

European Coalition of Cities against Racism

General Information

The Coalition of Cities against Racism is an initiative launched by UNESCO in 2004 to establish a network of cities interested in sharing experiences in order to improve their policies to fight racism, discrimination and xenophobia.

The international conventions, recommendations and declarations elaborated at the upstream level need to be ratified and implemented by the States. At the same time, it is extremely important to involve actors on the ground, including the targets of discrimination, to make sure that those international and national instruments are applied and respond to concrete problems. In times of growing globalization and urbanization the municipalities are a key factor in ensuring that all their citizens, regardless of their nationality, ethnic, cultural, religious or social origin, can live in dignity, security and justice.

With this in mind, UNESCO aims at establishing an "International Coalition of Cities Against Racism", an initiative which is expressly supported by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the world's largest organization of municipalities, United Cities and Local Governments.

Regional Coalitions

Europe
10th Dec 2004 / Nuremberg

Asia and the Pacific
6th Aug 2006 / Bangkok

Africa
20th Sep 2006 / Nairobi

Latin America + Caribbean
27th Oct 2006 / Montevideo

Canada
1st Jun 2007 / Calgary

Arab Region
25th Jun 2008 / Casablanca

United States
12th Sep 2013 / Birmingham

The European Coalition of Cities Against Racism

On 10th of December 2004, the "European Coalition of Cities Against Racism" (ECCAR) was established in Nuremberg, and a "Ten-Point-Plan of Action" was adopted. In order to strengthen the Coalition, the member cities decided to give a legal framework to the network: on 21st of February 2008 the "European Coalition of Cities Against Racism" was declared Registered Association by the District Court of Nuremberg and its name was entered into the Register of Associations.

The Coalition set itself the following goals:

- Fighting any form of racism and discrimination at a municipal level and thus making a contribution to safeguarding and promoting human rights and respect for diversity in Europe;
- supporting member cities in this task via the "Ten-Point-Plan of Action", which was adopted in Nuremberg on 10th of December 2004, and assisting them in establishing priorities, optimizing their strategies and intensifying their co-operation;

- representing and promoting the common interests of member cities at the European Union, the Council of Europe and with the governments of European states;
- strengthening the co-operation with institutions and organizations which are also committed to fighting racism and discrimination, as well as with other European municipal networks;
- sensitizing the European public to the values of a just and solidarity-based society and motivating the public to promote equality and to counteract with determination any racist or discriminatory opinion and behavior.

In the meantime, municipalities from 23 European countries have joined the network and adopted the "Ten-Point-Plan of Action".

Organizational Structure

For the "European Coalition of Cities Against Racism" to work effectively, it has in the meantime established the following organizational structure:

The Board

President: Benedetto Zacchioli (Bologna, Italy)

Vice-presidents:

Dörte Domzig (Heidelberg, Germany)
Lefteris Papagiannakis (Athens, Greece)
Lucienne Redercher (Nancy, France)
Aida Guillen (Barcelona, Spain)
Joseph Vromans (Liège, Belgium)

The General Assembly

The General Assembly is competent to make all essential decisions and elect the Steering Committee, except of permanent members, for a period of four years. Regular annual General Assemblies must be held.

The Steering Committee

The Steering Committee comprises a maximum of 25 voting members and is composed as follows: one representative each from a maximum of 23 member cities, and one representative each of UNESCO (Paris) and the city in which the seat of the ECCAR and the administrative secretariat are located.

From among its members the Steering Committee shall elect a chairperson and one deputy chairperson. The chairperson and the deputy chairperson represent the association in and out of court. The Steering Committee may elect additional deputy chairpersons who are placed in charge of a specific focus area.

The Steering Committee has the following tasks:

- deciding on the admission of cities as members of the Coalition,
- suggesting the exclusion of member cities to the General Assembly,
- representing and promoting the Coalition and its goals at a European, international and regional level,
- deciding on and preparing General Assemblies and further conferences of the Coalition,
- implementing decisions taken by the General Assembly,
- preparing and facilitating medium and long term action programs for the Coalition and introducing them to the General Assembly for decision-making,
- preparing and discussing the budgets and annual accounts and presenting them to the General Assembly for decision,
- forwarding the reports presented by members to the Steering Committee in accordance with § 4 section 3 of the Articles for the Registered Association European Coalition of Cities Against Racism, to the Scientific Secretariat for annual evaluation, and commenting upon these evaluations on an annual basis.

The Office

The tasks of the Office are as follows:

- acting as a point of contact for member cities and interested municipalities,
- promoting communication and sharing of experiences and best practice examples for the implementation of the "Ten-Point-Plan of Action Against Racism" among member cities,
- doing PR work for the Coalition at a European as well as at an international and regional level,
- supporting the national coalitions of cities against racism; and
- organizing the Coalition's activities, in particular General Assemblies and further conferences.

The Advisory Council

The tasks of the Advisory Council comprise the following:

- evaluating the implementation of the "Ten-Point-Plan of Action Against Racism" on the basis of the reports presented by member cities according to § 4 section 3 of the Articles for the Registered Association European Coalition of Cities Against Racism, on an annual basis,
- advising member cities on the implementation of the Plan of Action,
- promoting co-operation with Inter-Governmental Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, universities and other relevant bodies in providing research-based support for the implementation of the purposes of the Coalition.

Membership

Membership of the Coalition is limited to cities and district governments from the European countries with a democratically elected municipal council, which support the Association's purposes. Membership is not subject to a minimum number of inhabitants of the respective municipality.

How to join the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism?

Membership for cities and district governments is conditional upon filing an official letter of intent written by the Mayor of the city or somebody acting in his stead with the Administrative Secretariat of the ECCAR. Membership is obtained as soon as the application for membership is accepted by a Steering Committee majority decision.

Cooperation

The "European Coalition of Cities Against Racism" is a member of the Fundamental Rights Platform of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (Vienna) and cooperates with the Council of Europe (Strasbourg), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (Geneva) and many non-governmental organizations such as United for intercultural action (UNITED).

Membership Fee

The annual membership fee is graduated according to the inhabitants of the cities as follows:

- For cities with less than 20.000 inhabitants the membership is free.
- For cities with up to 100.000 inhabitants: 500 Euro.
- For cities with up to 500.000 inhabitants: 1.000 Euro.
- For cities with more than 500.000 inhabitants: 1.500 Euro.

For further information please contact:

ECCAR Office : Danijel Cubelic / Evein Obulor

ECCAR
c/o Stadt Heidelberg
Bergheimer Straße 69
D-69115 Heidelberg
Tel. : +49 (0) 6221 58 15519
Landeshauptstadt Potsdam
E-mail: eccar@heidelberg.de