



## SECOND INTERNATIONAL MEETING

26 & 27 January 2023

UNIVERSIDADE NOVA DE LISBOA, LISBONNE



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

The second international meeting of the  
Alliance Migrations

**1**

Establishing an alternative reception policy

**2**

Establishing an alternative reception policy

*Political and civic participation*

*Positive discourse on migration and interculturality*

*Unconditional access to rights*

**3**

Local action and networking between  
territories: improving governance of migration

**4**

Workshops: Creating a joint action plan for the  
Migration Alliance

*For an international agenda that includes local actors' voices*

*Spearheading a change in perspective from our territories*

*Shared tools to strengthen our practices*

**5**

Final declaration: A shared international  
agenda for migration

# THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF THE ALLIANCE MIGRATIONS

En 2019 à Paris, l'Organisation pour une Citoyenneté Universelle et l'Association Nationale [française] des Villes et Territoires Accueillants ont réuni plus de 180 participant.e.s (représentant.es de collectivités locales, représentant.es d'associations, réseaux, collectifs citoyens et syndicats) originaires de 25 pays et de 30 villes d'Afrique, des Amériques et d'Europe pour lancer le projet d'une alliance durable entre autorités locales et société civile pour défendre un changement de cap en matière de politiques migratoires fondé sur le respect des droits fondamentaux des personnes exilées et la prise en compte de la parole et de l'expertise des acteurs locaux engagés dans la solidarité : « l'Alliance Migrations ».

A la suite de sa 1ère rencontre (entre 2020 et 2022), « l'Alliance » pilotée par l'OCU et l'Anvita a fait l'étude de quelques territoires inspirants pour faire émerger un « socle commun » de politiques alternatives proposées à l'échelle des territoires. Ce socle se construit autour des 3 piliers suivants :

1. Political and civic participation
2. Unconditional access to rights
3. Positive discourse about migration through interculturality

The members of the Alliance maintained an international dialogue and, through the pandemic, produced a series of webinars on these three focal points that brought new actors together each time.

More than three years later, the second meeting of the Migration Alliance took place on 26 and 27 January 2023 in Lisbon. Hosted by NOVA University Lisbon, this meeting attracted over 130 participants representing 41 local territories in 23 different countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. The round tables and workshops were interpreted into French, English, Spanish and Portuguese.

The meeting took place over two days: the first focusing on sharing practices, and the second focusing on possibilities for joint action.

On the first day, workshops on sharing best practices made it possible to align the core principles with the realities of local territories. The workshops were complemented by two round tables on the challenges of political advocacy in local territories to bring about a definitive change in migration policies. The goal was to show how local actors get involved, either by strengthening and maintaining their local reception policies or by influencing change beyond their immediate areas (therefore within the scope of other levels of governance: national, regional and international).

This day came to a close with a ceremony presenting Universal Citizenship Passports to:

- Cyntia de Paula, chair of Casa do Brasil
- Carol Dartora, feminist activist, member of Movimento Negro and elected member of the city council of Curitiba
- Maria Dantas, Brazilian activist and member of the Spanish Congress of Deputies
- Lilia Rebaï, representative of Euromed Droits
- Mimmo Lucano, former mayor of Riace, who was not present at the event due to his trial but to whom we addressed our collective support

The second day of the meeting was dedicated to the co-construction of a set of joint actions focusing on the three main themes and the draft actions previously prepared during the webinars:

### **1st theme : « Organising advocacy work for an alternative governance of migration »**

Action 1 : Organising regional meetings with decision-makers to strengthen the dialogue about improving regional and national reception policies

Action 2 : The continuation of the International Expert Group on Migration (IEGM), following the model of the IPCC, to provide decision-makers with scientific information on migration policies

### **2nd theme : « Raising awareness about other possible citizenship/reception models »**

Action 1 : Coordinating a Welcoming Week

Action 2 : Promoting a local citizenship card

### **3rd theme : « Strengthening networking between territories »**

Action 1 : Creating a collaborative digital platform

Action 2 : Organising theme-based meetings between local actors

These workshops led to a final declaration (page 13) that presented the six collective actions selected by the Migration Alliance for the next several years.

