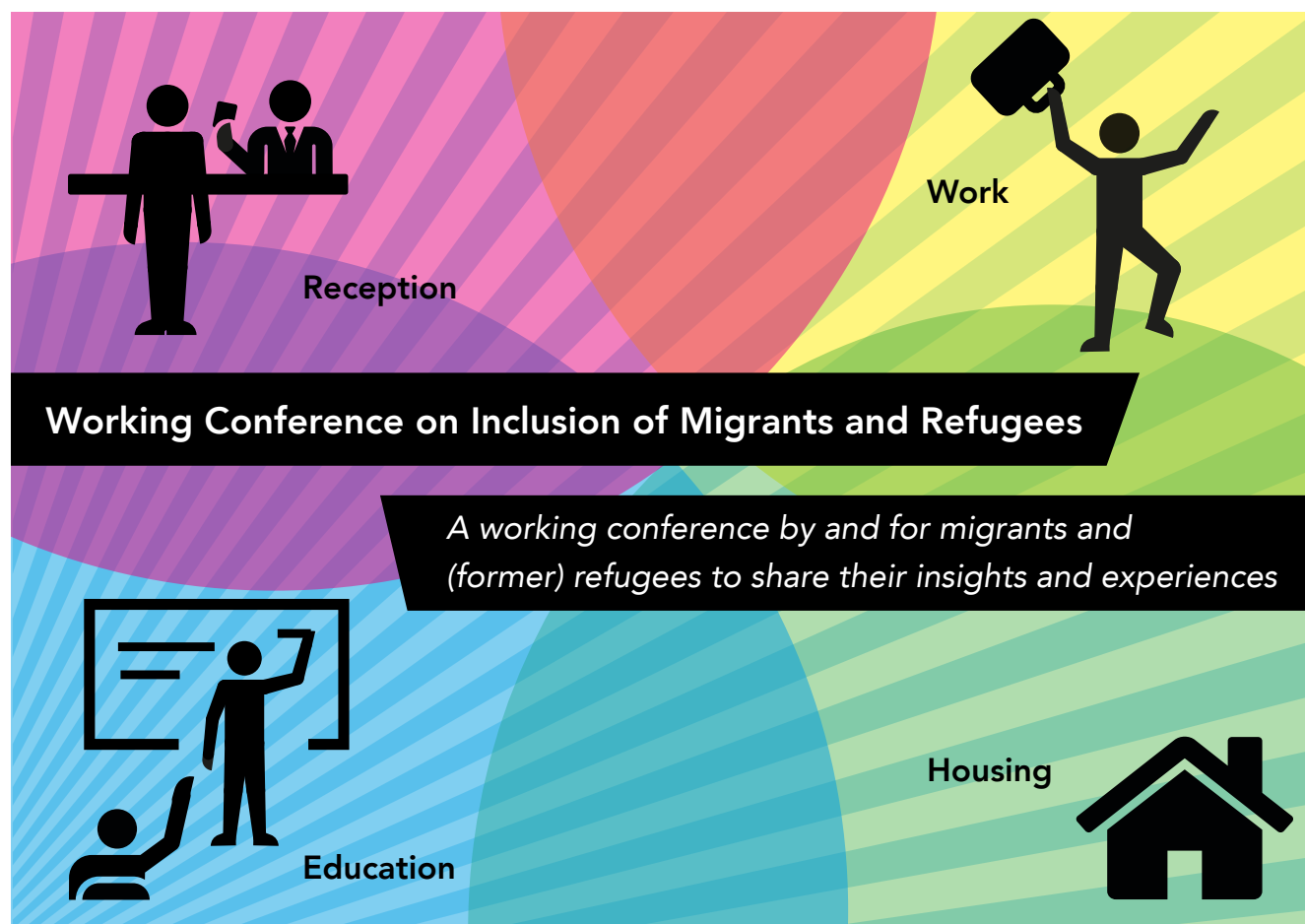


✘ City of
✘ Amsterdam
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Working Conference on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees

Urban Agenda for the EU



2017

To take place in
Amsterdam

Wednesday
May 17th

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Introduction

It's the City of Amsterdam's pleasure to welcome you to the Working Conference on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees, organised by the City of Amsterdam as coordinator of the Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees of the Urban Agenda for the EU. We would like to thank you for your participation and interest in this conference.

