

Sustainable Diverse Cities: Innovation in Integration – Cit-egration 23.08.17

PART 1: Scientific quality and innovative idea: 1.1 Vision and objectives

Sustainable cities in the north require capability to deal with increased in-migration and diversity. The vision of *Cit-egration* is to increase cities' capacity to deal with challenges of integration related to the new and diverse multicultural population in Norway. We want to add to and develop new directions and practices of integration, making multicultural cities better places. We believe that innovative and creative integration initiatives by voluntary organisations, public institutions and new actors in the wake of increasing migration are a source for new knowledge on how to live with differences. We will build on, learn from, work with and engage in such initiatives to generate knowledge that can help lead to the development of "just cities". We see just cities as urban spaces where people contribute to society with their unique resources and participate in making themselves and the cities thrive. Together with various actors in the city, and starting from innovative integration activities initiated and practiced by local inhabitants, our vision is to develop cities' problem-solving capacities.

Recent increases in refugees and asylum seekers pose challenges to Norwegian towns and cities, which receive a majority of the country's refugees. This adds to challenges already faced by cities: affordable housing, transport, community meeting spaces, and new economic opportunities. There is thus an urgent need for new knowledge and directions in practices of integration, across public, civic and economic sectors, to prevent growth of parallel societies and exclusion, while securing socially, economically and environmentally sustainable cities for all inhabitants, concentrating on the first two.

The recent increase of migrants spurred a wide variety of new activities by traditional voluntary associations and new and diverse actors. We coin the term "Innovations in urban integration" to draw attention to new pop-up and low threshold activities, like language cafes or a web-based sharing economy initiative that creates new hybrid public/private entrepreneurial spaces for eating dinner together, as well as thoroughly planned and organised integration initiatives. *Cit-egration's* originality lies in its main idea: to study innovations in urban integration in the broadly defined cultural sector together with partners involved in such activities and share, develop, test and coproduce knowledge and practices in an interdisciplinary network. This is formulated in four objectives:

Objectives and sub questions

Cit-egration's main objective is to produce new applicable knowledge on innovative integration activities that help us to live with difference, enhance integrative interaction and develop just cities - granting diverse populations rights to physical spaces, to participate in urban life, and shape the city as equals (Harvey 2008, Lefebvre 1996). This will be obtained through the answers to the following questions:

1. How do migrants use urban spaces for cross-cultural interaction?

Understanding the reasons for differential uses of urban spaces, and to what degree urban spaces work as meeting places requires mapping, analysing and describing differential uses. This research question aims at an analytical focus on arenas and spaces where meetings can take place. We will identify and specify the use of meeting places with regard to type of interaction, gender, age, formal migration and citizenship status, length and temporality of stay etc. Which spaces do different groups of inhabitants and migrants use? Who uses the same spaces, together, parallel, in conflict or at different times? For what purposes do people use these spaces?

2. Under what conditions do integration initiatives encourage cross-cultural interactions?

Urban spaces and the existence of meeting places and activities do not necessarily lead to interactions; neither do encounters and interactions necessarily lead to positive exchange, reduction in conflicts and integration. To grasp the dynamics of meeting places, we need to understand how and under what conditions encounters and interactions can be facilitated in different spaces, and for diverse groups of people.

By participating in various initiatives, we will explore the dynamics of encounters and interactions taking place. How are they experienced, by whom, where and through which activities? What are the barriers and factors preventing and fostering different kinds of interaction, among whom, how and where?

3. How do interactions and encounters transfer into participation and development of just cities?

Interactions between individuals and organisations do not necessarily lead to participation in other arenas and institutions. We thus ask in what way and to what degree can functioning meeting places and interactions lead to processes of participation in urban life? How does this promote and challenge concepts of citizenship and the becoming of just cities?

4. What are challenges and solutions to planning for integration in the context of changing organizational patterns of voluntary organizations?

New initiatives, processes of cooperation between new actors, and on-going changes in voluntary organisations and practices pose challenges as well as opportunities for new solutions for integration activities. We ask how voluntary work, organisations and volunteers are changing in the new initiatives we study. We identify new forms of organizing voluntary work, and ask how intersections between private and public organisations, voluntary and paid work, non-profit and for profit purposes challenge and represent new opportunities for integrative efforts? We ask for motivations, driving forces and experiences in organising innovations in integrations.

Relevance to the call and its “three cities”

Norwegian cities are increasingly inhabited by people with diverse cultural backgrounds. The sustainability of cities requires capacity to live with differences; this project is designed to support this capacity. *Cit-egration* starts with challenges in “the social city” addressing integration, exclusion and social cohesion. However, these challenges relate to problems formulated within the call’s “economic city”. Issues related to creative industries and entrepreneurial activity, sharing economy and “smart” technology, non-commercial activities focus on common experiences, and paths for migrants to engage in economic activity will be addressed through the concrete case studies of specific initiatives within different fields and sectors. This gives us the opportunity to discuss the relationship between social and economic integration: how refugees’ economic situations might limit their access to many commercial spaces and activities, as well as transportation. Recycling and non-consumerist integrative activities highlight relations between everyday social, environmental and economic sustainability. Addressing environmental sustainability in cross-cultural dialogues can serve to develop alternative visions of sustainable futures for these cities.

The research questions will be answered in close cooperation with actors involved in integration initiatives, and thus the proposed work will incorporate the goals of various actors, including voluntary organisations, local government, private persons, and businesses, as called for. Together we will study and analyse, test and develop innovations in integration, and aim to generate knowledge and solutions that support social, economic and environmental responsibility. The project will be sensitive to intersections between ethnicity, gender, class, age and place. The case studies vary with regard to how and which challenges they approach, organisational complexity, phase in the project “life-cycle”, etc. This allows us to focus on the intersections between public and private, commercial and non-commercial, voluntary and professional sectors.

Part 1.2 Approaches and choice of method

Cit-egration approaches challenges and pursuing opportunities posed by increasingly diverse city populations through collaborative studies of innovations in urban integration. These are means and innovations connecting newcomers and established residents, and result from voluntary organisations and new actors using their experiences, abilities and moral commitment to create activities in which they invest time and resources. Our approach is to critically analyse, engage with and develop the experiences gained from a wide range of such innovative initiatives, together with organisers, volunteers and participants.

The study assesses new approaches to integration in terms of understanding the complex dynamics of diverse integration initiatives: how they work, and what kinds of interactions they may provide with regard to people in different socio-economic and juridical situations. This means that we will specify the social, spatial (including physical and climatic), cultural and organisational conditions under which different initiatives can add to processes of integration and development of just cities. Rather than a traditional evaluation study, with fixed measures of ‘good integration’, we insist on a more explorative approach to what integration could be, and how it can be done in specific contexts. We want to avoid the impression that easy measures can solve the challenges multicultural cities face, while still producing applicable knowledge. In order to understand how processes of integrations may be furthered we need to explore the function of and connections between meeting places, interaction and participation in the city; understanding social integration is after all a persistent challenge in social science.

