



Working paper : The Year of Intercultural Dialogue, Contribution of TICKLE Partner for the National Strategy for the Netherlands

The Dutch Programme

Each national coordinating organ is laying its own emphases within the framework of the selection criteria of the European Commission. As its focus, the Netherlands is choosing the priority of intercultural dialogue as regards migrant groups from other countries of origin. This will be done in the light of European issues. Our choice stems from the specific political and social situation in which the Netherlands finds itself. There has been talk of a growing alienation between different sections of the population in the Netherlands. The confrontation between religions and value systems, which has increased in intensity throughout the entire world since the end of the Cold War, and the consequences of increased global mobility, possess a particular pregnancy in the Netherlands.

For a long time one of the most important characteristics of Dutch identity was the powerful emphasis on toleration. The Dutch were proud of their country, where everyone was welcome and where they were able and allowed to do a great deal. The centuries-old tradition of the trading nation had led to the Netherlands valuing toleration extremely highly. There is this hinesight observation that at the end of the Twentieth Century this was coupled with such a high degree of political correctness that problems like the impoverishment of neighbourhoods where the proportion of migrants was very high were barely open to debate. At the beginning of the Twenty-first Century a radical transformation took place in Dutch public opinion and the social spirit of the time because of the influence of a number of dramatic events: the attacks on the WTC in New York, the rise and murder of the right-wing populist Pim Fortuyn and the murder of the filmmaker Theo van Gogh. In the eyes of many the toleration model appeared to have failed and the call for a harder approach, particularly towards Islamic migrants, who were the fastest growing sector of the population in the Netherlands, grew ever louder. The tone of the public debate became rather sharp. As a result of the argumentative atmosphere, a growing number of migrants felt stigmatised, driven into a corner or rejected. A deepened polarisation in society was the result. Such developments seemed to take place at a rapid pace in the Netherlands in comparison with other European countries. The Netherlands has long seemed to be a model state in the area of toleration. Now foreign observers sometimes wonder how quickly such a mindset can change. Therefore, the question of how Europe will deal with the growing Islamic population and the issue of the accession of Turkey to the European Union can be discussed with maybe a wider relevance in the Netherlands, where the situation uptill recently resembled a pressure cooker. This also because recently, the willingness to undertake dialogue in the Netherlands appears to be tentatively increasing. More and more frequently voices are raised suggesting that the humane aspect in the political debate has been lost sight of too often in recent years, and that the heated manner in which the debate is conducted has only led to a hardening of the fronts. Coupled with economic growth there seems to be ever more faith that by remaining in discussion

one will achieve more than via the route of confrontation. In the Netherlands the year of intercultural dialogue has to be used to strengthen this tendency.

Until now the networks between migrants in various European countries have been used insufficiently for the enlargement of the sense of European citizenship. Nevertheless, the international orientation of this section of the population offers great opportunities for closer associations between the European member states. It is certainly the case that in large cities migrants comprise a considerable portion of the population, so much so that more than 50 % of the children born in Amsterdam in 2006 have at least one parent who did not originally stem from the Netherlands. The situation in other large cities in Europe is not very much different. By placing an emphasis on these sections of the population not only a Dutch, but also a European interest is served.

Composition of a Coordinating Organ

Kosmopolis and the Service Centre for International Activities (SICA) regard it as worthwhile to form the national coordinating organ jointly. Kosmopolis is an organisation that has the aim of promoting the cultural dialogue. The national government has appointed Kosmopolis as the central body to display the cultural enrichment of the Netherlands due to migration, by means of art and cultural programmes. Kosmopolis was founded recently and has offices in the four largest cities of the Netherlands (Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Den Haag and Utrecht). To achieve the realisation of its objectives the organisation has a considerable budget. Kosmopolis functions as a podium, a producer, an information centre and a coordinator. As its starting point Kosmopolis takes the view that only through meeting the other can we become world citizens. Only by both sides displaying their own culture with pride and by showing an interest in the other can a dialogue come about, whereby a new perspective for society is created. Through acquaintance with other cultures Kosmopolis wishes to promote social cohesion. Kosmopolis focuses particularly on dialogue with the most important migrant groups in the Netherlands: from the Middle East, Asia and the Caribbean area, but by no means limits itself to these. Also, migrants from Eastern Europe will play an increasingly important role. Large-scale migration is a situation that is predominantly visible in a number of European metropolitan areas. The parallels in municipal development in Europe find expression in initiatives similar to Kosmopolis. In the foundation of Kosmopolis SICA conducted an investigation into comparable European initiatives and Kosmopolis makes grateful use of this information. Kosmopolis sees the Year of Intercultural Dialogue very much as an opportunity to deepen alliances with comparable initiatives throughout the whole of Europe. Kosmopolis's broad base in the Netherlands, and the capacities and the objectives of the organisation, conform closely to what has been formulated as the objective for the year by the European Commission: the improvement of the exchange between different religions, cultures, ethnic groups and languages.

