INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS & REFUGEES

CONFERENCE 4TH DEC 2018

PROGRAMME

Organised by the Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees
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INTRODUCTION

Cities are places where integration happens. They offer great opportunities for migrants and non-migrants to interact, be it through working, studying and raising their families, but they are also faced with challenges regarding integration and inclusion.

For the last three years, European cities, national governments, the European Commission and civil society organisations have been working together under the Urban Agenda Partnership on Inclusion to develop ideas and concrete actions to support the integration of refugees and other migrants in Europe.

The conference will present through interactive sessions the results of the work of the Partnership and will offer the opportunity to discuss with EU institutions, national administrations, European cities and non-governmental organisations how to work better together to make integration a success. Participants will also be able to contribute with their ideas to the future of the cooperation in the field of integration.

In the last three years a lot of work has been done and great results have been accomplished. This would have not been possible without the help of many of the participants and speakers attending the conference today. We would therefore like to thank everyone that has been working with us for better Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees in Europe and we look forward continuing our cooperation.

Working Together for Migrant Integration

A conference of the Urban Agenda Partnership on the Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees

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# Programme

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<td>Registration of the participants &amp; coffee</td>
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<td>Introduction of the conference by moderator Ali Al-Jaberi</td>
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<td>09:20</td>
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<td>Welcome by Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the Committee of the Regions</td>
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<td>Opening by Dimitris Avramopoulos, European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship</td>
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<td>09:50</td>
<td>Making integration a success: inclusive cities for a more inclusive Europe Panel Discussion with interventions from:</td>
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<td>Councillor Asher Craig - Bristol deputy mayor with responsibility for Communities, Events and Equalities</td>
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<td>Lefteris Papagiannakis - Vice-Mayor on Migrant and Refugee Affairs, City of Athens</td>
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<td>Olivier Onidi - Deputy Director General of the Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission</td>
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<td>Gerry Woop - Permanent Secretary for EU Affairs, Berlin</td>
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<td>11:00</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td><strong>BREAKOUT SESSION 1</strong></td>
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<td>Improving migrant children integration in the EU</td>
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<td>The Urban Academy on Integration: exchanging challenges and solutions</td>
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<td>Innovative ways to finance integration in cities: micro finance and blending loans and EU grants</td>
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<td>13:00</td>
<td>Lunch &amp; Marketplace of ideas</td>
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<td>Info stands from organizations and projects presenting innovative practices to support the inclusion of migrants and refugees.</td>
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<td>Ask The People: Voices of Refugees and Migrants</td>
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<td>The future of EU funding on integration</td>
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<td>15:45</td>
<td>Working together for integration: what is the future of the cooperation between local and EU level? Interactive session with the public with interventions and feedback from:</td>
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<td>Matthias Oel - Director for Migration, Mobility and Innovation, European Commission</td>
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<td>Michael Collins - Deputy Director, Committee of the Regions</td>
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<td>Anna Lisa Boni - Secretary General, EUROCITIES</td>
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<td>Frédéric Vallier - Secretary General, Council of European Municipalities and Regions</td>
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<td>16:45</td>
<td>Closing</td>
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Karl-Heinz Lambertz

President of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR)

Karl-Heinz Lambertz was elected as President of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) in July 2017. He is also a member of the Belgian Senate representing the German-Speaking Community.

Born on 4 June 1952 in Schoppen, Karl-Heinz’s interest in politics came early in his career having served as President of the German-speaking Youth Council (1975-1980). After which he became Member of Parliament of the German-speaking Community in 1981.

Between 1990 and 1999 he held numerous Ministerial posts in the German-speaking Community Government before being elected its Minister-President (1999-2014). He was then President of Parliament until 2016 before taking post as Senator.

Karl-Heinz has been a CoR member since 2001 and was President of the CoR’s PES Group (2011-2015). Since 2000, he has been a Member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in which he is currently Vice-President.

Dimitris Avramopoulos

Dimitris Avramopoulos is the European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship since November 2014.

