



UCLG AFRICA
United Cities and Local Governments of Africa
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis d'Afrique
CGLU AFRIQUE

Creating sustainable policies that support the inclusion of migrants

CGLU AFRIQUE PRESENTATION

Thematic Meeting on the Root Causes of Irregular Migration
Migration and urban planning

Paris, 24th October 2018



Processus de Rabat
Dialogue Euro-Africain
sur la Migration et le Développement

Creating sustainable urban policies that promote the integration of migrants?

The recent involvement of local and regional authorities at the global level in discussions on migration governance is the result of a long advocacy process aimed at highlighting the migration problem:

people migrate from one city to another

How, in the triptych of cities-migrations-development, some manage to feed on others without either causing prejudice to the rights of people or the rights of territories.

To ask the question of how to create sustainable policies that promote the inclusion of migrants diverts from the outset thoughts on the construction of sustainable cities and territories, which we believe responds both to the integration of marginalized indigenous populations (young people, women, the unemployed, the disabled) and to the integration of migrants (rural, national, regional, climate, refugees, economic, students, etc.) in host cities.




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Creating sustainable urban policies that promote the integration of migrants?

The inclusion of migrants in the city is nowadays posed as "the" challenge to be met because of the urgent constraints (both humanitarian and security) that require effective responses from public authorities (local and national) within relatively short time frames.

This "new" parameter for some local authorities often has great difficulty in adapting to the local agenda, which already faces difficulties inherent in decentralization:



Insufficient financial and human resources....

Long timeframe for the implementation of local policies

Dependence on central government

Within this context, how can we plan the hosting and integration of migrants in urban areas?



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The prerequisite for any proposals on migration issues is first to consider the contribution of some important texts and principles in the field of migration.

The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

Migration is a right, a human principle that should not be hindered in any way

The consecration of the right to come and go on the territory.

In the light of these principles and rights, **the formulation of an urban policy in this area must first be able to fully address the issue of hosting.** This is to deal with the arrival of **"massive" national migrants** (from rural exodus) as transnational migrants without breaking social, political and territorial cohesion and harmony.



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In States where **local and regional authorities already have difficulties in dealing with the integration of national migrants and people from less-integrated neighborhoods**, implementing an urban policy that promotes the integration of migrants could have adverse effects, even catastrophic compared to the effects originally foreseen under this policy.

This is the risk of a differentiated reception between categories of migrants, and even between migrants and indigenous populations, which creates a feeling of jealousy towards each other , and / or indicates the preference of the public authorities (national or territorial) for one of these groups.

From this first consideration, it is easy to encourage states and local authorities to build sustainable cities and territories. Indeed, **sustainable territories are necessarily inclusive, non-discriminatory** because they make it possible to consider the entire population living within its borders with the sole ambition of their well-being and their fulfillment.



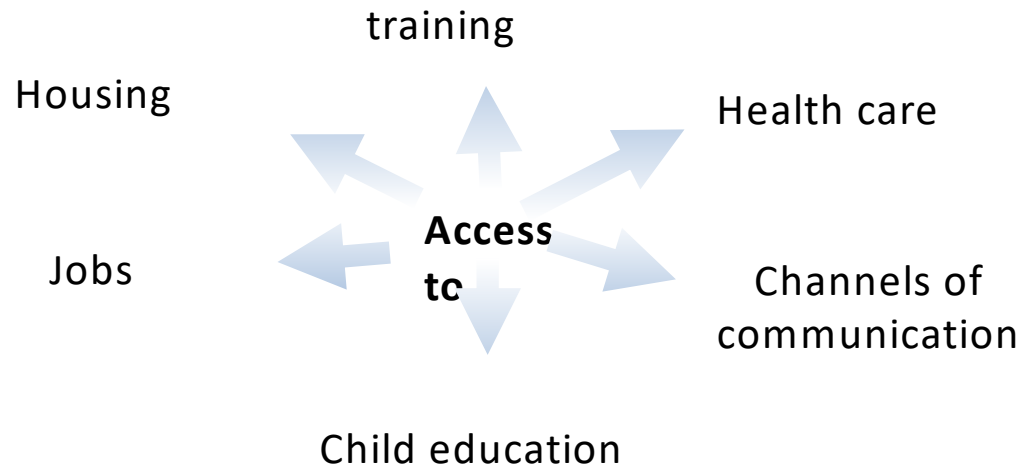
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Creating sustainable urban policies that promote the integration of migrants?

CGLU Afrique firmly believes that cities are not planned to receive migrants, but are planned so that people can live peacefully in them

Cities provide for everyone, including migrants:



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However, **it is difficult to build sustainable cities or design sustainable urban policies** when states initiate fortification policies to stem a natural process.

Freedom of movement is increasingly hampered by a set of elements that have become more stringent for adventure seekers over time:

Tougher migration policy in the north

deportation/ repatriation

Burdensome visa procedures

Conditioning of development aid

Strengthening border controls (militarization)

The demonization of "young" migrants



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Try to lock up a young man, he'll try to get out.



Give him the freedom to move...



He will produce and bring back wealth



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Despite the omnipresence and omnipotence of the States, local and regional authorities are not powerless to act.

In the face of this resistance, the coalitions and networking of cities made possible by decentralized cooperation are an original way of pursuing the commitment of cities to offer a peaceful living environment for all.

The exchange framework created allows above all for the **circulation of information and exchanges of good practices** with regard to **policies for the hosting and integration** of migrants:

Promotion of scientific and cultural activities of migrants in cities

Participation in the spirit of solidarity

Opening of dialogue with migrant associations



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Faced with the security obsession of States on the one hand, and the multiplication of humanitarian tragedies combined with the ineffectiveness of national migration policies on the other, it is appropriate for African local authorities to propose alternative solutions that recall the values of solidarity and respect for human rights.

This is why African local authorities have initiated strong actions since 2015

1. The declaration of African local authorities on the occasion of the Europe-Africa Summit in Valletta on 12 November 2015.

This statement focuses on:

the integration of the SDGs into the development of the territories

the importance of respect for human rights in readmission and return policies

the uniqueness of Africa and the importance of involving the African Union in these negotiations

The benefits of sub-regional integration processes allowing mobility, free movement and settlement of nationals of the region



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2. the Charter of African Local Authorities on Migrants (CCLAM)

It aims to contribute to the development of practices concerning the protection and promotion of migrants' rights from local authorities.

It advocates as follows:

- **Redevelopment of migration policies**, decriminalizing international migrants and presenting the positive aspects of their presence in host cities.
- **Integration of migrants in the formal and informal economic sectors** of host cities;
- **Dialogue with Migrants' Associations** and support for the establishment of their associations to facilitate exchanges between local communities and migrant communities.



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The Africities and Migration Summit



UCLG Africa is grateful to you

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