

# THE EPIC SURVEY IS ONLINE!

After an intense period of collaboration between University College London (UCL) and the EPIC partners, the EPIC survey on migration and integration practices has been launched. The survey is available in 13 languages, and for the next two months it is open to several host and migrant communities and practitioners working in the field of migration around Europe identified by EPIC. Through it, we wish to learn more about practices of inclusion and responses to displacement across different European cities, from the metropolitan area of Lisbon to the port city of Gdansk, and from the post-industrial city of Oberhausen to the island of Sardinia.

In particular, we ask participants to tell us about different, less known and less visible strategies put in place for and by migrants to navigate and learn the city during and after COVID. After the survey, participants are also asked to share their broader views in one-to-one conversations with our researchers.

The conversations will be audio-recorded, and the recordings will form part of our archive. To get a better, more nuanced and contemporary understanding of inclusion, we wish to hear many voices. We will analyse individual accounts to capture the different 'registers of meaning' that shape the complex interactions and transactions of dwellers with places, people and services.

The survey has three sections. The first, "your history in the city" aims to establish whether a person has a migration history, what kind of relationship has established with the city and the neighbourhood, if s/he intend to remain, and how s/he sees her/himself doing in the city compared to a year ago. This section covers aspects of physical and mental health, financial security, social life and imagination about the future. The second section, "Integration", seeks to capture whether integration is understood – as concept – by a broad social spectrum, and what meaning people associated with it. Several dimensions characterising urban life– such as knowledge, participation, social networks, a sense of belonging and planning for the future – are then explored to gather what people prioritise the most. The third section, "Practices", focuses on specific initiatives and services developed by partners, and/or by people, and provides a space to assess them.

We expect around 100 people per city to undertake the survey. We aim to collect around 1000 stories of integration in order to analyse them, and to understand what we can do better in terms of supporting existing practices and improving integration services. The knowledge gathered from the surveys will constitute the foundation of a capacity building effort that will target local institutions, civil society and migrant organisations through training and job shadowing. It will also be translated into action through a series of pilot projects.



## What is new or different?

This is not the first survey on integration practices supported by EU funds – and for sure not the last one! What is it different then? First, the survey tries to move away from pre-set categories, to let participants define themselves without bias. Second, the survey is very much shaped by the idea that integration is a form of relation, between people, places and institutions. It is driven by individual choices and collective constraints. It is the way we all build an urban basis for ourselves.



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