



EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT Cities4Refugees	
Participant :	Berlin Governance Platform
PIC Number :	922675253
Project name and acronym:	101091175 - CERV-2022-CITIZENS-TOWN; C4R

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number :	WP 4
Event name:	In-situ meeting in Brussels
Type:	Workshop
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Brussels/Belgium
Date(s):	9th to 11th of October 2023
Participants	
Female:	42
Male:	18
Non-binary:	x
From country 1: Croatia	2
From country 2: France	4
From country 3: Spain	2
From country 4: Italy	6
From country 5: Germany	21
From country 6: Belgium	15
From country 7: Poland	1
From country 8: Netherlands	5
From country 9: Switzerland	1
From country 10: Portugal	2
From country 11: Libya	1



Total number of participants:	60	From total number of countries:	9 EU countries
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Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

Back when the event took place, the reform of the Common European Asylum System was in full swing. If enacted, this legislative proposal would have a serious impact on the individual right to asylum. In contrast, cities across Europe are on the frontline, doing the lion's share of the integration work. In recent years, they have joined forces in city networks to advocate for a progressive, human rights-based approach to migration policy in the EU.

Already in 2021, solidarity cities and civil society organisations came together in Palermo and founded the civil society network From the Sea to the City (FSTC), as well as the city network International Alliance of Safe Harbours (IASH).

In order to include local perspectives more strongly in the shaping of EU migration policy, solidarity cities from 7 European countries met again at a two-day political discussion and networking event in Brussels on 10–11 October. Ahead of the 2024 EU Elections, the event created a space for high-ranking local politicians, city officials and city networks, including the International Alliance of Safe Harbours (IASH) and the National Association of Welcoming Cities and Territories (ANVITA) to form alliances with members of the European Parliament (6 MEPs: Greens, S&D, Renew Europe) and the EU Commission (5 representatives of DG Home). The aim of the exchange was to bring about a strategic shift in EU migration policy to be more welcoming.

The event catered to the following objectives:

- Strengthen the cooperation between municipalities and its local civil society groups (day 1)
- Promoting the exchange of best practices around the topic of migrant and refugee inclusion in European cities (day 1)
- actively including local civil society groups the projects wants to ensure an active citizen participation at the local level (day 1)
- reinforce the role of local, regional and European authorities in the European integration process. (both days, especially day 2)
- establish working channels for exchange and closer cooperation between the cities and civil society actors participating in the project and the key EU-level stakeholders in the field of migration and integration. (both days)
- widen the network IASH, creation of internal structure (working groups and coordination of the different countries) (both days)

Day 1 – Keynote based on Federico Alagnas's Policy Brief "Towards the 2024 European elections"

moving-cities.eu/de/aktuelles/policy-brief-Alagna

Day 1 – Workshop Descriptions

AMSTERDAM – Inclusion without papers: The Amsterdam approach to undocumented migrants



The city of Amsterdam distinguishes between two different groups of people without official documents that reside, live and work in the city. This workshop outlined the different schemes and programmes that the city of Amsterdam offers for these two different groups, and took a look at the position of the local government within the larger framework of stakeholders, and the possibilities and limitations of law and regulations. It also addressed challenges encountered and, together with the participants, took a look at how other European cities are dealing with this topic.

Niels Tubbing (Senior Advisor to the Mayor and Deputy Mayors on European & International Social Affairs, Amsterdam) and Kawtar Koubaa (Project Leader at LVV Program Amsterdam/ Advisor for Undocumented Migrants)

BERLIN – Diversity becoming law: Berlin's path towards the Participation Act

In this workshop, we discussed the potential of enshrining participation in urban migration society in law. Berlin has passed the Act for the Promotion of Participation in a Migration Society in 2021. The workshop discussed individual participation strategies along key components of the Act, but also debated the process and challenges leading up to its adoption and actively incorporated experiences from other cities and civil society.

Katarina Niewiedzial (Commissioner of the Berlin Senate for Integration and Migration) and Janne Grote (Policy Officer for City Networks in Refugee and Migration Policies at the Berlin Senate Department for Integration)

ZAGREB – Developing local integration policy in a challenging environment

This workshop focused on understanding the challenges of local governments related to the creation and implementation of local integration policies in relation to national policies who can be in conflict with local policies. The example of the Action Plan of the city of Zagreb was used to discuss this relation/potential conflict, and to search for suggestions on how municipalities should gain more autonomy to implement appropriate integration policies.