Before becoming European Commissioner, Mr. Avramopoulos was Minister of National Defence of Greece (two terms), Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Tourism Development, Minister of Health and Social Solidarity and Mayor of Athens (two terms). He was elected Member of the Parliament several times with the “New Democracy” party (1993, 2004, 2007, 2009 and 2012).

Mr. Avramopoulos served in the Diplomatic Service of Greece from 1980 until 1993. He was Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director of the Diplomatic Cabinet of the Greek Prime Minister and Consul of Greece in Liège (Belgium) and in Geneva (Switzerland).

Mr. Avramopoulos completed his studies at the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences at the University of Athens and his postgraduate studies on International Organisation at the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB). He is Honorary Professor of the State Academy of Technological Sciences of Moscow and of Peking University (Beijing), and Honorary Doctor of ADELPHI University (New York), DREXEL University (Philadelphia), KINGSTON University, European College of Parma (Italy) and DEREE College (Athens).

Asher Craig

Deputy Mayor with responsibility for Communities, Events & Equalities

Asher has over 30 years’ experience as a community activist, leader, management consultant and now politician. She has championed the needs of the voiceless, with a particular emphasis on the social-economic development of black, minority, ethnic and under-represented communities. Asher was elected as the Labour Councillor for the ward of St George West, Bristol in May 2016 and was appointed to the Cabinet with the wide-reaching portfolio of Neighbourhoods in August 2016. In March 2017 Asher was asked to step into the newly created role of deputy mayor for communities, bringing into & elevating the issue of public health as part of this new portfolio.
Olivier Onidi
Deputy Director General of the Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs at the European Commission with particular responsibility over security

Olivier Onidi’s previous assignment was Deputy Director General of DG Migration and Home Affairs, with the specific task to coordinate the Commission-wide work related to the Central Mediterranean Route in the context of the refugees crisis. Before that, he was Director for the “European Mobility Network” within Directorate-General Mobility and Transport. In the current role as Deputy Director General of DG Home he oversees the activities in the fields of terrorism and violent extremism, organized crime, cybersecurity, information systems and innovation. He also heads the Secretariat of the European Commission’s Task Force for the Security Union.

Gerry Woop
Permanent Secretary for European Affairs at the Berlin Senate Department for Culture and Europe

Gerry Woop has been Berlin’s Permanent Secretary for European Affairs since January 2017. Previously he worked as Head of the Unit for Coordination with the Federal Council (Bundesrat), Legal Affairs, Europe and Finances in the Representation of Brandenburg at the Federal Government, Head of Cabinet of the Minister of Finances and the State Secretary in the Ministry of Finances of Brandenburg, Head of the Unit for Coordination with the Federal Council, Economics and Ecology in the Representation of Brandenburg at the Federal Government. As the recipient of a scholarship from the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Gerry Woop enrolled in the postgraduate master’s program at the University of Hamburg, where he received an M.A. in Peace and Security Studies.

Ali Al-Jaberi - Moderator

Ali Al-Jaberi is an experienced moderator, consultant and communication trainer. He is a former winner of the Dutch National Debating Championship and was previously ranked one of Europe’s top public speakers. Al-Jaberi draws from experience as a former TV correspondent and media spokesperson. He has taught public policy at The Hague University and political science at the University of Amsterdam. Al-Jaberi has worked as a moderator and trainer in over fifteen countries. He is fluent in English, Arabic and Dutch.
More than 70% of all Europeans are located in cities and urban areas. This makes cities the drivers of innovation and the European economy, but also the battleground for many of the societal struggles of the 21st century.

During the Dutch Presidency of the EU in the first half of 2016 EU Member States adopted the Pact of Amsterdam with the objective of involving more European cities in EU legislation, EU funding and knowledge sharing. The Pact of Amsterdam established the Urban Agenda for the EU was created, focusing on 12 priority themes essential to the development of urban areas. Each theme has a dedicated Partnership bringing together on a voluntary and equal basis cities, Member States, European institutions and civil society organisations. Together, they aim to implement the Urban Agenda by finding workable ideas focused on the topics of EU legislation, funding, and knowledge sharing. One of the Partnerships is the Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees.

