HOW CAN INTERETHNIC CO-EXISTENCE WORK IN SUPERDIVERSE NEIGHBOURHOODS?

This project is based on a systematic comparison of the aims, structural features and outcomes of integrative initiatives at the neighbourhood level in Amsterdam, Vienna and Stockholm. We access and exchange examples of good practice between the three distinct European cities. Results can be used and implemented in municipal policies and bottom-up initiatives aimed at creating integrative neighbourhoods.

Our analysis suggests that in contrast to top-down initiatives, participation in bottom-up or hybrid initiatives generally correlates to neighbourhood belonging. Interethnic co-existence is a long-term process based on the activities of the actors and networks involved. Peaceful co-existence requires local integration initiatives and long-term commitment from policymakers.

www.icecproject.com
INTERETHNIC CO-EXISTENCE

Investing in neighbourhood belonging from the side of policymakers and public stakeholders is of crucial importance. Peaceful co-existence is not simply a happy accident that occurs without effort in the form of local integration initiatives. Rather, this stability - and a potential shift to the ‘right side of the see-saw’ - requires long-term commitment from policymakers, in particular:

- Continuous support of local initiatives and provision of neighbourhood spaces
- Regular monitoring of inclusionary and exclusionary (side-)effects of existing initiatives
- Outreach activities to community gatekeepers of hard-to-reach groups
- Acknowledging that neighbourhood belonging is a process that needs time, but can offer opportunities for people to become engaged

POTENTIAL & CHANCE

If co-existence is promoted and strengthened, this may result in strengthened NEIGHBOURHOOD BELONGING.

RISK

If peaceful co-existence - living side-by-side - is not maintained, conflicts and DISCONNECTION from the neighbourhood are potential outcomes.

HOW TO IMPROVE

Amsterdam
Provide reliable financial structures for self-organized initiatives.

Stockholm
Provide a framework for support of local initiatives where citizens themselves decide the content.

Vienna
Create permeable structures that allow self-organized initiatives and prevent inclusionary exclusiveness.

www.icecproject.com