

3 MAY 2016, BARCELONA

INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON RECEPTION AND INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES IN THE EU

FINAL REPORT



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**INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON RECEPTION AND INTEGRATION
OF REFUGEES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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We would like to thank all the participants. This final report is the result of their contributions, expertise, insight and different perspectives which has provided us with informed and balanced analysis and exceptionally rich and diverse content.

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(PHOTO: EKATERINA POKROVSKY / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM)

FOREWORD

Both Barcelona and Catalonia aim to be places for reception, solidarity, peace and human rights. Faced with one of the worst humanitarian crises we have experienced in Europe in recent decades, the Barcelona City Council and the Public Diplomacy Council of Catalonia (DIPLOCAT) organised this International Forum on the Reception and Integration of Refugees. Barcelona and Catalonia can and should contribute, by proposing a coordinated response between all public administration, especially at local level and those endowed with social competencies, and civil society associations, for this reality of people fleeing from the war at Europe's doorstep. The exchange of knowledge from all over Europe can make this response efficient. Cooperation can provide solutions; more can be done in cooperation with other European cities, regions, countries and institutions. It is essential to provide the basis for good reception and integration, both for the people arriving now and those already here. This can be achieved by the summed resources of everybody and with the will and solidarity shown by many regions, municipalities and citizens throughout Europe.

The Forum brought together experts from 23 different think tanks, international organisations and NGOs, as well as, more than 20 Mayors and representatives from 16 cities, regions and states and from 11 European countries and the USA, who emphasised the importance of the role of civil society, cities and regions in the reception and integration of refugees. The Barcelona City Council and the Public Diplomacy Council of Catalonia would like to thank all the participants for their enriching contributions, which have been summarised in this report in an effort to include all opinions and issues raised. Without their active involvement, this Forum would not have been possible. This publication aims to give access to their experience and encourage replication of these valuable examples from experts, who are directly involved in the reception and integration of refugees.

This reunion with experts from local, regional and national administration, international organisations, think tanks and NGOs was a precious opportunity to analyse the needs and strategies for a coordinated cooperation from all over Europe and the US. The basis for a network for future activities is laid. The Barcelona City Council and the Public Diplomacy Council of Catalonia hope that this International Forum will only be the starting point for a close cooperation.

INTRODUCTION

CONTRIBUTING TO SOLVING A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

Barcelona and Catalonia are committed to contributing to solutions for the arrival of large numbers of asylum-seeking refugees via the coastlines of the Mediterranean Sea and through Central Europe.

As Mr Carles Puigdemont, President of the Government of Catalonia, pointed out at the inauguration of the Forum, Catalonia supports a common EU asylum policy, safe entry for those asking for asylum, a distribution based on solidarity among the 28 member states of the efforts involved in the reception and integration of refugees, and EU institutions at the centre of decision-making and funds management. The Catalan administration has to integrate refugees within its society, providing them with the same rights and duties as the rest of the population. Catalonia is willing to receive 4500 refugees and to be involved in the finding of solutions. Beyond dealing with the immediate emergency, Catalonia aims to cooperate to make the Mediterranean a safer place by pacifying, democratising and developing the Mediterranean region.

Ms Ada Colau, Mayor of Barcelona, underlined the contributions of the Barcelona City Council, which has increased its budget for receiving refugees, reinforced its reception centres with more than half a million Euros in funding, and increased resources for the cooperation of civil society organisations. Barcelona cooperates with inter-city networks such as CGLU and Eurocities to be at the European level of action. The relocation of refugees in Europe would allow for a coordinated, efficient and good reception, avoiding collapsed cities in some parts of Europe, when other cities and regions are willing to host refugees. As those who give specific help to refugees are in



(PHOTO: ALBERT SALAMÉ / DIPLOCAT)

fact the cities and regions of Europe, these cities should have direct access to European funding for asylum.

Ms María Jesús Vega, spokesperson for UNHCR Spain, added an international perspective, by calling for an efficient integration mechanism in favour of coexistence, which puts the refugees at the centre of decision-making. This system should incorporate the traditional actors with new ones with the involvement of civil society and the private sector, as well as incorporating autonomous and local governments alongside central governments and local authorities, ensuring the participation of all the public administrations. The role of regional and municipal governments, as well as civil society, is crucial regarding the reception and integration of refugees. Even though the responsibility for international protection and the determination of the refugee status lies within the power of the EU member states, the newcomers will integrate with the communities of Europe's regions, cities and villages, live alongside their citizens and be able to start a new dignified chapter in their lives, thanks to their inclusion within the host societies.

Mr Albert Royo, Secretary General of the Public Diplomacy Council of Catalonia, opened the floor to all participants with the words that with the International Forum on Reception and Integration of Refugees, Catalonia confirms its clear Mediterranean and European vocation. It wishes to contribute to a more united EU and to cooperate on an international level by contributing positively to one of the biggest challenges facing the EU today.



(PHOTO: FREEDOM HOUSE)

AN INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION FOR GLOBAL ANSWERS

At international level it is of the utmost importance to fight the causes which are forcing people to flee, such as the conflict zones in the Middle East and Africa, economic discrepancies, climate change and disaster, persecution, torture, or a threat to life for reasons of race, religion, political opinion or gender. Insufficient action on the causes of migration and reception of refugees is preoccupying, seeing as Europe has the means and possibilities to solve them.

The illegal criminal structures supporting the current refugee movements in the Mediterranean need to be eradicated. We, in Europe, need to transport people legally from A to B and manage a process of identification, logistics and integration. With political will we can find solutions to avoid human tragedies, such as safe passage, the humanitarian corridor —made possible with humanitarian visas—, or use of the directive for temporary protection, replacing the model of the externalisation of European frontiers with diplomatic protection, to avoid facilitating the business of the trafficking mafia. While several speakers criticised the externalisation of EU frontiers and the Turkey accord, others said the latter was an effective means to fight human trafficking and to legalise safe entry.

Europe needs to be alerted by this emergency, to include within its institutions a coherent immigration policy, a reform of its law so as to include a right to asylum and a strengthening of the migration architecture in Europe, as migration policies are overlapping with other fields such as finance or economy, and as Europe-wide equal sharing of burden and responsibilities is needed.

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INVOLVING THE EUROPEAN UNION TO SHAPE REFUGEE RECEPTION AND INTEGRATION

The EU should receive more refugees and intervene decisively in the resolution of the conflict. The proposal for relocation was mentioned on several occasions, and that so far it has not been implemented by the member states. The EU should look for direct contact with the local level and with the population in member states, to procure funding to the local sphere, where reception takes place. As regional and local authorities are at the forefront of the crisis, they should have a direct line to the European institutions. A European Fund to support municipalities all over Europe to receive and integrate refugees, would be a way to overcome obstacles by member state governments.

