been.

1. What do you consider to be your most and least successful strategies, policies or programs? Can you give an example of the most effective strategy, policy or program?

2. What, in your opinion, are the main assets to implement intercultural policies in your city? Can you identify any factors that helped the implementation of intercultural approaches?
3. What, in your opinion, are the biggest obstacles to implementing intercultural policies in your city? Can you identify any factors that hindered the development of intercultural approaches in your city?
4. Were there certain types of stakeholders (politicians, community organizers, media, citizens) or individual interest groups that you considered particularly good allies? Were there others more antagonistic?
5. Finally, can you identify any gaps between intercultural policy and practice in your city?

Our second set of questions concerns the influence of the wider political and governance context on the way interculturality has developed in your city.

1. First, can you tell us what diversity policy approaches have been implemented in the national and regional contexts in which your city is located?
2. Do you think that these political approaches have influenced the development and implementation of intercultural policies in your city? If so, how?
3. What is the relationship between the national, state/regional and local levels of government in which your city is located? Has it influenced the development and implementation of intercultural policies in your city?
4. How do you mediate relations between the different levels of government (local, regional and regional)?
5. What diversity policy approach was there in your city before the adoption of interculturality? Has it influenced the implementation of intercultural policies and practices?
6. Finally, could you explain the relationship between administrators and elected officials, and how the relationships between them are mediated?

Participants in the Conference in the morning session with the technical staff of the Municipal Services of Sabadell City Council:

- Anna Sabata, Promoció Econòmica
- Marta Valls, Comerç i Consum
- Joan Baraldes, Esports
- Elisabet Puigdollers, Salut
- Jordi Brotons, Acció Social
- Isabel Carrillo, Educació
- Carla Fontanella, Intervenció Comunitària
- Montse Gibert, Participació Ciutadana
- Antoni Moreno, Policia Municipal
- Neus Sanchez, Feminismes i Gènere
- Núria Sales, Joventut
- Rosa Carmona, Cicles de Vida
- Ainoa Torrado, Drets Civils i Acollida

Afternoon session

13,30h a 13,40h

Welcome by the Mayor's Office for Feminism, Animal Welfare and Participation, Marta Morell.

13,40h a 14,30h

Presentation, description and objectives of the project by

- Ricard Zapata-Barrero, professor of the Department of Social and Political Sciences at Pompeu Fabra University. Director GRITIM-UPF. Catalonia

- Olga Jimenez, Coordinator of the Feminism, Animal Welfare and Participation Area of Sabadell City Council

14,30h a 15,30h

Cold lunch with the social agents

15.30h -16,30h

Discussion Group 1 (Workshops). Questions: Stakeholders

Part one: Interpretations and policies

Our first set of questions concerns what you understand as the core characteristics of interculturality and how it differs from other diversity policy approaches.

1. To what extent are you familiar with the principles of interculturality?
2. Based on what you know about interculturality, how would you describe its fundamental principles?
3. In your opinion, what differentiates interculturality from multiculturalism?
4. From your experience, do you consider interculturality and multiculturalism to be opposing or complementary approaches to diversity policy? Why/why not?
5. If they are complementary] How do you think the two are complementary? How should they be combined?
6. When cities are implementing diversity policies, what relative weight do you think should be given to strategies and policies that (1) foster recognition of diversity, (2) address discrimination and inequities, and (3) do they promote dialogue and interaction?

Our second set of questions refers to how interculturality has been translated into strategies and policies.

1. First, could you tell us what are the most salient intercultural strategies and policies you have observed entering [insert city] or other intercultural cities?
2. Now, we would like to ask about policies in some specific areas. First, could you tell us what intercultural strategies and policies aim to foster interactions between cultural groups that you have observed being introduced in [insert city] or other intercultural cities?
3. What intercultural strategies and policies have you observed being introduced to address inequalities, racism and discrimination in [insert city] or other intercultural cities?
4. What strategies or policies to develop intercultural competence among people have you observed being introduced in [insert city] or other intercultural cities?
5. Have you observed efforts to obtain support for intercultural strategies in different sectors or divisions of the city administration in [insert city]? If so, what were they?
6. Now, we have a question about the kind of image of shared identity that [insert city] promotes. How would you describe it? For example, could you tell us how you balance ethnic and civic or place-based elements?
7. In your experience, has interculturality or multiculturalism been more successful?