Gordan Bosanac (Member of the City Council, President of the City Coordination for Human Rights, Zagreb) and Jana Radić (City office for culture and civil society, Head of Department for promoting human rights and civil society, Zagreb)



Invitation :

Von: Julia Scheurer, Lea Rau

Gesendet: Donnerstag, 1. Juni 2023 16:14

Event: Heading into the 2024 Elections – Solidarity cities reshaping migration in Europe

Save the Date: 10 – 11 October 2023, Brussels

Dear all,

How can European cities strengthen the EU's efforts to build a functioning and fair migration system? How can the EU support cities taking the lead to develop innovative and welcoming approaches locally?

Ahead of the 2024 EU Elections, Moving Cities invites you to a two-day political discussion and networking event in Brussels. High-ranking local politicians, city officials, and city networks, including the International Alliance of Safe Harbours (IASH) and National Association of Welcoming Cities and Territories (ANVITA), will have the opportunity to exchange, meet, and reconnect with members of the European Parliament and the EU Commission. Together we aim to shift the policy debate towards a welcoming strategy in EU migration policy.

The European Pact on Migration and Asylum is entering the final stage of negotiations. If enacted, this legislative proposal to reform the Common European Asylum and Migration System would have a serious impact on the individual right to asylum. In contrast, cities across Europe are still on the frontline, doing the lion's share of the integration work. In recent years, they have joined forces in city networks to advocate for a progressive, human rights-based approach to migration politics in the EU. Most recently, European municipalities have welcomed thousands of refugees from Ukraine. The inspiring local approaches to migration in cities like Barcelona, Berlin or Villeurbanne, among many others, show that a more humane migration policy is not only possible but is already happening.

The event is hosted by Moving Cities and the EU-funded project Cities4Refugees in cooperation with the Heinrich-Böll-Foundation European Union, the Rosa-Luxemburg-Foundation Brussels, and the Berlin Governance Platform.

More details on the program and registration information will be provided in the coming weeks. We look forward to seeing you in Brussels!

Contact:

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Find out more about the inspiring approaches of cities all over Europe and their networks at: <https://moving-cities.eu/>

Find out more about the project Cities4Refugees at: <https://www.bbag-ev.de/project/c4r-cities4refugees/>



Agenda:

10–11 October, Brussels

Heading into the 2024 Elections – Solidarity cities reshaping migration in Europe

How can European cities strengthen the EU's efforts to build a functioning and fair migration system? How can EU stakeholders support cities taking the lead to develop innovative and welcoming approaches locally? Together we aim to shift the debate towards a welcoming strategy in EU migration policy.

The event will be held in English.

9 October

19.00 Informal dinner

10 October

Event location: [142, Rue de la Loi 42, 1040 Brussels](#)

Moderation: Dr. Elif Durmuş (Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Antwerp)

8.30 Coffee and registration

9.00 Opening and Welcome

Julia Scheurer (Project Leader at Moving Cities) and Lea Rau (Migration Officer at the Berlin Governance Platform)

9.30 Keynote: [Policy brief](#) "Towards the 2024 European elections: Cities and civil society as MEP key partners for a radical reform of EU migration policy"

Dr. Federico Alagna (Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Scuola Normale Superiore, Florence)

9.45 Kick off: Local approaches to refugee inclusion and the power of sharing good practice

Katarina Niewiedzial (Commissioner of the Berlin Senate for Integration and Migration), Kawtar Koubaa (Project Leader at LVV Program Amsterdam/Advisor for Undocumented Migrants), Gordan Bosanac (Member of the City Council, President of the City Coordination for Human Rights, Zagreb), Tiago da Cruz Bartholo (Coordinator of FSTC - From the Sea to the City), Léa Enon-Baron (National Co-director of ANVITA - National Association of Welcoming Cities and Territories). Moderated by Maura Magni (Migration Officer at Moving Cities).

