



Association of  
Netherlands Municipalities

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

# 'Equal Opportunities for All'

CITIZENSHIP AND HUMAN CAPITAL IN A DIVERSE EUROPE



2007 — European Year of Equal Opportunities for All

# European conference **'EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL'**

Citizenship and Human Capital in a Diverse Europe

**Wednesday 28 November and Thursday 29 November 2007**  
**World Forum Convention Center, The Hague**  
**[WWW.VNGEQUAL.EU](http://WWW.VNGEQUAL.EU)**

In most municipalities there is some measure of congestion on the social, housing and participation ladders. Equal opportunities facilitate the process of climbing these ladders.

The continuous influx of new climbers on the ladder is of great concern to us. The conference Equal Opportunities for All on November 28 and 29 offers unique opportunities for broadening our views and for sharing our visions.

Politicians and other policy makers, as well as government officials, experts and representatives of organizations from all European countries will come together to discuss topics of the utmost importance for the future of our municipalities.

'Citizenship and Human Capital in a Diverse Europe' is organized within the framework of the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All and is prepared in close cooperation with the CEMR and many other partners. One of the results of the conference will be a Declaration on Equal Opportunities and Citizenship.



*"Come and join us in The Hague"*  
Wim Deetman, Mayor of The Hague

## Objectives and Aims

The main objective of 'Citizenship and Human Capital in a Diverse Europe' is to bring together stakeholders in the integration debate. The stakeholders will compare and debate the different approaches and policies which have successfully helped citizens to climb the social ladder and find ways for better cooperation between the European Union and European municipalities.

The conference will translate the outcome of integration programmes and projects into policy recommendations for all levels of governance.

## For whom?

The conference should not be missed by those who are involved in:

- Integration, (economic) migration and migrant enterprise
- Citizenship and Social Cohesion
- Housing
- Diversity policies
- Local governance/ political participation
- Neighbourhoods
- Education and Child care
- Homeless policies
- Youth policies
- Diversity management and Equal Opportunities

## Working together on a resilient Europe

Local and Regional authorities are crucial partners for their national governments and the European Union. They play the most important role in their plans and projects for the empowerment of their citizens, e.g. by promotion of participation, citizenship and diversity management, education and youth policies, programs for housing and diversity policies, child care, homeless policies, neighbourhood approaches in a safe environment, resulting in equal opportunities for all.

The conference on Citizenship and Human Capital has different dimensions. These will be discussed in the 8 parallel sessions.

## Program

The plenary sessions will be chaired by Wim Deetman, mayor of The Hague. During the plenary sessions different speakers will focus on 'equal opportunities for all'. During the 8 parallel sessions you can choose from 3-4 round tables per session. The round tables will exchange best practices and myths as well as the different approaches and visions.

## Preliminary Program 28 November, 2007

- 09.00 – 12.30      Arrival, registration and buffet lunch
- 12.30 – 14.00      Opening Statements
- Opening event
  - **Wim Deetman**, Mayor of The Hague, President VNG, First Vice President CEMR, chairman
  - **Vladimir Špidla**, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
  - **Ella Vogelaar**, Minister for Integration and Improvement of Neighbourhoods
  - **Halvdan Skard**, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
  - **Jeremy Smith**, Secretary General of the CEMR
  - **Ronald Bandell**, Mayor of Dordrecht
- 14.00 – 14.45      High tea and networking
- 14.45 – 17.00      Parallel sessions on the exchange of best practices in light of the Declaration
1. Migrant Enterprise, Employment and Business Opportunities (VNG/CEMR/IntEnt)
  2. Social Cohesion and Citizenship (VNG/CEMR/IDF)
  3. Housing and Diversity Policies (VNG/CEMR/CLIP)
  4. Local Governance, Political Participation and Youth Policies (VNG/CEMR/Forum/IPP)
  5. Child care (VNG)
  6. Local Homeless Policies (VNG)
  7. Neighbourhoods and Communities (DSP-groep/TG/MOVISIE/VWS)
  8. Diversity Management (INHOLLAND/Education Council/Unesco)
- 19.00 – 22.00      Reception, followed by dinner and music by the Residentie Orkest of The Hague