Learning from bottom-up integration initiatives; a collaborative approach

Innovative initiatives aiming at creating meeting places and interaction are the research objects in this project. They will be studied as cases in order to gain insight in the dynamics of meeting places and activities: how they are planned and organised, who and how diverse people take part, how the activities further interaction between people, and hence what kinds of encounters they may produce. Finally, we study how these kinds of encounters and interactions between people and institutions at an everyday and personal level may lead to participation and the development of just cities.

The project analyses and develops innovations in integration from two key northern cities with significant immigrant populations: Bodø and Tromsø, and a Danish reference case. These prove useful in knowledge production in Norway for three strategic reasons: 1) Bodø and Tromsø are medium-sized cities, representing the most common city size in Norway. This invites analysing questions of transfer of experiences across places and the urban geography of scale important in understanding innovations and integration (Amin 2002). It invites to draw on and add to knowledge produced in urban settings discussing transferability of knowledge to smaller towns and rural areas; 2) These towns locate the study in a cold climate with extreme light conditions. This explores a situation that is new to most refugees and asylum seekers; it highlights questions of distance and transportation, housing and well-being, and it brings out spatial challenges related to making new meeting places and arenas, indoor and outdoor. These are core socio-spatial aspects of meeting places and encounters between people. The northern location draws these questions to the front and magnifies the significance of space and place in social integration; 3) Cities in the Arctic experience tension concerning the utilisation of natural resources and the implication for ecologies while political and economical visions for future Arctic still rely heavily on extraction industries (Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2014), increasing the carbon footprint and endangering renewable resources. However, there is a growing call for alternative visions for a post-petroleum future (Urry 2014), and alternative visions of "green" futures, which cross-cultural dialogs can possibly explore. Immigration, social, economic and environmental sustainability is important discussions in Bodø and Tromsø.

The cases are selected from the broadly-termed cultural sector, involving voluntary organisations and civil society, arts and culture, sport and leisure activities. Interesting and creative integration initiatives take place in this sector (Askins and Pain 2011, Sonn and Baker 2016), which is a growing part of the economy, where cross-sectorial activities are important.

The cases will be selected to give a wide range of examples of activities raising various thematic issues including the sharing economy, entrepreneurial activities, creative industries, development of non-consumer-oriented urban spaces, art work, recycling etc. From discussions with the partners we already know that migrants experience transport problems when wanting to participate in activities, and that participation increases their feeling of belonging, health and wellbeing. We take into consideration how various practices from these activities relate to the intersection and production of gender, age, class and ethnicity, which are at the forefront of analyses in this study. The activities may include a complex organisation and thorough planning, or quite modest organisational structures, and involve target groups in planning to various degrees. They may represent low threshold and low commitment for participation whether as volunteers or "guests", or require deeper commitment. The activities may have a focus on integration or they may be focused on the activities and how to engage new migrants in established activities ("mainstreaming"); and they may be projects and events or on-going, continuous activities. They may be in early stages of realisation, new or well-established. These dimensions will be closely examined in the case studies. Here we present some examples of possible case studies and while they could have been presented in multiple ways, we will present them and some questions, based on how they use urban spaces.

Example cases:

"Borrow a Bodø Buddy" by Bodø Red Cross and Language Café by The Norwegian People's Aid in Tromsø *uses public non-commercial spaces*, at daytime/early evening and the municipal library institution in new ways. This represents new but well-established activities, organisationally modest, run by a traditional humanitarian organisation, involving new volunteers, intended to be a low threshold activity for the participants, both volunteers and users, facilitating direct contact and "the being together of strangers" (Young 1990). We will ask what people such activities attract, what their motivations are, how this interaction can be understood, what happens after people have met, challenges, tensions, etc.

PurpleDinner.com is a private company connecting strangers to meet for dinners in private homes in urban areas and invites people to open up private spaces. In this sense strangers consist of migrants, travellers and established residents that meet for a traditional activity - dinner. It is a web-based sharing economy initiative and addresses social and economic entrepreneurship, "smart" technology and the sharing

economy's potential for integration. It highlights questions of technological development and design, and raises issues of the grey economy, expectations related to private-public spaces, activities and gender. It implies negotiation of costs and economic differences, homes and private spaces, and focuses on shared experiences and communality as alternatives to commercial and consumer-driven activities.

Hålogaland Association for Amateur theatre HATS, and several sport clubs make traditional civil spaces accessible to new groups and run integration projects and work to mainstream activities to integrate new people. They open up "old" spaces based on traditional committed voluntary participants. It invites exploration of common interest and activities as a basis for further interaction. Challenges may include the burn out of voluntary workers, new and increased tasks for organisations, recruiting migrants as driving forces, the cost of practicing the activity, included issues of the availability and access to transportation.

"More colours" run by North Norwegian Jazz Centre, and the art project by artist Marsil Andelov Al-Mahamid create new urban art spaces, where new interactions are invited between varied constellations of professional artists and other people, including migrants. They may entail issues across private businesses, entrepreneurial activity and voluntary organisations. The project and event-oriented activities invite questions about the dynamics of interactions and long-term impact, while the by-invitation or audition-only aspects of these initiatives may question fairness and allocation of resources, and requires highly committed participants. They may also raise critical questions due to tendencies to exoticism, etc.

The Bodø second-hand store, by Red Cross is an urban commercial space turned into a specific language and work training facility, in new co-operation with municipal bodies with specific focus on migrants. It involves re-cycling and offers low cost goods, to the benefit of migrants as well as other inhabitants. The organising of volunteers and the questions of offering migrants unpaid work is at stake here. Cooperation with and between new public and private bodies, and across the commercial – voluntary divide invite discussions.

Storytelling workshops and presentation evenings by the Norwegian People's Aid and writing courses for young refugees by the creative industry company "Snakk for deg sjøl" (Speak up for yourself!) intend to develop new creative, activity based non-commercial cultural spaces. Storytelling workshops will have recent migrants and established residents work together, get coached by a professional actor and perform at storytelling public evenings and mingle over food. Writing courses, followed up by workshops and public performances, aim at allowing migrant youths of various background to be a part of a broader creative community and voice their views. This involves the development of an innovative approach invented by Liabø in working with school drop-outs. These initiatives involve both high and modest commitment activities designed to make migrants and established inhabitants interact. Interesting questions include recruitment and funding, gender and traditions of storytelling, etc.