10.30 Coffee Break

11.00 Workshops: Moving Cities – Sharing inspiring approaches

AMSTERDAM WORKSHOP – Inclusion without papers: The Amsterdam approach to undocumented migrants

Niels Tubbing (Senior Advisor to the Mayor and Deputy Mayors on European and International Social Affairs) and Kawtar Koubaa (Project Leader at LVV Program Amsterdam/Advisor for Undocumented Migrants). Room: Live

BERLIN WORKSHOP – Diversity becoming law: Berlin's path towards the Participation Act

Katarina Niewiedzial (Commissioner of the Berlin Senate for Integration and Migration) and Janne Grote (Policy Officer for City Networks in Refugee and Migration Policies at the Berlin Senate Department for Integration). Room: Link01

ZAGREB WORKSHOP – Developing local integration policy in a challenging environment

Gordan Bosanac (Member of the City Council, President of the City Coordination for Human Rights, Zagreb) and Jana Radić (City office for culture and civil society, Head of Department for promoting human rights and civil society, Zagreb). Room: Link02

13.00 Networking lunch



- 14.30 Opening of the afternoon session
Roderick Kefferpütz (Director of the European Union office of the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung) and Anna Schröder (Director of the European Union office of the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung)
- 14.45 Presentation: EU institutions and policy processes – The case of the CEAS reform
Katharina Sophie Zimmer (Accredited Parliamentary Assistant to MEP Cornelia Ernst, GUE/NGL)
- 15.30 Presentation of the International Alliance of Safe Harbours (IASH) statement and advocacy strategy
Gerhard Mayer (Head of the Office for Housing and Migration, Munich) and Lea Rau (Migration Officer at the Berlin Governance Platform)
- 16.30 Coffee Break
- 17.00 Public panel: Shaping EU migration policies – Bridging the gap between local realities and political decision making in the EU
Erik Marquardt (Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA), Anna Schmidt (Policy Officer for Asylum, European Commission, DG Migration and Home Affairs), Mathieu Garabedian (Deputy Mayor, Villeurbanne), Janne Grote (Representative of IASH - International Alliance of Safe Harbours and Policy Officer for City Networks in Refugee and Migration Policies at the Berlin Senate Department for Integration). Moderated by Dr. Laura Colini (Researcher at the University of Venice and member of FSTC - From the Sea to the City).
- 18.30 Closing
- 19.00 Networking dinner

11 October

Closed-door conversations with cities and EU stakeholders

8.30 Meeting point: Espace Léopold, Rue Wiertz 60, Entrance Simone Veil, 1047 Brussels

9.00–10.30 Closed-door conversation with Members of the European Parliament
Location: EU Parliament

11.00–12.00 Closed-door conversation with representatives of the European Commission
Location: EU Commission

Simultaneously: Round-table discussion

10.00–12.00 “SPACES BETWEEN US: A strategic conversation between civil society organisations and researchers in the migration domain”
Moderated by Allegra Salvini (Advocacy Coordinator of Europe Must Act/ President of Italy Must Act) and Hannah-Milena Elias (Seebrücke Switzerland), both members of FSTC - From the Sea to the City.
Location: Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung European Union. Rue du Luxembourg. 47-51. 1050 Brussels

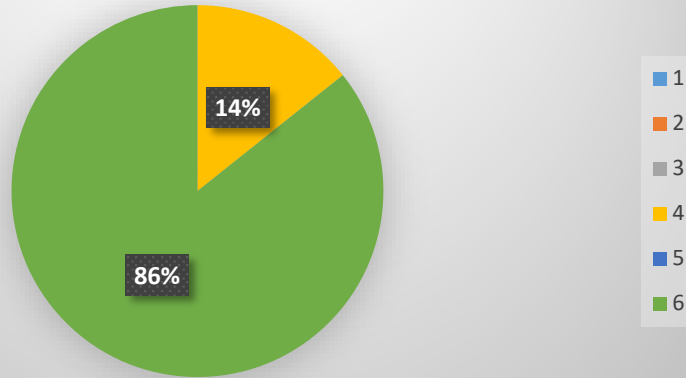
The event is hosted by Moving Cities and the EU-funded project Cities4Refugees in cooperation with the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung European Union, the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung Brussels and the Berlin Governance Platform.



