

Examples of good practices for becoming a multiplier of belonging

Good practices for becoming a multiplier of belonging at the individual level

Attitudes and actions I can adopt as an individual to help strengthen a sense of belonging among the people around me, whether in my family, neighbourhood, workplace, or wider community.

- Introduce newcomers to other residents, colleagues, or members of a committee or group.
 - Connect people who share common interests, skills, or projects.
 - Invite a resident to join you at a local activity or community event.
 - Regularly organise a neighbourhood coffee or another informal gathering to encourage social interaction.
 - Personally invite someone who is not very involved to help organise a local activity ("We're organising X and would really love you to be part of it." / "We could really use your help with Y.").
 - Encourage quieter or more reserved people to share their views and get involved in local events (for example, by asking for their opinion directly, acknowledging their contribution, and reminding them that their voice matters in the community).
 - Set up a neighbourhood WhatsApp group (or another communication platform) to encourage mutual support, information sharing, and connections between neighbours.
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Good practices for becoming a multiplier of belonging at the structural level

Actions that can be implemented by a municipality, association, advisory committee, institution, or any other organisation.

- Establish a buddy or mentoring system that pairs engaged residents with newcomers.
 - Create a team of volunteers responsible for welcoming new participants at local events and activities ("welcomers").
 - Regularly invite residents to share their views before decisions are made or local projects are launched.
 - Consistently thank and acknowledge residents for their participation, even when their contribution is small.
 - Meet people where they already are, in associations, community groups, local celebrations, and gathering places, rather than waiting for them to attend official meetings. Complement posters and brochures by sharing information about local activities and projects in person.
 - Include time for informal conversation, socialising, or an icebreaker during meetings and events to help people connect and create a welcoming atmosphere.
 - Highlight and celebrate volunteers and engaged residents through local events or municipal communications.
 - Organise photo exhibitions or other initiatives that showcase local residents and reflect the diversity of the community.
 - Create local rituals or traditions that strengthen a sense of belonging (for example, planting a tree for every child born in the municipality).
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