In order to make this conference a success we need you! Your experiences and input is of great value to us. To give you information about this conference we have made this programme booklet. This includes some background information about the topics to be discussed, the Urban Agenda and the programme of the conference day. We are looking forward to your participation!



The Mayor of Amsterdam giving a speech during the first conference of the Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees, in the city of Amsterdam

Conference Programme

Working Conference on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees

09.00 - 10.30 **Registration**

10.30 - 11.15 **Introduction**

- **Word of Welcome** by Arjan Vliegthart, Alderman of the City of Amsterdam
- **Keynote Speech** by Bright Omansa Richards of New Dutch Connections together with musician Oleg Fateev
- **Introduction Urban Agenda & Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees**, by Agnese Papadia of the European Commission & Sabina Kekic of the City of Amsterdam
- **Introduction Workshop Method**, by Ink Strategy

11.15 - 12.45 **Workshop Round 1 – Challenges:** Reception, Housing, Work or Education

12.45 - 13.45 **Lunch**

13.45 - 15.15 **Workshop Round 2 – Solutions:** Reception, Housing, Work or Education

15.15 - 15.45 **Break**

15.45 - 16.45 **Pitching of Solutions**

16.45 - 17.15 **Launch European Migrant Advisory Board and Fellowship Open Society Foundations**

17.15 - 17.30 **Closing Remarks**

17.30 - 19.00 **Networking drinks and snacks** offered by the City of Amsterdam in cooperation with kokbestellen.nl, two Syrian migrant cooks

Speakers' Biographies

ALDERMAN OF THE CITY OF AMSTERDAM: Arjan Vliegenthart



Arjan Vliegenthart is alderman of the City of Amsterdam for the portfolios of Work, Income and Participation and the City of Amsterdam District of Nieuw-West (New West). He was a member of the Senate for the SP (Dutch Socialist Party) from 2007 and spokesperson for Foreign Affairs, Defence, Development Cooperation and Internal Affairs. Vliegenthart was also a member of the national party management and director of the Research Office of the SP. During his post at the Office, in particular he researched the social-economic reform agenda and international development.

The preacher's son was employed as a lecturer at the University of Amsterdam and the University of Groningen. In 2009 he obtained his doctorate at the VU University Amsterdam with a study entitled 'Transnational Forces and Corporate Governance Regulation in Postsocialist Europe'. Vliegenthart was a columnist at the *Staatscourant* (now SC) and wrote in particular about European integration, national legislation and the parliamentary system. He has also written two books about his work for the Senate and about the European crisis.

KEYNOTE: Bright Omansa Richards



Bright Omansa Richards is a storyteller, actor and the Artistic Director of New Dutch Connections, an organisation that inspires young (ex-)asylum seekers to realise their dreams for the future through empowering training programmes in the Future Academy. After fleeing the Liberian Civil War in 1993, Richards was accepted at both the Film Academy in Amsterdam and the Theatre School in Arnhem and later went on to play unforgettable roles on stages including the RO theater and Huis aan de Amstel. His theatre play 'As I Left My Father's House' has been played over 300 times on many different locations - high schools, churches, ministries, mosques - and for the most diverse audiences. As I Left My Father's House is a truth-based play in which refugee stories of migrants from the first and second generation are intertwined with the stories of the three prime figures of the three monotheistic religions. The goal of the play is to encourage togetherness between all sorts of people. Currently Richards is working on his new play called 'The Bright Side of Life' that will appear in spring 2018.

COORDINATORS OF THE PARTNERSHIP: Agnese Papadia (European Commission) & Sabina Kekić (City of Amsterdam)



Agnese Papadia is a Policy Officer at the European Commission Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs. Focus of her work is the integration of migrants and she was one of the authors of the recently published Commission Action Plan for the Integration of Third Country Nationals. Before joining the European Commission, she worked on integration issues on the ground, implementing integration policies for the City of Berlin.