16,45h- 18,00h

Second part: Contextual factors and conditions for success

In this part of the focus group, we would like to hear your views on how successful you think intercultural strategies and policies have been, and how the wider policy and governance context has influenced the way interculturality has developed in your city

Which of the intercultural strategies, policies or programs you have observed do you consider to be most and least successful?

1. According to your observation, what have been the factors that have helped cities to implement intercultural policies?
2. According to your observation, what have been the factors that have made it difficult for cities to implement intercultural policies?
3. Have you noticed a difference in the way cities that implement intercultural policies interact with diversity sector stakeholders such as politicians, community organizers, media and citizens, compared to those that pursue approaches multicultural or other diversity policies?
4. Have you noticed any gaps between intercultural policy and practice in [insert city]? If so, what are they?
5. Have national and regional diversity policy approaches influenced the development and implementation of intercultural policies in the cities you know?
6. In your opinion, has the existing diversity policy approach before the adoption of interculturality influenced the implementation of intercultural policies and practices?

Participants in the Conference, in the afternoon session with social agents from the city of Sabadell:

- Sergi Asensio, Associació Juvenil l'Esquix
- Loli Rodriguez, Fundació Idea
- Carmen Mendez, Fundación Secretariado Gitano
- Jairo Jimenez, Fundación Secretariado Gitano
- Josep Ramon Giménez, La Lliga dels Drets dels Pobles
- Raquel Guerola, SCAI (Servei Ciutadà d'Acolliment als Immigrants)
- Manuel Navas, FAVS (Federació d'Associacions Veïnals de Sabadell)
- Gemma Pinyol, RECI (Red de Ciudades Interculturales)
- Sara Martínez, Creu Roja
- Jordi Grané, Club Esportiu Mercantil
- Fran Cegarra, Centre Familiar Cristià
- Houssain Zain, Associació Socio Cultural Anasiha (ASCA)

The sessions will be recorded and transcribed, if any of the participants do not agree, please let us know.



Introduction to Sabadell's Interculturality Plan

4. INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

EL MODEL INTERCULTURAL, DIVERSITAT I COMUNITAT



MODEL I PRINCIPIS

Les polítiques socials són el pilar bàsic del Sistema de Benestar

- Envel·liment i sobreenvelliment
- Augment de les desigualtats
- Feminització de la pobresa
- Precarietat laboral
- Necessitat de formació i inserció sociolaboral
- Impactes creixents en la salut
- Augment de les violències
- Diversificació de la societat



RESPOSTES

EL SISTEMA REQUEREIX RESPOSTES URGENTS I REACTIVES.

SISTEMA D'ATENCIÓ A LES NECESSITATS SOCIALS
CADA DIA MÉS COMPLEXES I MÉS ACUCIANTS

ALHORA

CAL UNA APOSTA ESTRATÈGICA D'INTERVENCIÓ
CONJUNTA AMB ELS DIFERENTS SISTEMES I LA
COMUNITAT EN CLAU PROACTIVA I PREVENTIVA
PER ABORDAR DESIGUALTATS ESTRUCTURALS



LES POLÍTIQUES PREVENTIVES D'ABORDATGE DE LA DIVERSITAT A SABADELL

- 2000 Sabadell signa la Carta Europea de Salvaguarda dels Drets Humans a la ciutat
- 2001 Creació del Servei d'Atenció a les Dones
- 2004 Creació Comissió de la Convivència
- 2007 Creació de l'Oficina de Nova Ciutadania
- 2011 Servei de Drets Civils
- Gestió de la diversitat de gènere, d'origen, de creences i conviccions i cultural
- 2012 incorporació de Sabadell a la RECI (Red de Ciudades Interculturales) que forma part de l'ICC (Intercultural Cities) del Consell d'Europa
- 2018 Creació del SAI LGBBTI
- Sabadell també forma part de la Xarxa Mai Més (holocaust) i de la Xarxa de Municipis LGBTIQ de Catalunya



