ICEC Newsletter: Introducing the Project
Welcome to our first ICEC project newsletter introducing the ICEC Project and aimed at academics and stakeholders working in the fields of diversity, integration policy and neighbourhood change. Summarised briefly, ICEC - Interethnic Coexistence in European Cities - uses innovative new methods to look at local policy interventions and initiatives in Amsterdam, Stockholm and Vienna focusing on the key question of how local initiatives impact interethnic coexistence in superdiverse neighbourhoods?

ICEC project: Point of departure
International research has shown that urban neighbourhoods are still important arenas of social interaction and places of interethnic coexistence and this provided ICEC with its starting point. Super-diversity in the neighbourhood is a microcosm, mirroring problem constellations at the city scale. However, problems within neighbourhoods shaped by diversity require locally determined solutions. Municipal policies have increasingly taken a territorial focus when addressing social and integration problems through 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.
ICEC: Main research questions

The ICEC project focuses on three related questions:

1. How do residents live together in super-diverse European neighbourhoods?
2. Which neighbourhood initiatives are most effective for strengthening the integrative power of an urban neighbourhood as a place of living and identification of a diverse urban population?
3. How can cities and local institutions promote interethnic coexistence in the neighbourhoods?

ICEC’s main goal

Our main goal is to initiate an evaluation and exchange of good practice between three distinct European cities and their respective neighbourhoods. We follow an innovative research design at two levels:

1. Through the combination of basic and applied research conducted by researchers, policymakers and urban stakeholders.
2. By involving the civil society in the evaluation of existing measures, as well as in the conceptualisation and implementation of new integrative initiatives. Our results will contribute to new developments and refinements to municipal policies that aim to create more integrative neighbourhoods.

Who are ICEC?

The ICEC-consortium is made up of three research and stakeholder teams (one team each in Amsterdam, Stockholm and Vienna) and an advisory board. Beginning with Amsterdam, the project team has three scholars from the Department of Geography, Planning and International Development Studies, University of Amsterdam, and members of the Department of Research and Statistics from the Municipality of Amsterdam (City Council Amsterdam). The Swedish team in Stockholm includes team members from the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), University West/Trollhättan, as well members from the Office of Growth, Environment and Regional Planning, Stockholm County Council. Finally, scholars from the Institute for Urban and Regional Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences, and local stakeholders from the Vienna Urban Renewal Office (Districts 6/14/15 & 7/8/16) of the City of Vienna form the Viennese ICEC team. The Austrian Academy of Sciences serves as the lead partner in ICEC.

For more information and the personal profile of each team member, please consult our webpage.

ICEC Baseline Studies: An initial glance at diversity

Three in-depth baseline studies on super-diversity and urban policies in Amsterdam, Stockholm and Vienna have been conducted in the course of the first year of ICEC. Special attention was given to challenges and tensions encountered during the implementation of policies in the local context; the impact of policies and initiatives on social cohesion and interethnic coexistence. These reports lay the foundation for an analysis of how cities can promote interethnic coexistence in the local context and the initiatives most suitable for strengthening the integrative
power of an urban neighbourhood as a place of living and identification of a diverse urban population. The three reports aim to provide a detailed account of each city’s diverse population structures in the context of immigration and how the city’s administration and political actors have developed policies that deal explicitly or implicitly with diversity. These ICEC reports present basic yet relevant information that will help in answering ICEC’s main research questions. Each baseline report can be downloaded under the section ‘publications’ on www.icecproject.com.

ICEC neighbourhoods: Selected study areas

ICEC analyses the effects of (non-) participation in neighbourhood initiatives on aspects of local interethnic coexistence and individual neighbourhood belonging. The ICEC case study areas, in which local initiatives are analysed, have been chosen according to the following criteria: Ethnic, religious and socio-demographic super-diversity (a key factor in the selection of the specific areas) as well as an above average proportion of immigrant population and a high building density. For comparative reasons, the residential population of ICEC research areas do not exceed 10,000 residents.

