***20th anniversary of the***

**European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City**

Questionnaire on follow-up and implementation

1. **Do you think human rights have an influence in the action carried out by your local government? If so, describe this influence from 1 (less influent) to 5 (more influent)**

1

2

3

4

5

1. **Below are various mechanisms by which local governments may carry out policies through a human rights based-approach. Which ones do you think best suit your municipality?**

**Policymaking**

Human rights mainstreaming into all local policies and action (“human rights city”)

Promoting concrete thematic policies or strategies with a specific human rights approach (for example, developing a policy against discrimination)

Reviewing legislation, programmes or procurement standards in accordance to human rights standards

**Institutionalization**

Establishing concrete institutions or programmes for human rights guarantee (for example, a local ombudsman or human rights guarantee office)

Establishing concrete institutions or programmes for promoting a human rights culture, awareness raising initiatives and education

Establishing human rights training programmes for local officials and public workers

**Inclusion and participation**

Non-discrimination: Universalizing local services and policies for all city inhabitants (for example, promoting a “municipal residence card”)

Developing programmes or strategies to protect minorities and the most excluded collectives

Establishing mechanisms for mainstreaming civil society participation in local policymaking

Supporting local human rights-defense organizations

**Advocacy and networking**

Becoming an active advocate for human rights face to national authorities or legislation

Taking part in local governments networks advocating for human rights at a national or international level

1. **If you wish, use the space below to provide additional inputs on the previous question (what kind of influence do human rights have in your local action?):**

Budapest – and Hungary – has a specific history in participation, due to the negative effect of the long autocratic past of the communist regime. Before 1989 there were no opportunities to participate in political processes including city planning, regeneration, etc. After joining the EU in 2004, it was an obvious expectation of the EU to begin to use participative methods in governance, as these methods provide a better development, more satisfied inhabitants, better integrated communities, less social problems and quality change in the life of communities and individuals as well.

Although, the municipality was open for participative actions, there were a massive need of a multi-direction educative and capacity building processes, where all the actors had the opportunity for the development of abilities and skills how to adequately be the part of ad-hoc communities trying to determine local actions for specific problems.

It turned out quickly, that for first, this is the main challenge for the participative actions, to engage and involve people into governing processes to achieve more and more active, conscious citizens that helps communities and individuals to live with the right to life, liberty or personal Security.

As the Municipality realized the size of the challenge, it has begun implementing continuous actions to strengthen the participative skills of all the stakeholders of the capital. Budapest thinks it’s essential to develop municipal actors to have the skills for moderate, adequately implement and the other specified actors of the city to take their part in participative processes. The municipality expect from the actions more conscious, active, responsible inhabitants, who have the claim to be engaged and involved into the city development issues. We expect to develop the communities of the city to articulate their specific problems and be the part of the solution.

The city promote its’ values of the field in its short-, middle- and long term thinking by projects and strategic approaches of Budapest.

Municipality of Budapest established a *‘Budapest Migration Roundtable Forum’* in 2012 for the policy building of ‘human rights’.

The first action was a transnational partnership educational project titled LeCim (Learning cities for Migrants inclusion), financed by Education and Culture DG of the European Commission. Because of this project, policy recommendations have been set up and accepted by the Municipality of Budapest. As next step, municipality discovered its transnational surroundings to find initiatives fit for the need of capacity building of civil servants about methods and good practices of cooperation with stakeholders of migrant issue.

Two projects the municipality involved in was the AMICALL (Attitudes to Migrants, Communication and Local Leadership) of CEU (Central European University) and ELCI (European Local Cooperation for Integration) of the IOM (International Organization for Migration). These two transnational partnerships focused on building capacities by transnational exchange and trainings, found extremely useful for the Budapest project team.

Another root for our activities was a project on Roma communities, titled Roma-Net financed by the European program URBACT II, a program that build upon networks of cities, to find solutions for various social and environmental sustainability focused issues. URBACT has a certain method for implementing projects, based on involvement of stakeholders, who form “local support groups” in every partner city to co-plan a “local action plan” on the issue, in our case, for the involvement of Roma communities.

These experiences and actions helped us to plan a project to assist inclusion of migrant communities, and to involve local public authorities of the activities of this social field.

Planned activities of ‘Budapest Migration Roundtable Forum’ focusing on development of participatory local governance.

Our most important goal is to form a network of stakeholders to open a communication and cooperation between the municipal actors of the city, including a wilder scale of authorities with involvement of central governmental actors, and between the civic society actors, from natural persons through informal communities up to official NGO scene.

Priority activity is to set up policy recommendations for the decision makers of Budapest. This material will collect and include all those problems what the roundtable explored during roundtable meetings. The recommendations focusing on three municipality sectors: social policies, culture and education. By our process, we collected all the suggestions of the roundtable members, and the summary of these meetings are delivered to a workshop of experts of migration field. These experts working out the form of recommendations and feedback their materials to the roundtable, where there will be a last debate on the findings, before it goes to the primary stakeholders of this project element: decision makers of all levels of the city.