A reference case from Halsnæs, Denmark is brought in by the international partners Lasse Koefoed and Kirsten Simonsen. This case illustrates how private spaces can be opened, has a digital platform with 3000 members, is technology-supported and a network oriented organisation. Hospitable Halsnæs is a local non-profit organisation working with housing of refugees in private homes and the creation of better meeting places for refugees and other migrants in the local community, including events and meetings around food, dance and music, a language café, and entrepreneurial activities like opening a Syrian restaurant as a non-profit socio-economic company. Questions in this case are related to the production of meaningful meeting places in a local context and the embodied encounters promoted by the activities. The case will build on previous intense research on cross-cultural encounters in public space by Koefoed and Simonsen, international experts on encounters in urban spaces. The use of the reference case is described in the methodology section.

The final selection of the innovative integration cases will be decided upon in the first phase of the project, in order to pick a variety of truly new and innovative approaches.

The three cases run by "Snakk for deg sjøl", Art Zone and PurpleDinner.com are creative industries companies that will play major roles in Cit-egration. They will, with the project partners, develop activities aimed at exploring and trying out new meeting places and interaction. Cit-egration grant these initiatives funding for development and innovative activities. The "Snakk for deg sjøl" and Art Zone project will also work with curator Koitela, at the intersection of research, integration and dissemination, described in 3.2.

Methodology

In a consortium of researchers, municipality bodies, voluntary associations, and private companies in the culture sector, the project will use participatory methods to assess strategies and perceptions of the plethora of means and innovations being utilized across the private and public divide to help newcomers integrate in Norway. We argue for the usefulness of involving research partners in the process of knowledge-production

in order to gain insights into the complex contexts and dynamics inherent in integration work. Partners and participants in integrative initiatives are thus not seen as objects of study, but as co-researchers and knowing subjects – bringing their experience and knowledge into the research process.

Participatory research methods are geared towards planning and conducting the research process with those people whose life-world and meaningful actions are under study (Bergold & Thomas, 2012). The aim of the participatory study is that the research questions develop out of the convergence of the perspectives of both science and practice. It requires that researchers and practitioners meet, interact and develop understanding of each other (ibid.) Cit-egration is developed by a broad team consisting of researchers from different disciplines as well as various actors, from public, private and volunteer sector, involved in integration work and practices. Establishing the group and development of aims and research questions are a result of an ongoing collaboration in the pilot project “Innovation in integration”, financed by Regional Research Funds in Norway. Several of the project members have “immigrant” background and experiences and migrants participating in integration activities are seen as experts on integration and as “knowing subjects”, rather than “objects to be integrated” or “informants” in the project. More representatives from immigrant organisations will be included in the project. This will be organized at the start-up of the project and partner Nshimiyimana, with a background from Congo and consultant in Tromsø municipality, will be heavily involved in recruiting more migrants and refugees.

Cit-egration approaches the empirical field in three ways: it analyses on-going activities in urban spaces by spatial mappings; it studies integration initiatives through qualitative case studies including participant observation, qualitative interviews, focus groups, and document studies; and feeds back, engages with and tries out approaches in order to help develop new practices and directions to integration. Seeking methods that emphasize the multiple and changing aspects of migration and integration, we follow Mik-Meyer and Järvinen (2005) in their arguing for an interactionist perspective on interviews, observation and document analyses. This implies changing focus from individual action to social interaction – from marginalized individuals to marginalizing processes. Methodological challenges across the cases may relate to actors unequal access to Norwegian language and system knowledge, the use of interpreters in interviews, how to capture the experiences of people participating in integrative activities only once, to never return?

The Nordic model and planning traditions of the Nordic welfare state countries are unique, particularly given the strong and central role of democratic-, participatory-, and communicative welfare planning. Moreover, different variations between the Nordic welfare states mean that the countries can also learn from each other. Such variations in welfare planning across Nordic contexts add to our understanding of how different planning strategies work in practice. Experiences and knowledge from the Nordic welfare states can inspire planning of urban changes and challenges everywhere.

The Danish case of Hospitality Halsnæs will serve as a reference case. Denmark and Norway are similar, but different, meaning that the countries can learn from each other. In Cit-egration the different national, governmental and municipality context, with regard to public and political discourses, laws and regulations, political systems, structures of voluntarism and organisations etc. will be utilised to distinguish national issues from broader ones. By using a reference case we believe that this will sharpen our analytical gaze and help us understand the complex mechanisms at play in living with differences in urban spaces.

Applying a collaborative approach, we will take part in the studied interactions, and engage in dialogs with the project consortium and multiple participants: refugees, migrants, volunteers, and others at meeting places. Engaging in current and planned activities, the project aims at learning from and feeding back to the initiatives in different phases. Participatory methods emphasise relationality and process, recognizing different forms of knowledge (Healey 2003). The communication, information and cooperation such collaborative work requires will be the task of work package 6, headed by Lydersen (HATS), one of the voluntary associations and will be described in WP 6 and 3.2. Allocating funding for the partners’ participation in the project makes visible their work and contribution. The exploration of various visual and performative methods of sharing, disseminating and co-producing knowledge is an integral part of this research. Several partners have experiences with such work and Snakk for deg sjøl, Liabø, Art Zone, and Al-Mahamid will play major roles in this. The work packages will be described in part 2, after a presentation of the theoretical approach.

Theoretical approach

We start presenting the main theoretical approach to cities and urban spaces, followed by theories addressing the specific research questions. Cit-egration is an integrated project: all partners will engage in the different themes, that together aspire to answer the overall aim, appointed tasks relevant to their fields of expertise.

Cities are places where strangers meet, according to classic urban sociology (Simmel [1908] 1950).

Massey suggests seeing cities as open-ended processes resulting from the “throwntogetherness” of intersecting, often disparate trajectories of practices, materialities and interrelations (Massey 2004:6, 2005). Following Lefebvre (1991), we approach cities as the result of multiple and diverse meetings. This perspective makes cities dynamic, always in the making where differences with regard to gender, age, class and ethnicity and varied interests are amplified, acted out, but also negotiated (Massey 1994, Valentine 2007). Meetings hence make cities, and hold the city together while negotiating and living with differences (Valentine 2008). Most public places do not create meetings “by themselves”, and encounters require more than passing by (Amin 2002, 2012). This is where we start.

We locate migration in a mobility tradition (Cresswell 2010), playing out in northern regions (Walsh et al 2013) and where mobility is seen as ordinary, not only relevant to refugees but also other people on the move, without suppressing the experiences of refugees. This approach has the advantage of seeking to transgress the division between “us” and “them” – as most of us are to some extent mobile. Citizenship focuses on refugees and other international migrants and questions the relational productions of similarities and differences along lines of ethnic background, citizenship, class, gender, etc. (Staunæs 2003).

