

FAQ Resilient Cities

- **Why is the program important?**

Recognizing that voices of minorities, including those with migration backgrounds, are less frequently heard locally, Resilient Cities supports cities/municipalities to be more welcoming to all. This includes amplifying the voices of those with migration experiences.

Indeed, hearing more varied perspectives allows for envisioning more inclusive and effective solutions, benefiting all citizens. It ensures better living conditions, improves city cohesion, and establishes lasting ties between local actors and migrants. The program also aims to promote the leadership potential of migrants.

- **Who is this for?**

The Resilient Cities project is for:

1. Individuals with migration backgrounds (BPI, international students, work/family visa holders, etc.)
2. Local actors (elected officials and/or employees) who currently work or wish to work more with migrants (from any sector)

- **What is our method for recruiting migrants?**

We recruit participants mainly through:

1. Collaboration with local organizations, structures for migrants, and municipalities
2. Social media, particularly through community or neighborhood groups

Participation is voluntary, and we promote diversity in gender, backgrounds, age, origins, administrative status, and interests to represent as many different profiles as possible.

During the recruitment process, we apply selection criteria such as motivation, availability, and sometimes the participants' experience.

- **How many participants will be part of the program?**

In terms of participants for the entire Auvergne Rhône Alpes region, we aim to have at least:

- 15 migrants
- 15 local actors

Depending on needs, it is possible that we recruit more participants.

- **What is the eligibility criteria for joining the project?**

- Newcomers (international students, refugees, economic migrants, etc.) living in the cities of Clermont-Ferrand and Lyon, interested in policy development and social engagement
- Those who are or wish to be involved in their community and want to share their experiences with other newcomers and local stakeholders.
- Individuals who want to contribute their ideas and perspectives to local decision-makers to collaboratively create solutions for improving the quality of life around them
- Must have at least a B1 level in French and/or English

- **What are the different stages of the project for the first year?**

In the first year, participants will:

- Attend a 12-hour training. For migrant participants: two to three additional meetings to define their priorities and recommendations as a group
- Attend one or two short face-to-face meetings to get to know each other and define their priorities for co-creation workshops
- Participate in several (2 to 4) co-creation workshops on full days or half-days. At the end of these workshops, concrete recommendations will be formulated
- Between co-creation workshops: take part in micro-experimentations to test the solutions they co-created on a small scale
- Participate in one or more networking events among all participants

- **What are co-creation sessions?**

Co-creation workshops are collaborative sessions where participants work together to generate ideas, discuss their specific needs, and develop innovative

solutions. These preliminary meetings aim to create an environment conducive to collaboration, laying the foundations for the implementation of efficient and creative solutions for issues in your society.

- **What is the schedule for the first year (2024)?**

Below is the project timeline:



- **What happens after the first year?**

After the first year, PLACE Network shares the insights from the methodology and training with interested local actors/newcomers. This empowers them to implement the same processes, fostering participatory approaches in their regions.

- **Can you provide examples of solutions that have been co-created?**

Examples of solutions can be found in the [local booklet of Est Ensemble](#), detailing recommendations from migrants on reception and the solutions they developed to enhance the participation of those with migration backgrounds in municipalities.

While not all solutions were integrated into city policies, some elements were considered and championed by local actors.

- **Do you have examples of actions to be taken after the co-creation workshops?**

Between co-creation workshops, PLACE will facilitate micro-experiments to test hypotheses on a small scale, based on participants' needs and availability.

- **In which languages do you work?**

We work in English and French. Most of our training and workshops are conducted in both languages.

Some of our facilitators, who are mostly former participants with migration backgrounds, speak other languages and can interact with participants in their native languages. There is also the possibility of having interpreters, if needed.

- **What qualifies us?**

Since 2016, PLACE Network has been working with newcomers to promote their leadership capabilities through training and creative workshops. As a training organization, we specialize in facilitating collaborative spaces and enhancing leadership/communication capacities, as well as in design thinking.

Since 2021, we have expanded our expertise to local stakeholders through the methodologies acquired during a two-year-long European project funded by the AMIF fund. Therefore, we are equipped to train local stakeholders in overcoming biases and fostering intercultural collaboration on an equal footing.

- **Is there any compensation?**

Participation is voluntary and unpaid. However, participants may be reimbursed for their travel expenses (e.g. transport tickets).

Upon completing the program, a certificate will also be issued.

- **Are there networking opportunities for participants?**

Yes, the program offers networking opportunities during workshops and events, encouraging the establishment of lasting connections among migrants, local stakeholders, and also with civil society organizations.

- **Is the Resilient Cities program available in regions outside Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes?**

Currently, our program focuses on the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, but we are exploring possibilities for expansion to other regions in the future, such as the Grand-Est, and other European countries.

- **What learning environment is provided during the Resilient Cities program?**

We create a dynamic learning space with training sessions, providing access to complementary resources and examples in a proprietary online space to allow participants to delve into topics independently.

- **If I reside in Auvergne Rhône-Alpes but not in the cities of Lyon, Clermont-Ferrand, am I still eligible to participate?**

The Resilient Cities program currently offers eligibility to participants residing only in the cities of Lyon or Clermont-Ferrand (and possibly very close neighborhoods to these territories) in Auvergne Rhône-Alpes.