

**Report of the meeting of the Grundtvig Learning Partnership
(Inter)Cultural Capitals across Europe- Intercultural approaches in adult education in
the context of European Capitals of Cultures**

16, 17, 18th of February 2010, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

17th of february

**Meeting of the partners about the program, the distribution of tasks, and agreements
about the project**

Next meetings

The next meeting will be in Vienna, organised by Educult, from the 15th to the 17th of June 2010.

The meeting in Krakow, organised by KCZiA will be 1th to 3th of December 2010.

Homepage

There will be information about the partnership on the websites of all partner organisations. Also there will be a special subitem on the website of Kosmopolis Rotterdam about the project, that functions as official the information platform of the partnership ICE.

Logo

The logo has to work in different sizes and will mainly be used on white background; also it has to be in a simple style. The proposed logo's by KCZiA are a very good basis, that Emanuela Danielewicz, a graphic designer linked to interkultur.pro, will create the official logo in this basis.

Newsletter

There are newsletters on all the meetings that will be published on the information platform on Kosmopolis' homepage.

The partners will incorporate the news on the project in their regular newsletter. This newsitems will also be in the archive section of the website.

Dissemination of results and documentation

It is important to document the discussions and learning points to a broader public and also in staff meetings etc.

Interim reports

Partners from Germany, Austria and the Netherlands will sent their interim reports to eachother.

Next meeting in Vienna

Educult will make a program proposition for this meeting. They like to hear the number of persons coming before March. The meeting will most probably include a day trip to Linz

Interarts

Not all partners see possibilities to invite Interart, due to national regulations and financial capacities.

Possibly Interart is invited as guest and expert to further meetings besides the first one in Essen and the partners will take them into account for further activities and a possible follow up project.

Future

The German Agency has indicated that this project might be considered as a best practice project. It is important that we think about how the results of the project are spread out.

What is learned?

Visit of Rotterdam South: 't Gemaal and the exhibition of Otto Snoek: an exhibition of photographs of the first Turkish migrants in the Netherlands, combined with a photo exhibition of Turkish people nowadays and their transnational ties. Introduction by Özlem Ates of Kosmopolis Rotterdam

The group discusses if a project always has to involve more than one group. Why not, for example, display photographs of the migration of Moroccan people next to the photographs of Turkish migrants. In Poland there are only intercultural programs; not programs for one group; also the projects of the partner organisation from Germany are intercultural. The exhibition also brings up the question how do you represent mental history ?

Rotterdam as ECoC by Monica van Steen, member of program staff of Rotterdam 2001
Several European Capitals of Culture started as neglected towns in a changing situation. Often the intercultural part is not an integral, but a separate part of the program (as in Rotterdam 2001). It would be more constructive to try to fit in the intercultural part as an obvious part of the main program (as is happening in the Ruhr.2010). Also there should be attention for the sustainability of the intercultural programs. Here several partners recognise the dilemma of programming in projects and try to have a long-term affect. One way Rotterdam 2001 tried to establish sustainability by working with existing organisations. Getting the elephants; the big cultural organisations to structurally pay attention to diversity and sustainability is a big task. In order of the Ruhr.2010, the German partner interkultur.pro launched a big workshop program with decision making members of those organisations to stimulate thinking about diversity and change the programs.

Multicultural situation of Rotterdam / Rotterdam and the cultural policy of the government by Olga Smit from the Rotterdam department for Arts and Culture
Olga Smit states that policy should not focus on cultural background, but on socio-economic position. Olga Smit sees two ways of looking at arts and culture that are sometimes conflicting: artistic quality and participation. She prefers looking at culture, chances, emancipation and dialogue instead of integration, problems, social problems and debate. In the Netherlands the cultural field, reacting to a question of the minister of culture, is designing a Code of Cultural Diversity; urging cultural institutions to diversify their programs, public, personnel and boards.

Olga Smit also talks about the cultuurscouts of Rotterdam; networkers in the neighbourhoods who connect artists and small cultural groups with each other and with (art) institutions

Meeting with Liane van der Linden, director of Kosmopolis Rotterdam
Liane van der Linden stresses the importance of arts and culture in forming society. Cultural Institutions in Holland are willing to work more with diversity in their program, although they do not always know how to do this. Politicians often have a bigger problem with stimulating diverse programming. Housing and work is not enough for migrants; they need their culture, and to recognise their culture in the Netherlands to create the feeling of belonging there. People often make the distinction of social art in the neighbourhood and quality art in the institutions. Kosmopolis Rotterdam wants to combine these.

Presentation: interreligious/elderly music projects by Conny Groot
Conny Groot uses music as a way for interreligious dialogue. Conny Groot stresses the importance of research of intercultural projects. In her next project she will do action research during the activities. Educult combines programming and research and it might be an interesting topic to talk about further in Vienna.

Presentation: Historical Museum: new forms of collecting by Irene van Renselaar

Irene van Renselaar is urban curator of the *City as muse*. To her it is important to think about the role of a museum in this time. She is researching life and meaning in different neighbourhoods; starting from scratch to find out what is important to the people who live there.

The group talks about how to link old collections to new developments, and also about the tension between a way of collecting in which everything is possible, and selection of items for a permanent collection.

Presentation: Pact op Zuid by Aysel Kaya

Aysel Kaya presents Pact op Zuid, The Rotterdam South Pact is a joint additional investment programme for Rotterdam South running until 2015, that has been drawn up by housing corporations, municipal authorities and sub-municipalities in Rotterdam South. The programme endorses the great importance of an additional strategy for Rotterdam South and indicates which investments by the various parties are necessary. Aysel Kaya stresses the importance of not only better housing and more work, but also social and cultural programs. The group discusses the importance different countries give to language lessons

Other topics and lessons learned

The group discusses the effects of globalisation. Migrants are moving from Poland to Norway if they can make more money, making it difficult to create social cohesion in society.

Is there a European culture?

In Rotterdam a lot of people are of more than one cultural background; what does this mean for the common culture? Is there a loss of 'national' culture or do all the cultures form a new culture together?

Concepts as transnationalism and interculturality are introduced and discussed

Also it is discussed, that the political construction of stereotypes can be a big frustration.

Culture shows the power and potential of young people and of different cultures, and it can also stimulate emancipation and participation in adult groups.

Cultural diversity should be seen as a source.

Cultural Capitals form a good chance to find new audiences, and present this richness. It should be an integral part of the program, on a high level.

Karen Klijnhout, 7th of June 2010