

Interethnic Coexistence in European Cities

Urban neighbourhoods are important arenas of social interactions and places of interethnic coexistence. Super-diversity in the neighbourhood is a microcosm, mirroring problem constellations at the city scale. Yet problems within diversity-shaped neighbourhoods require locally determined solutions. Thus, municipal policies increasingly take a territorial focus, building on neighbourhood-based initiatives.

Our project is based on a systematic comparison of the aims, structural features and outcomes of neighbourhood development programmes in Amsterdam, Vienna and Stockholm.

Our core question is: Which political measures support and strengthen best the integrative power of an urban neighbourhood as a place of living and identification for a diverse urban population?

Results and expected impact

Our analysis suggests that in contrast to top-down initiatives, participation in bottom-up or hybrid initiatives tends to correlate stronger to neighbourhood belonging. Interethnic co-existence is a long-term process built on the activities of involved actors and networks. Peaceful co-existence requires local integration initiatives and long-term commitment from policymakers. As a result of the living lab approach, this project created societal impact at various levels including the research community, education, policymakers and practitioners, as well as the public through national media coverage. The main results are available in four languages in the open access ICEC Policy Handbook.



ICEC Policy Workshop in Stockholm, 2015. (Source: M. Franz)



Neighbourhood festival in 1160 Vienna. (Source: F. Brand)

Aim/objective

- Understanding the mechanisms of initiatives and their impact on neighbourhood attachment and co-responsibility
- Initiate an assessment and exchange of good practice between three distinct European cities to promote interethnic coexistence

Approaches/methods

Innovative two-level research design applied in urban living labs:

1. Combination of basic and applied research conducted by researchers, policymakers and urban stakeholders
2. Involving the civil society in conceptualisation of integrative policies

Expected results and impacts

- Regular communication of results to policy makers, presenting findings on residents' neighbourhood belonging and co-responsibility
- Our results will lend themselves to being implemented by municipal policies that create integrative neighbourhoods

Involved cities/project examples

- Three neighbourhood case studies each in Amsterdam, Stockholm and Vienna
- Urban Living Labs in each city

Comparison of cities in

- Austria
- The Netherlands
- Sweden

Interethnic coexistence in European cities – A comparative and applied oriented analysis of neighbourhood-related policies (ICEC)

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About JPI Urban Europe

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