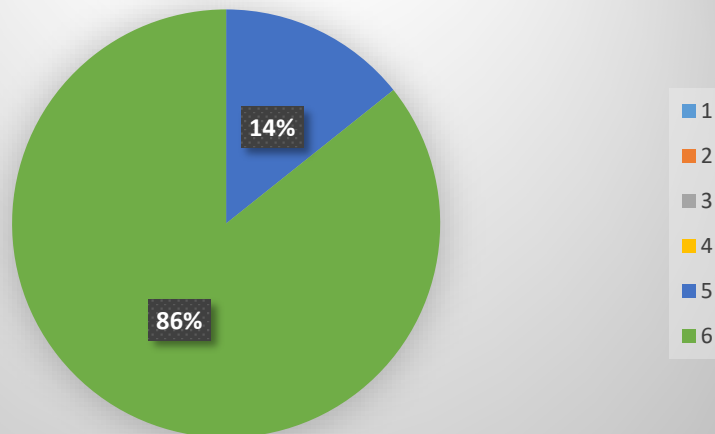


Feedback / Evaluation:

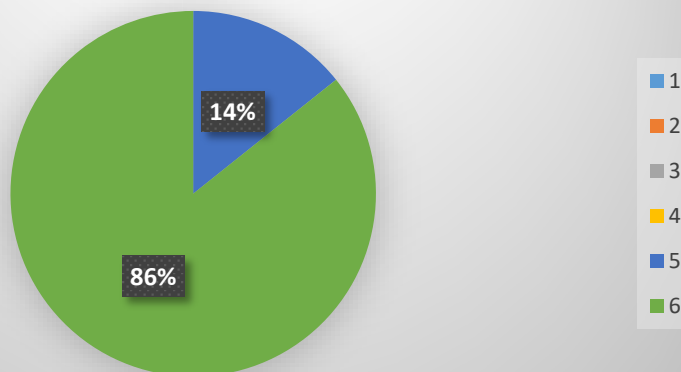
I felt well informed for the event (e.g. preparatory emails).



The event was well organized.



I can use the provided knowledge and contacts for my own work.

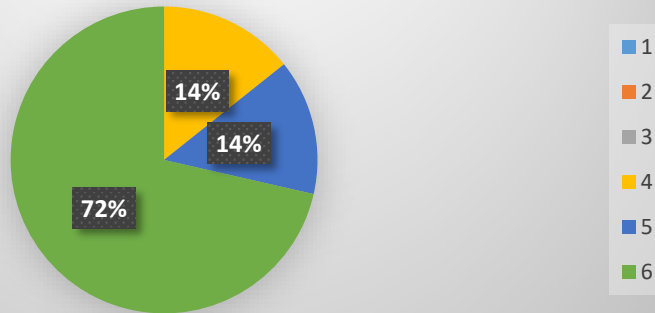




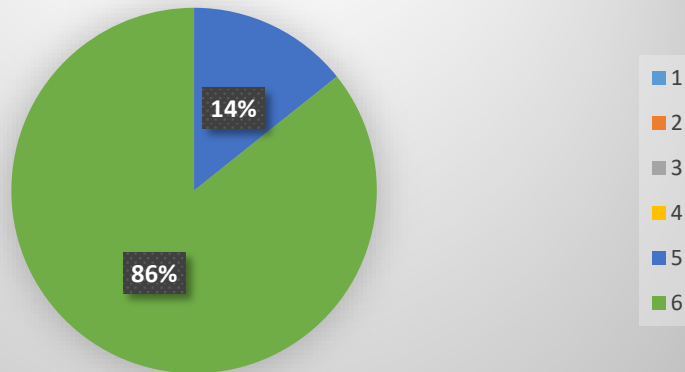
Please specify in which area in particular:

- Networking
- new contacts with people from other European countries, new knowledge about the specific topic for further discussions
- experiences within municipalities, local policies on migration

I had the opportunity to actively participate and share my experiences.

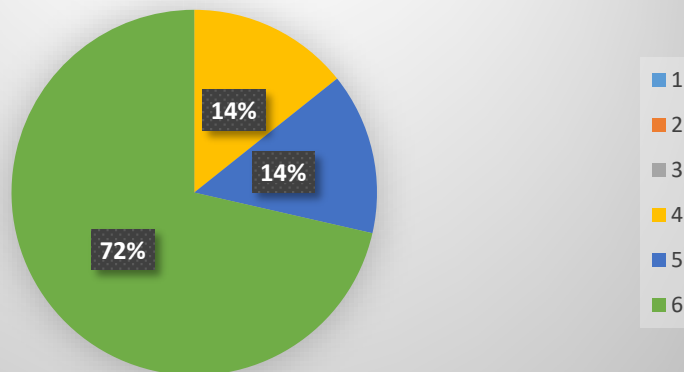


There was a confidential working atmosphere.

