



Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en
Koninkrijksrelaties

Social participation of EU migrants

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I Why a Dutch policy on social participation?

- EU migrants who're working in the Netherlands - the Polish being the largest group -, are welcomed to participate in Dutch society.
- However, we see that the influx of large and relatively new groups leads to new issues of social cohesion and needs for support and accomodation. The fact that many migrants stay temporarily, does not alter the problem but adds new questions.
- We also see serious social consequences due to the influx of migrants - in particular - in urban areas: social exclusion and drop outs, social tensions between communities, nuisance in neighborhoods.



I Why a Dutch policy on social participation?

- For several years, there is a strong political urgency to ensure that the influx of EU migration is managed in a responsible manner. The responsibility for facilitation lies primarily at the level of the government, social participation lies primarily at the level of the migrant workers and their respective employers.
- Dutch government encourages and facilitates various initiatives, i.e. supporting local communities and welfare organizations, equipping social institutions (for example the Ministry of Education, is giving attention communicating the schools to make use of extras for the benefit of pupils with a Central and Eastern European background), collaboration with Polish minority groups (PLON) and monitoring demographic developments.
- This policy aims to benefit both the interest of the individual EU migrant worker and the interest of the Dutch society.
 - 1) The welfare of the EU migrant – in terms of being self reliant in the new Dutch surroundings.
 - 2) The sound co-existence in the Dutch local communities – in terms of stimulating proper dialogue and understanding between local residents and EU migrants.



II Policy on participation: housing

- The arrival of EU migrants in the Netherlands has put a large demand on housing stock and services. In particular there's shortage of temporary, flexible housing options. As a consequence, we now see overcrowded housing with unsafe conditions in some old neighbourhoods of the cities where EU migrants are forced to resort to slumlords.
- The permanent presence of constantly changing newcomers in these areas, creates challenges for the immediate surroundings and social friction between groups.
- In cooperation with employers, housing associations, unions and local authorities, the Dutch government makes an effort to align housing supply and demand closer together in a responsible manner.



II Policy on participation: housing

- Initiated by the Dutch government, the '*National declaration on housing migrant workers*' was signed by relevant partners on the 28th of March 2012. This declaration aims to commit these parties to work together effectively in order to realise, in sufficient numbers and within safety requirements, housing for temporarily use.
- Concrete initiatives include:
 - transformation of an office building and a hospital building by a housing association
 - development of new housing concepts in small municipalities
 - new housing development by temporary employment agency Workforc
 - new development by horticultural organization ZLTO in association with municipality Drimmelen.



II Policy on participation: language

- Learning the language of the new country of residence is essential to benefit from essential facilities such as healthcare, education, safe working conditions in the workplace and participating in daily social life.
- This experience especially holds true for those who stay longer or settle permanently. However, a basic knowledge of the language is necessary for those who stay only on a short time basis (seasonal workers). Dutch citizens sometimes feel a stranger in their own neighbourhood, because of the influx of newcomers with whom they can't communicate.
- Albeit, learning the Dutch language is no obligation for EU migrants, the Dutch government still strongly encourages and supports language skills by:
 - 1) Offering a self-tutorial package, which enables Polish workers to learn the Dutch language. The package not only includes language lessons, but also lessons on other relevant topics like working, living, registration and taxes.
 - 2) Giving incentives for employers to offer their workforce language skills.



II Policy on participation: practical preconditions

- In order to accommodate EU migrants, **registration** is necessary for local governments to acquire as complete an overview as possible of migrants' home addresses.

The following measures have been taken to improve the registration:

- The government appeals on employers and housing authorities to let migrants who stay longer than four months register in the legally required Municipal Personal Records Database (GBA).

Concrete initiatives: information campaigns in the own language and enrollment evenings in the special hotels for the Polish.

- The Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG) will provide other municipalities with information on this approach.
- If individuals fail to comply with their duty to register, sanctions will be imposed (an administrative fine).
- A method is being developed enabling first home addresses to be recorded as additional information in the Non-residents Records Database (RNI).



II Policy on participation: practical preconditions

- Increasingly, the problem arises that EU migrants are unable to find new work, after they lose their previous job, which in turn leads to losing their house and finally they'll end up on the streets or resort to social shelters.
- For the benefit of the people involved and the maintenance of the public order, it's of great importance that these people are **supported to return to their home** countries and social network.
- On the official and local level from the Dutch (eg cities of Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht) and Polish side, arrangements for this already have been made .
- Municipal authorities, the (Alien) police, the IND and the Repatriation and Departure Service will also be working together on termination of residence and forced return to ensure the departure of those who cause a nuisance and who'll not leave on a voluntary base.



III EU discussion on managing social consequences of migration

- Being able to move and work freely across all the EU is a fundamental right for EU citizens from all 27 EU countries. It brings many benefits to all parties involved. There are, however, still many obstacles standing in the way of citizens' enjoyment of their rights and their participation, thus preventing the full potential of free movement being realized.
- All EU Member States, at both national and local level, are confronted with the social impact of free movement. There is, however, insufficient European knowledge. Furthermore it is felt that Member States could benefit from learning from each other's experiences and partnerships could be established.



III EU discussion on managing social consequences of migration

- The Netherlands and Germany will therefore be jointly hosting an expert conference on 3-4 September 2012 in Rotterdam to explore the barriers confronted by EU citizens and how different stakeholders involved can contribute to making freedom of movement work for all. This topic fits well with the agenda of the EU for 2013, the 'European Year of Citizens 2013'. According to the Netherlands, managing the EU migration in a responsible manner is a useful contribution.
- This conference builds on the conference hosted by Poland in cooperation with Eurofound on the social and economic impact of migration in Warsaw of 17-18 September 2011. We would like to closely involve Poland in this conference.