



CULTURE, SPORTS, DIVERSITIES: HOW TO CREATE SOCIAL LINK?

▶ GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE
EUROPEAN COALITION OF CITIES
AGAINST RACISM - ECCAR

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INTRODUCTION

In 2006 the City of Liège became a member of the *European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCAR)*.

In the spring of 2015 our city hosted the steering committee of the Coalition.

In 2018, the City of Liège is pleased to host a larger event open to all, namely the General Conference of ECCAR that will take place on April 26th and 27th.

The main theme of this Conference is *Culture, Sports, Diversities: how to create social link ?*

This event is organised by ECCAR and the City of Liège in collaboration with University of Liège, the *CRIPÉL* and *Les Territoires de la Mémoire*.



WHAT IS ECCAR?

The *Coalition of Cities Against Racism* (ECCAR) is an initiative launched under the aegis of UNESCO in December 2004, in Nuremberg, a City steeped in History. This network of Cities established at a European level includes 134 cities from 23 countries.

"In times of growing globalisation and urbanisation 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" (in <http://www.eccar.info/en/welcome-eccar>).

The wider inclusion of ECCAR in the *International Coalition of Cities against Racism* (ICCAR) founded in March 2004 (and renamed in 2016 *International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities*) gives it a global dimension. Actually, the challenges that the European Cities of ECCAR intend to meet at a municipal level are essentially translocal, transnational and fundamentally universal : fighting against all forms of racism, xenophobia and discrimination.

Since 2004, ECCAR has brought together its objectives and operational framework in a "10 Points Action Plan" the ideals and concrete commitments of which are shared by Eccar's Cities (<http://www.eccar.info/en/10-point-action-plan>). This Action Plan adopted by ECCAR commits the members of ECCAR to carry out and develop, within their administrations, concrete actions against racism, xenophobia and discrimination. In addition, Cities of ECCAR shall ensure that their citizens and local civil society are involved in this enterprise, which is essential to the harmonious functioning of a society.



LIÈGE "A WELCOMING CITY" IN ECCAR

Liège can boast of being the first city in Wallonia to join the Coalition and frame its local policies according to this commitment.

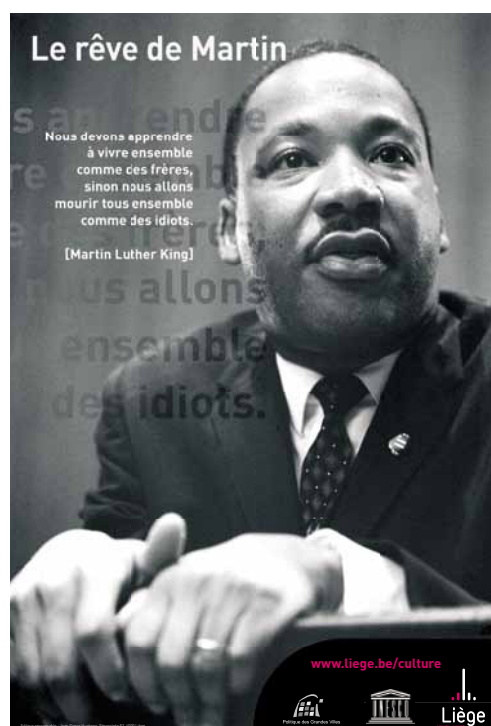
In fact, the City of Liège has already been carrying out anti-racism policies since the approval of the charter "Liège against Racism" by the City Council on May 29, 1995. (<http://www.liege.be/culture/interculturalite/charte-contre-le-racisme>)

In 2008, strengthened by its charter against racism and its membership of ECCAR, the City of Liège decided to launch the concept of "Martin's Dream", so named with reference to Martin Luther King's dream to see, one day, all human beings equal. This concept aimed at shaping the main framework of the City's intercultural and cultural policies (<http://liege-diversites.be/le-reve-de-martin/>).

In 2015 the City of Liège hosted ECCAR's steering committee. Since then, our city has held the Vice-Presidency of the Coalition, together with the Cities of Potsdam and Nancy, under the Presidency of the City of Bologna.