An initiative on a Europe-wide cooperation of regions and cities brought to the European level would bring voices other than the governments' to the attention of the European Commission. A written appeal to the European Commission by municipalities and regions, together with civil society organisations and MPs could provide constructive plans for relocation, and also has the potential to open gridlocks and make European governments move. The Commission would be open to listen to as many actors as possible and learn about the needs of the regions and cities.

As well as the EU, ACNUR was mentioned to be essential for the building of international institutions which push the governments to be open to migrants and different religions, as well as for access to the mechanisms of protection by sub state levels and vector for a common asylum policy.

3

A CLEAR STRUCTURE FROM EUROPEAN TO LOCAL LEVEL, INVOLVING ALL ACTORS

There is a need for a coherent European policy to federate not only the states but also the cities, which have an important role to play and do the maximum within their competencies to make their governments adhere and evolve. Pressure needs to be put on the respective central governments in a coordinated way, via a network, even more so if this net includes social movements. This migration structure should include all levels, from the level of the EU via the national level and down to local level; uncoordinated actions from municipalities can also be an issue. It is important that authorities at all levels stick together without putting up barriers regarding finances and responsibilities. Nobody can solve this kind of problem on their own; this is why ways have to be found to collaborate with grass roots movements, institutions, ministries and the EU. There is a will and a need for solidarity between regions and cities. They have to persuade the member states, for this to have a result, as the states' solidarity is needed in terms of education,

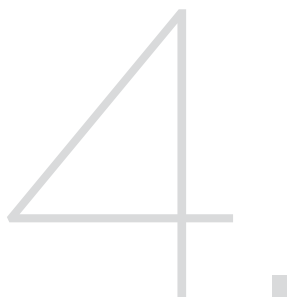
healthcare and integration. Every level would need to comply with its duties, and if the state does not comply, it should let those, who want to help, help (e.g. giving competencies in health and education matters or diplomatic access to third countries for resettlement). There are, for example, states where asylum is only identified as political asylum, therefore the ratio of asylum seekers is very low, and the local level has limited leeway for action. This can be contrasted with states, where migrants stay, when cities and regions are able to permit them to ask for asylum, even if the respective country had not been the migrants' first destination. In some member states, budget cuts have also limited actions for solidarity at local level and have led to the closing down of successful integration projects.

Solidarity and partnerships of cities and regions

A European network of municipalities is needed for the exchange of best practices on the reception and integration of refugees, to argue for the need for financing or even to create common projects so that the refugees can move within the territory. This can be done by using the existing structures and systems in place such as Eurocities or the Committee of the Regions, but, at the moment, it seems that there is also a need for new mechanisms for an impact at EU level.

Many municipalities are ready to receive refugees and would like to, they need to join forces to find a common base to improve together, so as to avoid each municipality working on its own. From regions with strong refugee influx it was made clear that help with services is needed from other countries, it is difficult for their people to work on all areas.

There is a large capacity in some regions to help other regions with the challenges related to this influx, such as more rubbish, less water, more waste water and less housing. Model partnerships can be replicated by a partnership hub, to link capacities together and create opportunities between the private sector, municipalities, public capacities, universities and research. Incubators can resolve questions on how to create jobs, and how to combine private sector with the will of countries to move forward and build perspectives. If this is achieved, support can mean working together on investment, not development aid and charity.



THE LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL TO HELP WHERE HELP IS NEEDED

Cities and regions are the places where integration fails or succeeds; therefore it is important to find solutions at local level. They are the ones facing emergencies such as lack of housing, and provision of food, and providing urgent first health check-ups or translation. They can coordinate volunteer activities, aid and donations, not to mention the many other measures that permit a normal life for the newcomer within the new society. These range from language classes to preparation for the job market via training and recognition of qualifications, homologation of university and school degrees, preparatory classes for school, access to school, nursery, healthcare and the organisation of welfare organisations for unaccompanied minors with provision of multilingual information etc. This, in close cooperation with or via civil society organisations as it is they who receive and integrate. The local level is also closest to the reaction from the local population, the attitude at local level is often more positive, and, if necessary, xenophobia can be countered more efficiently at this proximity level. The local level has the means to promote cultural diversity, and the participation of people in a situation of social exclusion and interaction with all citizens to form a feeling of belonging to the city.



INCLUSION USING THE STRENGTH OF THE POPULATION

Local administration and NGOs can encourage solidarity and include local communities in welcoming newcomers, use their strength, capacity and predisposition to help – effectively, it has been these people, and after that, the institutions, who have been dealing with the burden of the 1,5 million people coming in. Immediate contact of locals and migrants canalise faster integration and eradication of misperceptions on both sides. NGOs have been rescuing people from the sea, running warehouses and canteens for thousands of people, observing procedures and welcoming refugees. Cities and regions have been successfully organising mobile teams of volunteers to give information and accompany the refugees on their first steps, to offer translation, give language classes and create organisations to connect locals willing to host refugees with the refugees, etc. In countries where asylum requests are mainly rejected, NGOs at local level can sometimes buffer this social exclusion of the asylum seeker caused by the state of administrative irregularity, with programmes reinserting them into the job market.

Access to services, providing help to help yourself

Concretely, the local administration is there to provide the same access to services, rights and duties for all of its citizens, to provide help for people to help themselves. The strategy of providing first assistance to all people

in need in an equal way, without discrimination by nationality, to merge the needs of the inhabitants and migrants, was voiced as objective by many local representatives, and as a de facto way of proceeding by many associations. Administration however also mentioned that multiple legal structures impose differentiated treatment of refugees from other migrants regarding access to rights at local level. In this respect, associations can help to break legal deadlocks.

Merging populations

Further to access of services and direct contact with society from the outset, merging local population with the newcomers via housing spread over all districts of the city facilitates inclusion and also the acceptance of the increased population. To avoid ghettoization, initiatives are multiple and include shared buildings, e.g. containing hotel, student residence and refugee accommodation, restaurants run by refugees and building associations including migrants who build their own homes etc.