RQ 1: addressing public and private urban space as meeting places: Amin emphasizes that “The cities’ public spaces are not natural servants of multicultural engagement” (Amin 2002: 967). Spaces, however, invite some people, more than others, to pass and to use them. Understanding the dynamic of, and what makes urban spaces into meeting places, is thus crucial and is addressed in our first research question and WP 1. Analysing the figure of the stranger, Koefoed and Simonsen (2011) have pointed out how the stranger is a relational concept. We apply this concept to ask how urban spaces become meeting places: where and how do city people as strangers relate to each other? One hypothesis is that the use of and accessibility of urban spaces is dependent on various intersections of ethnicity, gender, age and class. Another hypothesis is that social mechanisms of withdrawal negotiate tensions between users in ways that prevent interaction. These discussions will add to our understanding of why and how, and for whom urban spaces serve or do not serve as meeting places.

Public Participation Geographic Information Systems (PPGIS) will be used in WP1 to help recent migrants connect with strangers and learn the city better for likely integration. PPGIS was originally defined as “a variety of approaches to make GIS and other spatial decision-making tools available and accessible to all those with a stake in official decisions” (Schroeder 1996), and is often to focus on public participation as a socio-political issue (MacEachren 2000). PPGIS has proven useful to stimulate community empowerment and interaction, e.g., to help local residents manage resources after Hurricane Katrina (Miller 2006). PPGIS do present problems, however, such as determining precisely who should participate, because this by definition makes it exclusionary (Schlossberg & Shuford 2005), and that different sub-populations tend to utilize the PPGIS at different rates (Carver et al. 2001).

RQ 2: addressing the conditions for turning meeting places into interaction through the concept of encounters. Spatial proximity is no guarantee for contact and interaction (Amin 2002); contact between social groups alone is not sufficient to produce respect and acknowledgment (Valentine and MacDonald 2004); and meetings may range from people “being together as strangers” (Young 1990: 240), seeing each other regularly riding the same bus (Koefoed et al. 2016), or interacting in close-knit long-term emotional relationships. Research question 2 is designed to explore what the literature terms “encounters”. In a review on “encounters” Wilson (2016:14) describes encounters as covering the range of meetings from the coming together of opposing forces, through routine everyday contacts and meetings where differences are noteworthy to the coming together of different bodies that also make (a) difference, and hence meaningful interactions. We analyse how different kinds of meetings come into being – highlighting the dynamic process of innovations aimed at creating meeting places facilitating various forms of encounters.

Encounters can result in tensions, increased or decreased contact, strengthening of stereotypes, as well as mutual and multicultural understandings and misunderstandings (Amin 2002, Valentine and MacDonald 2004; Valentine 2008, Simonsen 2008, Phillips et al 2014). As summed up by Phillips et al. (2014) the contact hypothesis (Allport [1954]) the assumption that prejudice against newcomers is rooted in ignorance that can be overcome by contact, has several limitations. They warn that “contact” also risks “reinforcing differences, inflaming tensions and escalating conflict, both within and between groups, especially where there are perceived inequalities between participants” (Phillips et al 2014:45). There is thus a need for careful studies of whether, how and what kinds of encounters that occur, that account for the different ways in which encounters come to matter and study the long term, or ‘lasting effects’ (Valentine and Sadgrove, 2012: 2050). This is what we try to encompass in this project.

Amin recommends concentrating on the everyday, urban daily negotiations of ethnic difference, what he calls the micropolitics of everyday social contact (2002:959). Such encounters give an opportunity to study how people negotiate differences in everyday life (Wilson 2016). Integration initiatives aim to facilitate everyday encounters; they are thus planned and organised micropolitics, and “politics of proximity”. (Amin 2002). They offer a variety of potential encounters and hence opportunities to critically explore the dynamics and the conditions under which different forms of encounters take place. These analyses need to pay attention to the expectations of different actors, the outcomes and the negotiations of differentiations and similarities in various encounters (Valentine 2008, Mayblin et al 2015). Amin (2002) suggests creating spaces of interdependence in order to develop intercultural understanding. This idea will be explored together with the partners, and we ask whether some of the new bottom-up initiatives spurred by the migration increase are in fact based on perceptions of interdependence.

RQ 3: aiming to understand how encounters across ethnicity, between migrants and established inhabitants in the city can make people part of, and participate in the city. We approach this with theories on urban diversity, social justice and the right to the city (Mitchell 2003, Harvey, 2008, Lefebvre 1996, Fraser, 1997). Lefebvre’s notion of the right to the city expresses urban citizenship as understood not only as a right to physical space, but the rights to access and participate in urban life, a right to use and shape the city as an equal. Fincher and Iveson (2008) suggest three social logics in planning of multicultural cities if justice is to be designed; *Redistribution* (changing unequal power relations), through which attempts are made to plan for the redress of disadvantage; *Recognition* (of identity and formal rights to be included), through which efforts are made to define the attributes of groups and people so that their needs can be met; and *Encounter*, through which the interaction of individuals is planned for in order to offer opportunities for increased sociality. According to Parekh the politics of redistribution depends on the politics of recognition; redistribution requires principles of justice to decide who should be entitled to claim what rights, opportunities, resources and so on (Parekh 2008:51). Access to public institutions and well-being in place is some of the most important dimensions of the right to the city (Amin and Thrift 2002). The “just city” is based on democratic participation and an engaged populace. We thus ask if and how participation in integration activities and encounters between migrants and established inhabitants of diverse backgrounds further democratic participation. We acknowledge that redistribution deals with a much wider question of access to resources, employment and economic and social inequality. However, one hypothesis is that the distribution of opportunities to use one’s resources, for instance in voluntary work, allows one to become visible in encounters, which both require and is a prerequisite for recognition.

Sandercock (1998) argues that the formal, so-called inclusion provided by state or non-state institutions does not necessarily mean substantive inclusion and makes a clear distinction between formal and real substantive inclusion. It is in this disjunction between formal and real substantive inclusion that actually motivates contemporary practices of “insurgent” citizenship. Similarly, Miraftab (2009) distinguishes between two types of inclusion in terms on invited (formal) and invented (substantive) spaces of citizenship. She argues that in contrast to invited spaces, which are defined as those grass-root actions and their allied NGO’s that are legitimized by donors and government interventions and aim to cope with systems of hardship, invented spaces of citizenship are those collective actions by marginalized communities that directly confront the authorities and challenge the status quo.

