

FOR IN

Kick-off Conference
**Shaping Inclusive
Cities Together**



During 2022–2024, the Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Lithuania, in collaboration with its counterparts in Latvia and Estonia, the UNHCR Representation for the Nordic and Baltic countries, and various regional stakeholders, successfully implemented the project "Fostering Refugee and Immigrant Integration" (FOR-IN). Building on this success, the initiative will continue as FOR-IN 2.0 during 2025–2026, with a more practical approach, addressing critical needs to sustain effective integration systems and advancing the concept of inclusive cities.

PROGRAMME

9 April	
11:00-11:30	Arrival, registration, and coffee
11:30-12:00	Welcoming remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Deimantė Bukeikaitė, Viceminister of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania● Helén Nilsson, Director, Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Lithuania● Renata Kules, Government Liaison Officer, UNHCR Lithuania
12:00-13:00	Kick-off debate: Shaping inclusive cities together? Who and how? <p>This dynamic panel discussion brings together people from diverse backgrounds to share perspectives on shaping cities that are welcoming, equitable and participatory. The conversation will address pressing questions: who is involved in designing inclusive cities? How can different voices contribute to decision-making? What innovative solutions are making a difference today?</p>



	<p>Moderator: Anna-Maria Mosekilde, Project Officer, Knowledge & Welfare, Nordic Council of Ministers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alyssa Bittner-Gibbs, Nordic Migrant Expert Forum • Dmytro Mamaiev, sociologist of migration, PhD student at the Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences • Rushbah Rashid Højbjerg, Nordic Migrant Expert Forum • Ghieth Alkhateeb, Junior Research Fellow, Estonian University of Life Sciences
13:00-13:30	<p>Keynote: Migrant Integration: Insights from the International Migration Outlook 2024</p> <p>Ana Damas de Matos, Senior Policy Analyst at the OECD (online)</p>
13:30-13:45	Coffee break
13:45-14:45	<p>Holistic local level integration ecosystems</p> <p>The panel explores comprehensive approaches to integrating refugees and migrants at the local level. It highlights the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration, including local governments, civil society, businesses, and refugees themselves, to create inclusive, sustainable ecosystems that support social, economic, and cultural integration. The discussion will address best practices, challenges, and innovative solutions that enhance access to services, employment, education, and social cohesion while ensuring that integration efforts are tailored to the unique needs of each local context.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olga Gren, coordinator at Welcome House Stockholm, Sweden • Janika Hango, Head of Adaptation and Integration, City of Tartu, Estonia • Christin Hørrigmoe Hagen, Refugee Service, Tromsø Municipality, Norway
14:45-15:00	Q/A
15:00-15:30	Coffee break and networking
15:30-16:30	<p>Labour market inclusion and inclusive workplaces</p> <p>The panel examines the critical role of employers in facilitating the economic and social integration of refugees and migrants. It explores how businesses can create inclusive workplaces, support skill development, and address barriers to employment through targeted policies, mentorship programs, and diversity-driven hiring practices. The discussion will highlight best practices, challenges, and the broader economic benefits of leveraging refugee and migrant talent, emphasizing the need for collaboration between the private sector, policymakers, and civil society to foster long-term labour market inclusion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rugilė Trumpytė, CEO at Lithuanian Diversity Charter Association • Aicha Manai, CEO at Start-up-Refugees, Finland • Emma Klöcker-Gatzwiller, Project Leader at Lige Adgang, Denmark
16:30-17:00	Q/A
17:00	Closing of the first day



10 April	
08:30-09:00	Arrival, registration, and coffee
09:00-10:15	<p>Building resilient communities: proactive outreach for preparedness planning, integration and inclusion.</p> <p>The panel discussion explores strategies to strengthen communities by fostering inclusivity, preparedness, and sustainable integration for diverse populations. Key topics include community engagement, access to essential services, policy innovations, and collaborative approaches that enhance resilience, ensure equitable opportunities, and promote long-term social cohesion for migrants, refugees, and vulnerable groups.</p> <p>Moderator: Dārta Pelse, Policy Analyst in migration and integration at think tank Providus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Abdulrazzak Awf, Chairman of the Syrian Community, Lithuania ● Sulaeman Alzouabi, Social Mentor, "I want to help refugees", Latvia ● Yanika Wilen, Project Manager and Coordinator at Mirsal, Finland
10:15-10:30	Q/A
10:30-11:00	Coffee break and networking
11:00-11:50	<p>Inclusive methodologies of language training: thinking outside the box (presentations of good practices)</p> <p>The panel discussion explores innovative and inclusive approaches to language training that enhance integration and social participation for refugees and migrants. Experts in language training, education policy, and community programs will share creative strategies that go beyond traditional methods, incorporating technology, peer learning, and culturally responsive teaching. The discussion will highlight best practices, real-world case studies, and the role of language as a bridge to employment, education, and community engagement, ensuring more effective and accessible learning experiences for diverse learners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Language training in Roskilde Kommune. UCplus, Roskilde Municipality, Denmark, TBC. ● Language training and labour market inclusion. Louise Norstedt, Deputy Operations Manager at ELVIRA (part of ABF Stockholm) ● Towards a systematic approach to language training. Laura Perevičiūtė, Head of the Foreigners' Integration Unit, Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Lithuania
11:50-12:00	Short interaction with the audience (evaluation)
12:00-13:00	<p>From research to impact: leveraging data for real-world solutions</p> <p>The panel discussion will explore how data generated from research can be used to develop solutions for real-world problems, improve policies, and inform decision-makers. Examples from the Nordic-Baltic region will be presented.</p> <p>Moderator: Bethina Strandberg-Jensen, Senior adviser at NordForsk</p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch and departure