Target Groups

The Year of Intercultural Dialogue wishes to reach a broad audience in the Netherlands via the communication campaign. Both young and old will be informed in the general sense about the Year via the media and the activities, and where possible invited to participate.

Within this general target group the Year of Intercultural Dialogue wishes to formulate two target groups specifically:

- Migrant groups from other countries of origin
- Young people from 15 to 30 years of age

Alongside the population group of indigenous Dutch people there are five important migrant groups in the Netherlands: groups of people with their roots in another culture. Here we are referring to the Dutch East Indies, Surinam, Turkey, Morocco and the Antilles. These people are to a greater or lesser degree integrated into the Netherlands and various generations have already been born and raised here.

The indigenous and migrant alien or ethnic groups live together and sometimes alongside one another. At the moment in the Netherlands, particularly among the younger (municipal) generations, we can speak of an increasing degree of integration with the retention of one's own cultural identity. Although the fatherland often still plays an important role, primarily in one's own circle, this is less the case for these young people in their daily lives.

The (municipal) youth of the present day is able to adapt quickly and per occasion to the particular situation in question. It is not so much the identity that changes each time, but the relative importance or use of it. We are confronted with a new generation: *the generation Mix*. The multi-cultural is rapidly becoming the inter-cultural in the large cities of the Netherlands.

The growing and relatively new groups of Africans, Latin Americans and Asians will go on to play an important role in the cities in the future, but at this moment they are still too fragmented and too inadequately organised and integrated to be reached and allowed to participate successfully as a group in the general sense.

School Projects and Education:

- Pupils will be asked to display the theme of the year. This can be via video, photo, text, object or work of art. The best results will be presented in a museum or art centre and online on the website of the Year and/or via one of the media partners.
- Teaching material in schools about the wealth of cultural diversity, for example in collaboration with Nieuwe Kerk, Wereldmuseum, Tropeninstituut, a university chair, etc.
- Pupils of fifteen and sixteen years of age in secondary educational in all of the schools in the Netherlands will undertake a dialogue by interviewing each other one to one, and in doing so will get to know one another. It is important that the home situation is also included in the interview. The results will appear on video, photo, on paper, in music or online. The best, or most interesting, results will appear on the website of the Year, in a book, via one or more of the media partners and/or will be displayed in a museum or art centre. Where possible this project will form part of the lesson plan.
- A number of classes from enthusiastic secondary schools will seek out contact with a school or class in one of the European cities. Together with this partner they will develop a cultural project (for example via a special website). The

most interesting projects will be rewarded with a class visit to the partner abroad.

The TICKLE Contribution:

Potential projects / collaborative partners

As the coordinating organ for the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue SICA has drawn up a brief inventory of potential collaborative partners and projects. It is the intention that the Year of Intercultural Dialogue function as a catalyst for many cultural, educational and sporting initiatives in 2008. Various parties will be called upon to provide content for the theme in their own particular way and also to connect to the European theme year in terms of communication. The total sum of activities and initiatives will ultimately provide the form and content that the Year of Intercultural Dialogue is aiming for.

TICKLE Partner PABO Arnhem cooperates with Dutch Open Air Museum/Museum Orientalis

Under the motto 'Moved through space and time' the Dutch Open Air Museum in Arnhem has developed a plan to give the theme of migration a prominent place in its presentation. An important ingredient is the so-called 'migration route', in which a sizeable number of existing and yet to be developed or renewed presentations concerning the theme of migration will be linked to one another. Think here of new content and a new interpretation of the HollandRama, filmed portraits of migrants and homes (including in Amsterdam's Westerstraat -de Pottenbakkersgang, or Pot Baker's Passage - where Italian families produced ice, there was a former Turkish pension, a Moluccan camp barracks, an emergency shelter in which people were housed who had lost their home and hearth), and presentations about the Chinese migrant community, for example. In addition, an extensive educational programme, specific events and an interactive website is provided. The goal is to have a number of presentations ready for the public in 2008. Parts of the Second TICKLE Project Meeting from February 21st – February 24th was an open conference on intercultural Issues in close collaboration with the Dutch Open Air Museum. A second sport on the location was a common visit of the conference participants to the Museum Orientalis in Arnhem, a museum especially built for intercultural religious dialogues. TICKLE members gave open workshops to teacher trainers, teacher students and staff of PABO Arnhem in the main building of the museum.