The Partnership has agreed on five cross-cutting themes for its work. It is essential for the reception of migrants and refugees that communities are properly involved and informed in the processes taking place, not least to minimize the uncertainties that the local communities face. Moreover, providing refugees with housing is a crucial but often difficult first step towards restoring the quality of life and autonomy of migrants and refugees. Fast access to the labour market is also a key step in the integration process. Moreover, both integration courses and regular education for children and students should start as soon as possible, possibly on day one. Lastly, throughout these focus areas special attention must be paid to the extra vulnerable groups such as children, women and LGBTQI migrants and refugees.

The Partnership is currently in its third year and it is putting in place eight main actions in the field of integration of children, knowledge sharing, better use of data, access to funding and promoting the involvement of migrants in the design of integration policies. The actions were selected based on multiple consultations with policy advisors, scientists, NGOs and refugees and migrants. This happened, among other activities, through three conferences and online consultations. To ensure the sustainability of the different project as well as evaluate, the Partnership has decided to prolong its work until the end of 2019.

The City of Amsterdam and the Directorate for Migration and Home A airs of the European Commission coordinate the Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees. Members are the cities of Athens, Berlin, Helsinki, Barcelona, the countries Portugal, Italy, Greece, Denmark EUROCITIES, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), URBACT, European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), European Investment Bank, Migration Policy Group, The Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), Committee of The Regions, The European Central Bank, Joint Research Centre and the Directorates- General of the European Commission for Regional Policy and for Employment, Social A airs & Inclusion.
Improving Migrant Children Integration in the EU

**Action Introduction**

Protecting the rights of children in migration and ensuring their integration is important for cities, not only to make their part in upholding the Rights of the Child, but also to prevent the intergenerational transmission of disadvantage which increases the levels of poverty and social exclusion and undermines local social cohesion.

One of the agreed actions of the Partnership on the Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees has been to formulate policy recommendations on how to improve the protection and inclusion of children with a refugee background in Europe. The objective of this session is to present the recommendations as well as to discuss the follow-up.

**Summary of the Session**

The session will be divided in two different parts: the first one will discuss the recommendations for local and central levels and will count with the participation of the European Commission, city representatives who participated in the survey we used to draft our recommendations, the University of Leiden who helped us in drafting them and Missing Children Europe, one of the most active NGO’s in the field of unaccompanied minors. In addition, DG REGIO of the European Commission will present how they have advanced in the work on segregation which is linked to the integration of migrant children.

The second part of the workshop will deal with the recommendations for the European level as well as the next steps and will also count with cities, the European Commission, cities which participated in the survey and the European Council of Refugees and Exiles, one of the most active civil society organisations in the field. Finally, the session will also try to address the next steps in order to implement the recommendations as well as to elaborate on the strategies to communicate them to the different stakeholders and decision-makers at all levels of government. Among other questions we will address the following:

- Which are the main gaps with respect to migrant children protection at the local level?
- What can cities do, considering their competences (funding, regulation and knowledge exchange), to improve the integration of migrant children at the local level?
- Which are the main gaps with respect to migrant children protection at the national level?
- What member states could do from a regulatory, funding and knowledge perspectives to improve their situation with a view of reinforcing capacities at the local level?
- What are the main challenges and gaps at the EU level in order to better protect children in migration?
- How to improve regulations (and non-legislative initiatives) and programmes at the EU level to better protect children in migration as well as unaccompanied minors?
The Urban Academy on Integration: exchanging challenges and solutions

**Action Introduction**
The Urban Academy on integration was launched by the Partnership in April 2018 to offer cities and national administrations a place where they could learn and exchange openly on different aspects of integration. The Academy is organized as a mix of peer learning and expert input. The next Academy will take place in May 2019 in Brussels.

**Summary of the Session**
In this interactive session, you will learn from the voices of the participants about some of the ideas and experiences shared in the first Academy. You will also hear some of the key findings of the Academy on the two topics it focused on: integration through education and working effectively with civil society.

