AYUNTAMIENTO DE
ROQUETAS DE MAR

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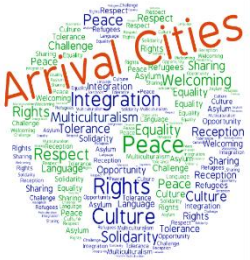

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ARRIVAL CITIES

Managing global flows at local level

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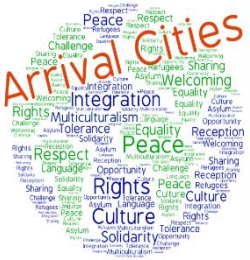

AYUNTAMIENTO DE ROQUETAS DE MAR

Roquetas de Mar is located in the southern part of the Almeria province, on the western side of Almeria bay, in the region of Andalusia (Spain). The municipality has a surface of sixty square kilometers (23,45 sq. miles). Roquetas has experienced rapid population growth in recent decades. The population has grown from 28.000 in 1990 to 96.000 inhabitants (2017), although the actual population exceeds 105.000 inhabitants (in summer they could easily reach 250.000). By gender, 52,47% of the inhabitants are male and 47,53% female. This growth has been stimulated mainly by economic growth in intensive agriculture and tourism.

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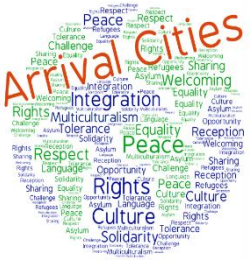

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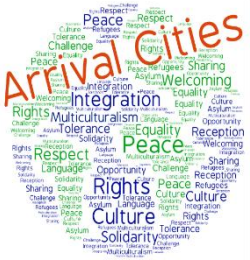

AYUNTAMIENTO DE ROQUETAS DE MAR

Roquetas de Mar has become one of the main settlement areas of the migrant population in Spain and Andalusia, with a percentage of almost 30% of its permanent resident population (27.454 inhabitants on December 2017). They come attracted by opportunities in the region's agricultural economy, and despite the economic crisis, new migrants continue to arrive in the City, some seeking work and others through the right to family reunion. This population is highly diverse. The main EU-migrant population is from Romania. The main groups of third country migrants are from Senegal, Morocco, Mali, Guinea Bissau and Ghana.

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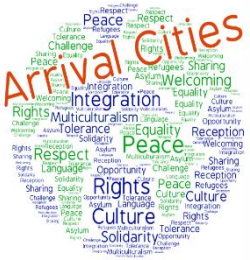

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To answer to this reality, the city created the Municipal Office for Migrants' integration in 1997. This service has dealt with 50.000 beneficiaries since 2002, who have made more than 500.000 requests. The Office leads on migrants' integration policies and provides integration support services including:

- Drop in information, advice and referral services available to all migrants;
- Spanish language and culture classes at fractional cost;
- Local Forum for Integration and Citizenship

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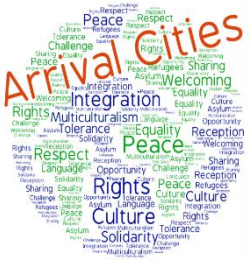

AYUNTAMIENTO DE ROQUETAS DE MAR

The city is very positive about its increasing population diversity, viewing this as an asset. Attempts by national media to portray Roquetas' diverse population as problematic, and to promote fears that large migrant populations are linked to drugs and crime, are strongly rejected locally.

The main challenge for Roquetas is to eliminate inequalities between the migrant and Spanish populations. The aim is to ensure closer working between relevant departments, with migrant integration as a common goal, to improve the standard of living for the migrant population in order that migrants contribute to the City's economy.

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THE FORUM OF ROQUETAS DE MAR FOR INTEGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

The objective of this Forum is the set up a means for participation and discussion of all the social agents involved in migration management as well as promoting the social integration of third countries migrants and UE citizens staying in the municipality of Roquetas de Mar (Almería).

Definition

It is a body for consultation, advice and non-organic participation in the field of local social policy for migrants, attached to the Municipal Office for Migrants' Integration in Roquetas de Mar.

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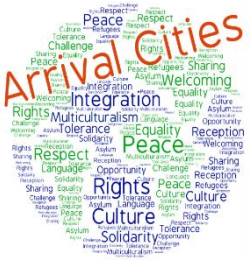

AYUNTAMIENTO DE ROQUETAS DE MAR

I. PRINCIPLES OF INTERVENTION

- Normalization.
- Universality.
- Integrality.
- Transversality.
- Coordination and cooperation with other authorities.
- Citizens' participation.
- Raising awareness.

II. 2. GENERAL OBJECTIVE.

Migrants' integration as new citizens who actively take part in all areas of economic, cultural, civic and social life within the municipality.