RQ 4 addressing voluntary associations’ vital but changing role in social integration. Voluntary organisations are particularly important in Norway (Brochmann & Rogstad 2004). While we know that voluntary work and overlapping social networks provide social inclusion for the majority population, there is less knowledge about these mechanisms for minority groups. Migrants participate in voluntary organisations at a lower rate than ethnic Norwegians, and those they do participate in tend to be migrant-based and religious organisations, with few ethnic Norwegian participants (Predelli 2008, Enjolras and Wollebæk 2010, Ødegård et al 2014, Fladmoe et.al 2016). At the same time, voluntary activity and organisations are changing with regard to memberships and commitment and is differentiated along gender, age, ethnicity and class, (Wollebæk and Sivesind, 2010, Lochocki 2010). In this context, the project explores civil society’s problem solving capacity and the changing demands and roles of voluntary organisations illustrated in these new initiatives, by new actors and new ways of organising voluntary activity.

Addressing innovation in integration, we aim at exploring the possibility for creative change. This requires an understanding of innovation that acknowledges complexity and insecurity. Applying a relational perspective, innovation is understood as creative processes unfolding in complex and often fluid networks

(Førde and Kramvig 2017). This changes the focus from end-products to creative processes, applying a multifaceted concept of value and taking the risk of emphasizing the ‘un-known’. Art and culture is given a key role in Cit-egration. Cultural industries are seen as crucial in the development of postmodern towns and regions, to people’s experience of place and sense of belonging (ibid.). Being concerned with the challenges of disorder, variability and difference, it becomes urgent to explore strategies of dealing with an unpredictable future. Here, art and culture can contribute by their inherent emphasis on the appearance of the imaginaries. Collaboration between research, practice, experimental approaches and performing artists holds potential to create new understanding of diverse cities (Clennon et al 2016, Mayblin et al 2015).

Arts and cultural practices can counter silences and decolonialise, they can engage in developing inclusive and empowering ways of knowing, doing, and being (Sonn and Baker 2016). According to Clennon et al. (2016:332) participatory arts projects may move activity from the personal to the collective, they may contribute to social change at “different levels: personal change (making new friends, being happier, feeling more confident and creative); social change (more cross-cultural understanding, stronger sense of locality, bringing groups together and enhanced organisational skills); economic change (impact on number of new jobs and people finding work, improved image of community, increased sales (of art works); and educational change”. Such activities have transformative potential due to the unique personal experiences they invite and can be connected to ‘community of practice’ (Wenger 2011), where social change can occur in processes where people come together as equal stakeholders.

These approaches help Cit-egration produce new knowledge on innovative integration activities aimed to support living with difference, enhancing integrative interaction and developing just cities. However, Amin (2002)) and others therefore warn against the focus on best practices (also) in the field of integration, due to the unique place-based nature of integration, and the historical, situated and partial status of knowledge (Haraway 1988). Knowledge thus has to be made applicable and transformed according to its use and the “travel” it is setting off for (Haavind 2000). These perspectives guide our work on co-producing, communicating and disseminating knowledge, and the collaborative approach chosen.

Expanding existing knowledge through scientific renewal to achieve sustainable societies

A review from Britain by Phillips et al. (2014) concludes that there is a lack of knowledge about the effects of integrations projects, while Norwegian research seems to lack studies on meetings between migrants and ethnic Norwegians (Aure et al. 2015). Hagelund and Loga (2009) summed up a review study on voluntarism, migration and integration and concluded that there has been limited focus on migrants’ participation in civil society and voluntary associations. Instead, studies are focusing upon presenting models and best practices, on cooperation between municipalities, voluntary organizations and employers regarding the increase in migration (Hegna 2016), descriptions of arenas for meeting between migrants and the government and municipalities (Fauli et al 2007). The existing research however, mostly apply Putnam’s concept of social capital, weak and strong ties (Nannestad et al 2008, Ødegård et al 2014, Fosslund and Aure 2011, Enjolras and Wollebæk 2010;Wollebæk and Sivesind 2010). This proposed study represents an alternative and adds new perspectives and approaches, which may enhance the Norwegian academic and public debate

Some research on processes of integration and meetings do not focus exclusively on identity in Norway. In 2000, Ganapathy and Søholt studied places where people came to “be with others” in Oslo. Their rich descriptions focus more on the places than interactions. Fangen (2007) finds that young Somalis in Somali organizations in Norway combine being active in the host society while maintaining a commitment towards Somali culture and gain by that. Vestels (2004) study of young men of diverse ethnicity in an Oslo suburb describes an emergence of new “communities of difference”, while Eide and Eriksen (2012) highlight how class interact with ethnicity understanding interaction in the Alna-project (Oslo). Brekke (2015) found that youths in Tromsø and their transnational orientation limited their engagement in the community they currently live.

Cit-egration expand these Norwegian studies by our explicit focus on the connection between urban spaces as meeting places, via close examination of the dynamics of encounters and under what conditions people actually interact, and in what ways, to if and how such encounter may translate into participation and engagement in the city. We see interaction as a multisided process, involving several people and not the responsibility of solely one party, which broadens the scope and approach. The cooperation with new private and public actors and partners across sectors is original. Our focus is on the new approaches, innovations, creative industries, shared economies, social technologies, creation of “green visions and meeting places, and entrepreneurial activities that are innovative in urban integration studies. Further more, analysing ”micro-politics” of social interaction, based on bottom-up innovative integrative activities, add to the international scholarship on encounters and living with difference, and point to new directions and practices through

grass-roots bridging (Harris and Young 2009). Cit-egration expands the understanding of arts and culture in cross-cultural integration, and explores such practices in Norway.

It is original to include the non-research partners in the analysis and knowledge production. This is an implication of an increasing level of education in society, but as important is recognising partners' specific knowledge and experiences. We also utilise, and we see as a strength, the researchers involvement in voluntary work and organisations, and their experiences of international migration. These issues will be discussed theoretically and methodologically. Studying mobilisation of arts and cultural practices in integration in urban spaces is about to emerge in Norway. While Clennon et al. (2016) and others mainly discuss psychological processes involved in arts projects and points toward collaborative governance, we explore the potential of such approaches in cross-cultural social urban integration and the social conditions under which they may occur.

The project supports the objective of achieving a sustainable society – socially, economically and to a minor degree also environmentally because it addresses a main societal challenge of our time – that of the development of parallel societies and lack of community. It focuses on the opportunities for interaction between people, includes entrepreneurial activities, traditional and alternative sharing economies, while cross-cultural dialogues can contribute to envision environmentally responsible futures. This is not a utopian project, it builds on planned and running integrative activities, initiated by people and organisations using their creativity and practising the problem solving skills that exist in cities, and which can be developed through common critical work.

