C4i
Communication for Integration

C4I COMPARATIVE DATA:
IDENTIFIED RUMOURS & COUNTER-INFO

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Deliverable
4

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DELIVERABLE 4. C4I COMPARATIVE DATA: IDENTIFIED RUMOURS AND COUNTER INFO

CONTENTS

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CONTEXT

- ✓ This a provisional list of the rumours identified in each city through the workshops conducted by the consultant or by the methodological process carried out in the city

- ✓ Many cities are still working on a deeper identification analysis that will bring the final list of identified rumours

- ✓ Cities will also decide what are the rumours they will focus on their antirumours campaigns

- ✓ Further on the project and with all the information a more updated version of this report will be produced

Identified rumours: AMADORA

don't want to work   live in bad neighbourhoods

they are violent and criminals   work in lower-positions

Brazilian women are prostitutes   Roma don't study neither work

Roma are racist   they neglect their children

have a negative impact at education level in schools

Identified rumours: BILBAO

There are too many immigrants

They abuse and live on benefits and collapse health system

They take our jobs and don't want to integrate

They increase chauvinism and gender violence

Lower education standars and create ghettos in schools

They have preference to get social housing and pushes down property prices on the areas where they live

Immigration will put religious back on the agenda and halt the path to secularism

Take up too much public space and make bad use of it and they are uncivilised

Identified rumours: BOTKYRKA

northern Botkyrka is a criminal region because lot of immigrants live there

those living in the north are receiving grants and are unemployed

That north gets all the money and the other parts get nothing or much less

persons "with different cultures" cannot live together, is the cause of many social problems

Swedish culture and values are threatened by the presence of so many migrants...many women are not allowed to do anything

"immigrants" in Botkyrka are uneducated and do not want to learn the language

C 4 i
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Refugees are taking jobs away from Germans

They abuse housing system and exploits the benefits of our welfare-system

They are unemployed and don't want to integrate

High illiteracy and low education level   linked to violence and criminality

Muslim population represents an identity threat

Romanians and Bulgarians are poor, linked
to begging, criminality..

Migrants are lazy and don't want to work

Foreigners will take over the country   they cost money

Don't bother to learn the language and traditions and don't respect anything

They abuse social benefits   they take our jobs, are dangerous and ignorants

Middle East migrants and muslims are terrorists

They receive special treatment from the police

They live from social benefits and pay nothing

They live in bad neighbourhoods and are violents and criminals

They work in low-skilled positions

are racist and male chauvinist

Romanian, Ukrainian and Bulgarian migrants are alcoholics, criminals and link t[o] mafias

They neglect the attention to their children

Roma don't work or work on irregular basis

Brazilian women are prostitutes; Chinese people don't die; Africans are stupid and Eastern Europeans are clever

C 4 i
antirumours

Identified rumours: LUBLIN

They are lazy and take our money

have a lot of children   are stupid and don't learn easily

Chechens are barbarians and Ukrainians are hard workers

Roma don't work, live from social benefits and are beggars

Ukrainian women married for interest

C 4 i
antirumours

They are very loud and not polite

It's easier for them to find a job and have many advantages

Refugees abuse housing system and live on social benefits

They don't want to work, don't pay taxes and have many children

Muslim people tend to be fanatic and represents an identity threat

They establish parallel societies

People from eastern Europe are linked to mafia

Romanians and Bulgarians cause many problems

They take our jobs and don't pay taxes

They spread diseases and are linked to crime and violence

They don't have culture (Bulgarians don't have alphabet)

Nigerian women are prostitutes

They are lazy and steal from public services

Migrant women steal men

Identified rumours: SABADELL

Migrants abuse social services and get many social benefits

They also make a bad use of the health system

They take our jobs and don't pay taxes

They have a negative impact to the school's education level

They don't want to integrate

Shops owned by migrants don't pay taxes

Collecting antirumours data and arguments

Antirumours data and arguments

- ✓ We know objective information is not sufficient to block a rumour as we need to consider emotions which explain and give meaning to the decisions and feelings

- ✓ But we need to find objective data and solid arguments to be rigorous as this is crucial to feel secure and confident on our antirumours work

- ✓ Having good data is a first step, but then we need to know how to use and disseminate it in order to have real impact on public perceptions

Antirumours data and arguments

1. Sources:

✓ We need to gather contrasted information from reliable sources

✓ The kind of data we need will depend on the nature and complexity of each rumour

✓ It is important and useful to get data at local level but also to combine it with more data at regional, state or even at global level.

✓ Sometimes it may be difficult to find data at local level but even if we have it, it may bring more support to our arguments to have a wider and global perspective

✓ is important to collect information from various sources and combining statistical and primary data with more elaborate studies that present specific findings

✓ Examples of sources are: official statistics, governments, international organizations, universities, think tanks etc.

C 4 i
antirumours

2. How we can communicate and disseminate information

a)   Adaptation
The first step is to adapt the official data and technical arguments to a more communicative and understandable language

b) Different tools and methodologies
Depending on the characteristics of the campaigns, we can combine different means of getting information to the public. From developing communicative information products (brochures, websites, videos, comics, merchandising products etc.) to work through more intensive dynamics in which the data can be used but complementary to activities that emphasize the dialogue and debate or actions based on a cultural activity (theater, music, etc..) or actions at the public space (squares, local markets..)