Communication is key

How can a new way of communication be created to make the population less scared of other cultures and encourage its support, without which integration is difficult? Anti-rumour campaigns by local administration, tailor-made for use by associations and citizens, stem racism. Contact building, positive communication, a clear discourse by administration and strong leadership by Mayors, politicians and business, who lead with values and give examples to those living in their cities, are also efficient ways to communicate at local level. Mayors have advised to prepare the settlement of refugees within communities, to communicate with citizens in the neighbourhood, especially those close to homes of refugees, neighbourhood support groups. Also, to show a positive attitude, be transparent, engage in active communication as early as possible, take questions seriously and involve supporters. Furthermore, factual data about the benefits of immigration should be used to counter wrong rhetoric on the cost of refugees. We should speak about a crisis in Europe, in government bodies and administration, instead of a refugee crisis and talk about the tasks that we have to fulfil and the opportunities that the refugees provide us to do so. Policies including budget cuts also give reasons for xenophobia, and should be remedied by the general reinforcement of social policies. This goes hand in hand with identification and listening to parts of the population who feel left out whilst comparing efforts for refugees with their own situation.



INTEGRATION TO SHARE AND CONNECT

On top of positive communication, the concept of integration should be defined accordingly: We should not integrate the refugee into society, we should integrate local society with the refugees, with the result that local population should see refugees as heroes who have escaped from war and who can give a lot to society. Integration on both sides can avoid the image of refugees as a problem to society, of people coming to take our jobs, or people who have to be exactly like we are. We have to adapt structures for the positive reason that refugees will change our societies and enrich and shape the future.

Culture and sports

Diversity contributes to a richer society, when people come together to share cultures, not to more division. Cultural policy of differentiation is a means against ideologisation, to foster cultural empathy and intercultural intelligence with immigrants and an integrating society. We need to understand and respect the identities of those arriving and to strengthen their expressions. Migrants can become protagonists and act as a bridge for cultures when giving lectures at universities or meeting with schools and cultural centres. We do not need to think in terms of states or nations, but societies, with responsibilities, with the main power in the hand of civil society. Sports, music, food, theatre, film and art connects, generates commonality and gives important keys to conflict resolution and integration. Cultural initiatives and sporting activities have the potential to involve the whole community in integration. Sport has to be seen as a vector for values, which facilitates the cohesion of newcomers within local society. Furthermore, religion is an important factor of identity to people, so a dialogue between churches on how to integrate refugees would also be useful.

Language and training

A practical factor in including a social component of integration within society is language. It is important for the first communication of a newcomer from administrative tasks to access to the job market. Learning the language also opens up the spectrum of new culture and customs while providing active interaction with locals at a human level. It can be an asset if learning takes place outside classrooms and without pre-prescribed topics, when language classes can achieve a social dimension to connect different cultures and become an opportunity to meet people. In the case of refugees, it is beneficial for the classes to be accompanied by intercultural dialogue, including training on rights and duties, access to administration and the job market, child care, family services, education system, adult education,

paths to employment, balancing family finances, civil participation and entrepreneurship etc. in the native language of the newcomer. Training and language classes not only benefit the person attending the training, but have a multiplying effect - parents can for example direct the career-path of their children better if they are well informed, which for the receptive society also represents an investment for future generations.

ENABLING HUMAN BEINGS TO START A NEW LIFE

Many refugees need practical advice, as much as psychological care when they arrive in a new society, in order to be able to start a normal life with dignity. Facilitation of information is as necessary as individual attention.

Accompanying - mentoring

The local population, may this be professional care workers or volunteers, who accompany newcomers in their first steps, facilitate logistics, create human contact and provide first access to society. Moreover, programmes that include mentoring by a person of confidence who accompanies (minor) migrants over longer periods of time, give confidence and stability, especially after traumatic situations. The mentee is assisted with competencies (knowledge of social environment and labour market, motivation etc.) as well as social- and emotional aspects (interaction with others, relations of confidence etc.), and accompanied by NGOs or institutions, as tutors, to assure that the objectives of personal emancipation are accomplished with assistance if necessary. Personalised attention can be very beneficial as the possibility exists to adapt and doesn't just apply the same resources to every person —it should also be taken into account that mentoring works two ways and also benefits the mentor in a win-win situation. Examples were provided by councillors in refugee residences attending between 50-80 refugees —in cities, which have from 2015 until now have received up to 13,000 refugees— to one to one mentoring partnerships organised by associations over 6 months or a year.

Empowering

Regular psychological and psychiatric attention to strengthen self-esteem and overcome post- traumatic stress syndromes enables people to be people again after having lived through processes of multiple traumas, especially relevant when the affected is an unaccompanied minor. Reception is in this case the first step towards therapeutic recuperation, to strengthen the resilience of the person and to transform their negative experiences into positive ones. Empowerment covers the strengthening of their

self-esteem, personal responsibility and self-reliance, and also feeling responsible, accountable and an equal part of society. Furthermore the power of refugees —when recovered— helps integration. Their skills, competencies and talent are given as a resource to society. To empower people and make them protagonists of their own processes dignifies the new members of society to take part in building their own future with gratifying work instead of making them dependent on welfare, e.g. by new building associations, including migrants who build their own homes, the setting up of offices to allow refugees to start their own activity/business, the opening of integration officer positions in municipalities, occupied by migrants and psychological help and integration advice by integrated migrants for newcomers. This provides the migrant with gratifying work instead of dependence on the welfare system.

For administration, this means training its staff in intercultural competencies and employing people with migratory backgrounds. Finally, empowering not only prepares migrants for living within their new society, but also for returning to their country of origin with the capacity to reconstruct and lead.



(PHOTO: MS JANE CAMPBELL / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM)



(PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER JAHN/IFRC)

3 MAY 2016, BARCELONA

APPENDIX I CASE STUDIES AND BEST PRACTICES

CASE STUDIES AND BEST PRACTICES

(In order of appearance at the Forum)

FIRST PANEL

GDANSK (POLAND)

Paweł Adamowicz, *Mayor of Gdansk*



Gdansk has 10.000 immigrants, who come from Russia, Chechnya, Ukraine, Tadjikistan and small groups from Syria and Georgia. We have no immigration policy at a national level. I initiated the first interdisciplinary team, in Gdansk, to prepare a policy for migration and integration at a municipal level, the first in Poland. We are also collecting experiences from other cities in Europe. Our problem is that the majority of the population is against receiving refugees, especially after the terrorist attack in Brussels. My policy comes in against a part of my population, and against central government policy.