## ESTABLISHING AN ALTERNATIVE RECEPTION POLICY

During the first morning of the meeting, the different organisations' opening speeches were followed by an initial round table whose theme was "Establishing an alternative reception policy" and that brought together local government representatives from three continents to discuss their challenges and existing mechanisms related to reception policy.

Five speakers presented the situations of their local areas and the challenges that they face as well as some potential solutions:

- Mohamed Ben Maouloud, Mayor of Gao (Mali)
- Jean-Philippe Gautrais, Mayor of Fontenay-sous-Bois (France)
- Zoe Nkongolo, Director of Africa Unite Cape Town (South Africa)
- Isabella de Roldao, Deputy Mayor of Recife (Brazil)
- Cyntia de Paula, Chair of Casa do Brasil (Portugal)



What came out of the discussions is that it is impossible to conceive of alternative policies without involving migrant persons or considering gender-related difficulties. The first step of reception is providing shelter, and long-term housing solutions are a necessary goal if reception is also ongoing and long-term. Access to work is also a priority, even in areas identified as "transit" areas within migration pathways. Finally, to reduce inequality in legal terms, local governments and associations must work together to help migrant and local populations become aware of and learn to handle challenges related to migration and interculturality, and fight against prejudices that may also affect internally displaced persons.

## WORKSHOPS

# SHARING OUR PRACTICES IN OUR RESPECTIVE TERRITORIES

### PARTICIPATION POLITIQUE & CITOYENNE

#### CONTEXT

To promote another view of migration and implement an effective policy of unconditional access to rights, migrant persons must be included in the process of creating public policies and reception mechanisms. Acknowledging the roles that people with migrant backgrounds play in our societies, beyond the status of “migrant” means acknowledging their agency and their de facto participation in local life. It also means opening access to rights and spaces for political participation and representation. Political participation and residence-based citizenship are two starting points for moving beyond an assistance-only approach and recognising the active role that migrant persons play in municipalities. City policies that foster participation by foreign residents have three key elements.

.First, public institutions must establish participatory democratic bodies dedicated to foreign residents through advisory committee meetings, participatory budgets, and so on.

.Second, participants insist on the inclusion of the forms of political self-organisation created by the people concerned. There are many ways in which people can participate, no matter what their administrative status is—namely, through cultural, social, economic and political activities. Associations and activist organisations play a key role in access to these types of participation.

.Finally, more and more territories are considering the idea of a residence-based citizenship card as a gateway to access to rights, social recognition and political recognition. Depending on how they are implemented, these cards could serve as official proof that foreign residents belong to the local area; they could also serve as symbolic and political leverage in the eyes of national bodies where the right of residence and the regularization of undocumented persons are concerned. This tool could be used in many territories and tweaked to fit each of their particularities.

#### Local actors shared their stories:

- Lariza Dugan-Cuadra, Carecen – San Francisco (United States)
- Ana Carolina Dartora, Member of Curitiba City Council (Brazil)
- Mohamed Wajdi Aydi, Deputy Mayor of Sfax (Tunisia)
- Nayan Kiang, Founder and President of Solidarités Asie France (France)
- Rudi Osman, Director of Union des Etudiant.e.s Exilé.e.s (France)
- Christos Lazaridis, Greek Refugee Forum (Greece)

Among the initiatives shared were the promotion of foreign residents’ right to vote in and eligibility to run for local elections, as well as the concept of local resident cards. These solutions are becoming more and more widespread. It is important to direct humanitarian actions, social initiatives and information-sharing toward encouraging migrant communities to self-organise, and to conduct advocacy both locally and at the European level.

