



EPDF Follow-up initiatives
Cities for Inclusion Workshops
Call for proposals 2024

I. Background

The European Policy Dialogue Forum (EPDF): fostering cohesive European cities across cultures, religions and secular principles

Since 2019, the European Policy Dialogue Forum (EPDF) – the signature event in Europe of the International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID) – has provided an interactive and safe space to explore the transformative power of interreligious and intercultural dialogue to enhance mutual understanding and foster social cohesion in the increasingly diverse European societies. The intention is to pool the potential of religious leaders and actors as critical players together with secular entities in addressing complex challenges related to identity, harmful stereotypes, discrimination and exclusion based on religious, ethnic and social backgrounds. By fostering an open exchange and a joint reflection on the respective secular and religious values, the EPDF strives towards building alliances across different religious denominations and with lay institutions, so to catalyse feelings of belonging and affiliation in diverse communities.

As cities are increasingly the places where marginalized groups – particularly religious and ethnic minorities - suffer discrimination and exclusion, the EPDF has paid increasing attention to the role of cities as the places where all community members can be actively engaged in shaping solutions towards supporting cohesive communities. According to the evolving needs of the European societies, the EPDF has regularly explored thematic priorities relevant to the promotion of social cohesion, focusing on countering hate speech, fostering refugee and migrant inclusion as well as empowering young people. The results of such reflection have been clustered in policy documents that offer experiences and recommendations highlighting the critical contribution of religious-secular partnerships to explore inequities, bridge divisions and build trust in European societies thanks to interreligious and intercultural dialogue.

II. Call for proposals: “Cities for Inclusion Workshops”

Objectives and methodology

Promoting social cohesion refers particularly to supporting equitable societies, by recognizing and respecting ethnic, religious and cultural diversity, while promoting the well-being and equal opportunities of all community members, particularly the most marginalised and excluded. Inspired by the experiences and recommendations contained in the EPDF policy documents, the “Cities for Inclusion Workshops” wish to offer a safe space for greater participation of community members towards building trust and mutual understanding within diverse communities. By pooling the role of religious leaders and actors as critical players within local communities, the intention is to enhance mutual understanding across religious, ethnic and social groups thanks to interreligious and intercultural dialogue methods, while exploring opportunities for coordinated actions with secular stakeholders that promote social cohesion, reconciliation, peaceful coexistence and equity.

Based on the Chatham House rule, the “Cities for Inclusion Workshops” will offer the unique opportunity to unveil power dynamics in the ever-changing interaction between social,

cultural and religious groups in a given community. By giving voice to those involved in such dynamics, interreligious and intercultural dialogue methods and approaches will foster a genuine learning attitude so that the inner resources of the communities can be mobilised and common solutions explored for the benefit of the whole community.

Organized by KAICIID together with the successful applicants, the “Cities for Inclusion Workshops” will pursue an interactive format, privileging an inductive approach, addressing specific situations or challenges at the community level. As such, the “Cities for Inclusion Workshops” will last up to 1.5 days, involving a small group of stakeholders – not more than 20-25 participants – possibly including, but not limited to, policymakers, religious leaders and actors, academia and civil society, including faith-based, refugee and migrant-led organizations, the private sector, youth groups and movements.

III. Eligibility criteria

Potential applicants shall comply with the following eligibility criteria:

Eligible applicants: a joint partnership of – at a minimum - a religious and a secular stakeholder at local level. Such stakeholders possibly include, and are not limited to, local policymakers, including statutory bodies/institutions, local councils/governments, religious leaders and actors from different religious denominations, the civil society, including faith-based, refugee and migrant-led organisations, youth and/or community members’ movements, associations and groups, the private sector. The description of the religious-secular partnership should preferably include reference to the role that each applicant entity plays in the local community and why their involvement would be useful in addressing the social cohesion challenge at community level. Preference will be given to proposals put forward by participants in the five editions of the European Policy Dialogue Forum (EPDF).

Eligible countries: requests should come from local communities placed in any of the [46 countries of the Council of Europe](#).