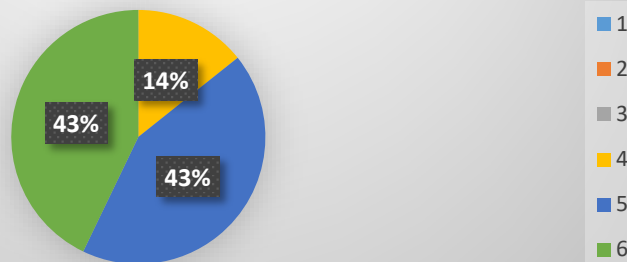




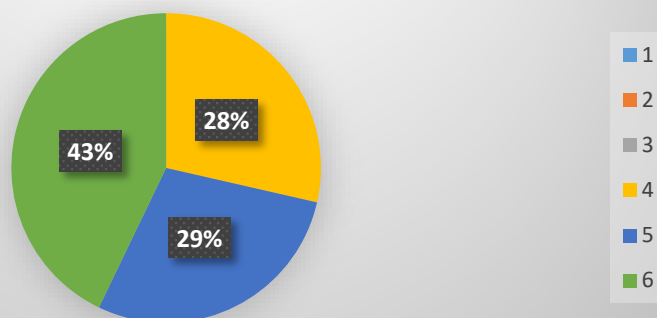
There was enough time for informal exchanges and networking.



Keynote: “Towards the 2024 European elections: Cities and civil society as MEP key partners for a radical reform of EU migration policy”

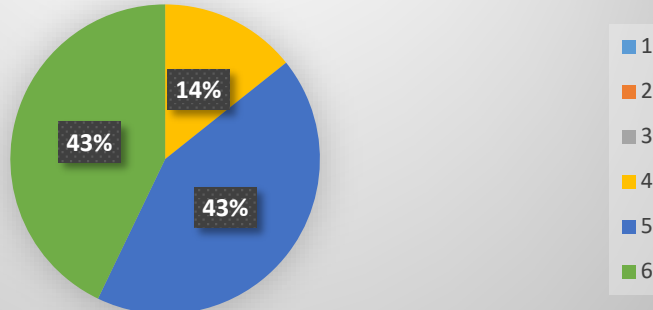


Kick off: Local approaches to refugee inclusion and the power of sharing good practice

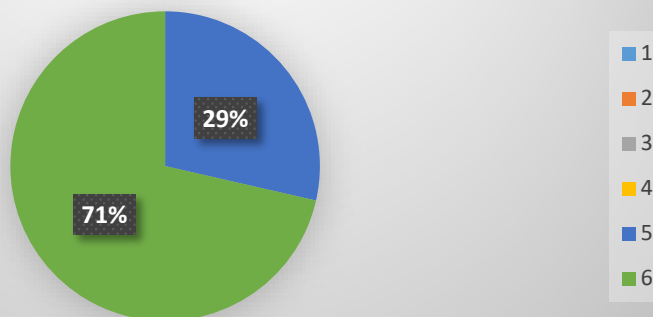




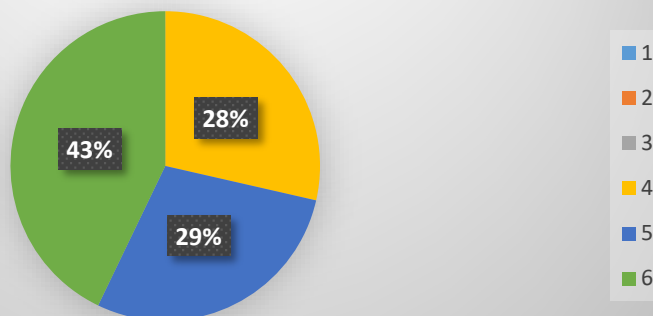
Workshops: Amsterdam, Berlin, Zagreb – Sharing inspiring approaches



Presentation: EU institutions and policy processes – The case of the CEAS reform

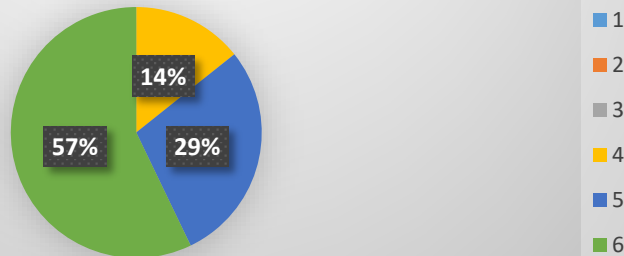


Presentation of the International Alliance of Safe Harbours (IASH) statement and advocacy strategy