Several initiatives, concerned with the respect of diversity in our society, have arisen both within the local institutions and the community associations. We may highlight, among others, the local budget granted to the intercultural associations, the calls for projects: "Equality" and "Liège World Solidarity", some projects ("Mars Diversités", "Mandela Days", etc.), some publications (*Le Rêve de Martin. Morceaux choisis 2008-2012, Dialogues sur la Diversité*), the website Liège Diversités (<https://liege-diversites.be/>) which includes a webzine and a monthly agenda dedicated to reflections and achievements around diversity in our city.

This associative and local dynamic has very recently, in November 2017, resulted in the granting of the status of «a Welcoming City» to the City of Liège.





PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, 26 APRIL 2018

13:30 Registration

14:00 – 15:00 **Welcome speeches** (room Espace Francisco Ferrer)

- **Willy DEMEYER**, Mayor of the City of Liège
- **Benedetto ZACCHIROLI**, President of ECCAR, City of Bologna
- **Jérôme JAMIN**, President of *Les Territoires de la Mémoire*

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break

15:30 – 17:30 **Round Table Culture, Sports, Diversities: how to create social link?**
(room Espace Francisco Ferrer)

Chair : Marco MARTINIELLO, PhD and Professor, University of Liège

- **Jean Pierre HUPKENS**, Vice-Mayor for Culture, Town Planning and the Intercultural Relations of the City of Liège
- **Michel FAWAY**, Municipal Councillor, Sports Delegate for City of Liège, President of the non-profit organisation « Liège Sports », Representative of Willy DEMEYER the Mayor of Liège, also in charge of Sports
- **Marco MARTINIELLO**, PhD, Sociologist, Director of Research of the Belgian Fund for Scientific Research (FRS-FNRS) and Director of the CEDEM, *Centre d'Etudes de l'ethnicité et des migrations*, University of Liège
- **Lara KOTLAR**, Head of the french-speaking local service of UNIA – The Interferederal Center for Equal Opportunities
- **Frédéric PAULUS** of the municipal service and non-profit association *FAN COACHING*, partnership between the City of Liège, the « Standard de Liège » Football Club and the University of Liège
- **Serge RANGONI**, Administrative and Artistic Director of the Théâtre de Liège
- **Hedeli SASSI** for the Inclusion Project « Tous sur le terrain » of the URBSFA -Royal Belgian Football Association
- **Annalisa FRISINA**, PhD, Sociologist, Associate Professor, University of Padoue-Italy
- **Dr. Shimon SAMUELS**, Director for International Relations, Simon Wiesenthal Centre

17:30 – 18:00 Synthesis and Conclusions

18:00 Cocktail Dinner at the Cité Miroir



FRIDAY, 27 APRIL 2018

8:30 Registration and Coffee/Breakfast at the Cité Miroir

9:00 – 11:10 Workshops

1. ECCAR – Leipzig & Dortmund : « Theatre-educational “Action Sports-Bag” »
(Room Espace Francisco Ferrer)

Maren JÜTZ, Support *Theatre of the Young World Leipzig*, production manager
Bettina FRANK, theatre educator (*HeldenFabrikBerlin*)
Helena BREIDT, Contact, Project «School without racism / School with courage», democracy promotion, START scholarship, City of Dortmund

ECCAR – Malmö & ECCAR – Ghent : Sports and Inclusion : local initiatives of the Cities of Malmö and of Ghent » (Room Espace Lucie Dejardin)

• **ECCAR – Malmö : « Football against racism - stimulating accountability and inclusion through sports and education »**

Gustavo Nazar, Development officer, Center of Educational Inspiration, City of Malmö
Johanna Sjöwall, Policy Development Officer, City Office, City of Malmö
Nesat SPAHIU, Developer, Sports associations and Schools, *Save the Children* - Sweden

• **ECCAR – Ghent: « City of Ghent: creating sports chances for everybody »**

Cathy VERSCHOORE, Civil servant responsible for 'Team Sports for Everybody' – Sports Department, City of Ghent

2. ECCAR – Ghent: « Equal access to housing with juridic situation testing in the real estate business » (Room Salon des Lumières)

Frank PHILIPS, Civil Servant, City Service for Diversity, City of Ghent

11:10 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 12:30 Synthesis and main conclusions of the workshops (Room Espace Francisco Ferrer)

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch at the Cité Miroir

13:30 – 17:30 **PANEL : Sports as means to promote equality and inclusion**
(Room Espace Francisco Ferrer)

13:30 – 14:00 **Geraldine GUILLE** Awareness Raising Officer, Fundamental Rights Promotion Department, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA): « Fighting against discrimination, intolerance and hatred through sport and culture to increase the sense of belonging »