The session will also put the basis for the next Academy. The four short-listed topics for the 2019 Academy are: labour market integration, fighting discrimination, housing and health. You will have the opportunity to express your preference for the two topics to be addressed in the next Academy and to bring in your ideas on how the academy should be shaped.

Finally, if you wish, you will be able to express your interest to participate into the next Academy in May 2019.
Innovative ways to finance integration in cities: microfinance and blending loans and EU grants

Action Introduction
One of the key issues of the Partnership is better access to funding for cities to assist them in the integration of migrants and refugees. However, in practice, cities often encounter various problems in accessing EU funds for integration.

The Establishment of Financial Blending Facilities for cities and SMEs can help to address the identified financing gaps and establish synergies. This Inclusion Blending Facility should enable to combine grants and loans or other instruments, which would make financing directly available to cities and/or financial intermediaries to implement investments and actions targeted to migrant and refugee inclusion alongside financing for other investments in the city budget.

Another instrument is Microfinance. Microfinance is a tool for enhancing entrepreneurship, with direct impact on job creation, it has become an important instrument/mechanism for social and financial inclusion.

Summary of the Session
This session aims to present two financing instruments: Microfinance and an Inclusion Blending Facility.

During this session, the EU support for microfinance inter-alia through the EaSI Financial Instruments will be presented, including the up-coming pilot that offers grants to finance business development services for the micro-borrowers. Followed by a concrete example of a microfinance institution (PerMicro, Italy) and their intervention in working with migrant entrepreneurs in a particular city.

Athens has received one of the highest shares of migrants and refugees in Europe. We will hear about Athens’ main integration challenges; what their biggest needs and bottlenecks are; and how they have tried to address their financing challenges when it comes to implementing projects for migrants and refugees.

To conclude, the Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission will provide an outline of blending opportunities proposed by the European Commission in the Multiannual Financial Framework post-2020.
Better data for more effective integration policies

Action Introduction
The Partnership has identified the availability of reliable data as a key bottleneck for efficient and effective migrant integration policies in cities. The action ‘Facilitating evidence-based integration policies in cities’ has brought together cities and European data stakeholders to address the gaps. While Eurostat has embarked on improving the availability of common EU integration indicators at infra-national level, an expert working group has developed a set of recommendation on the way forward. They range from additional common indicators reflecting cities’ needs, to multi-level communication among data providers and more know-how transfer among cities in this field.

Summary of the Session
This session will present city practices and discuss how local authorities can work together on these issues: What innovative approaches for evidence-based policy-making have been developed on the local level? What is at stake for cities in EU migration and integration statistics? And how can EU-wide indicators support the work at the urban and regional level? Laurent Aujean (European Commission), George Sarelakos (Athens Coordination Centre & Observatory) and Pasi Saukkonen (City of Helsinki) will contribute to this session chaired by Thomas Huddleston (Migration Policy Group).
BREAKOUT SESSIONS 2

Ask The People: voices of refugees and migrants

Action Introduction
The European Migrant Advisory Board “EMAB” is one of the actions of the Partnership that started in March 2018, comprising of a group of advisors with immigrant and refugee-background. EMAB works to increase the participation of immigrants and refugees in different policy-making processes affecting immigrants’ access to rights. EMAB works with the Partnership to ensure and promote social inclusion of immigrants and refugees in Europe.

Summary of the Session
In this interactive session, the board will share the results and recommendations of the “Ask The People” consultation process, which has been carried out by the board members with hundreds of refugees and migrants in different European cities around the European agenda on migration and the priorities of the partnership on inclusion of migrants and refugees, namely: housing, labor market, microcredit, return, integration, unaccompanied minors, education, and participation. You will learn more about the concrete recommendations produced by refugees and migrants in these areas and you will be able to discuss and share your experiences with board members and other participants on the different realities and potential opportunities today in Europe.

The future of EU funding on integration

Action Introduction
The Urban Partnership on the Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees dedicated one action to providing recommendations on better access for cities to EU integration funding. In March 2018, the Partners published their ‘Recommendation Paper for Improving Cities’ Use of and Access to Integration Funding’. You can find the recommendations paper at this link. The Action Leader is EUROCITIES.