## POSITIVE DISCOURSE ON MIGRATION AND INTERCULTURALITY

### CONTEXT

An essential part of ensuring that migrant persons receive a dignified welcome and are included is advocating for another view of migration that casts diversity as a strength, combats discrimination and encourages social cohesion among inhabitants of different social and cultural backgrounds. Exploring the historical context of migration, putting together a collective memory of migration, and starting spaces for intercultural and inclusive discussion among local inhabitants are some ways to bring this approach to life. Co-construction (with local authorities and representatives of civil society) of a collective memory that includes the history of exiled persons is necessary to retell these stories from an antiracist viewpoint, shed light on current and historical dynamics related to colonization, take pride in a territory that has developed thanks to migration and affirm that everyone has a place in this territory.

### Local actors shared their stories:

- Christina Pope, Welcoming International (United States)
- Marie-France René, City of Montréal (Canada)
- João Alexandre Gonçalves Cunha Mota, Fundação Migration Center (Portugal)
- Jorge E. Muiño, Secretariat of International Relations and Public Government in Canelones (Uruguay)
- Sylvie Tomic, Deputy Mayor of Lyon (France)
- Fatima Parret, Emmaüs Bussièeres and Pruns (France)



Welcoming Weeks create spaces for intercultural encounters and the promotion of migration's benefits. It is important to combine these awareness-raising initiatives with the fight against racism and all forms of discrimination.

## UNCONDITIONAL ACCESS TO RIGHTS

### CONTEXT

Providing a dignified welcome means respecting every individual's fundamental rights, no matter what their migration journey has been, and facilitating access to social, economic and political rights for all residents—holistically and over the long term. Access to rights must be considered in a new way that goes beyond the categories introduced by sorting-based policies, which tend to exclude certain populations or keep them on the fringes of legality due to their administrative situation or the duration of their stay in the territory. Instead of approaching access to rights from a humanitarian/emergency standpoint, focusing on helping a handful of people and aiming for a minimum standard of protection for the most vulnerable, the goal should be to promote and ensure access to rights and emancipation for all, universally. Defending access to rights for all people living in a given territory, including the excluded (as exiles often are), means working transversally with institutional actors and associations in the various fields of access to rights. When a dialogue between institutions and associations has not yet been established, it is important for civil society to get organised within a single territory in order to offer up its proposals and resources. However, no matter how committed local actors are to universal access to rights, they will always clash with national policies restricting access to regularization and nationality due to the way that responsibility for receiving migrants is currently distributed. Therefore, a new model for governance of migration is needed. This model must hold the State responsible for dignified, unconditional protection of all people present in a country while allowing dialogue and better distribution of tasks between the State and local territories as concerns the long-term settlement of migrant persons and access to legal residence.

### Local actors shared their stories:

- Halima Menhoudj, Deputy Mayor of Montreuil (France)
- Laura Lentini and Pauline Mallet, Liège Ville Hospitalière Collective (Belgium) and Jérôme Battistini, Cabinet Secretary, Department of Solidarity, Social Cohesion and Rights, Liège (Belgium)
- Maike Caiulo-Prahn, Berlin Independent Complaints Bureau (Germany)
- Jan Braat, City of Utrecht (Netherlands)
- Jorge Hidalgo, Deputy Director of Migrants in Mexico City (Mexico)
- Angelo Moretti and Gabriella Debora Giorgione, Rete italiana dei Piccoli Comuni del Welcome (Italy)

Local government and civil society have many different levers for action to improve exiled persons' access to rights. It starts with housing, and with the creation of a dialogue between civil society and local authorities so they can work in complement to each other and create synergies between the different services on offer. These could include social and legal support, language classes, the provision of important information and the availability of public letter-writers so that exiled persons can access the entirety of their rights. It is also possible to accompany exiled persons when they file complaints to ensure that their fundamental rights are respected.



