

ICEC – Interethnic Coexistence in European Cities

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Duration	2013-2017
Website	https://icecproject.com/ http://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/project/interethnic-coexistence-in-european-cities/

Summary of results

Based on the empirical findings and theoretical discussions, the researchers suggest that interethnic coexistence can be seen as the 'middle' of a continuum. If peaceful coexistence — living side-by-side — is not maintained, conflicts and disconnection are potential outcomes. If, in contrast, coexistence is promoted and strengthened, this may result in increased neighbourhood belonging. The analysis clearly indicates the importance of investing in neighbourhood belonging from the side of policymakers and public stakeholders. Peaceful coexistence is not simply a happy accident that occurs without effort. Rather, this stability requires long-term commitment from policymakers, in particular the creation of a political and societal environment that allows neighbourhood belonging to develop for all residents, and a community that is actively involved in its neighbourhood and gives something back to and as coresponsible residents.

The results on the effects of the design of neighbourhood initiatives on inclusionary or exclusionary dynamics will be helpful to those looking to design more inclusive neighbourhood facilities and/or who are concerned with the implementation of areabased policies. The results also question the feasibility of creating thick social contacts or social cohesion in ethnically diverse neighbourhoods, and point to the value of more light and superficial contacts and public familiarity. Thus, the results may contribute to shaping the aims of social cohesion policies. There are some findings that are relevant to the specific national or urban context. In Amsterdam/the Netherlands, these include the finding that stimulating 'active citizenship' among residents of ethnically diverse neighbourhoods may have unintended negative effects, both for the involved residents themselves (overburdening of a few active residents which may lead to mistrust or resentment) and for the neighbourhood as a whole (when conflicts between neighbourhood groups occur due to disagreement on the spending of common budgets, or because some resident groups are better positioned to apply for subsidies).



Video on the research question

- https://youtu.be/eY-C5ua_JwA

Read more

- <https://icecproject.com/publications/> with among other publications "Neighbourhood initiatives and belonging in super-diverse neighbourhoods in Amsterdam and Vienna" (Comparative cross-city report. ICEC – Interethnic Coexistence in European Cities: a comparative and applied-oriented analysis of neighbourhood-related policies, Julia Dahlvik – Austrian Academy of Sciences, Yvonne Franz – Austrian Academy of Sciences, Myrte Hoekstra – University of Amsterdam, Josef Kohlbacher – Austrian Academy of Sciences)
- <https://www.oneworld.nl/overig/voel-je-thuis-een-gemixte-wijk/>

Verbinden van Duurzame Steden

