

Project description

The main objective of this project is to open a research programme that links immigration and municipalities in Spain. In particular, we want to examine the pledge of commitment to diversity that some Spanish cities are expressing through their intercultural plans, thus giving a political response to the main issues related to local management of immigration.

Our initial hypothesis is that the intercultural approach followed by some Spanish cities needs to be monitored from a theoretical, administrative and empirical point of view. Only in this way will we be able to highlight the potential of this focus and contribute to the European debate about diversity management models.

Length of the project: January 2012—December 2014.

Research and technical team

Main researcher

Ricard Zapata Barrero (Political and Social Sciences, UPF)

Technical coordinator

Gema Rubio-Carbonero (GRITIM-UPF)

Researchers

Avi Astor (Alianza 3 Researcher)
Flora Burchianti (Postdoc Researcher)
Vicent Climent-Ferrando (DTCL, UPF & PhD student)
Mohammed El-Bachouti (affiliated to the Project)
Xavier Ferrer (Geography, UAB)
Blanca Garcés (Juan de la Cierva Researcher)
Hélène Rufat (Humanities, UPF)
Elena Sánchez (Researcher)
Juan Carlos Triviño (PhD Student)
Teun A. van Dijk (DTCL, UPF)

With the institutional support of:

RECI (Intercultural Cities Spanish Network)
<http://www.upf.edu/gritim-reci/>

Observer and promoter entities:

Council of Europe - Intercultural Cities
Barcelona's city council- immigration commissioner

Contact details

GRITIM-UPF
Interdisciplinary Research Group in
Immigration
www.upf.edu/gritim
gritim@upf.edu

Universitat Pompeu Fabra
c/ Ramon Trias Fargas, 25-27
08005 Barcelona, Spain

Contact person: Ricard Zapata Barrero
E-mail: ricard.zapata@upf.edu

DIVERSITY

Municipalities and immigration: Interculturality and Governance index

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Scope of the project

Different reports and institutional communications from the EU and Spain, and recent research about diversity management in Europe state three tendencies:

- a) A rising interest in using the municipal approach for the analysis of immigration management policies, instead of studies focused on States.
- b) The interculturality approach is beginning to be seen as a potential third way between assimilationism and multiculturalism, especially since the crisis of multiculturalism began.
- c) The need to show the feasibility of this third way.

In order to develop this research project, the DIVERSITY team is going to work together with the Spanish Network of Intercultural Cities (RECI, www.upf.edu/gritim-reci).

Furthermore, three lines of research of a theoretical, administrative and empirical nature will be opened with the purpose of providing answers to the main objectives.

Objectives and Questions

Due to the wide variety of meanings related to interculturality and the large number of municipal programmes related to this approach and indicators the municipalities use, we are dealing with these three main objectives and basic questions.

Theoretical objective. Theoretically explain the interculturality approach, especially its link with cohesion and development, and its feasibility.

Question 1: What are the theoretical foundations of the interculturality approach?

Administrative objective. Produce the basis for programmes designed to guide City Councils when managing intercultural policies.

Question 2: How can we reduce the gap between Discourse and Intercultural policies?

Empirical objective. Create and apply an index of governance.

Question 3: How can we define interculturality in terms of indicators of governance?

Work Packages

WP1: *Political and Institutional Debate.* Intercultural approach as a third way. What perspectives does this approach offer?

WP2: *Legal and Administrative Frame.* Why each city provides different answers to common issues? Minimum necessary conditions of coordination.

WP3: *Territorialization of Conflicts.* How are city conflicts territorialized? How should they be interpreted?

WP4: *Religious Diversity.* What is the relation between coordination and local autonomy in religious issues?

WP5: *Intercultural Public Policies.* Definition in practical terms. What are the core themes of an intercultural plan?

WP6: *Local Imaginary.* Anthropological and cultural perspective. How can representations and opinions influence behaviour?

WP7: *Language and diversity.* What role do immigration languages play in the political strategy of the management of diversity?

WP8: *Policies of Discourse.* Analysis of political parties' discourse. How does discourse influence intercultural policies?

WP9: *Discursive Frame.* What discursive framework favours an intercultural approach? Interculturality as an anti-racist policy.