CATALONIA

Oriol Amorós, *Secretary General for Equality, Immigration and Citizenship, Government of Catalonia*



Catalonia welcomes refugees. In the past 10 years we have grown from 6 million to 7,5 million inhabitants. We have, on our territory, 27% of all extra communitarian foreigners of Spain. Around 100,000 migrants come and go from Catalonia every year. In cooperation with NGOs, we offer refugees the possibility to stay and have gone from having 26 to 200 refugees in 2 months. Given the current crisis, the Catalan government has offered to receive 4500 refugees. This does not signify that we do not have problems: the unemployment rate of foreigners is double that of people from here, the level of school abandonment of children from abroad is worryingly high; however, we have, in relative terms, a positively receptive population. 80% of the population is in favour of the immediate reception of refugees by their states. We have a low crime rate against immigrants.

SICILY (ITALY)

Maria Lo Bello, *Vice President of the Region of Sicily*



Immigration has already been an important topic for many years in Sicily. The island counts a high presence of immigrants, and has lived through several waves of refugee arrival. We have said "never again", and now we find ourselves, once more, in the situation of repeated emergency, where we have to find one- or two thousand temporary homes or more, for newcomers quickly, time and time again. We urgently need a right to asylum and common policies for the reception and integration of refugees which go beyond theory. We also need to give importance to the freedom of movement for people, not only for goods and capital.

ATTICA (GREECE)

Rena Dourou, *Governor of the Region of Attica*



The Region of Attica has been facing strong migration flows: on a daily basis hundreds of migrants have come to the Piraeus port. To cope with the influx, we set up a logistics centre in cooperation with the Secretariat General of Trade, the first one in Greece. Goods are collected there to protect the refugee from fraud and coordinate the solidarity efforts of the citizens. We contributed to the creation of hosting centres in seven municipalities, and assist in the distribution of food and medicine. Importantly, we facilitate optimum coordination of actions at every level, in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, i.e. central government, municipalities, scientific community and citizens. We adapted the legal framework to allow for quick action and shared costs. The citizens receive updated information via our website.

LEIPZIG (GERMANY)**Thomas Fabian**, *Deputy Mayor of Leipzig, Chair of the Social Affairs Forum of Eurocities*

At the moment we have some 10.000 refugees living in Leipzig. The first task is the provision of apartments; we spread housing all over the city, for the integration of refugees and for their acceptance within the population. We do have citizens with concerns regarding refugees, so we have communicated as early as possible to citizens in the neighbourhoods, especially those close to homes of refugees, involving supporters. We promote refugee inclusion via social work in refugee homes, we train our staff in intercultural competencies, we employ people with a migration background and we open institutions such as libraries to new users. We also support civic engagement, e.g. mentoring programmes for refugees and involve the whole community in cultural initiatives and sports. We provide first base special services for refugees, then making the existing services accessible to all, and make the refugee self-reliant.

A CORUÑA (SPAIN)**Xulio Ferreiro**, *Mayor of A Coruña*

A Coruña is a refugee city, as, even though it is not inside the refugee flow, and not a destination for refugees, it also has a role to play. We joined the refugee city project by Ada Colau, to give way to a citizen request, and to canalise offers for help by NGOs and civil society. We have had a positive integration experience with people coming from Bosnia during the Balkan War. Furthermore, the distinct sentiment of solidarity amongst our population has a lot to do with the history of Galicia, as its people were refugees during the Civil War. Whilst many NGOs and people are collaborating to help, and we have been interlocutors, problems remain such as a lack of budget or coordination problems with other administration.

FINLAND**Annika Forsander**, *Head of the Centre of Expertise on Immigrant Integration, Ministry of Employment and the Economy of Finland*

Finland has 5,5 million inhabitants and we have resettled refugees since 1992. In 2015 we had over 32,500 asylum requests, which has subsided this year to 5000, at present, due to strict border controls. 3000 of these came via Russia, who used its border policy as a tool against EU policy. Finland participates in quota refugees- and the Turkey 1+1 agreement. This year, 40% of all migration residence permits will be for those in need of international protection. The act on integration guarantees all unemployed adult foreign citizens one year on a free integration course. Our issues are housing requirements and the need to speed up labour market integration to include innovative ways of recognising (formal and informal) skills and qualifications.

THESSALONIKI (GREECE)**Kalypso Goula**, *Deputy Mayor of Thessaloniki*

We are 300,000 people in Thessaloniki, we work together with neighbourhood municipalities to support the refugees. We all have to cooperate, and we need international help; it is difficult for our people to work in all areas. We have major problems with unemployment. At the same time, we currently have 54,000 people in Greece in refugee camps and more in the cities; they have to have access to asylum seeking points and be able to live in a civilised condition. In 2015 we constructed a small shelter for asylum seekers. We found the funds with support from the European Refugee Fund. We reunified families. Now we have a programme, funded by Solidarity, for 80 people with special needs (pregnant women, those hospitalised in hotel rooms etc.), UNHCR will cooperate in a programme for 660 sites for apartments for families.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**Elly Schlein, Member of the European Parliament (S&D, Italy)**

We confront a situation where six of the 28 EU member states receive 80% of the asylum petitions. We need the other 22 states to be solidary and to share the responsibilities. However, the states are more active in closing frontiers and returning refugees to their countries of origin than relocating them within the EU. Community policies need to be coherent and coordinated with local entities and civil society, and they need to include a common asylum policy – cosmetic measures will not solve the crisis.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION**Ferran Tarradellas, Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Barcelona**

The European Commission has, as a first priority, been giving humanitarian aid to citizens in Syria, the cause of this crisis, which has resulted in 11 million refugees and internally displaced citizens in Libya, Jordan, Lebanon. Aid for these countries has risen up to more than 3 billion Euros from 2012 from the total budget of 5 billion. The second priority has been to save lives in the Mediterranean. We have tripled the resources to Frontex, which saved 59,000 people in the Mediterranean in 2015, and 91,000 people on the Greek coasts, which amounts for 90% of all people saved. Thirdly, article 78.3 of the EU Treaties has allowed for our proposal for the relocation of 160,000 refugees in European countries and the resettlement of 23,000 persons from Libya, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey. We implemented hotspots to reinforce the registration of people in support to Greek and Italian authorities. We activated the mechanism of civil protection and changed the budget for internal aid inside the EU, to deliver 500 million Euro of humanitarian aid destined to refugees inside the EU.