Sabina Kekić studied Dutch Language and Culture and Second Language Acquisition at the University of Amsterdam. Before becoming the coordinator of the Partnership for Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees, she worked as a policy advisor on Integration and Education for the City of Amsterdam and is currently an advisor to the mayor on European Affairs. Sabina has a refugee background herself: at the age of seven she fled the war in Bosnia and Hercegovina in 1995.

MODERATOR OF THE DAY: Ali Al-Jaberi



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.

Why this Working Conference?

Of all migrants and refugees worldwide, more than 60% migrate to cities. This percentage is on the rise and with it the need for cities to deal with the reception and integration of their new inhabitants in a proper and successful way becomes more important. The cities of Europe find themselves in a crucial role regarding the social and financial challenges related to reception, housing, work and education opportunities for newcomers.

Given these facts, the European Union wants to help cities as they work to find solutions. As a responsible capital city, Amsterdam has taken up the challenge to make a contribution, in cooperation with the European Commission, member states and a number of other cities and NGOs, i.e. the Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees. For more information see the chapter 'Background Information on the Urban Agenda for the EU and the Partnership'.

The Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees

This Partnership wants to consult with experts from different professional backgrounds to come to promote the integration of migrants and refugees. To achieve this, the Partnership organised two working conferences on the topics of Reception, Housing, Work and Education for migrants and refugees. The conferences assembled participants from different professional backgrounds, from academics to representatives of civil society initiatives and professionals with hands-on experience.

However, rather than finding solutions *for* the challenges for migrants and refugees, we want to solve these challenges *with* them. This is why the Partnership is organising its third conference, the Working Conference on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees.

The Working Conference on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees

The Working Conference is taking place on the 17th of May 2017 in Amsterdam. It brings together participants with different migrant and refugee backgrounds in order to together find solutions for issues on the topics of Reception, Housing, Work and Education. Next to the plenary sessions and keynote speeches, this Working Conference offers participants workshops to share their experiences and propose ideas for better integration policies. You can find more information on the workshops in this programme booklet in the chapters 'Workshop Topics' and 'Workshop Method'.

Background Information on the Urban Agenda for the EU and the Partnership

The Urban Agenda for the EU

Cities are of great importance to Europe. Not only are they engines for economic growth and innovation, but they are also the living environment of over more than 70% of all Europeans. However, the city is also the place where the impact of the issues faced by Europe is often magnified. In order for Europe to be successful its cities have to be successful.

The European Union has created thematic Partnerships allowing European cities, member states, the European Commission and other relevant stakeholders to work together and successfully tackle challenges European cities are facing. A Partnership is a three-year cooperation

in which members of the Partnership design and implement an action plan to take away main challenges for cities on a specific topic. One of the thematic Partnerships that has been started is the Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees.

The Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees

The goal of the Partnership is for cities to be able to influence European legislation, funding and knowledge sharing. With more influence on these three themes cities would be able to deal much more efficiently with challenges concerning integration and inclusion of migrants and refugees.



The Partnership focuses on the mid- and long-term view of integration and inclusion of migrants and refugees. It has identified the following topics that need to be addressed in order to ensure successful integration and inclusion: Reception and interaction with the local community, Housing, Work, Education and the cross cutting issue of vulnerable groups.

Infographic of the Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees



European Commission

PARTNERSHIP ON INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS & REFUGEES



URBAN

AGENDA FOR THE EU

what?

Europe's regulations and funding tools for migrants and refugees should take into account the cities' needs. The objectives of the Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees are to better manage the integration of incoming migrants and refugees (extra-EU) on the local level and to provide a framework for their inclusion.

why?

More than half of the refugees worldwide live in urban areas. In the future, this figure will gradually increase. Migration is a local reality. Cities offer great opportunities for migrants and refugees, but they are also faced with challenges regarding integration and inclusion.



who?

For the Partnership on 'Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees', the following parties are represented alongside the coordinators Amsterdam and Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs: Athens, Berlin, Helsinki, Barcelona, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Denmark, EUROCITIES, CEMR, ECRE, URBACT, European Investment Bank, and two European Commission Directorates-General: Regional & Urban Policy and Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion.

how?

