

Welcoming Neighbourhoods. Sustainable Migration in North and West African Cities (WelCit)

(Project Period: 2018-2020)

The interdisciplinary project “Welcoming Neighbourhoods: Sustainable Migration in North and West African Cities” seeks to understand the **dynamics of inclusion and exclusion among mobile people** (internal and external migrants, circular migrants, commuters) in specific neighbourhoods characterised by diversity (in terms of the life histories, and particularly the mobility experiences, of the people who live there) and their contribution to social, economic, and cultural innovation.

To understand these neighbourhoods, we will use a **basic model** for our analysis, according to which:

- (1) Diverse neighbourhoods are places of innovation,
- (2) Innovations can lead to sustainable development and wellbeing only if they are embedded in social dynamics that contribute to respectful relations between people living in the same territory;
- (3) Sociability is strongly related to cultural encounters and cultural innovation; and
- (4) Wellbeing and sustainable development can in turn improve the structural conditions for innovation.

The main **outcomes** of this project are: (1) intensification of project-oriented cooperation between universities in the Global North and the Global South in developing a common research project, strengthening the already established network; (2) teaching tools covering topics such as human mobility, urbanisation, sustainable development, and belonging (citizenship); (3) publications reporting the experiences, conceptualisations, and confrontations during the project; and (4) policy recommendations concerning diverse neighbourhood development aiming to reduce vulnerability and improve economic, social, and cultural innovation.

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