

Municipality of Etterbeek
(Brussels – Belgium)

**Welcoming and fostering involvement of
all citizens in local life**

FOCUS on the European project CRISCO

1. SITUATION

Etterbeek is a municipality located in the Brussels' urban area (Belgium), near the city centre

High rate of foreign and migrant populations (150 nationalities)

Table: Etterbeek's demographic data (2016)

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Population rate</i>
<i>Total population</i>	47.180	100%
<i>Foreign population (non Belgian)</i>	20.133	47%
<i>Of which EU-28 nationals</i>	17.217	36%
<i>Of which other nationalities</i>	4.916	10%

High proportion of European nationalities for a great part due to proximity with the European district (Commission, Parliament, Council, Committee of the Regions...)

Other profiles of migrants and foreigners

Important migratory flows: in average, 2% of the population leaves and enters Etterbeek every year

Table: foreign population in Etterbeek (non Belgian) – data 2016

	<i>Number</i>	<i>% of the foreign population</i>
<i>Foreign population (non Belgian)</i>	22.133	100%
<i>EU-28 nationals</i>	17.217	78%
<i>France</i>	3.681	17%
<i>Italy</i>	2.197	10%
<i>Poland</i>	2.097	9%
<i>Spain</i>	1.609	7%
<i>Romania</i>	1.196	5%
<i>Germany</i>	993	4%
<i>Portugal</i>	948	4%
<i>United Kingdom</i>	754	3%
<i>Greece</i>	615	3%
<i>The Netherlands</i>	478	2%
<i>Africa</i>	1.589	7%
<i>Morocco</i>	548	2%
<i>Asia</i>	1.826	8%
<i>America</i>	882	4%

Etterbeek-International at a glance

> 150

50%

2%



Nationalities
(majority EU)

Foreigners
(majority EU)

Mobility rate

Overall, this heterogeneous population tends to form different separate socio-demographic groups, sometimes at the expense of social cohesion

Often, foreign and migrant communities are not enough involved in local life

They do not take part in local activities and less than 10% of them vote in local elections, despite the fact that the law allows them to do so (with limited paperwork)

2. ACTIONS

Our intention is to facilitate a better involvement of all citizens in local life, in order to improve participation (including voting), social cohesion, and foster intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding

For this purpose, we have different initiatives operated by :

- The Municipality
- Local associations
- Citizens / civil society
- Collaborations with other partners (including European networks such as the CRISCO project)

FOCUS ON CRISCO

**“Crossroad of the Regions - fostering involvement of
all citizens in local life to Improve Social Cohesion”**

European Commission
Programme “Europe for Citizens” 2014-2020
Project “Network of Towns” (#588195)

Europe for Citizens Programme – Networks of Towns

Objectives and priorities:

- To foster European citizenship and to improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at Union level
- The transnational dimension should be accompanied by a strong local dimension
- Raise awareness on the richness of the cultural and linguistic environment in Europe
- Promote mutual understanding and tolerance, thereby contributing to the development of a respectful, dynamic and multifaceted European identity

Genesis of CRISCO

First submission:	Resubmission
September 2016	March 2017
177 applications	143 applications
Score: 73,5/100 (not selected)	Score: 86,5/100 (<u>selected</u> – ranked n°3)