Part 2 Implementation and organisation 2.1 Project plan, project management, organisation

The seven work packages (WP), covering Cit-egration' four research questions (RQ), constitute the main organisational structure of the project. A logical, cumulative, overlapping and yet circular perspective underlies the project plan. Analytically it starts with a mapping of how urban spaces are used (WP1), continues to an innovative investigation of how meeting places can facilitate cross-cultural encounters and interaction (WP2). In the following work packages, the attention is directed towards how interaction and participation produces just cities (WP3) and changing the organisation of voluntary initiatives (WP4). In WP 5, findings from WP 1-4 are connected to produce applicable knowledge to the main research question: how is it possible to live with difference, enhance integrative interaction and develop just cities? The planning and co-ordination of knowledge sharing and dissemination are according to our collaborative approach to co-produce knowledge, located mainly in WP 6 (in co-operation with WP 5), and it facilitates and is based on the knowledge production in all the WP's. WP 7 is the administrative coordination of the project.

WP 1: Analysing the uses of urban spaces and cross-cultural meeting places: How do refugees / migrants use and not use city spaces? This WP will organize participatory mapping of cross-cultural meeting places to facilitate planning of interaction in social and physical spaces between newcomers and established residents. A PPGIS focused on migrant integration will be developed by NIBIO, which has relevant expertise. PPGIS users can map and write geo-located text about experiences, have discussions, plan meetings, upload photos and make recommendations.

Objectives:

- 1) Develop and promote use of a user-friendly PPGIS, online and with attractive laminated paper maps in public spaces.
- 2) Understand through what mechanisms and institutions people use the city spaces.
- 3) Understand which spaces and to what degree these space are used for interactions between migrants and established residents.

Methods: Technological establishment of PPGIS; mapping; meetings to promote use; round table discussions; analyses of quantitative and qualitative maps, text, and photographic data

Outcomes: Maps showing city spaces used by recent migrants; information about how and when space is used and with which institutions, to be displayed online and at exhibitions/public event(s). Peer-review journal article like "How do Migrants Use Urban Spaces in North Norway, and How has PPGIS Aided/Hindered Migrant Connections and Integration?" in the Journal of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association: 1 or more newspaper articles. The PPGIS will be available to the public.

WP-leader: Taff. With: Aure, Simonsen, Magnussen, Nyseth, Sphinx, Koitela, Al-Mahamid.

WP 2: Innovation and the dynamics of new integration initiatives: The aim of this WP is to explore the innovation processes of creating new integration initiatives, and the dynamics of these new cross-cultural meeting places in the cities. How are new initiatives created, what kinds of meeting places facilitate cross-

cultural encounters, and how can they support living with cultural complexity and difference? We analyse innovations in integration and activities within arts and culture, with particular focus on processes that negotiate and transgress questions of difference and similarity.

Objectives:

- 1) Investigate the innovation processes of new integration initiatives,
- 2) Explore the dynamics of encounters taking place at these new meeting-places, and
- 3) Identify the conditions for facilitating positive cross-cultural interaction.

Method: Case studies, participant observation, and individual and group interviews

Output: 2 peer reviewed articles in journals such as the Journal of International Migration and Integration and Urban Studies with tentative titles *Innovation in Integration; the Dynamics of Creating Cross-cultural Meeting Places* and *Living with Difference; Encounters and Negotiations of Multiplicity in Urban Space*; 2 international conference papers; 2 popular articles. In addition we will produce various performances for the public in urban spaces. WP leader: Førde, UiT. With: Aure, Magnussen, Liabø “Snakk for deg sjøl”, Koefoed, Nyseth, Simonsen, PurpleDinner.com, Koitela

WP 3: Participation, citizenship and the production of a just city: The aim of the WP is to study how new and more inclusive forms of integration initiatives contribute to the becoming of a citizen, involved in ordinary life of the urban community. This question will be approached through participatory planning theory and literature on social citizenship. The study will contribute to existing knowledge on the possible relations between social, informal etc. spheres of democracy that might expand or challenge formal spaces of democracy.

Objectives

- 1) Follow the participatory “careers” of immigrants and refugees into other arenas of participation, as well as the networks they build up, both towards each other and to the community.
- 2) Follow the networks built up, both towards each other and to other members of the urban community
- 3) Analyse possible changes in the public discourse towards immigrants.

Method: Participant observation, qualitative interviews w/newcomers, discourse analyses of public debates.

Output. One peer-reviewed article in the journal “Planning theory & Practice”. Tentative title: “*Dealing with Diversity – A Creative Approach*”. One peer-review article in the journal “Cities” with the tentative title: *Smart Cities – Smart Integration? Bridging the Gap Between Social and Economic Sustainability*. In addition, one international conference paper and two popular articles/chronicles will be produced. WP-leader: Nyseth, UiT. With Koefoed, Magnussen, Aure, Førde, Nshimiyimana, Koitela

WP 4: A new voluntarism? Exploring changing organizational patterns in voluntary work: The aim of the WP is to investigate how the new integrative initiatives, new contributors and methods relate to “the new voluntarism” (Fladmoe et al. 2016) where established voluntary organizations are changing. . Identifying how new forms of organizing voluntary work challenge and represent new opportunities for integrative efforts are important aims.

Objectives

- 1) Map and explore new voluntary initiatives and new volunteers, identify new forms of organizing voluntary work, at the intersection of private, public, voluntary and private initiatives
- 2) Identify motivations, driving forces and experiences in diverse forms of voluntary work concerning creation of meeting places, facilitation of encounters and possibilities/barriers for participation.
- 3) Discuss how the changing organizational patterns of voluntary work can represent challenges and solutions for integration.

Method: case studies, interviews and document studies

Output: 2 international conference papers, 1 peer reviewed article in the journal “Nonprofit & Voluntary Sector Quarterly” tentative title: *A New Voluntarism?- Integration in a Changed Organizational Landscape*, 1 popular article and 1 newspaper chronicle and results will be discussed in public meetings with voluntary organisations. WP-leader: Magnussen. With: Aure, Førde, Red Cross Bodø, Lydersen, Al-Mahamid, Norsk Folkehjelp

WP 5: Integration in diverse cities: linking results: This WP concerns the integration of empirical, theoretical and methodological experiences and findings from the project and focuses specifically on the project’s main objective to produce new applicable knowledge that help us to live with difference, enhance integrative interaction and develop just cities.