The Partnership prepares and implements actions on the mid- and longer term challenges, in particular in the field of inclusion and integration. Five themes have been identified and the focus is put on : work and entrepreneurship, housing, reception, community building, and cross-cutting issues such as the needs of vulnerable groups.

Coordinators



Agnese Papadia
Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs
European Commission



Sabina Kekic
City of Amsterdam, the Netherlands

The Urban Agenda for the EU is a joint initiative of the European Commission, Member States, cities and other relevant stakeholders to address urban challenges

Coordinators



City of Amsterdam



Regional and Urban Policy

More information:

-  @EU_Regional
-  EUInMyRegion
-  #EUUrbanAgenda
-  <http://europa.eu/nc8d8ff>



Members of the Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees

The City of Amsterdam and the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs coordinate the Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees. Other members are: the cities of Athens, Berlin, Helsinki and Barcelona, the countries Portugal, Italy, Greece and Denmark, EUROCTIES,

the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), URBACT, European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), European Investment Bank (EIB), Migration Policy Group and two Directorates-General of the European Commission: Regio and Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion (EMPL).



Workshop Topics

The goal of the workshops is to receive feedback from the participants on the topics of Reception, Housing, Work and Education (described below), so that their ideas can be taken into account by the Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees in the creation of the final action plan. In this manner the Partnership aims to involve migrants and refugees in the process and find solutions to the challenges *with* them, rather than *for* them.

Reception

Cities play an important role in promoting a positive public impression of migrants and refugees. They also help with building an understanding among the public of the need and obligation to grant protection to migrants and refugees. In order to encourage a positive reception, work is being done by local governments and NGOs. When considering the urban responses and providing temporary shelter to migrants and refugees, the important role of initiatives from the public should also be taken into account.

Housing

The growing inflow of migrants and refugees makes it hard to find accommodation for different groups of people wanting to live in cities. Furthermore, the availability of housing in cities determines how many (resettled) migrants and refugees can be received. The location as well as the type of housing is crucial for the integration and prospects of migrants and refugees.

Work

Many of the migrants and refugees coming to Europe want to start working as quickly as possible. Helping newcomers to find work is a crucial component of successful integration into local communities. Finding employment reduces reliance on local welfare systems and is linked to other positive integration attributes, such as social cohesion. Yet this requires long-term support as migrants and refugees face numerous challenges to integrate in the local labour markets and training systems. How can we make sure migrants and refugees find work that suits them?

Education

Education is a fundamental need for newcomers and plays a key role in their employment perspectives. However, many European cities face the challenge of supporting newly arrived migrants and refugees with learning the language and developing skills, within the constraints of limited capacity. Besides, once newcomers are able to access services, they often have difficulties achieving success in host country education systems. Many arrive with interrupted school trajectories and limited local language proficiency, while they are also faced with cultural boundaries.

Workshop Method

In order to fully benefit from the knowledge and experiences of the participants, the Working Conference is set up to function as a 'pressure cooker'. All participants will be taking part into two rounds of workshops with one of the specific topics.

The workshops are facilitated by Ink Strategy, a design consultant based in Amsterdam. They are industrial design engineers who use sketches and visualisations to communicate. During the workshops Ink Strategy will focus on group thinking, using visual design tools to create simple solutions for complex challenges while creating engaging communication material.