For each sides of roundtable the project provides capacity building services to empower stakeholders of the issue. Before the municipality submitted the project to the European Integration Fund, experts of municipality and the Budapest Chance non-profit company made an almost 4 months long community engagement process. Experts visited NGOs to introduce the basic plans. During these visits project team asked stakeholders to show the lacks and weaknesses of the municipality provided activities, and the main needs and claims of the communities they represent, as well. Because of this community engagement, the project achieved the needed trust by the stakeholders and was easier to involve them into our activities, but most important that it was possible to plan the needed development services by build plans on real needs and using an evidence based approach.

For the non-profit organizations we provide grant writing trainings to assist them to reach local, national or transnational resources to implement their practices, and provide financial, taxation and legal advisory assisting the maintenance of NGOs. Our focus is on the grassroots organizations, the small organizations set up by people with migrant background, with less accessibility to information and public services.

For the municipal side, the project delivers anti-discrimination trainings and intercultural trainings focusing on migration, to reduce prejudice and discrimination what the migrants regularly must face when they try use public services. These needs were explored by having preparatory communications with priority stakeholder groups.

Very important that at the meetings of the roundtable there are heavy mutual learning process for both the NGO side and for the municipal side of the project, as well.

The project has an element to set up an almanac of the stakeholders of migrant issue in Budapest what contains a good practice guide of service providers. This publication will be delivered to the municipalities and municipal institutions of Budapest to help civil servants react immediately on the clients’ needs by disseminating basic information to them about public and civil services as well as to help municipalities to plan activities on the migration field.

For the development of municipal human capital there’s two kinds of accredited trainings that civil servants could participate. Results could be the better quality municipal services, with more focus on personal needs. Project must increase the sensitivity of civil servants, providing equal access to public services and starts an information flow in direction of clients with migrant background, helping them to reach the most adequate additional support to find solutions for specific problems. This training service should result a general change in the behavior of municipal employees, as they could use this knowledge during their work with clients with other protected attributes.

Good practice for the consultative cooperation is the co-created project generated by the actors of the Migration Roundtable following the findings of policy recommendations the roundtable made. The stakeholders found that the services for migrants are fragmented, can’t be easily accessed because of the lack of information channels reaching out the stakeholders of the issue.

So the municipality set up a partnership with IOM Hungary and made a participative process on planning, creating and maintaining an information service for migrants and professionals working with migrants. It was a pilot project, the information point was open for nine months and produced a lot of experiences and practices for organizations in the need of opening information services for migrant communities.

In 2017 the General Assembly of Budapest accepted its local plan for developing equal opportunities, *titled ‘Equal Opportunities Strategy’*. The main objective on behalf of the leadership of Municipality of Budapest to reflect:

* the situation of several vulnerable groups of society in the capital city to help them access the public services in equal way;
* the development policies;
* the implementation of horizontal principles in the decision making;
* the requirements of regulatory system on ‘human rights’;
* the comparison of the national and international project applications.

The ‘Equal Opportunities Strategy’ of Budapest included a 3 years Action Plan too, focusing on the direction of implementation of Strategy in the several local policies, certain actions together financing sources.

The proposed activities consist of two synergic components:

I.) Carrying out complex research that can provide input to the implementation of ‘Equal Opportunities Strategy’. The research activities engage in reviewing the already available results (desk research) and in designing and implementing new research inquiries, focusing on third-country nationals’ access to institutions, goods, public and private services. Special attention paid to the analysis of access to health and social services. Research results will be compiled in a report that will be disseminated widely.

II.) Implementing a comprehensive online information campaign to share key conclusions of the research and to identify necessary measures against discrimination. A different communications strategy and set of tools will be in place when targeting the population at large or the professionals in the public sector. To gains insights of the practitioners, ‘Budapest Migration Roundtable Forum’ discussions will be held and their conclusions will feed into the implementation of the ‘Equal Opportunities Strategy’ and its Action Plan which identify specific activities to improve third-country nationals’ access to institutions, goods and services.

The General Assembly yearly reviewing the Report on the Implementation of Strategy and Action Plan.

Budapest 2030 Long-Term Urban Development Concept is a comprehensive planning document that envisages the capital city’s long-term development, considering its urban characteristics. According to the Budapest 2030 Long Term Urban Development concept, Budapest wishes to be transformed to a city living in symbiosis with its river. Furthermore, the mid and long-term strategies of Budapest clearly define a major objective to be achieved: inclusive, supportive, and active communities. To accomplish these, the Municipality of Budapest places strong emphasis on the role of community engagement and the involvement of stakeholders. The Climate-KIC ‘Smart sustainable riverbank neighborhoods in Budapest’ and the Horizon2020 ‘Cities-4-People’ projects are good examples for achieving the objectives set.