## LOCAL ACTION AND NETWORKING BETWEEN TERRITORIES: IMPROVING GOVERNANCE OF MIGRATION

In the middle of the afternoon, a plenary round table was organised on the theme of local action and networking between territories. The goal of the round table was to show how local actors get involved, either by strengthening and maintaining their local reception policies or by influencing change beyond their immediate areas (therefore within the scope of other levels of governance: national, regional and international). The discussions reinforced the idea that to ensure that local reception-related actions become long-term policies instead of remaining short-term projects, and to ensure that they provoke more widespread change, it is necessary for territories to take up this challenge politically, collectively, and persistently, as we are seeing an overall decline in the conditions for migrant persons throughout the world.

### Four speakers took the floor to present the objectives, the stakes and the limits of their actions for an alternative governance of migration:

- Tatyana Friedrich, recently elected Director of Migration in the new Brazilian government
- Jemimah Cochrane, Head of Cities4Action in New York City (United States)
- Hassane Boukar, Project Lead at Alternative Espaces Citoyens (Niger)
- Jean Rousseau, Former Chair of Emmaus International and Member of the Organisation for Universal Citizenship



Their remarks expressed the importance of local networking between cities and civil society organisations to make sure that a safety net is available for new arrivals, especially when the national government is an extreme right-wing one. Governments are responsible for supporting these solidarity networks so they can take shape, become sustainable and rise up in resistance when repressive governments are in power. City networks have the potential to put their thumb on the scale of institutional power so that local actors' demands can be heard by the government. And while it is important for local authorities to take action, civil society organisations also have an impact, especially when they join together in a network.

It is both necessary and legitimate for civil society organisations to take up issues related to the governance of migration when local officials are not ready to handle them or when they do not have the power to do so due to the national government's sovereignty over border control. Associations can refer matters to themselves, even under regimes hostile to migration, and they can ally with local authorities when setting up local reception mechanisms. Within networks, associations can amplify their impact so that they gain the ability to dialogue with governments and international institutions. In sum, these types of actions aim to focus grassroots power from the local population so that local actors and other individuals concerned may be considered worthwhile interlocutors in the national government's eyes, for the purpose of discussing migration policies that have been violating migrants' rights for decades. It is important to remember that our core demand for an alternative governance of migration is respect for freedom of circulation and fundamental rights, which is by nature nonpartisan and universal since it is rooted in international law.



Discussion between the speakers and the other participants touched on the need to be aware that imperialism and neo-colonialism are still present and that they continue to influence the way in which migration are managed, especially through "North-South" partnerships, border outsourcing, policies deporting migrants to their country of origin, and different treatment of different diasporas in their countries of arrival. It is therefore necessary to integrate the struggle against these forms of domination into our actions, especially by amplifying voices from the "Global South" and from excluded populations.

## WORKSHOPS

### LET'S CREATE A JOINT ACTION PLAN!

#### ORGANISING ADVOCACY WORK FOR AN ALTERNATIVE GOVERNANCE OF MIGRATION

##### CONTEXT

The goal of this co-construction workshop is to form a bloc and advocate for our causes to the various regional authorities. This will allow us to amplify local territories' demands for better migrant reception policies at higher levels of government.

##### THE TWO DRAFT ACTIONS CHOSEN

###### **ACTION 1 : Organising regional meetings with decision-makers to strengthen the dialogue about improving regional and national reception policies**

3 events have been identified as ideal occasions to demonstrate the Alliance's commitment at the regional level:

- A European day of action in Strasbourg (14, 15 and 16 June 2023) on the initiative of ANVITA and the City of Strasbourg to discuss migration-related topics within the region (with a focus on access to rights and the challenges of shelter/housing).
- An advocacy event in São Paulo on 8 and 9 November 2023.
- The 2023 African Social Forum on Migration (planned for September 2023).