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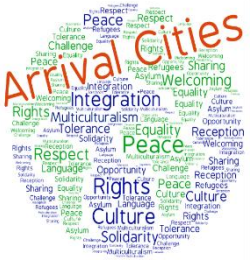

II. 3. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES.

- To plan, to manage, and to implement programs and measures in order to help the most vulnerable migrants depending on their social and occupational sectors and collective needs, working for equal opportunities and against any kind of discrimination or social exclusion.
- To develop actions and programs from an integral approach both for migrants and host society, in order to facilitate their inclusion and coexistence.
- To implement programs and measures aiming at the full employability of both the most vulnerable migrants and those risking social exclusion, through renewing and updating their professional qualification, promoting self-employment, the creation of self-entrepreneurship and the social economy enterprises, at the same time that ensuring the participation and equality of men and women in the labour market and promoting the adaptability and equal opportunities for all.

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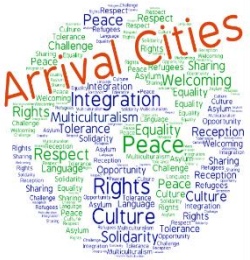

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II. 3. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES (II)

- Coordinate the various public and private entities acting in the municipality, encouraging sectoral collaboration agreements.
- Promote the participation of the whole society in the development of programs and actions, in order to establish comprehensive strategies.
- Carry out information and awareness campaigns aimed at education in equality, against intolerance, racism and xenophobia.
- Participate in any local, provincial, regional, national and international initiatives that could be of interest for the improvement of the social intervention with groups at risk of social exclusion within the municipality.
- Carry out an active dissemination of good practices and experiences in the field of social intervention with migrants.

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Main Functions

- To facilitate the dialogue and communication between the migrants' community and host society.
- To make proposals and recommendations aimed at promoting migrants' social integration in the municipality.
- To collect and to carry proposals of social organizations working with migrants for their discussion and taking, where appropriate, by the Municipal Administration.
- To know and to share the programs and activities carried out by all entities that participate in it, as well as the rest of the competent administrations in the matter.
- Acting as an active body in the fight against racism, xenophobia and bigotry, campaigning actively in the local media on a realistic and positive migrants' image.
- To maintain contacts and exchanges with other similar bodies, at local, regional or national level.

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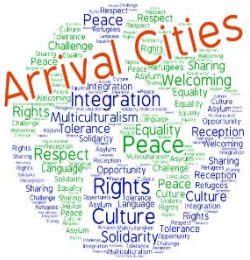

Methodology

This Forum work as a working group with at least two annual meetings of all its members, which will make a report on the evolution of migration and annual actions carried out in the municipality. Likewise, sectoral committees of concrete duration may be constituted with the composition and functions to be determined in each case. The Forum may also meet extraordinarily when a particular situation requires it.

Functions:

- To develop works and performances to be determined in its midst.
- To deliver reports on the management, monitoring and evaluation of plans and programmes affecting the migrant community in the municipality.
- To coordinate the functions of the commissions and working groups which could be created.

Feedback (Lights and shadows)

- Reference on this topic (long term and permanence for 20 years, the process itself – Adaptation to changes)
- Similar initiatives (the most successful one is the Regional Commission on Health and Migration)
- Empowerment of most migrants' associations taken part in the process.
- Vested interest of some entities (reaching too often political targets)
- Turn to be very useful:
  - In critical or emergency situations (ethnic based killings, riots, demonstrations, etc.)
  - Starting new programs or initiatives such as **Healthy & Wealthy Together** (INTI); **Arrival Cities** (Urbact); **EDUSI Roquetas 2020** (ERDF Operational Program)

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The future

To become an enlarged advisory council within the municipality. Their ruling is already drawn up and it is awaiting its approval by the City Council.

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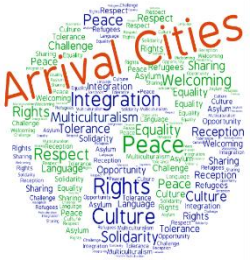

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Grazie Thanks

Danke Merci Gracias

Ευχαριστούμε

Hvala Obrigado

Kiitos Paldies

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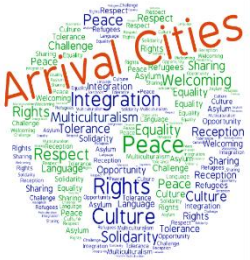

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QUESTIONS TO THE GROUP ???

- How to work and promote the "leadership" of those people going to create and/or represent NGO?
- How to enhance the capacity of these people to influence and mobilize a group, ensuring equality and the participation of the NGO members?

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