MODEL DE GESTIÓ DE LA DIVERSITAT

ASSIMILACIONISTA (MODEL FRANCÈS)

L'estat com un tot unitari, política i culturalment.
L'estat tracta amb persones a títol individual que accepten una única identitat i el sentiment de grup no es té en compte

MULTICULTURALISTA (MODEL ANGLOSAXÒ)

Una societat segregada en grups que mantenen la seva cultura i tradicions, sense interacció amb els altres. És un gressol de cultures que pot generar guettos

INTERCULTURAL

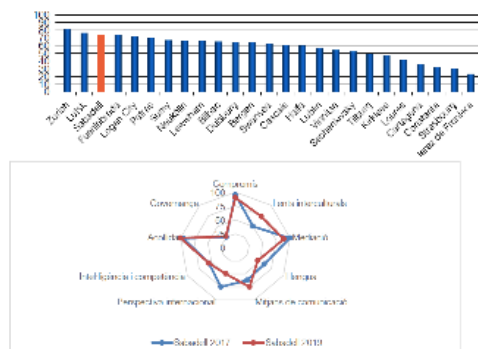
Model basat en tres principis:
1.- La igualtat i la defensa dels drets humans per a tothom
2.- El reconeixement de la diversitat
3.- La interacció positiva entre tota la ciutadania



Pla Sabadell Intercultural 2022

GESTIÓ DE LA DIVERSITAT D'ORIGEN, DE GÈNERE, DE CREENCES I CONVICCIONS, CULTURALS, FUNCIONAL, D'EDAT,....

Sabadell a l'Índex de Ciutats Interculturals, 2020



Font: ICC Index, Consell d'Europa

Pla Sabadell Intercultural 2022

RISCOS I CONSEQUÈNCIES D'UNA MALA GESTIÓ DE LA DIVERSITAT

DISCRIMINACIÓ

La interculturalitat exigeix un compromís i una actuació clara contra qualsevol pràctica discriminatòria. Ha d'abordar-se tant des de la perspectiva de la prevenció, qüestionant estereotips, prejudicis, rumors i les normes socials que els sustenten, com des de l'àmbit jurídic i institucional per a abordar canvis estructurals i garantir la protecció i suport a les víctimes.

HOMOGENEÏTZACIÓ

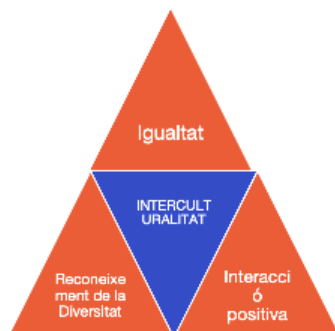
Un dels principals riscos de no reconèixer i valorar positivament la diversitat són els processos d'homogeneïtzació cultural, identitària o de pensament. En general, en les societats més homogènies culturalment, l'avanç cap a la interculturalitat troba majors complexitats per les dificultats d'acceptar i reconèixer la diversitat i la pluralitat d'identitats per part del grup majoritari i/o dominant.

FRAGMENTACIÓ

La societat es pot fragmentar com a resultat de la coexistència indiferent de grups tancats en si mateixos; per la segregació de determinats grups motivada per processos de discriminació i exclusió; per un augment de la polarització social i per la tendència a la creació de múltiples subgrups separats per matisos identitàris que acaben derivant en murs insalvables, generant actituds de desconfiança i hostilitat.

Pla Sabadell Intercultural 2022

Els principis de la interculturalitat



- **Igualtat.** Des de la perspectiva intercultural, el concepte d'igualtat s'entén com un compromís bàsic per promoure la igualtat de drets, deures i oportunitats, en el marc d'un concepte inclusiu de "ciutadania resident".
- **Reconeixement de la diversitat.** Considerar la diversitat com un element estructural de la societat, visibilitzant-la i reconeixent-la és clau en l'enfocament intercultural. Alhora, tot assumint les diferències, cal treballar per posar en valor els elements comuns i les semblances que uneixen al conjunt de la ciutadania.
- **Interacció positiva.** El principi més innovador de la perspectiva intercultural és posar èmfasi a la importància de facilitar el contacte, les relacions interpersonals i la interacció positiva entre ciutadans/es de perfils i orígens socioculturals diversos.