These events must aim for several underlying objectives. First of all, they must strengthen global and local points of contact in order to communicate the Migration Alliance's stance in a variety of regions, while drawing energy from existing spaces such as the regional social forums on migration. They must also include visible political spaces that bring people together in favour of the right to circulate and the reception of migrants, in stark contrast to the xenophobic, security-obsessed ideology gaining prominence around the world. These events must also provide space for the most directly concerned to express themselves, and enable them to participate actively in the choices made (about advocacy actions, awareness-raising, exchanges of best practices, etc.). The idea for these events also comes from the need to support city governments and local associations so that they can move their focus away from everyday emergencies and work on building peer networks for aid and information-sharing.

###### **ACTION 2 : The continuation of the International Expert Group on Migration (IEGM), following the model of the IPCC, to provide decision-makers with scientific information on migration policies**

The IEGM is a researcher-led initiative to create a global academic network capable of producing status reports on migration-related challenges from a scientific point of view. A structure like the Migration Alliance could serve as an interface for collectively communicating local actors' concerns to researchers.

## RAISING AWARENESS AMONG THE GREATER PUBLIC ABOUT ALTERNATIVE MODELS FOR RECEPTION AND CITIZENSHIP

### CONTEXT

This workshop focused on co-constructing a strategy for raising awareness among the greater public to influence a change in mindset regarding migrant persons and community life. The goal was to come up with some actions that could be carried out at the scale of the Migration Alliance; that is, at a local level with worldwide awareness, either by synchronising territories' activities (with "Welcoming Week") or by using the same tool (local citizenship/residence cards).

### THE TWO DRAFT ACTIONS CHOSEN

#### **ACTION 1 : Coordinating a Welcoming Week**

The principle of this action is to coordinate local awareness-raising activities related to the reception of migrants, community life and inclusive citizenship. Its objectives will be to showcase interculturality in local territories, communicate about existing solidarity activities around the reception of migrants, democratize the public space around these issues and deconstruct prejudices about migration. It will be necessary to find spaces where the Welcoming Week can be held (public space, solidarity space, etc.) and decide on the content of the events. Some suggestions were to use cultural hallmarks like music and food as vectors, to plan activities focusing on the migratory history of the local area, to collect and share stories about migration journeys, etc. The target audience would be local populations, including (and with significant participation by) local residents who have experienced or are experiencing migration. The Welcoming Weeks would need to be planned six months in advance and would use the tools made available by Welcoming International.

#### **ACTION 2 : Promoting a local citizenship card**

This card would have multiple objectives that would depend on the challenges and situation of each local area. They could:

- Serve as a symbol to strengthen the feeling of belonging to a city in a way that includes all inhabitants, both migrants and non-migrants.
- Enable the acknowledgment of so-called "undocumented" persons by local government agents and give them access to a variety of services that would make their lives easier.
- Promote an alternative view of citizenship.

The power of the card would be in its adoption by non-migrants as well, so it would need to be appealing for all. The card must aim to be inclusive of all people who may be victims of discrimination (for example, by acknowledging gender and sexuality diversity). This initiative could even potentially be expanded by creating partnerships of mutual card recognition between different cities in the same country. It is equally important to consider these cards not just as residence cards in so-called "host countries," but also as a form of protection during migratory journeys through "transit countries." Another key action could be to create a link between the card and the Welcoming Week (which could, for example, provide an occasion for cardholders to meet and mingle).

## STRENGTHENING NETWORKING BETWEEN TERRITORIES

### CONTEXT

During this workshop, concerns were raised about the difficulties of creating connections between territories involved in migrant reception, and the ways in which local governments and associations from different parts of the world could improve their cooperation.

### BEST PRACTICES

#### **ACTION 1 : Creating a collaborative digital platform**

This platform will aim to strengthen connections between local actors and facilitate sharing of knowledge and tools. It will first take the shape of a map or a directory of territories' actions, so that Migration Alliance participants can draw inspiration from existing practices and contact their leaders directly for peer-to-peer support.