IV. Modalities and deadlines to apply

The proposals for the organization of “Cities for Inclusion Workshops” should make reference to the EPDF experiences and recommendations discussed at the 5th EPDF and contained in the following EPDF Input Papers:

- **Countering hate speech:** [EPDF Policy Brief no. 2](#) - Words that Heal: The Role of Young People in Addressing Hate Speech
- **Promoting refugee and migrant inclusion:** [EPDF Policy Brief no. 3](#) - Cities fostering belonging: Bolstering the Participation of Young Refugees and Migrants
- **Empowering young people:** [EPDF Policy Brief no. 4](#) - Leadership in Action: How Religious Leaders and Local Authorities Can Foster Social Cohesion by Empowering Youth

Potential applicants should fill in the template available at this link: <https://forms.gle/ug4d9Uac6dxb8nhbA>. The proposals should include the following information:

- Background and rationale behind the proposal (*why is it important?*);
- The objectives of the discussion (*which is the most reasonable change that can be achieved after the workshop?*);
- A short description of the applicants, the secular-religious partnership (*who is proposing the workshop and why?*)
- A short description of the key participants to be engaged in the discussion and the outreach capacity of the applicants (*who should be involved and how to reach out to the additional participants*)
- An estimate of costs, including in-kind and/or human and/or financial contributions from the applicants (*the amount of financial resources needed, including the additional human, logistical and/or financial resources made available by the applicants*). Such estimate will allow KAICIID to organize the workshop, according to local costs.

Deadlines: The Call for Proposals will be launched on Thursday 9 May 2024 and will be open for 6 weeks until **Monday 24 June 2024, 17:00** (Western European Summer Time). The two successful workshops will be organised by KAICIID with the selected applicants, between July and November 2024.

Information session: Prior to the launch of the Call for Proposals, KAICIID will organise an online information session on **Monday 3 June 2024**, to describe the initiative and provide further clarifications in reply to the questions of potential applicants.

Responsibilities of KAICIID and selected applicants:

Once the proposals are selected, with regard to the effective organisation of the two workshops, the KAICIID Europe Region Programme will be responsible to:

- If need be, elaborate the agenda/programme of the workshops according to the description of the situation/challenge, in cooperation with the selected applicants;
- If need be, identify dialogue facilitators according to the agenda/programme and cover the related expenses;
- Support the logistical costs related to the organisation of the workshops, by paying directly the service providers, as appropriate;
- Ensure visibility of the events, through its social media channels, if so agreed with the selected applicants.

The selected applicants will be responsible to:

- Support the organisation of the events, in particular by involving key participants;
- Provide regular feedback to KAICIID on the proposed agenda/programme of the event;
- To the extent possible, contribute to the logistical organisation of the event, by providing in-kind contributions (i.e. venue, catering, other support material) and/or human resources (i.e. a photographer) and/or financial contributions;
- Draft a final report, following the completion of the workshop, including, as appropriate, suggestions and possible recommendations for follow-up actions and/or policy measures, according to the template that KAICIID will provide to selected applicants.

V. Selection criteria

The proposals received in reply to this Call will be selected according to the following set of criteria:

- **Relevance of the topic proposed**, according to the needs of the local community and the level of alignment of the topic proposed with the recommendations contained in the EPDF Policy Brief (20 points);
- **Clarity and practicality** of the proposals in relation to their objectives and deliverables. The proposals should be reasonable and provide a coherent logic between the rationale/background and the proposed topic (20 points);
- **Implementation and networking capacities of the applicants**: priority will be given to applicants that can mobilise the inner resources of the communities, be it in terms of outreach and engagement of key local stakeholders, or sustainability of possible follow-up actions and recommendations (20 points);
- **Level of diversity of participants**: priority will be given to those proposals that - coherently with the rationale and the needs' assessment - intend to involve a wide range of actors, according to the role and capacity in the community, age, gender, religion/faith, ethnicity, cultural or political affiliation, socioeconomic status, education, risk of or level of marginalisation (20 points);
- **Estimated costs**. An estimate of the costs will be needed according to cost categories that are described in the template. While KAICIID will support all the costs related to the organization of the workshops by paying directly the service providers, preference will be given to the proposals where applicants can provide complementary in-kind or financial contributions (20 points).

Steps	Phase	Deadline
Step 1	Information session	3 June 2024
Step 2	Submission of the proposals	24 June 2024
Step 3	Evaluation and selection of two proposals	July 2024
Step 4	Organisation of the two workshops	Late July-early November 2024
Step 5	Final reports including follow-up actions and/or recommendations	November-December 2024