PARIS (FRANCE)**Dominique Versini, Deputy Mayor of Paris**

Mayor Hidalgo declared Paris a refugee city, without distinction between refugees, migrants and the homeless, which has solidary inhabitants. We have refugees from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, among them 1600 unaccompanied minors. We organised a sharing conference with all stakeholders from civil society, from administration to business, inciting them to help. In response to this initiative, the state announced plans for housing, the speeding up of the asylum request procedure and the reinforcing of reception centres for asylum request. The city of Paris has implemented first emergency aid - and integration measures: we put at their disposition premises for housing, took the unaccompanied minors under direct city protection, organised mobile teams and multiple volunteers to provide information and accompanied the refugees in their first steps etc. It is worth mentioning the setting up of an office to allow refugees to start their own activity/business, and the empowering of an organisation to connect locals willing to host refugees with the refugees.

SECOND PANEL**ASIL.CAT (CATALONIA)****Jorge Barudy, member of the network**

Asil.cat is a network of nine civil society organisations, of which the Catalan Committee of UNHCR and the Red Cross of Catalonia are observatory members, and the others full members with a broad experience of refugee reception. It was set up in 2014, an outcome of the International Protection Plan. It was approved by the Catalan Parliament in January 2014, and supports the engagement by Mayoress Colau of Barcelona to be a refugee city. Catalonia has a large tradition of refugee reception, which explains the high amount of civil society organisations. We have to give priority to the people, give opportunities to those we receive and help them to recover their resilience. If we all work together, politicians, civil society and administration, we can accept the multiple responsibilities we have.

STUTTART (GERMANY)**Isabel Fezer, Deputy Mayor of Stuttgart**

Stuttgart no longer has the problem of reception, it now focuses on integration. Stuttgart has 8900 refugees in 119 places of accommodation distributed between 22 of the 23 city districts. Seven welfare agencies deliver social care, one staff member is in charge of 68 residents, and efforts are under way to lower that ratio. We have created networks among all the actors and set up 7 task forces regrouping them to cover the whole spectrum of reception and care activities such as preparatory courses for school, the job market, nursery, care for unaccompanied minors and integration activities via sport and culture etc: 1.employment and training, 2.language and cultural values, 3.families, children and young people, 4.social integration and neighbourhoods, 5.sports and culture, 6.provision of health - psychological and psychiatric care, 7.communication for local communities and volunteers as well as multilingual information for refugees.

CADIZ (SPAIN)**José María González, Mayor of Cadiz**

Cadiz has declared itself a refugee city. We, as administration, ask, together with civil society, to implement the safe passage, humanitarian visas and relocation to avoid human tragedy occurring. This, instead of having reception centres converted into detention centres and children dying in the Mediterranean. Instead of attacking the Middle East for economic or strategic reasons, constructing a Fortress Europe and not complying with asylum rights. We propose to receive the more vulnerable refugees temporarily, i.e. unaccompanied minors, from the frontiers, with support from civil society with experience in the reception of refugees. We have 40% unemployment in Cadiz, we historically do not receive immigration, we generate it. We have at lost at least 20% of our population with the crisis, and we have debt. Despite these problems, we see it as our duty to receive refugees, and propose to help with the most urgent tasks. We can do small things which change reality.

**INTERNATIONAL CATALAN
INSTITUTE FOR PEACE
(CATALONIA)****Rafael Grasa, President**

Our Institute is autonomous, created by the Government of Catalonia. We aim to analyse the causes of conflict, which subsequently lead people to flee from war, before advising on how to solve them. We see the need for a reform to the refugee law to include right to political asylum, to make it about, not just the reception of refugees but also the fighting at the cause of migration in the EU. Other solutions are to invest more in the humanitarian system at a local level, and to give power at a local level to encourage solidarity.

**INSTITUT FÜR
AUSLANDSBEZIEHUNGEN
(IFA) (GERMANY)****Ronald Grätz, Secretary General**

Our institute develops cultural policies for ministries, for the German Parliament and for UNIC (the European Network of Cultural Policies). We advocate a culture policy of differentiation against ideologisation, in terms of corporate cultural exchange and educational work. We need to understand and respect the identities of the people arriving and strengthen their expression. We have to develop a new perspective between the local population and the newcomers, interconnecting them with the help of culture, sport, theatre, music, art etc. Culture generates commonality and provides us with important keys to achieve conflict resolution and integration.

VALENCIA (SPAIN)

Roberto Jaramillo, *Councillor on Transparency, Open Government, Development and Migrants, Valencia*

We have declared Valencia a refugee city, as we want everyone to have the same rights, in equality and diversity. We need to put pressure on central governments in a coordinated way and generate common programmes for people to move within Europe. Furthermore, we have a great responsibility to foster the awareness of every citizen as a critical and global citizen with anti-xenophobia campaigns. In 2015 we had 560 reports of hate crimes. If one assumes that only 20% of the cases are reported, there would be about 4000 cases in one year. The tendency is rising in Spain. As we are the institution closest to the citizen, we can do the most.

**INNOVATION AND
PLANNING AGENCY (IPA)
(GERMANY)**


Kilian Kleinschmidt, *Chairman and Founder*

We have to think differently about the way we give aid. Instead of thinking of charity, recognising the concept of sharing resources amongst equal human beings, as an investment. As the Mayor of the Jordan refugee camp Za'atari and manager for UNHCR I have transformed the refugee camp to a thriving and stable community ready for its transition to the next phase of development. We need to transform camps into new settlements, seeing them as facilities where we have to build up perspective. We should conjoin the positive forces of the municipalities, exchange experience and engage in cooperation between cities and regions to work together, in support of safely bringing people to Europe and of hosting refugee and migrant communities in and around the crisis areas.

WADOWICE (POLAND)

Mateusz Klinowski, *Mayor of Wadowice*

Some months ago the Polish Government declared it would accept a couple of thousand immigrants from Syria. Local governments were asked whether they would accept an unspecified number of immigrants. We were the first community to declare that we accept immigrants. As the birth place of Pope John Paul II, Wadowice should show catholic charity, but instead we saw an enormous wave of hatred. People got scared about what they saw on TV, and there were not enough authorities represented in the media presenting a pro-refugee view. I took, as an example, how Pope Francisco is behaving, how he accepts other cultures and shares the best face of Catholicism. We should do the same. We need international authorities that push states to accept refugees.

COLOGNE (GERMANY)

Gabriele Klug, *Deputy Mayor of Cologne*

Cologne has more than 1 million inhabitants and we have 13,000 refugees, 5000 of which we had to accommodate and school from last September only. As a first measure we had to accommodate them in gym halls. The policy that had been applied, to divide immigrants equally across the city in small groups of up to 80 people was not possible any longer, when we were receiving up to 400 refugees a week. This was a challenge for civil society in Cologne. In general, the refugees are warmly welcomed, we have an open climate. Opposition to reception does exist, but it is not very vocal right now. However, we have to be alert and follow any developments. We have had to overcome a lack of communication on real integration challenges in Europe with respect to extreme right wing talk.