Pla Sabadell Intercultural 2022

Basat en 5 eixos d'actuació

- 1 • Igualtat de drets i deures per a tothom
- 2 • El valor de la diversitat
- 3 • L'enfortiment de vincles
- 4 • La memòria i el compromís global
- 5 • La governança



Igualtat de drets i deures per a tothom Eines contra la discriminació i els discursos d'odi

- SIAD

Augmenten a 41.765 les denúncies per violència de gènere en el primer trimestre de 2022, un 19% més que el 2021

- SAI

Les agressions físiques augmenten un 70% respecte del 2021 · L'Observatori Contra l'Homofòbia (OCH) alerta del perill dels discursos d'odi

- Oficina de Drets Civils

1. Informació i protecció a les víctimes de discriminació o delictes d'odi (racisme, xenofòbia, homofòbia, islamofòbia, antigitanisme,...)
2. Atenció directe o coordinació amb SOS Racisme, l'Institut de Drets Humans de Catalunya o el Col·legi d'Advocats
3. Acompanyament a les víctimes i, si s'escau, acusació popular a través de la Comissió de la Convivència
4. Sensibilització i formació

Introducció de noves perspectives de la discriminació i dels delictes d'odi com l'aporofòbia o l'edatisme



El valor de la diversitat

El reconeixement del valor positiu de la diversitat

- Institucional: plans transversals per incloure la perspectiva intercultural a tota l'administració
- Formació intercultural
- Manifestacions culturals diverses fugint del folklorisme i l'etnocentrisme
- La diversitat a l'àmbit empresarial augmenta la innovació, la creativitat i el talent
- Els mitjans de comunicació com a element clau d'aquest reconeixement.



La memòria i el compromís global

MEMÒRIA I
COMPROMÍS
GLOBAL

RECORDAR PER
NO OBLIDAR I PER
APRENDRE

COMPROMÍS AMB ELS
DRETS HUMANS I AMB
LA COOPERACIÓ

- Pla de Memòria Democràtica
- Xarxa Mai Més
- Activitats pedagògiques als IES
- Les Stopsteiner
- La cooperació amb els altres
- Els agermanaments
- Sabadell ciutat refugi

Reptes

1. Marc legislatiu que discrimina
2. Violències i discriminacions en augment
3. Perill en la institucionalització dels discursos d'odi
4. Debat de la identitat que divideix el feminisme i perill de retrocès
5. L'accent en la diversitat pot estereotipar encara més?
6. Cal intervenir des de l'àmbit públic si no existeix discriminació?
7. Els vincles comunitaris requereixen societats civils fortes i articulades. Com està la salut de la societat civil als barris?
8. Els moviments solidaris com els d'Ucraïna quins valors reforcen?

Calen espais de reflexió multinivell i multidisciplinars



Discussion of Intercultural approach and implementation in Sabadell

7. SOCIAL MEDIA REACH

Selected Tweets



Ajuntament Sabadell
@Aj_Sabadell



#ARA ➡ Jornada de treball amb tècnics i tècniques de l'Ajuntament per debatre com s'està implementant el treball des de la mirada intercultural a la nostra ciutat, en el marc del projecte Europeu d'intercanvi entre ciutats d'Europa, Austràlia i Canadà liderat per la [@UPFBarcelona](#)

[Traducir Tweet](#)



RECI Ciudades Interculturales @RECI_ICC · 9 sept.



El día de hoy se llevó a cabo un debate interesante sobre la mirada intercultural en Sabadell, un espacio liderado por la [@UPFBarcelona](#) 🌞🌞



Ajuntament Sabadell @Aj_Sabadell · 9 sept.

#ARA ➡ Jornada de treball amb tècnics i tècniques de l'Ajuntament per debatre com s'està implementant el treball des de la mirada intercultural a la nostra ciutat, en el marc del projecte Europeu d'intercanvi entre ciutats d'Europa, Austràlia i Canadà liderat per la [@UPFBarcelona](#)

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