## Preliminary Program 29 November, 2007

- 09.00 – 10.30
- Opening event
  - **Wim Deetman**, Mayor of The Hague, President VNG, First Vice President CEMR, chairman, agenda of today
  - **H.R.H. Prince Constantijn of the Netherlands**, chairman of the Board of The Hague Process on Refugees and Migration (THP)
  - **Rita Süssmuth**, former Bundestagspräsidentin
  - Presentation of the outcomes of the discussions on the different topics by:
    - **Klaas Molenaar**, IntEnt
    - **Alexander Burgers van den Bogaert**, IDF
    - **Hubert Krieger**, CLIP
    - **Rabin Baldewsingh**, alderman The Hague
- 10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.00 – 13.00 Parallel sessions
1. Migrant Enterprise, Employment and Business Opportunities (VNG/CEMR/IntEnt)
  2. Social Cohesion and Citizenship (VNG/CEMR/IDF)
  3. Housing and Diversity Policies (VNG/CEMR/CLIP)
  4. Local Governance, Political Participation and Youth Policies (VNG/CEMR/Forum/IPP)
  5. Child Care (VNG)
  6. Local Homeless Policies (VNG)
  7. Neighbourhoods and Communities (DSP-groep/TG/MOVISIE/VWS)
  8. Diversity Management (INHOLLAND/Education Council/Unesco)
- Results of the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All (Min. SZW)
- 13.00 – 14.00 Lunch
- 14.00 – 15.00 Conclusions – Final Declaration
- Presentation of final declaration by **Wim Kuiper**, member of the board of directors VNG
  - Closing ceremony
- 15.00 – 15.30 High tea and networking

**For updates: [www.vngequal.eu](http://www.vngequal.eu)**

## Parallel session 1: Migrant Enterprise, Employment and Business Opportunities

Unemployment is perhaps the main obstacle to integration. Unemployment is not just a problem of income. It is also, and above all, a social problem. Perhaps we should put more effort in opening networks for immigrants in order to create realistic matches for immigrants in the employment market.

Support and development programmes need to be adjusted to the new demands and needs of the emerging client groups.

Given the foregoing, the following questions arise:

- How can various stakeholders at local and regional level cooperate?
- How can diversity become the basis for new jobs and income opportunities?
- Do we know the new social patterns that serve as basis for new economic initiatives? How can new markets be explored and exploited?
- How can successful people become role models?
- Which funds are available in this field?



*"Do you have the answer?"*

*Klaas Molenaar*

Presentations of policies and programs from different cities serve as examples for policy recommendations.

## Parallel session 2: Social Cohesion and Citizenship

Citizenship implies the necessity to build a (new) society, with the effort of all groups who live in the society. In many European cities youngsters hanging around in public places can be observed. Often it seems to be the case that those young people do not feel connected to the society they live in, and therefore do not actively participate.

IDF (International Dialogues Foundation) and YEDRA (Youth Education for Development and Rights Awareness) organize a dialogue in the parallel sessions on youth participation with regard to social cohesion and citizenship on November 28 and 29.

During the parallel sessions approximately 70 European youngsters will present and participate. Will you join them?



The youngsters come from cities like The Hague, Paris, Berlin and Birmingham. Other cities like Casablanca, Istanbul and Vancouver are approached to participate as well.

Society is not made by governments or institutions, but by people. Persons who are socially and politically active are healthier, happier and more prosperous.

*"We are very curious to hear about the efforts in the different municipalities to improve relations between population groups": Alexander Burgers van den Bogaert*

### Parallel session 3: Housing and Diversity Policies

Housing and Diversity Policies play a key role as linking pin between newcomers and society. Housing is a major element in the growth and productivity agenda. Decent housing is fundamental to competitiveness. Decent housing is a necessity in order to be able to climb the social and participation ladder.

Diversity policies tackle the question how education, social and health services can create real opportunities for all people in the diverse communities they serve, whether they are young or old, have disabilities or long term illnesses, no matter their ethnic origin.

The parallel session on this theme will consist of presentations by Rinus Penninx and Wolfgang Bosswick on what CLIP is, how they work, what they have achieved and what their future challenges are.

Heinz Fassman will present the final report on the results of the European research on local Housing Policies in Europe.

Sarah Spencer will present the first insights of the research on the different local Diversity Policies in Europe. At the round tables you will discuss the key role of housing and diversity policies after the presentation of good practices by the cities of Antwerp, Terrassa, Frankfurt, Breda, Stuttgart, Dublin, Turku and Vienna.

*"Will you join us in the search for answers?" Hubert Krieger*



### Parallel session 4: Local governance, political participation and youth policies

A fourth but very important conference theme is local governance, political participation and youth policies. If we want to be a harmonious and resilient community, each and every member of that community should have the opportunity to take responsibility for its well being.

