



Attitudes to Migrants, Communications and Local Leadership (AMICALL)

Han ENTZINGER

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Dept. of Sociology/Research Group CIMIC

UNITAR /City of Antwerp

15/16 My 2013





The AMICALL Project

- Funded under the European Integration Fund (EU)
 - Co-ordinated by COMPAS, University of Oxford
 - Partners in: Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, UK plus Council of Europe
 - Objective: Analysis of successful and less successful initiatives by LRAs plus draw lessons for future.
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- Research period: January 2011 - September 2012



Context matters

- Size of city and of migrant populations
- Phase in immigration process
- Distribution of responsibilities between local, regional and national levels
- Framing: migrant integration vs. social cohesion for entire local community



Different forms of activities require different design considerations

- **Goal:** what do cities wish to achieve? (e.g. integration, better mutual understanding, control tensions)
- **Target group:** migrant groups, non-migrants, specific audiences (e.g. service providers)
- **LRA role:** Seek partnerships with other stakeholders ? LRA as leader or in the background?



Factors influencing success or failure

- Financial resources (fiscal austerity, integration often seen as a luxury)
- The public debate (lack of political will at national level; national versus local media)
- Personalities and individual commitment (drive positive work forward, but make it more vulnerable than mainstream approaches)
- Regulatory frameworks (e.g. bureaucracy and lack of immigrant representation)



Some recommendations from AMICALL (1)

- Strong leadership
- Mobilise all stakeholders
- Holistic communication strategies
- Strong inclusive local identities
- Dialogue with entire local population
- Evidence-based interventions



Some recommendations from AMICALL (2)

- Build networks between stakeholders
- Grassroots, peer to peer communication
- Cross-party approaches (politically more sustainable)
- Evaluation and impact assessment
- Share practice with other cities
- Work with the (local) media



More information on AMICALL

<http://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/research/urbanchange/amicall/>