14:00 – 14:30 **Linda TINIO-LE DOUARIN**, Coordinator of the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR), and Assistant Programme Specialist, Social and Human Sciences Sector, UNESCO: « Creating enabling environments for positive social transformations through culture and sport: ICCAR's commitment and action »

14:30 – 15:00 Coffee break

15:00 – 16:00 **Lucia FRESA (ECCAR)**, Responsible for New Citizenships, Cooperation and Human Rights Office, Introduction to the 2018 ECCAR call for proposals on sports as a means to fight discriminations, City of Bologna

Daniela CONTI, UISP Representative, Italian Union Sport for All and member of the organisation of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia: « Social inclusion through sport: the example of *Mondiali Antirazzisti* »

Matthew RUUSKA, Representative of *PLAY International – Paris* Presentation of a Project against Racism and Discrimination: « Strengthening inclusive solutions for refugees »

Albin LAZARE, Policy Officer, Permanent Secretariat, AIMF International Association of Francophone Mayors: « Sport and culture for a better "living together" - cooperation projects in the French-speaking area »

16 :00- 17 :30 **Round Table: « A look from the Cities »**

Chair : Benedetto ZACCHIROLI, ECCAR President, City of Bologna

- **Jean-Pierre HUPKENS**, Deputy Mayor for Culture, Town Planning and the Intercultural Relations, City of Liège
- **Marco LOMBARDO**, Deputy Mayor for International Cooperation and European Projects, City of Bologna
- **Michela ZANARELLA**, Press Office and Member of Council RIDE, Italian Network for Euro-mediterranean Dialogue
- **Lucienne REDERCHER**, Deputy Mayor for Culture, Integration and Human Rights, City of Nancy
- **Ruth WASSERMAN LANDE**, Deputy Director General and Head of International Affairs of the Federation of Local Authorities in Israel

17:30 **General Conclusion of the Conference**

18:00 Dinner at the Cité Miroir



ARGUMENT

CULTURE, SPORTS, DIVERSITIES: HOW TO CREATE SOCIAL LINK?

INTRODUCTION

Without social link, no Human Society. A society is made of persons interacting and exchanging between themselves. This exchange constitutive of human society, as social sciences have fully proved it, is not commercial exchange. To make society, i.e. to create social link, is exchanging selflessly. Solidarity is, in a word, the fundamental prerequisite to make society. Yet, values such as solidarity and hospitality, including towards « migrants », are more and more belittled if not condemned. It is simply forgetting that the value of solidarity is constitutive of the social link, of the Society itself.

In this context, one can rejoice to note that the civil society and some public authorities continue to develop initiatives to preserve and defend our democratic values of solidarity and hospitality. The coming Conference will be a place to hear and promote these initiatives.

How to “make society”, i.e. “how create social link”? This essential question will be contemplated through Sports and Culture.

SPORTS AND DIVERSITIES : « SPORTS AS MEANS TO PROMOTE EQUALITY AND INCLUSION »

Sports are a central activity in many people's lives, either as athletes or supporters. Organised sport activities are one of the main educational contexts for young people, alongside with family and school: whether playing in a team or individually, sports introduce youths to rules, competition, cooperation and sportsmanship. In many European contexts, being the supporter of a team, especially a football team, is not just a Sunday hobby, but it's an integral part of one's identity. And professional teams provide role models and a sense of belonging to a community.

At the same time, specific groups, especially women and people with disabilities, encounter cultural and practical barriers in accessing sport activities. And organised support has been and still is an environment where racism and discrimination can be deeply rooted and disseminated, sometimes violently.

Thus the importance of focusing on sports as a primary context to promote equality and inclusion, also in light of the upcoming 2018 Football World Cup in Russia.

CULTURE AND DIVERSITIES : « CULTURE AND INCLUSION »

If the link between diversity and sport, diversity and music, diversity and dance is nowadays obvious in the Western World, it is still not the case for some other fields, as for Theater or Cinema ones. The acknowledgment of artists, audiences and narratives coming from minorities, and from people on colour remains confined to certain sports and arts disciplines, but is still sorely lacking, in others, often considered more elitist, such as Theater, so-called Classical Music, or Opera. One can see there obstinated marks of a culturalist elitism going with still too pervading postcolonial imaginaries.

