24. Migrations, urban transformations and ICT solutions

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Format: Roundtable

This round table aims to analyse the points of convergence between migration studies and those devoted to cities and technological services. On the other hand, it aims to create a dialogue between specialists in migration, citizen sciences and ICT solutions. As an urban fact, immigration participates in the reproduction and transformation of the city not only by stimulating the processes of city renovation and rehabilitation, but also by redefining the relationship between the needs of migrants and public services, as well as the relationship between para-institutional actors (associations, cooperatives, etc.) and public authorities. The need for profound changes in the relationships between actors, services and the urban space is thus emerging. Indeed, to the migratory flows of previous decades must be added the high influx of asylum seekers and refugees in Europe from 2015 onwards. These processes have thus generated questions relating to the integration of migrant population (legal status procedures, legislative and policy changes, and longer-term issues relating to integration policies, etc.). In addition, there has also been an increased interest in social inclusion measures within the EU and Member States (Eurofound, 2018).

As a result, the presence of migrant populations participates in the redistribution and creation of new urban functions (social centres, listening centres, hubs, etc.) and their spatial integration. At the same time, this transformation of the urban space and its population increasingly requires a capacity to coordinate the actions of the different actors in the city who deal with migration, especially those involved in the integration process of migrant populations. On the other hand, these transformations generate a new demand for comparable and above all shared data between different actors, as well as a facilitation of the relationship between migrants’ needs and public services.
In this sense, the role that ICT solutions can play is central and is increasingly at the heart of research programmes and projects and actions funded at different levels of governance. ICT solutions, with their potential in data analysis and integration on the one hand, and with user interfaces that are increasingly easy to access, can thus respond to the new challenges facing European cities.

This round table therefore wants to discuss the relationship between the migration phenomenon, the transformations it brings about in contemporary cities, and the role of ICT solutions in the responses that are put in place. In this round table, contributions will be accepted on the following topics:

1. Theoretical debates on the relationship between migration, urban transformation and new technologies;
2. experimentation with new technologies aimed at facilitating the integration of migrants in different sectors, such as housing, education, health and work;
3. the implementation of technological solutions aimed at promoting and innovating coordination and communication between the different actors operating in essential services for migrants.

On this topic, which is still in its experimental stage, the round table would like to promote dialogue between the knowledge being built up by field actors and researchers. The expected contributions could be of a theoretical nature, although preference will be given to contributions based on empirical knowledge.