After a short introduction of IPP (Institute for Public and Politics) on political participation of migrants in the Netherlands, we expect on the 28th, in cooperation with THP, a presentation of Amsterdam about their program against radicalisation and extremist action. The city of Lyon and others will also present good practice at the round table.

At the 29th FORUM (Centre for Multicultural Development) focuses on local youth policies and looks at:

- youth subcultures and recognition of their diversity
- thorough problem analyses
- the gap between policy goals and day-to-day practice

Karin Schram and Rob Witte will illustrate these factors and their implications based on FORUM's experiences, among which those of the Intervention team over the last 2½ years. Argumentation will be derived from the latest scientific knowledge on the effects of prevention policies on immigrant children.



*"Discover those new paths with us"*

*Rabin Baldewsingh*

### Parallel session 5: Child care

Child care becomes more and more a market sector with quality rules and 'covenants' by branch organizations and client organizations of parents.

Municipalities in most cases are responsible for looking after and maintaining the rules.

However, for the private sector and for those who are responsible for the quality, the system keeps on giving problems and frictions.

In this parallel session the VNG will give the floor to representatives of child care organizations and governmental organizations, to talk about their system.



*"Do you care about us?"*

Questions to be answered are:

1. Which political vision is the reason for the different systems within Europe?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of the different systems?
3. Child Care is an important political issue. How can we improve the quality and the rules for it?

### Parallel session 6: Local Homeless Policies

Local authorities have increasing responsibilities in the area of homelessness and have an interest therefore in gathering as much expertise as possible on the experiences of other local authorities within their country and across the rest of Europe.

In the session on the 28th, chaired by Jantine Kriens, alderman of Rotterdam, Jet Bussemaker, State Secretary for Health, Welfare and Sports will explain the Dutch policy on Local Homeless Policies.

Ella Vogelaar, Minister for Integration and Improvement of Neighbourhoods will present the contest and announce of the winner of the 'Zilveren Woonladder (Silver Housing ladder)', a price for the best practice in this field in the Netherlands.

At the round tables on the **28th**, you will share the good practices with:

Marijke Vos, alderman of the city of Amsterdam, Michal Kopecky, assistant to the Mayor of Prague, Ask Svejstrup, secretary of the Danish organization SAND and alderman Cees van Eijk from Utrecht City. The speakers will focus on client participation, prevention, measuring, housing, the elderly and care, and alcohol and drug consumer spaces.

At the session on the **29th** Freek Spinnewijn of FEANTSA will provide an update on EU policies which are of particular relevance to local authorities. Hannu Puttonen from Finland, Mike Penny from the city of Edinburgh, Dáithí Downey from Dublin will share their good practice at the round tables. They will discuss domestic violence, victim support, assistance for ex-offenders and the elderly.

On the **29th** from 13.00 – 15.00 you can join the study visit to homeless organizations in The Hague. The city of The Hague organizes study visits to organizations in the field of 'care and treatment', domestic violence and client participation. Please do not forget to register separately for this most interesting full study visit organized by the city of The Hague.



*"Join us"*

*Jantine Kriens*



## Parallel session 7: Neighbourhoods and Communities

A recent development in the Netherlands is the '40 neighbourhood approach'. Twijnstra Gudde, MOVISIE, the ministry of VWS and the DSP group are creating a learning environment with their parallel session on learning from neighbourhood approaches. This session intends to bust certain Social Myths. The main questions to be answered are:

- What changes do social and physical interventions give to citizens?
- When are neighbourhood approaches and improvements of neighbourhoods effective for social cohesion and social quality?
- What are the effects of the community approach in EU countries?



*What can we learn from each other?*

In this parallel session the following work method will be used:

- Inventory of results, good and bad practices.
- What are the different perspectives from the citizen, institutions and local governments and what does that mean for 'social cohesion'?
- What are the (fixed) perspectives that have value for the neighbourhood approaches?

At 29 November a study visit to one of these '40 neighbourhoods' (Schilderswijk) will be organized between 14.00 and 15.30 hours

## Parallel session 8: Diversity Management

INHOLLAND The Hague, Education Council and Unesco know how to capitalise diversity on schools. During these parallel sessions on 'Diversity on colourful schools; a challenge for all' they will find and give answers on the following questions:

1. Why give separate attention to management of schools with students from diverse countries? Which instruments are important?
2. What is the desired culture to a diverse school, including the necessary steps to create this desired culture?
3. What is the influence of networking on the results of students? How does the school create new networks for their students?
4. Which investments are necessary to effectively train teachers at diverse schools?
5. Is a diverse group of teachers more effective at diverse schools?