MADRID (SPAIN)

Mauricio Valiente, *Deputy Mayor of Madrid*



Madrid is open to refugees and is a declared refugee city. We have had experience with refugees since 2000, from when we started seeing an accelerated rate of immigration, and have also been attending to refugee transit flows from Melilla on their way to northern countries. For attending to these refugees we organised the budget and encouraged solidarity among the local population. However, those seeking asylum here are marginal in comparison with other European countries. Spain has a restrictive definition of asylum. We should have used the directive for cases of massive affluence at a European level, to guarantee safe entry to refugees, the Fortress Europe and as a latest measure, the agreement with Turkey to help human traffickers.

THIRD PANEL

PEN CLUB OF CATALONIA (CATALONIA)

Carme Arenas, *President*



As one of its services, our organisation offers shelter to writers persecuted in their countries, in violation of the right to freedom of expression. We allow the writer to continue writing in freedom for two years, or to recover from the trauma he suffered and be inspired to write again. We provide the writers with residency, assist with day to day logistics and integrate the writer into cultural society –e.g. by giving classes at universities and organising meetings with Catalan writers. The writers' texts are translated and published. More than integration, we promote an intercultural exchange, offering other points of view which we could not get from inside our society, enabling authors to transmit to our communities what a refugee needs and stimulating interaction thanks to the sharing of music, literature, art, acting as a bridge for resolving conflicts. PEN forms part of the ICOR Cities of Refuge, which now has 55 members.

SOLIDARITY 4 ALL (GREECE)

Myrto Bolota, *Coordinator*



We are still in a period of emergency, not in a period of integration, where we have had to create a network among the solidarity structures in order to exchange know how and help. We monitor the conditions in the accommodation centres, collect and distribute necessary items to the centres (clothes, medicine etc.), also involving other segments of society – deliveries to the camps are constant. When we noted tensions between newcomers and the local population who felt neglected, we started a campaign at schools "Take my hand". In collaboration with 6 municipalities in Athens, and four more next year, we are mobilising the whole community (teachers, parents, students, administration and associations of refugees) in the gathering and delivery of donations directly to the camps and in organising discussions and events (videos, theatre) in their schools with refugees.

DENMARK CROSS- CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY (DENMARK)

Mansour Esfandiari, *Managing Director*



At our clinic, we offer psychological education programmes to provide refugees and their family members with explanations of their possible psychological reactions after exposure to traumatic situations such as torture or war and their escape into exile. In classes, we help them to understand and handle their psycho-social situation and post-traumatic stress disorder syndromes. We also give them a insight into the society they live in now, and empower them to get a job, learn the language, and move away from victimisation. This psycho-education is available for both young people and families, both together and on an individual basis.

**MEDITERRANEAN HOPE
(ITALY)****Alberto Mallardo, member**

Lampedusa is a transit site on the periphery of Europe, and as such, not a place for integration, but for confronting an emergency. Theoretically, people should stay for no more than 72 hours, although in reality they stay far longer. Mediterranean Hope has a House of Culture in Sicily, where vulnerable groups of migrants can find shelter, until the Italian authorities find them a more permanent place. It is also open to the local population. We give first assistance with no discrimination against nationality, in an equal way and merge the needs of locals and migrants. We work in partnership with the local catholic church, we have created a place for debate; the "Lampedusa Solidarity Forum." We support the local library, the local football team and empower the local community. To migrants, we offer free internet access and Skype, first legal orientation and guidelines. At the port, we welcome new arrivals with tea, thermal banquets and monitor in respect to all the procedures. Furthermore, we cooperate in the humanitarian corridor project.

**CARITAS BARCELONA
(CATALONIA)****Juana Martin, Coordinator of the Service to the Refugee**

We have prepared for the reception of thousands of people we thought would arrive. This has not been the case, but we have already canalised the resources from civil society, and prepared an awareness campaign for communities on refugees. In 2015 we received 15.000 economic migrants from countries such as Syria, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria, Mali and the Ukraine, who could not ask for asylum, of which 626 were refugees. We also attend to those who have already exhausted all official help by administration and face difficulties accessing the labour market or achieving a stable situation. We provide housing and the basic necessities for dignified living, and we also give individual support to empower migrants to actively participate in society. We cooperate with other asylum associations in the municipalities and send resources to Caritas Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan and to the Jesuit service, who are mainly at the Turkish frontier and the border with Iraq in order to help refugees.

**CATALAN COMMISSION
FOR REFUGEES
(CATALONIA)****Estela Pareja, Director**

This successful interdisciplinary project ran until April 2016 and closed down due to budget cuts. It was directed towards refugees who had had their request for international protection negated. Rejection and the related social exclusion provoke emotional stress, which excludes any recuperation from post-traumatic stress. The experiences lived by these people – mostly torture survivors - provide reason for not expelling them, we, in cooperation with the association Asil.cat, have provided these people with therapeutic attention and legal-, social- and work-related advice. Out of the 120 persons attended to during the 3 year duration of the project, 116 are currently employed, either in a pre-contractual work situation or stable work. 28 are regularised already. Together with colleagues from all over Europe, we could establish best practices for the social reinsertion of people who have survived torture and a study on the topic could also be undertaken.

**OPEN SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION
INITIATIVE (USA)****Maria Teresa Rojas, Director**

The concept of a private sponsorship programme means financial support is donated to refugees by private bodies, in complement to government settlement efforts. Canada resettled 25000 refugees, of which 40% were thanks to private sponsorship, in partnership with local government and local communities and with support and supervision by established NGOs. The Canadian programme also allows the matching of refugees with a host; a service to be complemented by the government for its more vulnerable population, sponsored by universities and corporations, which also allows for successful integration, and fund raising via social media. The system is able to generate the political will to accept refugees amongst the local population, triggering openness to newcomers.

WELCOMING AMERICA (USA)



Christina Veloso Pope, *Regional Manager*

Welcoming America helps communities move beyond divisiveness to coordinated policies that help immigrants to fully participate enabling all residents – including new Americans – to thrive. We have created a network of local government and non-profit organisations, where people can connect and receive best practices and training. We provide resources and support through this Welcoming Network. We offer guidelines for welcoming immigrants at a local level and share best practices through knowledge exchanges to increase the welcoming movement worldwide, e.g. in cooperation with Scanlon Foundation and Welcome to Australia. Each year during Welcoming Week, we help organise hundreds of local events to bring together diverse residents in a spirit of unity. Numerous cities in the US participate in the programme.