Summary of the Session
Many initiatives, actions and projects at local level for the integration of migrants and refugees are financed by EU funds (AMIF, ESF, ERDF). However, cities encounter problems in accessing EU funds due to lack of relevant calls from managing authorities, complex bureaucratic procedures, diverging priorities at different levels of governments, and limited recognition of the role and needs of cities at national level.

This interactive session will give you an insight of how funding for integration will look like in the new programming period 2021-2027. We will discuss the improvements and limits of the proposals for the AMF, ESF+ and ERDF, currently under negotiations, regarding integration of third-country nationals. We will explore how the different funds will support integration at local level in the future and what could be expected from the negotiations.
Skilllab Pathways to Employment through Technology
www.skilllab.io
Skilllab is a social venture building innovative software to support cities in their efforts to integrate third country nationals into local labour markets. The software performs a comprehensive skill assessments for third country nationals in their native language and automatically generates and translates rich skill profiles to 27 languages, and automatically matches each profile to nearly 3,000 EU-recognised occupations. Skilllab supports European cities in taking a data driven approach to finding personalised education and employment opportunities for third country nationals.

CITIES GROW - Cities integrating refugees and migrants through work
Lead: EUROCITIES
CITIES GROW is a city-to-city support project running from February 2017 to January 2019. Its aim is to promote mutual learning between cities through tailored mentoring schemes in four specific areas:
- Matching buyers and suppliers: access to public and private contracts for immigrant entrepreneurs
- Promoting appropriate migrant participation in local labour markets through partnerships
- Services to promote and support migrant entrepreneurs
- Anti-discrimination strategies for the local job market.

The project helps cities get closer to European standards of best practice and in doing so realises the principles of EUROCITIES Integrating Cities Charter (www.integratingcities.eu/integrating-cities/charter). Additional information about the project can be found on the following website:
www.integratingcities.eu/integrating-cities/projects/cities-grow

MENT - Migrant entrepreneurs supported by mentors
www.mentproject.eu   Lead: Meath Partnership (IE)
The project aims at facilitating, fostering and strengthening migrant entrepreneurship through light incubation cycles supported by mentors in five EU countries (Austria, Italy, Germany, Belgium and France) and to test a sound methodology to be further disseminated and mainstreamed in the EU MS in general.

The project’s goal is the design, implementation, test and evaluation of two cycles of light incubation for entrepreneurial projects proposed by migrants, supported by tutors and mentors in five EU countries, and the subsequent dissemination and mainstreaming. The relationship with mentors is the core of the project. Mentors are guiding new entrepreneurs, while at the same time strengthening their own networks. Activities include short training sessions, tutoring, traditional training, light incubation programmes, including a series of on line and off line interactions, especially focused on mentors’ matching events; pitching sessions in front of relevant stakeholders, potential partners and credit operators. The final outcome will be around fifty sound business ideas ready to market (five per cycle per country).
INFO STANDS

LABOUR-INT - Labour Market Integration of Migrants. A MultiStakeholder Approach

Lead: European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) (BE)

The LABOUR-INT project promotes the inclusion of asylum-seekers and refugees in the labour market. Building on the interest and capacities of businesses, chambers of industry and commerce, trade unions and migrant associations, LABOUR-INT promotes multi-layered integration paths, from arrival up to the workplace, passing through education, training and job placement.

Three pilot actions are being run in 3 countries:

- In Belgium, 40 asylum seekers were trained and passed the admission test for acceding VET (horeca and construction sectors).
- In Italy, 40 asylum seekers concluded language and civic education courses and a professional training in the horeca, ICT and mechanical sectors. All of them have undertaken a paid internship and many of them have found a job.
- In Germany, 13 vocational trainers and workers representatives have been trained with the aim to prepare the workplace for the better integration of asylum-seekers and refugees. A training manual has also been developed. An online tool (AikomPass) has been developed to assess the informal skills and qualifications of asylum-seekers and refugees in the metal and electrical industries.