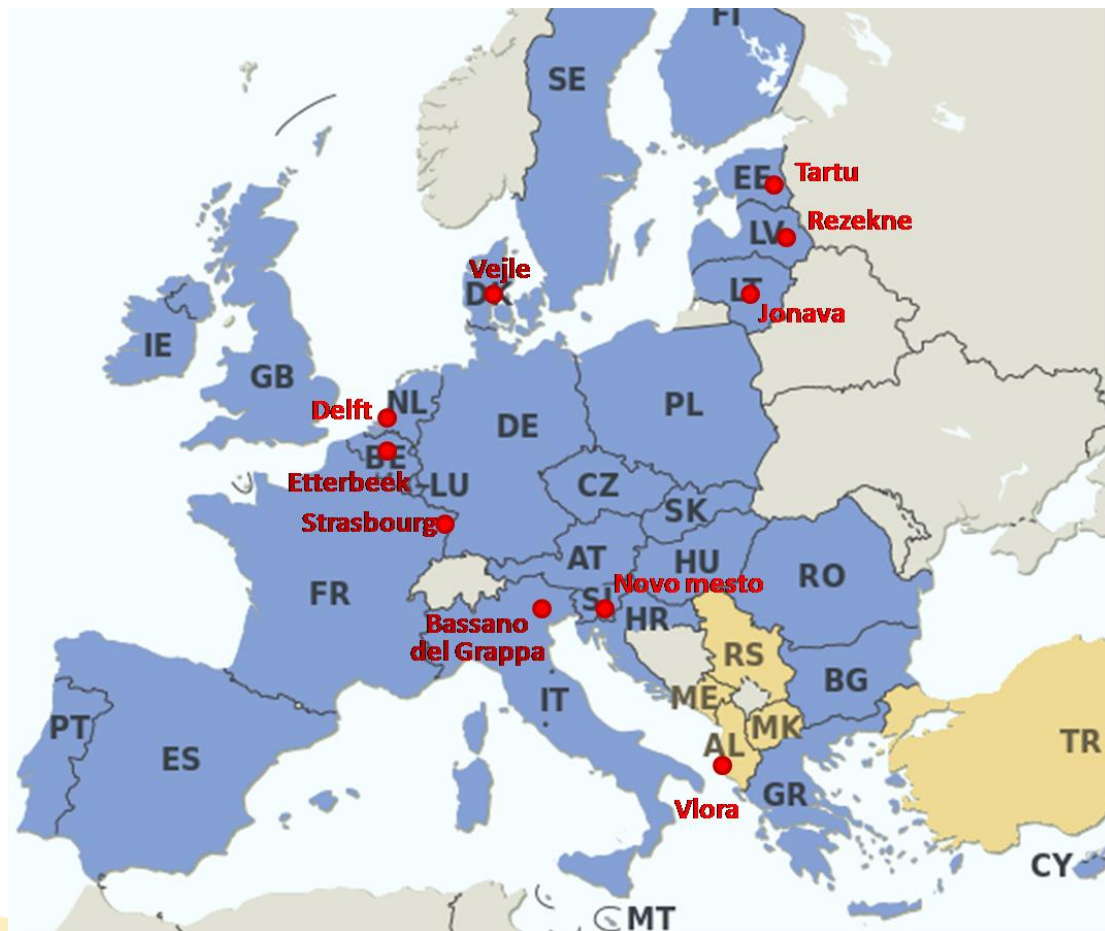
Preparation:

- Etterbeek:
 - *project design around the concept of "Carrefour des Régions" (CQD)*
 - *project coordinator*
- ALDA Brussels (European Association for Local Democracy):
 - *experience and support to Etterbeek*
 - *activation of their network*
- BRULOCALIS (formerly AVCB):
 - *activation of their network*

CRISCO - Summary

- *Crossroad of the Regions - fostering involvement of all citizens in local life to Improve Social COhesion*
- *Network of 10 (medium sized) cosmopolitan cities who are developing different and specific local initiatives aiming at a better integration of their population*
- *high rates of foreign and migrant populations who tend to form separate socio-demographic groups, not enough involved in local life, sometimes at the expense of social cohesion*
- *Target public:*
 - ≠ a specific category of population (“community-based approach”)*
 - = the local population as a whole in a town (district or suburb) with a diversified demographic profile, including the natives, expats, newly arrived migrants, precarious and vulnerable categories (“land-based approach”)*
- *During the project (Sept. 2017 – August 2019), the CRISCO partners have:*
 - *Experimented and reviewed their own local integration initiatives*
 - *Exchanged their experiences among the CRISCO network*
 - *Proposed good practices and recommendations beyond the network*

CRISCO - Network



CRISCO – Activities and agenda

Local Panel of Stakeholders (LPS):

- Each partner sets up and activates a Local Panel of Stakeholders
- Can be built upon existing local networks
- Well balanced membership :
 - « *Officials* »
 - « *Civil society organizations* »
 - « *Simple citizens* » (at least 1/3)
 - *Special attention to precarious and vulnerable populations*
- At least 18 people really motivated and active
- Reflection and action:
 - *Reflection: debates, workshops, local in-field visits, interviews or questionnaires, invitation of external 'experts' ...*
 - *Action: launch, activate, enrich or adapt (new or existing) local integration initiatives*
- At local level, prepare actively participation to transnational events
- Interact with the network



CRISCO – Activities and agenda

4 transnational events:

- Places and dates (2-3 days):
 - *Bassano del Grappa (Italy), March 2018, theme « Cultural and social barriers to integration »*
 - *Strasbourg (France), Sept. 2018, theme « Prejudices and precarious individual situations »*
 - *Vejle (Denmark), Jan. 2019, theme « Language barriers to integration »*
 - *Etterbeek (Belgium), June 2019, theme « (Public) places for inclusion activities »*
- Plenary sessions (public), workshops, in-field visits...
- The 4 hosting partners prepare their own transnational event: accomodation for delegations, agenda, premises, but also stimulate debates and actions among the network before the meeting, and edit the meeting reports
- At local level, each partner prepares actively its participation to transnational events and proposes at least one contribution (PowerPoint, video...)
- Each partner sends 5-6 people at transnational events: « officials », « civil society organizations » and « simple citizens »
- follow-up: each partner takes advantage of the transnational meeting to further experiment, enrich or adapt (new or existing) local integration initiatives