COMUNITÀ DI SANT'EGIDIO (ITALY)



Cesare Giacomo Zucconi, *General Secretary*

The “humanitarian corridors” are the result of an agreement between the Community of Sant'Egidio, the Federation of Italian Protestant Churches, the Waldensian Table and the Italian Ministries of Foreign and Domestic affairs. The aim is to provide a safe way for refugees to enter Europe, avoiding human trafficking across the Mediterranean. Around a thousand people in “vulnerable” conditions, accepted regardless of their ethnic and religious affiliation, will reach Italy in the coming months not only from Lebanon, but also from Morocco and Ethiopia. They will be attended to by collaboration between civil society and institutions. There is a significant potential for its replication in other EU countries. The relevant legislation, Article. 25 of the Visa Regulations, is effective immediately in all EU countries and also acknowledges the recognition of the humanitarian visa given by the EU country (in this case, Italy) to other EU countries. As well as safe entry for refugees, the identification of refugees, before leaving their country of origin, provides guarantees for the reception country. It also speeds up administrative procedures in the reception country, and cuts waiting time for the selection process and subsequent travel to Europe for the refugee. The involvement and direct contact with civil society is an effective system of integration. It is less expensive for the state and for refugees as all costs are supported by the promoting organizations, while migrants can spend the money they would have given to smugglers on integration.

FOURTH PANEL

GOVERNMENT OF CATALONIA



Orland Cardona, *Head of Unit, Department of Equality, Immigration and Citizenship*

Catalonia has a Reception Committee which unites and coordinates all administration and more than 80 social actors, to define our policy based on consensus. Integration is done at local level, coordination with City Council, local actors, including trade unions, is crucial. We have first reception services, which are accessible throughout the first year. These can be terminated within 2 years, and are separated into 3 formation blocks, language, the labour market and Catalan society/jurisdiction. The certificate gives the person the possibility to regularise their status, i.e. residence and work permit. We also have a programme for reinsertion back into the labour market, especially important for people whose status has become irregular due to loss of work. We have university title recognition and an efficient language policy.

**FOOTBALL CLUB
BARCELONA FOUNDATION
(CATALONIA)**



Josep Cortada, General Director

FC Barcelona has a social responsibility which we channel using the Club's Foundation. With regards to the refugee crisis, FC Barcelona has actively got involved, and has set up a three part campaign. The first part, which has already started, consists in fund raising and has been directed to the 150.000 members of the Club, diversified to its sponsors and providers and via social media and internet. The other two parts will come into force upon arrival of the refugees and thanks to the funds raised. This will be on the one hand an awareness campaign directed at schools, using as a basis the structures of "Barca kids" school campaign, and the "Football net", established together with 51 different countries and 25 cities in Catalonia. On the other hand will give support to the integration efforts by the Government of Catalonia and Barcelona City Council.

**ASSOCIATION FOR
INTERCULTURAL WORK
(CZECH REPUBLIC)**



Eva Dohnalová, Member of the Board of Directors

The main idea of establishing the profession of "intercultural worker" is to eliminate discriminatory practices against migrants and to empower migrants in their communication with Czech public institutions. Intercultural workers are migrants, who help other migrants get access to public services and support their participation in society with services including interpreting, assistance and counselling. This strengthens the multicultural environment in the country and, at the same time, triggers mutual understanding between people with different cultural backgrounds. We train the workers for positions with municipalities, ministries, schools, hospitals, pedagogical and psychological counselling centres and we give them guidelines for orientation, rights and obligations. The project was carried out in collaboration with 19 organisations and its project partner ACIDI Portugal. The Association for intercultural work currently represents 17 intercultural workers in the Czech Republic, and closely cooperates with 6 municipality offices in Prague.

**PUNT DE REFERÈNCIA
(CATALONIA)**



Rita Grané, Director

We manage a mentor programme for unaccompanied minors falling outside of administrative protection, 5% of which are refugees. We arrange for a volunteer, who has previously been trained by us, to accompany the minor for an initial 6 months in job searches, training, introducing language, culture, society and also to open up a network of friends and an introduction to social habits. The relationship is overseen by us as a "tutor". After 6 months, we evaluate the results and, if assessed to be positive, we offer the possibility of the continuation of the relationship on an informal basis. 80% of the young participants rated the presence of a person to confide in as important, 75% stated that, due to this, they could go ahead with their projects with more confidence. We have already received more than 300 young people and are replicating our model in other cities. We are connected with other mentoring programmes at an international level and form part of the European Mentoring Centre.

**NORTH RHINE
WESTPHALIA (GERMANY)**



**Bernhard von Grünberg, MP for North Rhine-Westphalia,
Chairman of the German Tenants Union Bonn**

North Rhine Westphalia has received 300,000 refugees in 2015. We are used to the arrival of waves of refugees who have all supported our economy, in addition to presenting a solution to our generation problem. Furthermore, as we have a lack of housing and a problem with reinsertion of long term unemployed, we now have an opportunity to implement related programmes. We advocate the employment of migrants in shared building associations to build their own houses and we have projects for shared student houses and hotels for refugees. We have organised communities to help newcomers with administrative tasks, also providing help from specially trained migrants within German authorities, schools, hospitals etc. This works beautifully, not only for the refugees, but also for our society, to counter anti-immigrant talk with positive experiences.

**GOVERNMENT OF
CATALONIA****Àngels Guerrero, Head of Language Resources**

“Volunteers for the language” is a program that promotes the use of Catalan through the creation of language pairs. One partner is a fluent Catalan speaker, while the other one is a person with passive or basic oral Catalan skills who wishes to activate and develop them. The couple meets up for at least one hour a week during ten weeks. Besides language learning, these linguistic encounters have the benefit of adding social and personal components to the project: meetings become a place for the exchange of knowledge and experiences between two people with different cultural and social backgrounds. Cultural activities such as guided tours, excursions, theatre, cinema and other events are now being offered to the participants as a means to contribute to the knowledge of Catalan culture and territory. Language is perceived by the learners as an opportunity for social relationships. Around 10.000 language pairs join the program every year and this model has been replicated in other territories, both for Catalan and for other languages.