Duo for a Job

www.duoforajob.be/en/home/

Through its mentoring program, DUO for a JOB encourages exchange of experience between generations and cultures thus facilitating the future employment of young people with a migrant background while recognising the value of elders. But employment is not the only objective. By recreating close social ties based on understanding and solidarity, it acts as a powerful tool for social cohesion. Duo for a job collaborates with the three regional employment agency (Actiris, VDAB and FOREM), is active in 4 cities in Belgium and plans to open new branches in other European cities like Paris.

Urbagri4women - Innovative practices and joint urban initiatives to foster the integration of migrant women in the receiving society within urban agriculture practices

Lead: TAMAT (IT)

Urbagri4women aims at the integration of migrant women in host societies through Urban Agriculture Labs (UALs), paving the way for social inclusion and female empowerment through the agriculture-based rehabilitation of abandoned urban outskirts. Other activities include focus groups with regional communities, transnational workshops and contests, a green paper and manifesto on migrant women integration.
INFO STANDS

WEIP - Women’s Empowerment Integration and Participation

www.lawrs.org.uk  Lead: Latin American Women's Rights Service (UK)
Partners: Red Acoge (ES); Differenza Donna (IT); Karat Coalition (PL)

The objectives of the WEIP project are focused on providing new and recent migrant and refugee women with a better start to life in the EU and improving their chances of integration in the host countries by increasing their skills, access to services and employment opportunities. The planned activities will address the priorities of this project by providing concrete initiatives such as language and skills training, employability activities, specialist advice and education advice and recreational pursuits in four European countries.

Through this holistic programme of complementary activities, WEIP will help foster the integration of migrant and refugee women but also facilitate the access to work and improve job prospects for women that are often trapped in low skilled and low paid jobs.

NewBees

www.new-bees.org

Our goal is to help newcomers participate in Dutch communities as soon as they get here. NewBees believes in an inclusive society and works towards a world in which everybody can take care of themselves. Our aim is to help newcomers participate in Dutch communities as soon as they arrive, so they can build a local network and CV.

We believe if newcomers stay active, get to know Dutch society and build on their past experience, they can be a real asset to our society.

NewBees strives to connect newcomers with rewarding traineeship opportunities — ones that match each newcomer’s specific background, skills, passions, and experience — helping increase their employability.

European Network on Statelessness

www.statelessness.eu

The European Network on Statelessness (ENS) is a civil society alliance of organisations and individual experts committed to tackling statelessness in Europe. We currently have 130 members in 40 countries and are the only pan-European network dedicated to working on statelessness in Europe. ENS was founded as a coordinating body and expert resource for organisations working to promote the right to a nationality. At the heart of our work is an understanding of the need to mainstream and raise awareness about statelessness and nationality rights, build civil society’s capacity to act, and be an effective catalyst for change.

CATERING

The catering Sésam’ is part of the organisation Bouillon de cultures, located in the Brussels neighbourhood of Schaerbeek, where many inhabitants have a migrant background. The organisation promotes social inclusion, fight against discrimination and citizenship education.
How to get to the Committee of the Regions from the airport and from Train Station

**Address:** Rue Belliard 99-101, Brussels

**From the Airport:** the airport train station is located in the terminal building (level -1). Up to 5 trains an hour connect the airport to Brussels Schuman. Lines are operated by the SNCB/NMBS. The bus station is located on level 0 of the airport (one floor down from the Arrivals hall). Line 12 and Line 21 -The ‘Airport Line’ (Line 12) is a 30-minute express bus service between Brussels airport and the European Quarter (stops Schuman and Place Luxembourg).

**From Gare Central:** metro line 1 and 5 direction Stockel – Hermann Debroux: stop Schuman

**From Gare du Midi:** metro line 2 and 6: change in Arts Loi - metro line 1 and 5 direction Stockel - Hermann Debroux: stop Schuman

**From Gare du Nord:** metro line 2 and 6: change in Arts Loi - metro line 1 and 5 direction Stockel – Hermann Debroux: stop Schuman

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