



**HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
RESEARCH INITIATIVE**
REIMAGINING DEVELOPMENT

Research Proposal:

INCLUSIVITY LAB

Coordinator:

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ABSTRACT

Our research will consist of the study and discussion of inclusive policies for multicultural and accessible cities. What kind of inclusive policies would help make cities more accessible and prepared to host a multicultural population, capable of living in harmony and stability?

We decided to choose, for our research, a selection cities with very different geographical, cultural, political and institutional contexts in order to highlight how the design and implementation of inclusive policies requires special attention to local peculiarities and needs, while also taking into account national and international directives.

The idea of “inclusivity” will be treated from different points of view and therefore, through policies that address the various issues that cities face in their path towards becoming “multicultural and accessible”. Some of the issues we will treat include spatial segregation, access to healthcare, access to energy, migrations and education, among others. In fact, building inclusive, healthy, safe, connected, integrated and productive cities is perhaps the greatest challenge faced by city leaders today (UN Habitat, 2017), and with our research we intend to provide ideas and material to contribute to this international debate.



PROJECT OVERVIEW:

The role of cities in global economic development as well as social and environmental conditions has gained increasing attention recently. Indeed, the majority of people currently live in cities and urban areas, and over 70% of the global population is expected to live in urban areas by 2050. This forecast concerns, in particular, the metropolitan areas that will be forming in current emerging economies, where it is especially of utmost importance to design the right policies in order to channel growth in the right direction. The implementation of suitable policies in terms of sustainability and inclusivity is also a critical question for cities in already developed countries, particularly due to the increasing need to face challenges, such as climate change and migrations. For this reason, while on the one hand, it is essential to listen to local needs and to engage local communities; on the other hand, it is indispensable to make sure that policies, formulated by international bodies and national governments, are efficiently implemented at the community, city and regional levels in order to guarantee a sustainable and inclusive growth in cities.





FORMAT:

The final deliverable of our research project is a report that will include a portfolio of policy briefs on the macro topic of “multicultural and accessible cities”. The selection of cities will vary in terms of geographical scope, which will allow us to study, evaluate and discuss policies looking at the needs and challenges of cities that have a very different institutional and political context.

Each policy brief will also cover a different aspect of the macro theme of “multicultural and accessible cities”. Among the various topics we intend to cover within the macro theme are:

- Spatial segregation
- Access to healthcare
- Access to energy
- Migration
- Gender and public space
- Welfare state
- LGBT communities in cities
- Underlying factors of socioeconomic inequalities
- Education
- Political processes

The policy briefs will have a length of approximately 8 pages.



METHODOLOGY AND RESEARCH STRUCTURE:

Our team will be organized in sub-groups that will work on the different monthly topics within the macro topic of “multicultural and sustainable cities”. The policy briefs will then be compiled into one larger report that will present the different aspects of our macro subject.

For our research we will conduct interviews and we will make use of primary data, when possible, and according to the objectives of the policy briefs, we will also use statistical tools and graphical representations to analyse and present our results.





REFERENCES:

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