*Lilian Callender*

*"Will you find the answers on these questions with us?"*

*Lieteke van Vucht Tijssen*



### EXPERIENCE THE DIVERSITY

Diversity is a fact of life, and getting along together is in the common interest. During the conference we will highlight the value and benefits of diversity. The value of diversity should be experienced. Come and join the expositions on equal opportunities, the music, exhibitions, performances and other manifestations for equal opportunities.

### ***When and where?***

Think of The Hague and you think of peace and justice. The Hague has a long reputation for hosting national and international meetings. The Hague is the seat of the Dutch government, but it is also the world's number 4 UN center for activities. People from all over the world feel at home in The Hague. In The Hague at least 100 languages are spoken and more than 120 nationalities live in this city.

On 28 and 29 November 2007, the World Forum Convention Center will be the beating heart of The Hague. Close by are numerous museums, shops, restaurants and the beach.

Conference participants will enjoy two prestigious evening events: a formal welcome reception and dinner hosted by the municipality of The Hague and an entertaining evening program on Wednesday evening November 28.

### ***Organisers***

The conference is organized by the Netherlands Association of Municipalities (VNG), the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), the network of European Municipalities for Local Integration Policy (CLIP): the forum of the local and regional governments and associate members, IntEnt: an organization that links experiences in Migration, Development and Entrepreneurship, Forum: an Institute for Multicultural Development, IPP: an Institute that connects the Public with the Politics and IDF: an Foundation that continuously works on promoting the International Dialogue.

The 2007 conference is also presented in cooperation with the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment; the Municipality of The Hague; the The Hague Process on Refugees and Migration, DSP, TG, Movisie, VWS and InHOLLAND and the Board of Education and many others whose support is gratefully acknowledged.

The Year 2008 is named the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue. Therefore the 'Haags Kinderatelier' together with 700 kids and youngsters will make artworks for the conference participants. Will you bring a small present from your house or neighbourhood in order to surprise them as well?

### **The Residentie Orkest**

Over the course of more than a century the Residentie Orkest has grown to become one of the major symphony orchestras in the Netherlands. After dinner on the evening of the 28th you are most welcome to join the 'Feast of Recognition', a special performance of this orchestra.

The performance starts between 19.30 – 20.00 and will last till about 22.00. Over a thousand citizens of The Hague will join you in this musical homecoming, with most beloved works in the classical repertoire. Stravinsky, Tsjajkovski and Rachmaninov will be your dessert.

## **Registration**

### **Location**

World Forum Convention Center, Churchillplein 10, The Hague, the Netherlands.

[www.worldforumcc.com](http://www.worldforumcc.com)

### **Language**

The plenary sessions will be translated in English, French and Dutch. The working language in the parallel sessions will be generally in English.

### **Conference fee**

The conference fee is € 300,00 (19% VAT excluded) for two days. The conference fee covers plenary, parallel and round table sessions. It also includes a buffet dinner, lunches, a welcome reception and the evening programme at the conference venue.

(The conference fee does not include your hotel accommodation or any travel arrangements).

### **Registration**

Please register for the conference through our website [www.vngequal.eu](http://www.vngequal.eu) under the heading 'registration'.

You can also make a choice for the parallel sessions.

If you don't have access to internet, please ask for a registration form at Congress and Study Centre VNG by e-mail: [cs@vng.nl](mailto:cs@vng.nl).

### **Payment**

After submitting your registration, you will receive an invoice and payment details. Please be sure that your payment is made in advance. You will receive updated information about a week before the conference.

### **Cancellation**

Cancellation is only possible in written form by letter, fax or e mail to the Congress and Study Center VNG and before 14 November 2007. Without cancellation before 14 November you must pay the entire entrance fee.

You may, however, send someone to replace you. In that case, we ask you to announce the replacement to the Congress and Study Centre VNG.

### **Hotel accommodation**

For hotel reservations we advise you to use the hotel link on: [www.vngequal.eu](http://www.vngequal.eu).

### **Information**

The Congress and Study Centre of the VNG is taking care of the logistical management.

For questions relating to applications, payment or cancellations, please contact:

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The conference is being organized climate neutral. That means that all CO<sub>2</sub> produced by the conference will be neutralized by planting trees.

### Organisers

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2007/07-071

Hogeschool **INHOLLAND**

Ministerie van Volksgezondheid, Welzijn en Sport



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