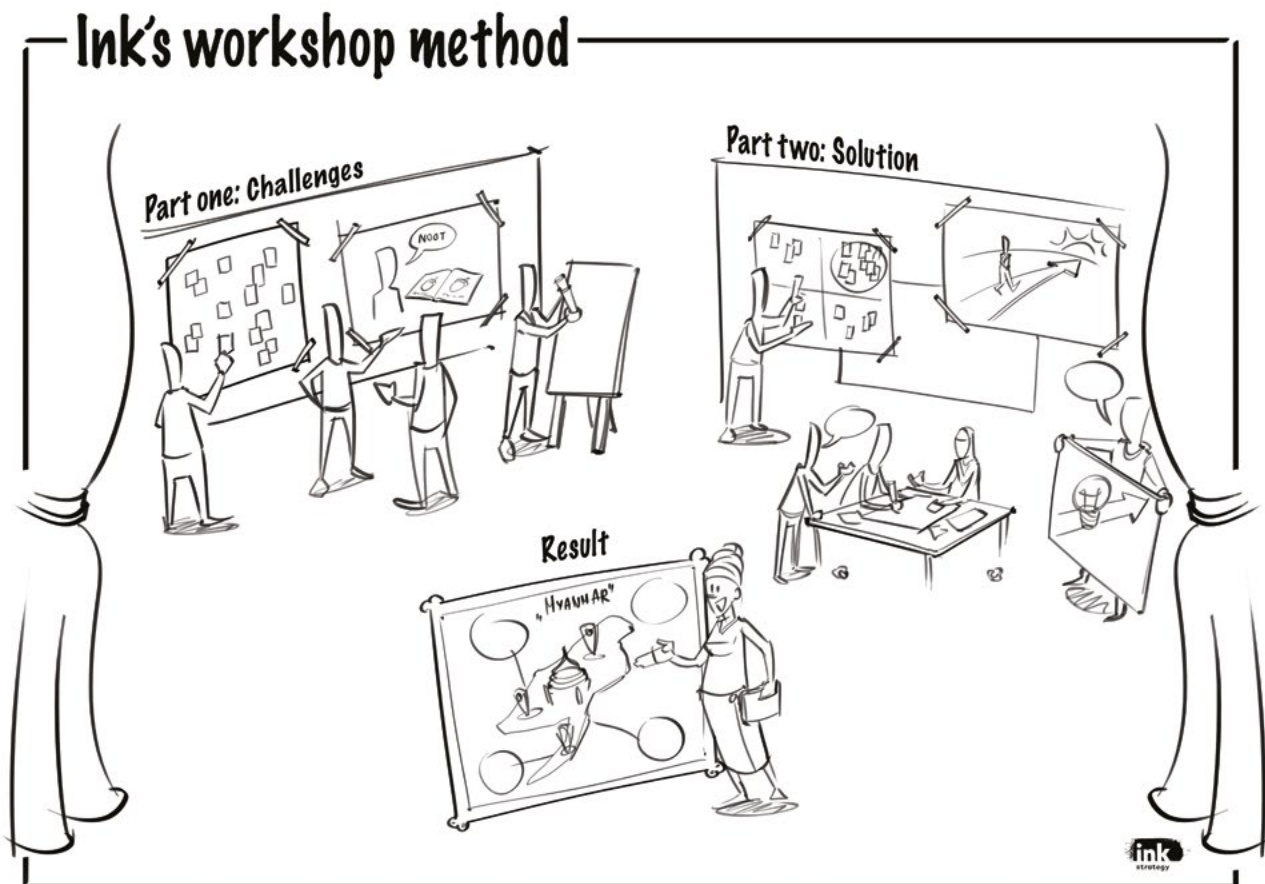
Please note that during the workshops participants will be asked to stand. It is recommended to wear comfortable shoes.

Workshop Round 1 – Challenges

In this first round of workshops a discussion will be facilitated about one of the four topics. It is important to create a wide understanding of the challenges migrants and refugees face. The experiences of the participants are key. The objective of this workshop is to create a visualisation that underlines these challenges.

Workshop Round 2 – Solutions

For this second round the same groups as in round 1 will now brainstorm about possible solutions for the identified challenges. Again, sketches will be made, which are the tool to co-create and accelerate the group thinking of the participants. In the final part of the day, each group will present their solution with the presentation sketch during the 'Pitching of Solutions'.



Story of the Syrian Catering

Abdullah Nashef and Ammar Nashed are Syrian former refugees from Aleppo, who fled Syria in 2015. They have been living in The Netherlands since October 2015.



Within less than a year Abdullah has learned the Dutch language and culture. During his time in The Netherlands he has done a preparation year at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (one of the two universities in Amsterdam) for his new degree in Computer Science that starts in September. In addition, he has seen how the Dutch people are interested in the Syrian cuisine with its Arabian recipes and ingredients. Simultaneously, Abdullah wanted to share an example of his home country's food culture and tradition. That is why he founded kokbestellen.nl in May 2016 together with Ammar Nashed, a childhood friend and professional cook from Aleppo.



