The role of the city and the civil society reframing the narrative, changing the mind-set & going from words to action

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The agenda worldwide has always been dominated by governments and media.

Yet it’s in cities where most strangers must learn to live together.
A constructive answer to the anxiety about change
When a constructive interaction is created the narrative changes

- Reasons to interact
- Incentives to interact
- Places, institutions agents and tools of interaction

The average person do not have less prejudices than the aggressive ones. To create change we need to work with the public in general.
Supranational authorities protect universal human rights and manage global migrant flows.

National authorities Maintain comprehensive systems of social justice.

Municipal authorities Provide an alternative political space of solidarity and citizenship.

Communities Offer humanity, hospitality and grounded.
Botkyrka

94.500
58 %
87,5%
163
100
Governing intercultural integration & migration at the local level

• Intercultural mindset.
• Botkyrka ICC index.
• ECCAR 10 point plan.
• Unesco LUCS- pilots.
• Antirumour agents.
• Dilemma workshops.
• CoE:s policy lab for Ministers & Mayors.
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<th>Economic rights</th>
<th>Civil &amp; social rights</th>
<th>Cultural rights &amp; the right to your identity</th>
<th>Community building &amp; cohesion</th>
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Development of Antirumours & dilemma work
Storytelling & antirumours – to take control of the story of Botkyrka
1. What factors hamper positive interaction between inhabitants from different cultural origins?
2. What factors facilitate this interaction?
A political and social initiative to:

PROMOTE INCLUSION
PREVENT DISCRIMINATION

&

MAKE THE MOST OF DIVERSITY!
The specific goal is:

To challenge & reduce stereotypes, prejudices & false rumours about diversity issues and social groups
AN INNOVATIVE METHODOLOGY

1. PREPARATORY ACTIONS
2. ANTI-RUMOURS DIAGNOSIS
3. ANTI-RUMOURS NETWORK
4. TRAINING ANTI-RUMOURS AGENTS
5. ANTI-RUMOURS CAMPAIGNS
6. EVALUATION & SUSTAINABILITY
Dilemmaworkshops

Solutions that are long-term sustainable.
A CHANGE IN THE MINDSET OF THE CITY

1. From neighbours to citizens
2. From opportunities to social mobility
3. From classroom to the educating city
4. From isolation to communication
5. From cultural diversity to cultural enrichment
6. From building a city to neighbourhood life
7. From indifference to living together
8. From stereotype to knowledge
9. From common interests to shared spaces

INTERACTION
Unesco LUCS

A Swedish platform for collaboration.

Objective: To gather and disseminate knowledge against discrimination and racism and to promote human rights through local pilots and to develop methods and tools to move from word to action.
Members from different parts of society
Successes and failures/challenges – lessons learned
Successful elements – from words to action

• A strong political leadership that facilitate the creation and consolidation of social networks. Botkyrka a role model for Swedish municipalities. Choosing to see.

• The city networks (ECCAR, ICC, LUCS, Antirumours Sweden) give endurance and sustainability.

• The strategy to not avoid conflict – expect it, manage it: Anti-rumour, dilemma solving.

• We have framed the narrative in the intercultural logic - Recognise difference – emphasise similarities & create a new solidarity built on diversity = dignity.

• The work against racism and discrimination is now linked to human rights.

• The communication department has developed in a close link to equality. Takes responsibility to the nuance and constantly develop the narrative of the municipality.

• Six keys for intercultural integration of refugees & new comers
Six keys for intercultural integration of refugees & new comers

1. See individuals as resources.

2. Confirm individuals’ dignity.

3. Provide right information at the right time.

4. Awareness about the unreflected majority norm social mobility as a mind-set.

5. Cooperate with local civil society organisations.

Failures/challenges

• The development is vulnerable to changes of politicians and civil servants.

• The maturity and knowledge varies among politicians, managers and employees.

• The attitudes and political climate in Sweden, Europe & the world.

• An increasing number of new comers live uncertain and vulnerable lifes on the outskirts of both the labor market and housing market.
Lessons learned

Citizens engagement is not only crucial for policy success but also for policy sustainability… if the government change, the strategy continue…

A new alignment of responsibilities at different levels is needed.

The municipal administration need to work as a partner with civil society and the academy to solve complex challenges and problems (Unesco LUCS).

We need more creativity and entrepreneurship attitude in public/social policies to engage and connect with people.

We need to empower bridge-builders (not gate-keepers).

We need to enable spaces for interaction and unexpected meetings.