**DANISH CENTRE FOR
GENDER, EQUALITY AND
DIVERSITY (DENMARK)****Beatriz Hernandez de Fuhr, Mentor Network Coordinator**

Our initiative started in 2002 to support women immigrants and refugees living in Denmark to find jobs and achieve their desired path in this country. Since then, more than 8000 women have participated in the programme. We put in contact two women who can benefit each other – this is a two way mentoring for which we give the framework. This is to work together for a year on very precise goals, followed by an evaluation of each other and ourselves, it is a learning experience for everybody. A survey showed that 38% of respondents found employment as result of the mentoring programme, 61% believed they had improved their Danish and 62% felt that they had become more active in society. We have co-created sister programmes with 20 countries over 3 continents, and amongst others in cooperation with OSCE.

**BARCELONA CITY
COUNCIL (CATALONIA)****Lola López, Commissioner for Immigration**

The “Anti-rumours” project was created by Barcelona City Council within the programme Barcelona Interculturality. This project counters misperceptions and stereotypes about newcomers with concrete information and activities. This is done in cooperation with the media, via social media and internet and our own platform, “Barcelona anti rumours”, which the City Council puts at the service of NGOs, entities and private bodies. The City Council also forms these entities and hands out material containing information and an activities catalogue to them. These include proposals for a variety of activities to the districts and town boroughs, compassing theatre, dance workshops, other workshops and festivities. The City Council offers to finance these activities with the aim to counter rumours and fight racism.

**CITY OF HELSINKI
(FINLAND)****Olga Silfver, Project manager, Department of Education**

Helsinki City Council has developed a pioneer activity for stay at home parents, which runs in addition to national integration programmes. The programme consists of Finnish or Swedish language courses, free of charge, for immigrant stay at home parents during a year, combining course and study material with concurrent professional child care, 2 to 4 times a week. Study topics match the students’ daily lives, with the aim of the students being able to conduct their daily affairs in Finnish or Swedish, to be aware of family services available and able to return to work faster. The teachers also give personal career orientation, and contact other public services in the case of the student being in a challenging life situation. Furthermore, there are IT courses and peer support groups for Kurdish and Somali stay at home parents, where information on the services of Finland are given in their own language.



(PHOTO: JANOSSY GERGELY / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM)

3 MAY 2016, BARCELONA

APPENDIX II PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME

8:45 AM WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Albert Royo, General Secretary, Public Diplomacy Council of Catalonia
María Jesús Vega, Spokesperson, UNHCR Spain
Ada Colau, Mayor, Barcelona
Carles Puigdemont, President of the Government of Catalonia

MORNING SESSION: EUROPE, FACING THE REFUGEE CRISIS

9:20 AM PART I: *chaired by Carme Colomina, journalist*

Paweł Adamowicz, Mayor, Gdansk (Poland)
Oriol Amorós, Secretary General for Equality, Immigration and Citizenship, Government of Catalonia (Catalonia)
Maria Lo Bello, Vice President, Region of Sicily (Italy)
Rena Dourou, Governor, Region of Attica (Greece)
Thomas Fabian, Deputy Mayor, Leipzig. Chair of the Social Affairs Forum of Eurocities (Germany)
Xulio Ferreira, Mayor, A Coruña (Spain)
Annika Forsander, Head of the Centre of Expertise on Immigrant Integration, Ministry of Employment and the Economy of Finland (Finland)
Kalypso Goula, Deputy Mayor, Thessaloniki (Greece)
Elly Schlein, Member of the European Parliament (S&D, Italy)
Ferran Tarradellas, Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Barcelona
Dominique Versini, Deputy Mayor, Paris (France)

11:30 AM PART II: *chaired by Xavier Mas de Xaxàs, journalist*

Jorge Barudy, member of the network Asil.cat (Catalonia)
Isabel Fezer, Deputy Mayor, Stuttgart (Germany)
José María González, Mayor, Cádiz (Spain)
Rafael Grasa, President of the International Catalan Institute for Peace (Catalonia)
Ronald Grätz, Secretary General, ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) (Germany)
Roberto Jaramillo, Councillor on Transparency, Open Government, Development and Migrants, València (Spain)
Kilian Kleinschmidt, Advisor to the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany)
Mateusz Klinowski, Mayor, Wadowice (Poland)
Gabriele Klug, Deputy Mayor, Cologne (Germany)
Mauricio Valiente, Deputy Mayor, Madrid (Spain)

AFTERNOON SESSION: GOOD PRACTICES ON RECEPTION AND LONG-TERM INTEGRATION OF NEWCOMERS

2:30 PM

PART I: CIVIL INITIATIVES ON RECEPTION OF REFUGEES

chaired by Lluís Caelles, journalist

Carme Arenas, *President, Catalan PEN (Catalonia)*

Myrto Bolota, *Coordinator, Solidarity 4 all (Greece)*

Mansour Esfandiari, *Managing Director, Denmark Cross-Cultural Psychological Consultancy, (Denmark)*

Alberto Mallardo, *member of Mediterranean Hope (Lampedusa, Italy)*

Juana Martin, *Coordinator of the Service to the Refugee, Caritas Barcelona (Catalonia)*

Estela Pareja, *Director, Catalan Commission for Refugees (Catalonia)*

Maria Teresa Rojas, *Director, Open Society International Migration Initiative (USA)*

Christina Veloso Pope, *Regional Manager, Welcoming America (USA)*

Cesare Giacomo Zucconi, *General Secretary, Comunità di Sant'Egidio (Italy)*

4:20 PM

PART II: BEST PRACTICES ON LONG-TERM INTEGRATION OF NEWCOMERS

chaired by Elena Sánchez, Senior Research Fellow at CIDOB

Orland Cardona, *Head of Unit, Department of Equality, Immigration and Citizenship, Government of Catalonia (Catalonia)*

Josep Cortada, *General Director, Football Club Barcelona Foundation (Catalonia)*

Eva Dohnalová, *Member of the Board of Directors, Association for intercultural work (Czech Republic)*

Rita Grané, *Director, Association Punt de referència (Catalonia)*

Bernhard "Felix" von Grünberg, *MP for North Rhine-Westphalia and Chairman of the German Tenants Union in Bonn (Germany)*

Àngels Guerrero, *Head of Language Resources, Government of Catalonia (Catalonia)*

Beatriz Hernandez de Fuhr, *Mentor Network Coordinator, Danish Centre for Gender, Equality and Diversity (Denmark)*

Lola López, *Commissioner for Immigration, Barcelona City Council (Catalonia)*

Olga Silfver, *Project manager, Department of Education, City of Helsinki (Finland)*

6:00 PM

CLOSING SESSION

Raül Romeva, *Minister of Foreign Affairs, Institutional Relations and Transparency of the Government of Catalonia*

Gerardo Pisarello, *Deputy Mayor, Barcelona*



**Ajuntament
de Barcelona**

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