

Good Practice Assessment Sheet 202	Refugee Solidarity	URBACT Good Practice Call 2016/17
--	---------------------------	--

Candidate

City	Country	Region	Thematic Objective
Ghent	Belgium	More developed	TO9 Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty

Good practice summary

A Refugee Taskforce was set up involving everyone who can take a role in dealing with the growing number of new arrivals of refugees. This is cooperation between the political level, city administration, citizens and civil society. The taskforce brings refugees into contact with relevant organizations, who help refugees quickly access language courses, volunteer work, leisure activities. This approach speeds up the integration process, and also allows organizations and citizens to get to know newcomers, addressing negative stereotypes and prejudices against refugees.

Final proposal

The URBACT Good Practice Assessment Panel proposes the Refugee Solidarity practice from the city of Ghent for the 'URBACT Good Practice City' label.

The Ghent approach with the creation of a wide Refugee Taskforce offers integrated solution on the challenge of refugee pressure on local services while also creating conditions for better relations between the refugees and the population. The Refugee Taskforce involves the political, officer and NGO actors and offers integrated answers on the most urgent local needs refugees are facing. The practice has been developed with the inclusion of the university, it has been showcased in conferences and Eurocities meetings. The practice is cheap, it is highly interesting for cities which have large refugee influx. The approach can be adapted to the changing national regulations on policies related to refugees.

Assessment

Criteria A - Relevance

The relevance of the proposal is adequate. The refugee crisis has created huge pressure on local services in many western European cities. The Ghent approach with the creation of a wide Refugee Taskforce offers integrated solution on this problem

while also creating conditions for better relations between the refugees and the population.

Criteria B – Fit with URBACT Principles

The proposal does adequately fit with URBACT principles. The Refugee Taskforce involves the political, officer and NGO actors and develops answers on the most urgent local needs refugees are facing. Economic, physical and social aspects are tackled in integrated way.

Criteria C – Evidence base

The evidence of the proposal is adequate. The practice has been developed with the inclusion of the university, it has been showcased in conferences and Eurocities meetings.

Criteria D – Transferability

The transferability of the proposal is adequate. The practice is cheap, it is highly interesting for cities which have large refugee influx. The approach can be adapted to the changing national regulations on policies related to refugees.