#### **ACTION 2 : Organising themed meetings between local actors**

The goal of these themed meetings will be to assist territories that are interested in doing more for migrant reception but lack the tools to do so. They will be in the form of webinars on specific themes. Some examples have already been suggested:

- Regularisation
- Decentralising the reception of new arrivals
- Migrant reception in rural areas
- Reception in territories with outsourced borders

These meetings must be participatory, promote ongoing education and make use of political and collective brainstorming

## IDEAS TO STRENGTHEN THE MIGRATION ALLIANCE

Participants in this workshop noted that the Migration Alliance has the advantage of being an international network that creates opportunities for connection between local authorities and civil society that focus on concrete measures for the reception of migrants. This position enables us to advocate at a greater scale. We should make full use of our credibility and capacity to make our voices heard. Several ideas were suggested to strengthen and give more structure to the Migration Alliance:

- Strengthen external communication
- Strengthen internal communication (platform and webinars)
- Create a more extensive monitoring committee
- Encourage/facilitate the participation of the persons concerned, particularly through training and interpretation: associations for migrants, women, trans people, LGBTIQ+ people, etc.
- Re-centre concrete experiments and actions in our discussions
- Use continuing education and popular education methods to co-create collective actions
- Create a membership charter for the Migration Alliance to formalize participants' commitment and its duration



The Migration Alliance is an open, collective project.

To participate actively in the Alliance or read more about it :

[contact@alliance-migration.fr](mailto:contact@alliance-migration.fr)

# FINAL PLENARY DECLARATION

## A JOINT ACTION PLAN ON MIGRATION

The second meeting of the Migration Alliance, organised by the OUC and ANVITA, took place at NOVA University Lisbon, in the city of Lisbon, in Portugal, on 26 and 27 January 2023, with the participation of over 130 people who represented 41 cities in 23 countries. These two days of activities, discussions and co-creation proved that many good practices are already extant and should serve as examples of an alternative model for the reception of migrants and refugees. Good practices' effectiveness depends on coordination between different local actors, such as local authorities and civil society organisations, especially those led by the most directly affected.

Whether in Africa, the Americas or Europe, these local practices should be supported, shared and iterated on in other places and contexts. These practices focus on the promotion of interculturality, unconditional access to rights and political and civic participation by the residents of a given place. These discussions about best practices paved the way for a joint action plan for an alternative governance of migration, involving all actors from civil society and local government, and placing the empowerment of migrant persons at its centre. This plan has three critical and complementary target audiences: national and international institutions, public opinion, and local territories. Campaigning directed at institutions will signal-boost local experiences so that they may inspire national and international policies. We must co-construct occasions to call decision-makers to account in each of the regions of the world that we represent, and work with researchers to set up an International Expert Group on Migration (IEGM).

On 15 and 16 June 2023, in Strasbourg, Migration Alliance actors will address Europe and its member states to demand that alternative models serve as a reference for the dignified welcome of people seeking refuge on the continent. On 8 and 9 November 2023, in São Paulo, there will be a Latin American event for addressing demands to regional leaders and adding to the momentum for reception and inclusion policies that respect human rights. In 2024, the African continent will have its turn so that the African States hear out the demands of local actors involved in the reception of migrant persons and exiled persons.

Awareness-raising actions directed toward the general public will aim to change the popular view of migration and introduce a well-reasoned approach based on the virtues of interculturality. This communication for the greater public will be coordinated and disseminated among actors within the Migration Alliance so that each one can address these issues in its own area. A Welcoming Week will be celebrated each year to increase visibility and impact among the populations of our territories. The local citizenship card will be another tool for gaining local access to rights, involving migrant persons and raising awareness among the population. It has been noted that social media can play an important role in combating prejudice.

To strengthen cooperation within the network, a collaborative platform could be set up to highlight concrete local actions throughout the world, suggest useful tools and facilitate contact. The objective is to provide meaningful support for the local actors working on regularization and related topics.

The Migration Alliance's identity should be clearly defined to give a sense of belonging to its participants, and to include all people (women, the undocumented, LGBTQ people, etc.) and all territories (in Africa, in Asia, in rural areas, etc.).