Practising exclusion of diversities in Arts and Culture fields means practising, even unconsciously, discrimination against some artists, audiences and narratives. Practising inclusion of diversities in the Arts and Culture is, except to fall into an ideological exoticism, to escape the long standing and antiquated culturalist stereotypes of the alleged radical incompatibility between cultures. More than that, supporting inclusion is showing the vacuity of the prejudices and the violence of the discrimination in our society, and thus fighting them. It is also making the voice of the voiceless be heard.

The Round Table of Thursday, April 26th, in the afternoon, will be dedicated to the inclusion in Sports and in the Culture.



ABSTRACTS – WORKSHOPS

1. ECCAR – Leipzig & Dortmund : « Theatre-educational “Action Sports-Bag” » (Room Espace Francisco Ferrer)

Bettina Frank developed a theatre-educational « Action-Sports-Bag » as a tool in workshops about intolerance in football stadia and in society. The workshop is not designed as a “boring” lesson, but includes the participants in an active and also physical way, instructed by a qualified theatre educator or teacher / youth trainer. The trainers can offer the workshop independently from but also after the guest performance of JULLER (a play based on the biography of the German-Jewish national football player Julius Hirsch). For concept and contents of the « Action-Sports-Bag », the theatre educator Bettina Frank includes positive experiences from a theatre-educational material suitcase which she designed for the production “Children of the Holocaust” in 2009. The Federal and State Centres for Political Education distributed these suitcases which today are part of the educational offer in a huge number of memorials and other institutions.

2. ECCAR – Malmö & ECCAR – Ghent : “Sports and Inclusion: local initiatives of the Cities of Malmö and of Ghent” (Room Espace Lucie Dejardin)

- **ECCAR- Malmö : « Football against racism- stimulating accountability and inclusion through sports and education »**

This dialogue-oriented workshop takes a local initiative to counter racism and to stimulate inclusion through football in the City of Malmö, as the point of departure for a broader and active exchange between participants. Participants will receive a brief presentation of lessons learned from the local cooperation initiative, Football against racism, which sprung directly out of the City’s membership in ECCAR in 2010. The initiative has since also stimulated additional initiatives with a broader involvement of sports and clubs, enhanced rights-based approach and a stronger connection to the educational system. The experiences will be presented in the light of the overarching systematic approach to anti-discrimination work in the City of Malmö. The presentation will be followed by group-based dialogue where participants are encouraged to share own experiences, knowledge and ideas on the benefits and challenges of working with sports as a means to combat racism and promote inclusion.

- **ECCAR – Ghent : “City of Ghent: creating sports chances for everybody »**

Sport is a powerful social instrument. It can play a major role in community building and enhancing social cohesion. It allows people to develop personal and social skills. Ghent is committed to offer all of its inhabitants the chance to participate in sports or physical exercise, in particular those who experience thresholds or obstacles. Ghent’s Sports Department has a team of 5 people working on such topics as: sports for people with disabilities, community sports, financial accessibility, diversity and the support of local organizations working on creating sporting chances. During the workshop on the ECCAR conference in Liège, we will explain about ‘UiTPAS’ (instrument for financial accessibility), activities on offer for different groups and the Equal Opportunities Scan (equity program within the organization).

3. ECCAR – Ghent : « Equal access to housing with juridic situation testing in the real estate business » (Room Salon des Lumières)

Previous testing in 2015 proved that the Ghent real estate market has a problem. It was established that about 26% of prospective tenants with a migration background and 21% of prospective tenants with a disability were discriminated. Upon this the City decided to continue situation testing, changing the scope from sector level to the level of the individual real estate agent. From 2016 to 2018 all real estate agents working in Ghent were and will be tested several times.

The results of the first proactive phase:

- It was ascertained that 12 out of the 86 real estate agents discriminate vis-à-vis persons with a migration background or persons with a disability.

- In 15% of cases disabled persons received a negative response to their candidacy (21% in 2015).

- For persons with a migration background discrimination rate is 14% (26% in 2015).

Additional steps should bring us closer to our goal of a real estate market free of discrimination. UNIA, the Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities, individually mentored the small minority of real estate agents that continues to exclude candidate tenants. Now this group are being retested. If again discrimination again is ascertained, their dossier will be referred to the disciplinary chamber of the institute of real estate agencies and to UNIA which can accordingly initiate legal proceedings.



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