

When migrants arrive in Europe, two groups meet with them face to face, deal with their immediate and long-term needs and help them integrate: city administrations and volunteers. Huge gains in time and resource efficiency stand to be made if cities and volunteers can coordinate their integration activities. The VALUES project will help cities do that.

Activities



16 thematic cluster visits and **8** staff and volunteer exchanges enabling a mutual learning process



4 new Integrating Cities toolkits: key recommendations for change based on European benchmarks



4 Integrating Cities video clips showcasing good practices in policy implementation



Integrating Cities Conference IX (November 2020): multi-stakeholder dialogue involving EU officials and representatives from local governments, volunteer organisations and migrant groups.

EUROCITIES Integrating Cities Charter

The Integrating Cities Charter identifies the duties and responsibilities of European cities as policy makers, providers of services, employers and buyers of goods and services to provide equal opportunities for all residents, to integrate migrants and to embrace the diversity of their populations.

see: www.integratingcities.eu

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VALUES

VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITIES
TO LEVERAGE URBAN AND EUROPEAN
SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS

What is VALUES?

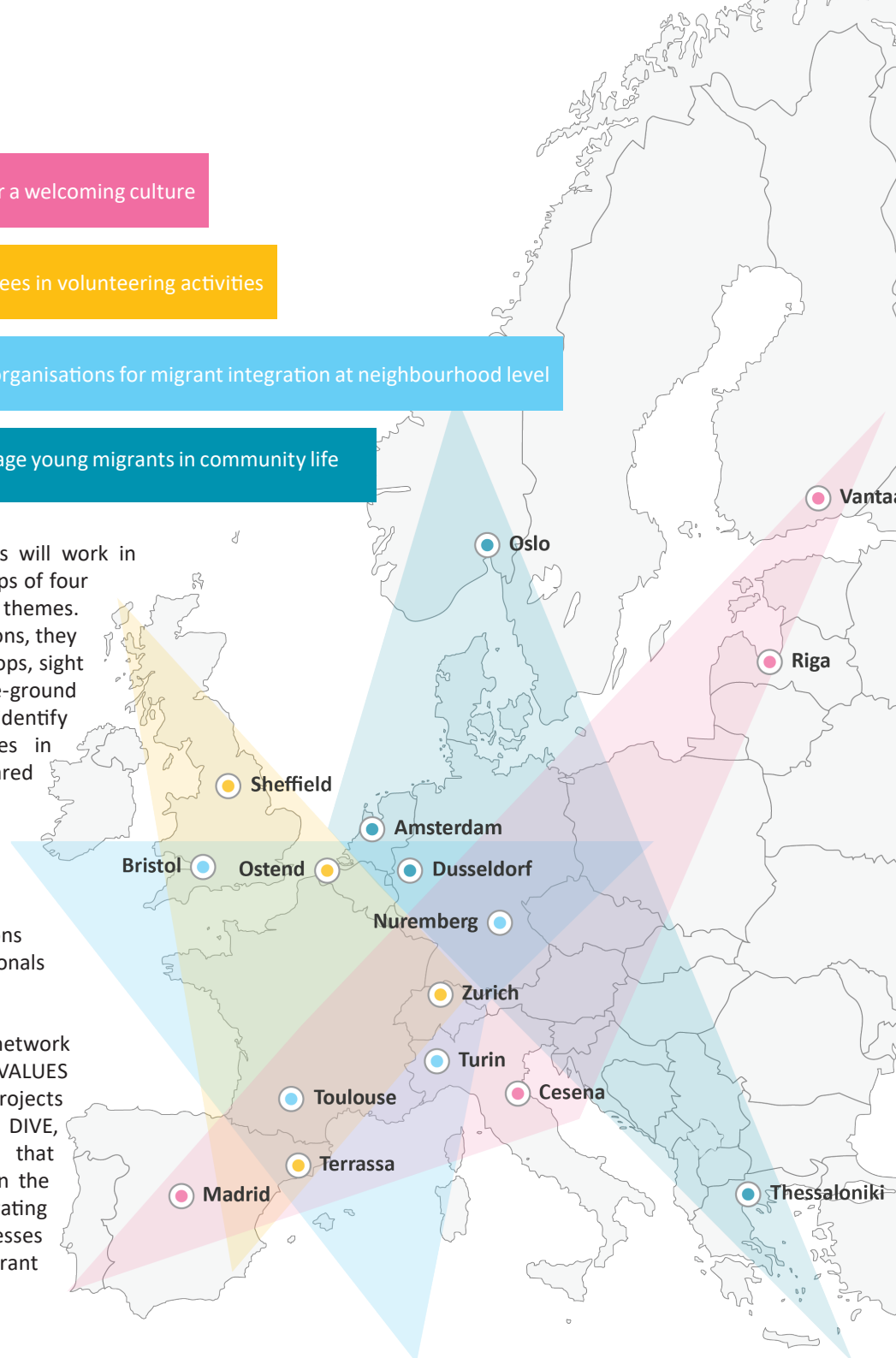
European cities want to:

- A) build communities to foster a welcoming culture
- B) engage migrants and refugees in volunteering activities
- C) cooperate with volunteer organisations for migrant integration at neighbourhood level
- D) mobilise volunteers to engage young migrants in community life

In VALUES, a total of 16 cities will work in 'communities of practice', groups of four cities dedicated to each of these themes. With local volunteer organisations, they will engage in targeted workshops, sight visits, staff exchanges, on-the-ground training and action planning to identify and implement best practices in integration and overcome shared challenges.

VALUES will improve structural cooperation and build partnerships between cities and volunteer organisations to integrate third-country nationals at local level.

Led by EUROCITIES, the network of major European cities, VALUES builds on the success of past projects (CITIES GROW, MIXITIES, DIVE, INTI-Cities, ImpleMentoring) that together addressed the gaps in the implementation of the Integrating Cities Charter. This charter expresses cities' commitment to migrant integration.



Cities and volunteers together, exchange for change

Why does Aamil, a 19-year-old from Guinea Bissau volunteer to clean and repair public space in his new European home?

“I participate in the project for free because I want to help.”

Volunteering is an outlet for migrants to express their desire to be an active part of the local community, and to mingle with their native peers.

Why does Andreea, an 18-year-old from Romania volunteer to help in a refugee camp?

“I had the chance to put humanity first and to help some beautiful people live more dignified lives.”

Volunteering gives Europeans a way to act in the issues they care about and show gratitude for the advantages of being born in European society.

Why do European cities work with each other and with volunteers for integration?

“Working city-to-city is the most fruitful way of finding solutions for the local context. Working with volunteers means cities improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their own services and can help different organisations coordinate and identify gaps. We all have the same aim in view.”

- Anna Lisa Boni, secretary general, EUROCITIES