Ammar graduated as a chef cook at the Hotel Training Center of Aleppo in Syria. He has worked as a chef for the Sheraton Hotel in Aleppo, the Four Seasons Hotel in Damascus and the Maward Restaurant in Dubai. Ammar wanted to show his cooking skills and share his passion for the Middle Eastern cooking with the Dutch people.

Kokbestellen.nl provides event catering for conferences, meetings, dinners, lunches and weddings. Abdullah and Ammar will prepare delicious snacks for this Working Conference on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees.



Venue and Route Descriptions

The conference will take place on Wednesday the 17th of May 2017 at Vlaams Cultuurhuis de Brakke Grond.

Vlaams Cultuurhuis de Brakke Grond
Nes 43-45
1012 KD Amsterdam
T: +31 (0)20 622 90 14
E: info@brakkegrond.nl
W: <https://www.brakkegrond.nl/>



Vlaams Cultuurhuis De Brakke Grond is located in the centre of Amsterdam, nearby the Dam Square.

From Amsterdam Central Station

The venue Vlaams Cultuurhuis de Brakke Grond is easy to reach by public transport and also within walking distance of Amsterdam Central Station (10-15 minutes walking).

- Just 230 metres away from Dam Square.
- Nearest rail connection: Amsterdam Central Station at 850 metres.
- Direct tram lines 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 13, 16, 17 and 24 to Dam Square.

From Amsterdam Schiphol Airport

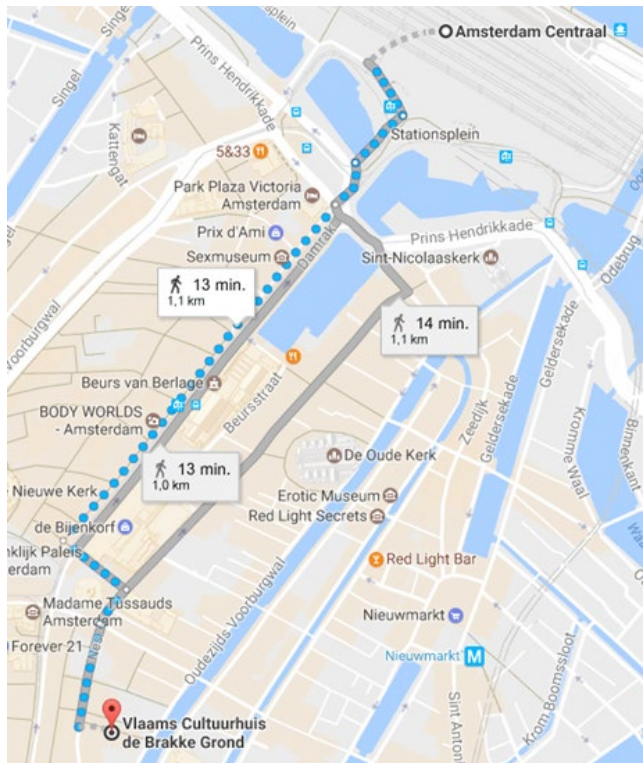
There are direct train connections between Amsterdam Schiphol Airport and Amsterdam Central Station (15 minutes by train).

The Amsterdam Schiphol Airport train station is located below the terminal (basement level -1).

Paid Parking

Since parking is expensive and finding a place to park is not always easy, taking public transportation is highly recommended.

Vlaams Cultuurhuis de Brakke Grond has no private parking facilities. You can park along one of the canals in the neighbourhood, although it can be difficult to find a free space. The closest car parks are Q-Park De Bijenkorf at Beursplein 15, Mobypark Radisson Blu (make a reservation here), Parking garage Stopera at Waterlooplein 28, P1 Waterlooplein at Valkenburgerstraat or P1 Centrum at Prins Hendrikkade 20a.



Special Thanks

We would like to thank everyone for their effort in order to make this Working Conference on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees possible, especially the volunteers that helped during the Working Conference itself and the following organisations:

