Ad. 1

First of all, it should be pointed out that cultural rights are part of the integration process.

The very notion of integration is not defined in the Polish legal system, but the description of the integration process can be found in § 5(2) of the Regulation of the Minister of Labour and Social Policy of 7 April 2015 on providing assistance to foreigners concerning special support in the form of an individual integration programme. The level of achievement of the integration goals is determined by achieving the level of:

- language education, including in terms of the degree of acquisition of the basic vocabulary of the Polish language enabling communication;

- vocational functioning, in terms of progress in seeking employment and other forms of professional activity enabling economic independence of the foreigner;

- social functioning, especially in terms of establishing contacts with the local community and the degree of participation in social, **cultural** and public life.

Unfortunately, in Poland these activities are mainly reduced to social assistance. Moreover, in Polish legal system, there is a limitation of the obligation to support foreigners only to those who have been granted refugee status or subsidiary protection.

According to the provisions of the Polish Constitution, art. 73, **everyone** is quaranteed freedom of artistic creation, scientific research and publication of its results, freedom of teaching, and freedom to enjoy cultural goods.

Ad.2 As far as the municipality of Gdansk is concerned, Gdańsk has its own operational programme on immigrant integration - Immigrant Integration Model. Under the MII, we are improving the migration management system in public and social institutions and strengthening the integration of new residents into the broad functioning of the urban community. One of the issues under our concern is culture.

Culture is a powerful integration tool and an instrument of civic, cultural and historical education. Participation in host society cultural life is an opportunity for immigrants to better understand the local context, the city, and its people, which helps them to succeed socially and professionally, and contributes to their emotional wellbeing. Integration through culture is a new approach for Gdansk’s cultural institutions and organisations which are trying to establish what the integrational aspect of culture should include and how to implement it. One of the greatest challenges is to develop a shared vision of integrative culture. By creating culture together, a tool can be created that promotes personal development and helps the entire community thrive. Culture has the power to strengthen the ties between people, and serves as the ground for social integration. One of the tasks in the management process is to support the citizens in obtaining intercultural competencies so that they are aware and proud of their identity, and ready to meet people of different cultures.

Ad. 8 In Gdańsk we have created a lot of possibilities for the different groups of our society to learn about the cultures of migrants, who live in our city.

The most important one is providing imigrants with the opportunities of free Polish language lessons in various locations in the city.

Gdańsk joins the group of Polish cities that run their own culture education programs, i.e. education using the tools of culture and art, implemented in cooperation with various municipal entities - kindergartens, schools, cultural institutions, non-governmental organizations, informal groups and individuals, artists and educators.

Not without significance is also the creation of volunteer programmes involving immigrants in the organisation of cultural events, together with the partners from the host society.

It should also be mentioned that trainings on anti-discrimination workshops and intercultural sensitivity are organised at Gdansk schools, City Hall departments and other institutions according to needs.

In addition, Gdańsk is an ICORN partner city– Cultural Residency Programme of the International Network of Shelter Cities. It means that we offer shelter to the writers, journalists and artists facing persecution, with the aim of promoting freedom of expression.