The overall objective of the ‘**Smart sustainable riverbank neighborhoods in Budapest**’ project is converting Budapest’s specific neighborhoods - riverbanks, bridgeheads, and the adjacent areas - into smart and sustainable public spaces.

**H2020 Cities-4-People** is a three-year (2017 - 2020) R&I project that aims to implement a pilot program running at five urban and periurban areas where citizens, city authorities and innovation experts will work together as ‘communities’ to define the transport and mobility challenges and priorities that interest them, co-design ideas and concepts, put these concepts to the real test and then scale up those more potent.

In ‘Smart sustainable riverbank neighbourhoods in Budapest’ project, the stakeholders have been involved from the very first steps and their demand and vision covered in the initial roadmap. During the implementation of the project, stakeholders could participate in workshops, where they could share their knowledge and express their ideas and visions. Furthermore, we involved the stakeholders into the creation of ideas and the selection of the most relevant and most feasible solutions. Consequently, they could participate in the whole process of the implementation our project. They offered their knowledge and support for the entire time of the preparation, so they have been engaged in the process. Long term impact sustainability of the project will be ensured by finding the common interest and key enabler factors between the community and city authority stakeholders.

Cities-4-People: Based on a local community setting and supported by cross-disciplinary teams and a comprehensive suite of collaborative technologies (both online and offline), citizens along with public and private city stakeholders are co-develop concepts and endorse concrete solutions – inspired by growing mobility trends (e.g. shared mobility and connected mobility). In Budapest we have set up a “Citizens Mobility Lab; an open space to allow Community members to come together to discuss, experiment, test technologies, kick off new ideas and conceptualize mobility projects. We introduced the local community with an offline and online version of the Co-creation Navigator and there will also be a “Citizen Mobility Kit” which will be based on citizen’s needs and preferences to enable basic functions (e.g. facilitate information sharing and coordination of and within local communities and stakeholders).

1. **Are you familiar with the European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City?**

Yes

No

1. **Would you say the European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City (from now on, ECHSHRC) has or had some concrete influence on your local action? If so, describe this influence from 1 (less influent) to 5 (more influent)**

1

2

3

4

5

1. **How would you describe this influence?**

Mainstreaming: Incorporation of its principles and regulations into local legislation

Policymaking: Reviewing local legislation under human rights standards provided by the ECHSHRC or promoting new one with a human rights focus

Guarantee: Establishing human rights guarantee mechanisms (such as a local ombudsman)

Education: Establishing programmes of awareness raising, education and human rights culture

Training: Establishing training programmes for local officials and public workers

Follow-up: Establishment of a commission to follow-up on the implementation of the ECHSHRC

Advocacy: Defending human rights governance and legislation face to national or international institutions

1. **If you wish, use the space below to provide additional inputs on the previous question (what kind of influence does the ECHSHRC had and/or still has in your local action?)**

Budapest City Hall together Subjective Values Foundation organized a two-day international conference on different aspects of migrant integration on 23-24 May 2018 titled ‘A Shared Space – Best Practices of Migrant Integration in Hungary and in the European Union’.

Participants of the event (foreign and Hungarian experts, representatives of authorities and civil society organizations, and third-country nationals residing in Hungary) have spent two days discussing not only the most important challenges, but also their solutions within the field of migrant integration in Hungary and in the European Union.

Besides general disputation of the topic of migration, the discussions built up around two sub-topics: cultural integration and migrants in the labor market. The conference also served as host of a session of the ‘Budapest Migration Forum’ roundtable-series organized by the Municipality of Budapest focusing on migrants in healthcare and social services.

The event was a closing conference of Subjective Values Foundation’s Complex training and mentoring program to strengthen the political participation of migrants (MMIA-2.2.10/2-2016-00003) funded by the European Union’s Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.

1. **Would you be interested in relaunching the European network of human rights cities?**

Yes

No

1. **If yes, what should be its main priorities? Select at most three options:**

**Institutional networking**

Celebrate annual or biannual meetings of European Human Rights Cities

Launch a renewed engagement with the ECHSHRC and, more extensively, towards the notion of human rights cities at the European level

**Advocacy**

Defend the role of local governments in the promotion and protection of human rights towards national, European and international institutions

Defend decentralization to achieve more competences and resources for local governments in order to be able to fulfil economic, social and cultural rights

Call for human rights universality as a way to guarantee every city inhabitant human rights, no matter his/her origin

Defend a major engagement of national and European authorities towards human rights in issues such as migrations, housing, democracy, civil rights or business accountability

**Participation**

Engage with European civil society around the issue of human rights (a participatory process at a European level around human rights and local democracy)

Promote civil society participation in the follow-up of this network

**Learning**

Facilitate learning sessions between local governments’ representatives and officials on human rights

Establish a bank of experiences (study cases) assessing local policies on human rights implementation in European cities