

The LUCIDE project and network: Languages in Urban Communities – Integration and Diversity for Europe

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The University of Rome "Foro Italico" Language Centre is a partner of the LUCIDE (Languages in Urban Communities – Integration and Diversity for Europe) project and network. The project, funded by the European Commission Lifelong Learning Programme, aims to gather a comprehensive picture of how communication occurs in multilingual/multicultural settings across the EU and beyond and to develop policy ideas about how to manage the new, complex citizen communities, and to use the gathered information and ideas to support institutions for a better productive use of diversity as an economic resource and for enhanced social cohesion by fostering mutual understanding. It also aims to investigate how the cultural richness of these new cities can strengthen the "diverse unity" of the 21st century city. Universities and institutions from all over EU and from Canada and Australia are among the 16 partners of the network.

In concrete, the objectives of the project include: 1) to analyse the realities of multilingual cities in education, the economy, civil society and cultural life.; 2) to propose policy directions which can support the diverse realities of multilingual cities and social cohesion, especially through language learning in education and training, and through the provision of multilingual services in civil society; 3) to examine the connections between cities, the common communication and cultural space; and 4) to propose a vision for the city of the future. At the centre of the network's activity is the LUCIDE website, a repository of key documents and reports, guidelines and examples of good practice, and a stimulus for interaction and participation.

The conclusions and outputs of the network will be mainly targeted at policy makers and intermediaries in urban contexts and they will also be of interest to researchers in the fields of urban development and multilingualism and to the general public.