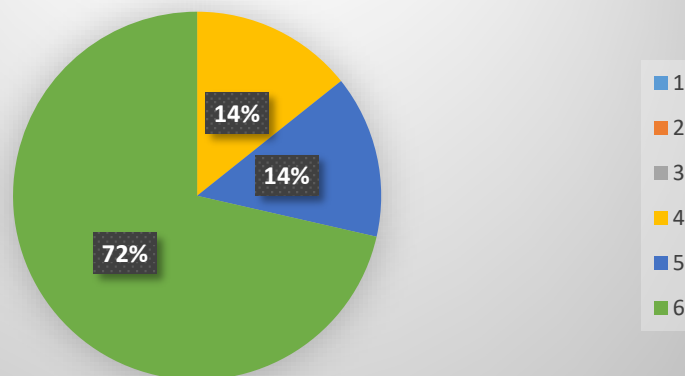




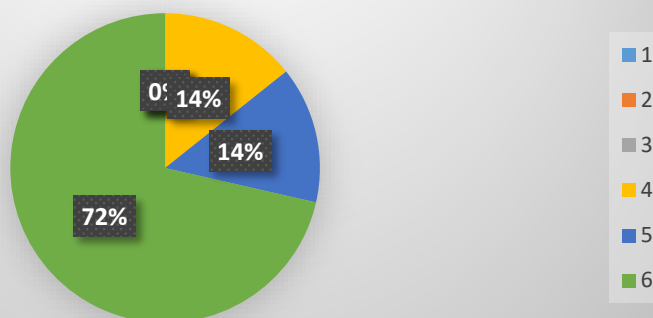
Public panel: Shaping EU migration policies – Bridging the gap between local realities and political decision making in the EU



Closed-door conversation with Members of the European Parliament

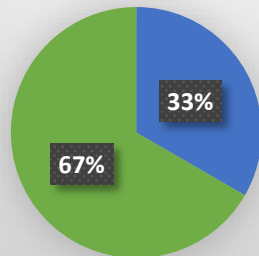


Closed-door conversation with representatives of the European Commission

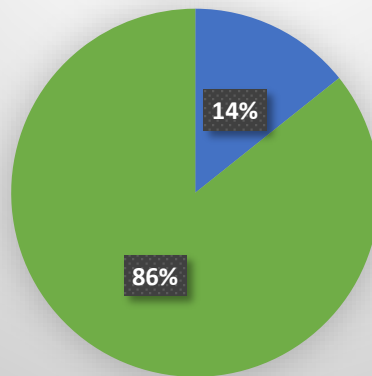




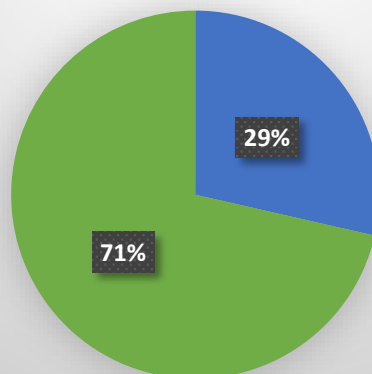
“SPACES BETWEEN US: A strategic conversation between civil society organisations and researchers in the migration domain”



How satisfied are you with the event overall?



Were you satisfied with the time frame of the event?





What did you like the most? And what was missing?

- How everybody was inspired of the other city actors who are also working against the grain. To see how powerfull alliances are and that the perspective of progressive cities is so much needed at the negotiation tables (as the closed-door conversations showed)
- The networking and exchange with other stakeholders; inputs; the whole organisation
- liked: the opportunity for networking, collaboration on the topic between different organisations from a local approach, putting the issue on the political agenda;
- coul improve: more time for discussion on day 2 as we had to rush to the airport; more time for discussion between cities and sharing practices outside the panel"
- The exchange between participants

Do you have ideas for improvements?

- lets do this more often and in a more ideal world we would then have even more budget for the event
- participation of migrant associations, having their personal view and participation as migrants and their experiences; sharing practices and local policies on the integration in the cities
- Networking dinners with a high number of participants (as it was the case on the 2nd evening) might be better organised as standing reception / buffet dinner