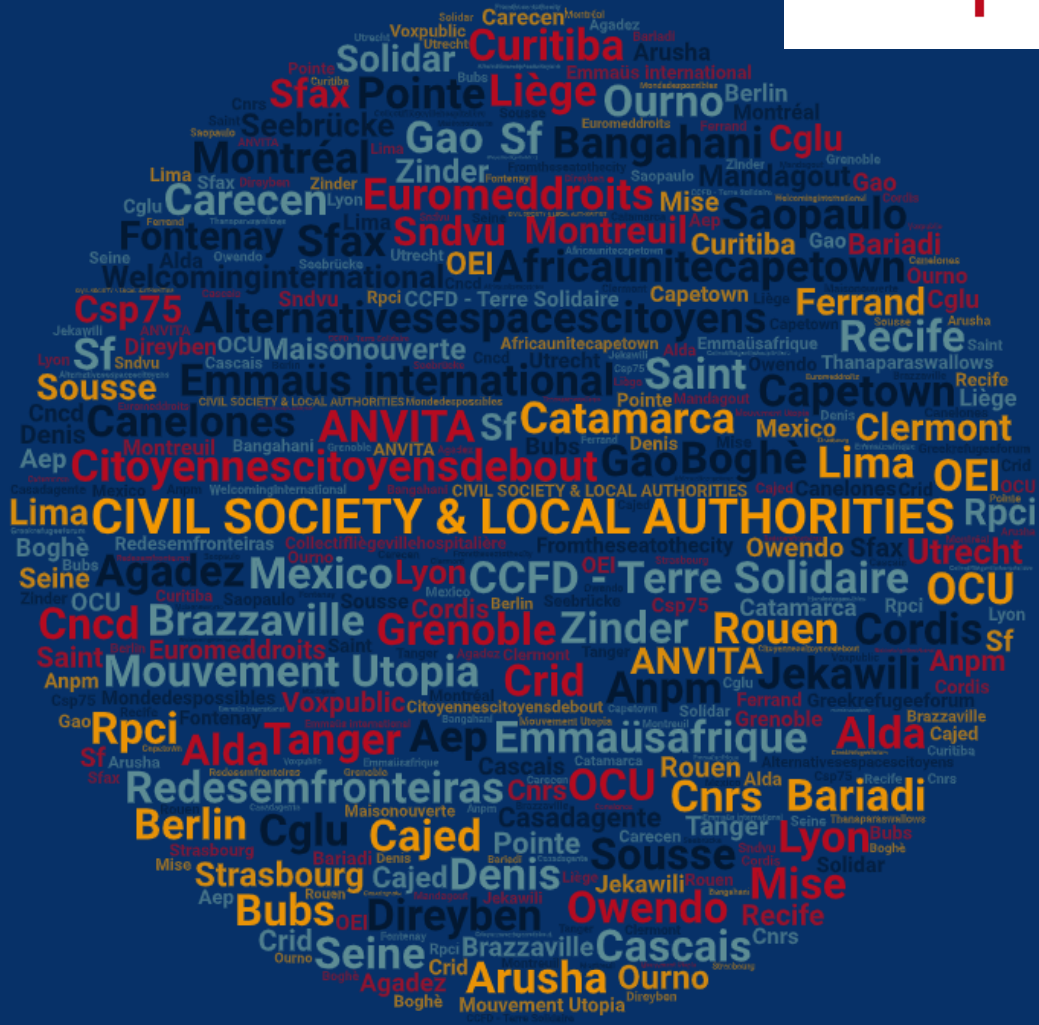
Future meetings should be based on collective brainstorming tools so that all people can be included.

In light of these strategies and commitments made by the Migration Alliance, and in order to bring them to life, all participants in this meeting accept and present the following schedule of joint actions.

Lisbon, 27 January 2023







**SINCE 2019,**

**300** LOCAL ACTORS

**50** TERRITORIES

**25** COUNTRIES

**FOR BETTER RECEPTION POLICIES**