Objectives:

- 1) Connect empirical findings from WP 1 through 4 2
 - 2) Discuss methodological issues related to participatory action research; researchers' engagement in the cases as volunteers and actors; ethical issues in participatory research with vulnerable groups.³
 - 3) Discussing situatedness of knowledge production, specific and place-based, and how knowledge "travels"
- Methods: mainly dialogs across themes, partners and the cases. Special attention to issues arising during the project, practical work with ethics early in the project, focus on connecting "longitudinal" results in the last phase of the project. This WP will cooperate closely with WP 6.

Output: Edit two special journal issues: theoretical/empirical findings, tentative title: *Innovations in Integration - Living with Intersecting Differences and Similarities in the City*, for Environment and planning A; The co-production of knowledge and creative approaches, tentative title: *Co-producing Creative Knowledge for Future Cities*, Urban Studies/City. Two conference papers, two popular articles newspaper/the journal PLAN; engage in art exhibitions, courses, seminars. WP-leader: Aure, with all partners

WP 6: Sharing and dissemination of knowledge: The aim of this WP is to facilitate internal information and communication, and coordinate dissemination of applicable results, directed toward specific target groups. While new initiatives and forms of voluntary work provide access to new problem solving practices, engaging with these initiatives requires close contact and shared information between researchers, actors and participants. Day-to-day contact and dialogs during fieldwork in the case studies is the main mode of communication for feedback, development and trying out new approaches between partners. However, communication and sharing of knowledge across cases and work packages, and "external communication" are the responsibility in WP 6. In order to secure that this contact has the point of view of associations and partners, and prevent experiences of "researchers using the partners resources leaving them with the costs", this WP is led by the partner organisation HATS.

Objectives:

- 1) Make plans for internal communication across WPs, including project meetings with researchers and partners, meetings and use of people in reference groups, internal workshops
- 2) Develop a plan for how learning, sharing and how to make "results travel" practically and theoretically to diverse target groups.

Methods: collaborative work in teams, co-production of knowledge/dissemination, further described in 3.2.

Outcomes: 8 events/courses towards public target groups, 1 animated/film, 4 exhibitions, academic course

WP-leader: Lydersen, With: Førde, Aure, Liabø, Al-Mahamid, all project partners will be involved.

WP 7: Project management; Administrative coordination across WP's.

Our collaborative approach, diverse partners and modes of work require close administrative contact and following up. This WP will work with the administration at UiT, Kvinnforsk, and faculty of HSL. It will oversee formal ethical requirements; provide reports to the research council and university; and deal with the economic and administrative issues with regard to workshops and particularly with the creative and explorative dissemination activities, as well as the cooperation with entrepreneurial creative industries.

2. 2 Consortium, expertise and work method

The composition of the consortium reflects the project's ambitious and complex aim. In order to grasp the challenges in planning for integration, the research team is made up of interdisciplinary researchers in social sciences, with partners representing artists, voluntary organisations, municipal bodies and entrepreneurial businesses. This diversity in competence, experience and knowledge represents both a significant resource and an essential precondition for achieving the project's main objectives.

Project leader, postdoc: Aure has an interdisciplinary background and her research concentrates on migration, integration, place/community and intersectional gender studies. Aure cooperates with voluntary organization, companies and associations and present research regularly in media and at public events. She publishes in national/international, peer-reviewed journals. Førde is an associate professor in planning and culture. Her research concentrates on transforming places and innovation processes. She is concerned with developing interdisciplinary and collaborative research practices and exploring coproduction of knowledge. Førde has a long record of national and international publications, as well as participation in a range of collaborative events and encounters of research, creative industry and other local actors. Magnussen, senior researcher, is a Master of Planning and Local Community Research. Her expertise includes regional development, changes in the public sector, trade and industry. Taff is a geographer with a specialty in GIS and human-environment interactions, and also is involved in multiple integration initiatives. Nyseth is a professor in planning with an expertise in new forms of citizen participation, ethnicity and governance. She

has worked extensively with municipal and governmental bodies in her research.

Art Zone by Al-Mahamid work with visual art on the topic of migration, borders, peace, and uses of urban spaces in a wide range of national and international projects. He has received national and international grants, holds a MA in business and entrepreneurship, and active in voluntary organisation on integration issues. Nshimiyimana is a consultant with Kultur og idrett, Tromsø Municipality, with a broad overview, experience and network of migrants, integration and migrant organisations as well as voluntary work. Bodø Røde Kors runs a number of voluntary integration projects, has years of experience and is part of a national and international Red Cross with invaluable experiences in the field. Norwegian Peoples' Aid is a voluntary organization running many integration initiatives and part of a strong national organization. Lydersen has a strong record in Art and Culture Mediation, developing projects in migrant integration and work with voluntary organisation and civil society in developing participatory models, approaches, methods etc. "Snakk for deg sjøl" by Liabø is an entrepreneurial company running writing workshops and theatre productions giving school drop-outs a voice. Lopez has immigrant background from Batteriet (Kirkens Bymisjon), which is a resource centre working against poverty and social exclusion in 5 Norwegian cities and will serve as a resource in the project. International partners are described under international network.

Work methods: An alternation between conducting strict research tasks and exchange of ideas, experiences and knowledge among the partners in the consortium will be the general work method in the project. This implies intensive teamwork in WPs, combined with more open and reflective discussions. In addition to a start-up workshop, 6 project team workshops will be held during the project, supplemented by a yearly project team meeting on skype. There will be biannual skype meetings among WP-leaders, and WP-meetings on skype once a month. Other meetings held in conjunction with conferences etc. will involve different parts of the consortium at different times. The project team workshops will be significant arenas for developing the theoretical platform and the analytical work. Preliminary findings will be presented and discussed in the workshops (WS) that will be designated to themes related to each WP's. Start-up WS: ethics and methodologies of sharing; WS 1 preliminary findings from mappings, further implications; WS 2 on negotiations of difference and similarities; and on thinking creative dissemination all the way WS 3: Participation/situated knowledge in integration and WS 4: Changing voluntarism; WS 5: New connections; WP 6 Open (concluding) workshop/conference – sharing and learning. Our work methods will rely on common work and ongoing feedback and creative, public oriented dissemination, organised in smaller groups. Members of the international network will mainly share their expertise in workshops according to their expertise. The writing workshop in 2020 will be designed to offer intensive, writing and co-writing opportunities and we will comment on drafts in different phases of completion.

The work packages are based on research questions and the participants will add to several research questions with their analyses of cases. Most researchers will work on more than one case, and the cases, as we gave examples on, lend themselves to some discussions more than others. The work package leaders will focus on and lead the analyses of their respective research themes.

2.3 Project management and resources

Aure will lead the project and has comprehensive experience both as head and partner in many national and international projects. With at least 8 researchers (team + a doctoral student), two master students, 7 business/organisation partners actively involved, a migrant resource person (Lopez), and two international advisors and participants (Amin and Koitela), meticulous care will be given to careful planning, timing and performance of the various activities. Lydersen, leading WP 6 will be an important partner in this.