A second key condition was the implementation and availability of initiatives that foster interethnic coexistence and neighbourhood belonging. In Amsterdam, Bijlmer Centrum, Slotermeer- Noordoost and Volewijck have been chosen. The key study areas in Stockholm are Rinkeby, Rågsved and Skärholmen. Based on our analysis, Breitensee-Süd (14th district), Gumpendorf (6th district) and Hippviertel (16th district) were chosen within the City of Vienna.

At the heart of ICEC: Selected neighbourhood initiatives

In order to understand the consequences of (non-) participation in neighbourhood-based initiatives aimed at fostering neighbourhood belonging in super-diverse neighbourhoods, the focus is consequently on a number of selected neighbourhood initiatives in each case study.
area. Each ICEC team selected initiatives that provide spaces of encounter or focus either directly on the neighbourhood or alternatively its residents. In addition, they might differ along key characteristics, such as initiation (top-down; bottom-up), number of participants, financial resources and range. The initiatives being investigated must already have been implemented in the neighbourhood. Each research team first undertook an inventory of all available initiatives per neighbourhood (quite often exceeding 70 initiatives per neighbourhood) and selected a minimum of six initiatives per city that will be analysed in greater detail. The initiatives include, for example, neighbourhood community centres, local empowerment initiatives or free pre-school institutions.

In comparing participants and non-participants the teams intend to identify the outcomes which relate to the main analytical concepts of ICEC: neighbourhood belonging, interethnic coexistence and co-responsibility.

**ICEC’s methodology: Multiple angles**

ICEC’s analysis will be carried out in three distinct steps:

First, through secondary data analysis and policy document analysis, initiatives are described and analysed. For the purpose of a systematisation of the evaluation process, an Assessment Matrix was generated based on the principles of Logical Framework Analysis (LFA). Serving as an important analytical tool, it provides a common structure to facilitate a comparable analysis of the selected initiatives. It is well proven and has already been tested by institutions such as the UN or the OECD, to name only a few. The assessment process identifies and deconstructs measures and initiatives that are perceived to foster interethnic coexistence and neighbourhood belonging by searching for significant mechanisms.

Second, information about the initiatives will be supplemented by significant insights from expert interviews with the local stakeholders in charge of each selected initiative.

In a third step, we turn to qualitative interviews conducted with respondents participating in the initiatives and initiatives. The main topics to be discussed with our interview partners are the neighbourhood in which they live, (perceived) neighbourhood diversity, neighbourhood belonging (place attachment and social embeddedness), as well as the perception of - and reasons for - participation in local initiatives. These semi-structured interviews will also be held with non-participants, allowing a disentangling of potential effects of participation on neighbourhood belonging for certain groups within diverse neighbourhoods.

**Did you know?**

- 90.5 % of all residents in the ICEC study area Rinkeby have a foreign background.

Read more about it in:

**ICEC’s innovative approach: Urban Living Labs in social research**

Interviews with (non-) participants will not only be held with residents that participate in the selected initiatives, but also through interactions in so-called ‘Urban Livings Labs’.

As current research programmes show, the living lab approach is a promising instrument in urban research. However, current living lab concepts are still based on technology-centred and innovation-driven paradigms. Therefore, ICEC takes a step forward, shifting towards a more nuanced understanding of living labs that are embedded in different frameworks. We use the concept of “spaces of encounter” and locally contextualised methods to gain insight from local residents.


Download the paper from our webpage.
Meet the ICEC team

Meet us at the JPI Urban Europe meeting in Brussels:
A delegation representing the ICEC team will be attending the JPI Urban Europe workshop in Brussels, October 14th 2014. We are looking forward to learning more about other JPI Urban Europe projects and the chance to meet and discuss potential synergy effects within the programme.

ICEC in the field: Looking ahead

ICEC follows a case-by-case approach, i.e. conducting research in one neighbourhood after the other. From late October 2014 onwards, ICEC researchers will enter the field starting to conduct interviews and to participate in certain activities in the neighbourhood in order to gain a better knowledge of the local processes and mechanisms. These activities take place within the context of the Urban Living Labs. Visit our project website for latest updates on our fieldwork: www.icecproject.com

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