Interesting links for the House for Cultural Dialogue

- <http://www.babelmed.net>
- <http://immigration.museum.vic.gov.au/discovery/museums.asp>
- <http://www.qantara.de> (Duitsland)
- <http://www.euromedalex.org> (Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation)
- <http://www.mmsch.univ-aix.fr> (Maison Méditerranée des Sciences de l'Homme-MMSH : Aix-en-Provence, Frankrijk)
- <http://www.tau.ac.il/humanities/cmc/about.html> (The Center for Mediterranean Civilisation-Tel Aviv, Israel)
- <http://www.euromedi.org/?lang=ing> (Fondazione Mediterraneo-Italië)

- <http://www.riifs.org/purpose/purpose.htm> (Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies- Amman-Jordanië)
- <http://www.maec.gov.ma/en/default.html> (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Morocco)
- <http://www.iemed.org/presentacio/apresentacio.php> (Institut Europeu de la Mediterrànea – Barcelona, Spanje)
- <http://www.smvk.se/smvk/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=148&a=250> (National Museum for World Culture- Zweden)
- <http://www.isesco.org.ma/English/historique.html> (Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
- <http://www.iksv.org/english/tarihce.asp?ms=1|1> (Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts-Turkije)
- <http://www.unites.uqam.ca/criec> (Centre de recherche sur l’immigration, l’ethnicité et la citoyenneté-Montreal, Canada)
- <http://www.uu.nl/uupublish/onderzoek/onderzoekcentra/ercomer/24638main.html> (European Research Centre on Migration and Ethnic Relations- Utrecht, NL)
- <http://www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/mru/index.htm> (Migration Research Unit- University College London, Engeland. Heeft uitgebreide literatuurlijst over immigratie nr Europa)
- http://web.uni-bamberg.de/~ba6ef3/main_e.htm (Europäisches Forum für Migrationsstudien EFMS- Universiteit van Bamberg, Duitsland)
- <http://www.iom.int> (International Organization for Migration –Intergovernmental body. Gaat vooral over politieke kwesties, werkt nauw samen met VN)
- http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=11406&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html (UNESCO- intercultural dialogue)
- <http://www.mbifoundation.com/about/index.html> (Our aim is to promote better understanding between the peoples of the Middle East and the wider world. Our overriding aim is to be a partner, not simply a funder, in the projects we support. London, VK)
- <http://www.arabianseminar.org.uk/aboutus.html> (‘The only international forum which meets annually for the presentation of the latest academic research in the humanities on the Arabian Peninsula (including archaeology, epigraphy, ethnography, language, history, art, etc.) from the earliest times to the present day or, in the case of political and social history, to the end of the Ottoman Empire in 1922’).
- <http://menic.utexas.edu/menic.html> (Middle East Network Information Center, University of Texas, VS)
- www.yallabina.com (hippe, engelstalige website met informatie in de categorie “what’s on” op cultureel-uitgaansgebied in Cairo, Alexandrië en Amman).
- <http://www.cafearabica.com/links/links.html> (amerikaans-arabische site met uitgebreide links die wellicht van nut kunnen zijn)
- <http://i-cias.com/e.o/index.htm> (Encyclopedia of the Orient – eventuele achtergrond artikelen)
- <http://www.fai.org.lb/CurrentSite/english/fset-presentation.htm> (The Arab Image Foundation, Libanon – The foundation aims to promote photography in the Middle East and North Africa by locating, collecting and preserving the region’s photographic heritage).
- <http://www.hkw.de/en/hkw/selbstdarstellung/anfang.php> (Haus der Kulturen der Welt –Berlijn, Duitsland)

- <http://www.incd.net/about.html> (International Network for Cultural Diversity – *A Voice for Culture and the Arts in the era of Globalization*. Ontario, Canada)
- <http://www.varldskulturmuseet.se/smvk/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=126> (Museum of World Culture - Göteborg, Zweden)
- <http://www.nla.gov.au/multicultural/links.html> (Links met multiculturele sites in Australië)
- <http://www.aac.org.au/about.php> (Australian Arabic Council)