CRISCO – Activities and agenda

		Earlier	2017				2018												2019								Beyond
			9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
	Successive Activities																										
1	Preparatory phase																										
2	Preparation of 1st transnational event																										
3	1st transnational event (Bassano)																										
4	Preparation of 2nd transnational event																										
5	2nd transnational event (Strasbourg)																										
6	Preparation of 3rd transnational event																										
7	3rd transnational event (Vejle)																										
8	Preparation of 4th transnational event																										
9	4th transnational event (Etterbeek)																										
10	Project wrap up																										
	Transversal Activities																										
11	Local Process																										
12	Dissemination																										
13	Monitoring / Evaluation																										
14	Management																										

 Formal time span
 Extended time span

CRISCO – Activities and agenda

Other actions:

- Dissemination all along the project:

- *Specific website*
- *Local dissemination (information meetings, local media, mailing lists, internet...)*
- *Final dissemination of a handbook on “Fostering involvement of all citizens in local life to Improve Social Cohesion”*

- Management:

- *Logistics (missions, events...)*
- *Administrative (paper work...)*
- *financial*

- Monitoring and evaluation:

- *Indicators*
- *Questionnaires*

- **IMPORTANT:** CRISCO partners may take part as ‘experts’, ‘external resource persons’ or ‘interested persons’ in the local process of another partner (2 missions per CRISCO partner)

CRISCO – Pictures of the First Local Process Period (Sept. 2017 – March 2018)



CRISCO – Pictures of the First Local Process Period (Sept. 2017 – March 2018)



CRISCO – Pictures of the First Transnational Event (Bassano del Grappa – 14 to 16 March 2018)



CRISCO – Pictures of the Second Local Process Period (March 2018 – Sept. 2018)



CRISCO – Pictures of the Second Local Process Period (March 2018 – Sept. 2018)



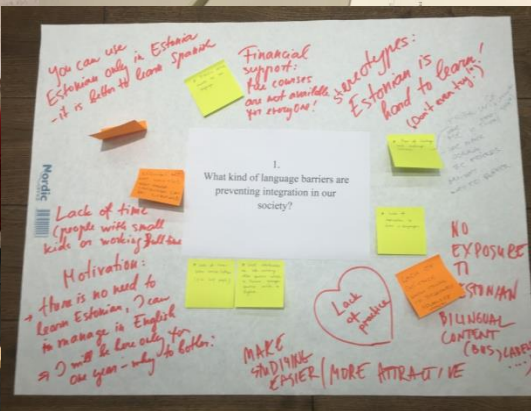
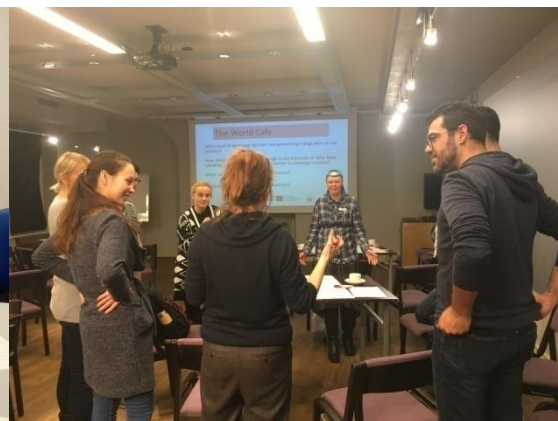
CRISCO – Pictures of the Second Transnational Event (Strasbourg – 26 to 28 September 2018)



CRISCO – Pictures of the Third Local Process Period (Sept. 2018 – January 2019)



CRISCO – Pictures of the Third Local Process Period (Sept. 2018 – January 2019)



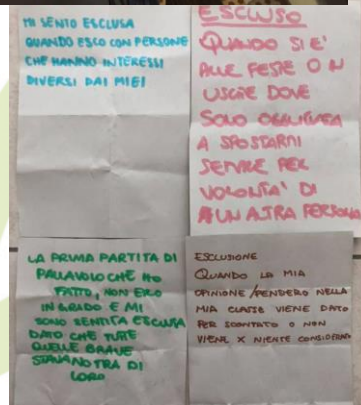
CRISCO – Pictures of the Third Transnational Event (Vejle – 21 to 23 January 2019)



CRISCO – Pictures of the Fourth Local Process Period (January 2019 – June 2019)



CRISCO – Pictures of the Fourth Local Process Period (January 2019 – June 2019)



CRISCO – Pictures of the 4th Transnational Event (Etterbeek-Brussels – 25 to 28 June 2019)



CRISCO – Pictures of the 4th Transnational Event (Etterbeek-Brussels – 25 to 28 June 2019)





<http://www.criscoeurope.eu>

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