All team members will submit a short annually report which will subsequently function as basis for the team seminars. After fieldwork has started in 2017/18, the researchers will make initial plans for the content and layout of the written contributions. Article drafts will be circulated in the group, commented on and discussed to meet publishing aims, in and between workshops.

Since the PI Aure has got a permanent position (following a temporary position on Kvinnforsk) at Department of sociology, political science and community planning (ISS) UIT, this department will host the project and its professional administrative staff will manage the finances. ISS has experience in running international research projects and cooperation, arranges PhD courses regularly and will host the master students and PhD candidate. This environment offers teaching opportunities, and arenas for collaboration and feedback on work in progress. Førde manages the ISS research group "Place, power and mobility" and this proposal is developed within this research group. The research group will continue its strong record of national and international cooperation in planning, urban/place studies, environment studies, innovation, migration etc. (see CV's). The PhD position will be announced publicly with a strong focus on gender and

intersectionality and the research questions. The PhD position is located in WP 5.

International collaboration is integral in DivierCities and we work closely with a few, rather than many international partners, due to the many business and organisations that are already active partners in the project. Roskilde University Centre (RUC) is a project partner and brings a highly relevant case: Koefoed, associate professor in Urban Studies, studies cross-cultural encounter in public space, the city and ethnic minorities, nationalism, postcolonialism, and everyday life. He has been involved in Globalisation and negotiation of Danish Identity (PhD, 2006) and, with Simonsen, *The Stranger, the City and the Nation* (finished 2010). *Paradoxical space: cross-cultural encounters in public space* (completed June 2017) funded by the Danish Research Council. Simonsen, professor in Social and Cultural Geography since 1996 is an internationally known urban scholar, with a strong position in international discussions and is among others rewarded an honourable degree at University of Stockholm. Simonsen has published extensively in urban studies, philosophy of geography, space and place, practice theory and minorities and everyday life. Mobility between Norwegian partners and RUC will be planned. Professor Ash Amin, University of Cambridge, is a leading scholar in geographies of modern living: cities and regions as relationally constituted; globalisation as everyday process; the economy as cultural entity; race and multiculturalism. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences; the World Academy of Arts and Sciences; and the British Academy. Amin will serve as a discussion partner in workshops and seminars.

Koitela is an artist/curator that since 2012 has been working on and with artist's responses to economical structures and discourses: *City Agents* at Estonian Museum of Contemporary Art, Finnish Theatre Academy, Baltic Circle Festival and Kiasma Theatre and de Appel Arts Centre, currently working on *Mattering City: SixtyEight* Art Institute in Copenhagen. Koitela develops practices that merge different areas of artistic practice, research and politics and will be a discussant and advisor on our project. Sphinx Organization will provide feedback and advice based on her American perspective with rich experiences in empowerment and integration of minorities through the arts. The Sphinx Organization is dedicated to transforming lives through the power of diversity in the arts. President Afa Dworkin was named one of the 30 Most Influential People by Musical America.

PART 3: Benefit to society and impact 3.1 *Benefit to society and impact*

Cities are increasingly holding the key to addressing sustainability challenges, including social diversity and equality. The societal value of this project is its focus on creating more knowledge on what forms of integration initiatives really work. As such the project contributes to the UN 2030 agenda: "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". The project will bring about a much-needed theoretical, methodological and empirical basis to support, empower and increase the capacity of local authorities, civil society and concerned stakeholders on how to "nurture a sense of togetherness in a society of relative strangers". By creating educative spaces that can foster creativity in view of new ways of integrating new-comers in the urban communities, new visions towards a more sustainable society can be opened. The social benefits of the research include: 1) Develop knowledge on innovative multicultural integration activities that help us to live with difference, 2) Empowering migrants as co-creators of urban space and to become community-builders, 3) Prevent the development of parallel societies and contribute to more inclusive cities for all. See attachment for a more thorough description of the benefit to society and impact.

3.2 *Knowledge sharing, communication and dissemination*

Cit-egration empirical, theoretical and methodological approaches and the composition of partners are designed to co-produce and share knowledge and disseminate preliminary and final result to the wider community, practitioners, public and private organisations. Good coordination will rely on day-to-day communication and feedback between researchers and other partners and participants in the case study initiatives, the partners' previous and on-going cooperation with each other, the access to diverse arenas the project team represents by its various participants; the researchers' active participation in voluntary work.

The work will particularly draw on collaboration with cultural workers Liabø, Al-Mahamid, and the WP leaders' network and include the various partners. In order to ensure contact of associations and non-research partners, this work is led by HATS. Careful consideration will be given to how knowledge from the project will be communicated to target groups, based on who will benefit from the specific findings and how to communicate with these actors. Among the most important target groups are different municipality and political bodies, IMDI, voluntary organisations, artists, and employers.

We engage with the academic community through our international network, participation in conferences, organize sessions and panels (including practitioners) at these. We invite Norwegian and international colleagues to our project workshops and include the practitioner partners in these. We will arrange one workshop/conference with an open invitation, and utilize our academic national and international network in this. For further information see online form and WP 6.

PART 4: Other information

4.1 Environmental impact: We recognize that the environmental, social and economic sustainability of communities are closely intertwined. The project sheds light on everyday environmentally friendly practices in integrative initiatives and explore the potential for cross-cultural dialogs to produce alternative visions of “green” futures. Organising fieldwork, communication and meetings, the project try to reduce physical travel and use digital means of communications. We foresee no other environmental impact of the project.

4.2 Ethical perspectives: Research concerning migrants requires caution and discretion with regard to migrants’ legal status, refugees’ previous experiences; the stressful situation living in a new country, language barriers, imbalance in power; and in designing questions and analysing results. This will be discussed in the project. Identities of informants will be kept confidential. The required research permits and informed consent from participants prior to conducting empirical research will be secured. The project will be carried out in accordance with legal and ethical standards-NSD (Norwegian Social Science Data Services), including when dealing with commercially sensitive information. NSD will be notified about plans for data collection.

4.3 Gender issues: Gender perspectives are significant and mainstreamed throughout this research. The project contributes to gender perspectives in urban research, informs policies and research at the intersection of gender and integration, voluntary work, democratic participation and use of urban space. Our interdisciplinary and cross-sectorial team consists of a total of 7 women and 6 men; 6 WP leaders are women, 1 is a man; international advisory network: 2 men, 1 woman. Aure, Simonsen, Førde have extensive gender research experience. The project contributes to women researchers qualification as professors. The project leader is a woman.

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