3. Example from Barcelona

Let's take one example that will help us to better understand the whole process to collect and disseminate antirumours data:

The rumour is:

"immigrants are collapsing our health system"

What kind of data is using the Barcelona Antirumours Strategy to dismantle this rumour?

- immigrants make less use of health services than the average population (for all ages and nationalities)
- immigrants account for only 2% of the population over 65 years (while authoctonos are 24%) and much of the health budget is obviously focused on this group
- nationality is not a variable that explains differential use of health services, but is determined by a combination of socioeconomic and demographic variables
- "Health tourism" is very minor and mainly from EU citizens
- Health care is a right recognized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Sources: stuides from Barcelona Public Health Agency, Catalan ansd Spanish Government Health Department, a research study conducte by a public hospital etc.

Antirumours data and arguments

What tools are using the Barcelona Antirumours Strategy to disseminate this information?

- Through the web site: http://bcnantirumors.cat/rumor/colapsen
- Through funny videos:
- http://bcnantirumors.cat/videos/immigraci%C3%B3-i-sanitat
- Through an antirumour handbook with a chapter on this topic http://bcnantirumors.cat/sites/default/files/mbit%20sanitat%20FINAL%20CORRV2.pdf
- Through a comic:
  http://www.bcnantirumors.cat/sites/default/files/comic%20def%20bx%2015-55-34_0.pdf
- And also through leaflets, bibliography of articles and academic studies, other materials like "antirumours glasses" etc.
- And finally through hundreds of antirumours activities (social theatre, hip hop, workshops, debates, actions at public space and schools etc.)

4. Example from Erlangen

As the other cities of the C4i project, the city of Erlangen has identified its main rumours and has collected some anti-rumours data. Let's see two examples:

- ✓ **Rumour:** Massive numbers of refugees arrive in Germany

   Fact: Only a fraction of more than 45 million refugees worldwide reach Europe. In 2013, Germany processed merely 110,000 Asylum seekers

- ✓ **Rumour:** Refugees are taking jobs away from Germans

   Fact: During the first three months, refugees are not allowed to work. After this period, special restrictions apply: Employers have to issue a statement that no German applicant was available for the position.

C 4 i
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5. Examples of sources:

There are several examples of studies at European and international level providing interesting data and arguments that question stereotypes and rumours linked to migration issues. We can use this info to complement data more focused at local level.

A) IS WHAT WE HEAR ABOUT MIGRATION REALLY TRUE? QUESTIONING 8 STEREOTYPES

This interesting report has been published by the European University Institute, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, Migration Policy Centre.

http://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/31731/MPC_2014_FARGUES.pdf?sequence=1

Stereotype 1: " We do not need migrants"

The idea that Europe has a large enough population and would fare better with fewer immigrants is typically a very short term vision. Europe's population projections show a dramatic trend of decrease and ageing that, in the absence of immigration, will translate into an unprecedented reduction in Europe's demographic weight in the world; the unsustainability of its welfare systems; the ageing of its skills

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Stereotype 2: "Migrants steal our jobs"

Contrary to this expectation, statistical analysis shows that unemployment and immigration vary more often in opposite directions than in parallel. On one hand immigrants are attracted by employment rather than unemployment, and on the other hand, successful labour markets create employment for both migrants and natives, who, in many cases, are not in direct competition.

Stereotype 3: "We do not need low-skilled immigrants in the EU"

That migration policies must be selective does not mean that only highly-skilled migrants should be selected. Low-skilled migrants have their place in Europe's labour markets. They allow for the employment of natives in highly-skilled occupations and compensate for shortages of low-skilled workers in industries where they are needed.

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Stereotype 4: "Migrants undermine our welfare systems"

With larger families and higher risks of job loss, immigrants would be a burden on the welfare system, which would reduce natives' trust in social solidarity. On the contrary, empirical evidence shows that: given their age and occupational structure, migrants have on average a positive net fiscal contribution; immigration is accompanied by positive, more often than negative, attitudes towards social redistribution of wealth.

Stereotype 5: "Migration hampers our capacity to innovate"

By bringing in labour, migration would reduce incentives for firms to invest in the capital-intensive technologies where innovation takes place. On the contrary, empirical research shows that the immigration of highly-skilled workers, together with the diversity of origins in the workplace, play in favour of innovation.

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Stereotype 6: "Our southern coastline is flooded with asylum seekers"

Europe and particularly its southern Member States are too exposed to waves of forced migrants. In reality: the vast majority of recent refugees are not in Europe, but in countries neighbouring conflict areas in the neighbourhood of Europe; most asylum seekers in Europe are not in Mediterranean Member States, but in Western and Northern EU.

Stereotype 7: "Economic migrants are trying to cheat our asylum system"

Recurrent dramas in the Mediterranean have called for local responses ranging from better control of emigration from North Africa to reduce the risk of dying at sea and to open new channels of legal migration. However, data show that many clandestine migrants are genuine asylum seekers and the roots of their drama is the lack of asylum channels in more distant regions, such as the Horn of Africa.

Stereotype 8: "Our children suffer from having immigrants in class"

Contrary to this received idea, PISA surveys on the educational achievement of students provide evidence of a bonus, enjoyed by sons and daughters of mixed parentage, but no handicap of children attending mixed schools when social factors are accounted for. Put in other terms, lower educational performances are linked to social disadvantages rather than the presence of migrants.

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