

Part III.A Information concerning the meeting

Type of meeting: indicate all thematic areas that apply

Active European Citizenship: participation and democracy in Europe

Inter-cultural dialogue

The European Year of Intercultural Dialog 2008

Peoples' well being in Europe: employment; social cohesion and sustainable development

Sport for active citizenship and social inclusion

Brief description of the meeting (maximum 4,000 characters)

The Municipality of Meppel and the Municipality of Most are organising a citizens meeting with the title "Intercultural Dialogue: Two Sides of the Same Medal". The main focus of the event is targeted at the theme of Intercultural Dialogue. It is the opinion of the two municipalities that there are two sides on the concept of intercultural dialogue. On the one hand 'intercultural dialogue' implies the dialogue between European citizens in general. On the other hand 'intercultural dialogue' implies a dialogue between minorities and majorities within the member states and between the citizens of the member states. Therefore the aim of the meeting is on the one hand to make Dutch and Czech citizens' meet each other and work with each other, and on the other hand to discover how the intercultural dialogue can be of use for the integration of minority groups in society.

The objective of the meeting is to create a common vision on how intercultural dialogue can be of use for the integration of minorities. The idea is to create a document with this vision and furthermore to disseminate this vision and the other results of the meeting, this will be done via the websites of the municipalities, also the vision will be discussed in the municipal councils. The results of this meeting are also relevant for all local and regional governments within the European Union who are dealing with similar problems, this is another reason why dissemination is very important.

The meeting will start with a general introduction into the problems Most is facing with its Roma population, which is a minority group in the Czech Republic. Meppel has a large group of Moroccan citizens but – contrary to Most – is not facing any problems. Therefore Meppel will provide an introduction how the municipality is dealing with its minority groups. Within these two introductions a link will be made to the intercultural dialogue as a way to get minority groups better integrated in society.

After this session the participants will be divided into two groups. The first group will participate in a meeting with the title "First Side of the Medal: How Sport and Volunteering can lead to Active Citizenship". The focus of this meeting is on the role of volunteers within sport associations and on the subject of sport as a means to promote active citizenship and social

inclusion.

The second group will attend a meeting called "Second Side of the Medal: How the Involvement of Volunteer Organisations can lead to the Participation and Integration of Minorities" The focus of this meeting is on the participation and integration of minority groups within the society by involving several civil society organisations. Both meetings will start with a field excursion to a relevant sports association or civil society organisation to present the Dutch way of working. The discussions on the second day will be based on this excursion.

At the end of the second day the two groups will join for a debate on how the intercultural dialogue can contribute to the enhanced integration of minorities. The results of the two meetings will be presented and the chairman will give an overall conclusion and present the conclusions to representatives from the municipal councils. This ensures the sustainability of the outcomes of the meeting. This closing session is public in order to disseminate the conclusions to a broad public. Also the media are invited to this meeting (Dutch and Czech media) in order to disseminate the results to a broader public than only the citizens of the two municipalities. On the third day a cultural day will be organised with an excursion to several Dutch cultural sites in order to share some of the Dutch culture with the Czech participants.

With the meeting focussing on two different parts of society (sporting associations and organisation working to integrate minorities) different citizens will be involved which contributes to European Integration and to the establishment of Friendships in Europe. Also, the involvement of employees and volunteers of sporting associations and civil society organisations from both the Netherlands as from the Czech Republic makes people with similar jobs/responsibilities gain insights into each others daily lives and it also increases knowledge on how to involve disadvantaged groups in society. When the main aims of the two meetings will be accomplished and subsequently will be put in practice the integration of minorities is strongly stimulated and – hence – active citizenship is promoted. Finally, the cooperation between the Dutch and Czech citizens contributes to the discussion on the future of the European Union and to the sense of European citizenship (i.e. finding a solution to a problem common to all member states of the European Union).

Type of meeting: *indicate all priority criteria that apply*

Meetings involving municipalities from old and new Member States (new = joined after April 2004)

Respecting a gender balance amongst participants

Actively involving disadvantaged groups

Daily programme of the meeting (maximum 16,000 characters)

You must include a detailed daily programme of the meeting for each day, presented in English, German or French, if possible.

Programme of the Citizens' Meeting

"The Intercultural Dialogue: Two Sides to the Same Medal"

The main topics to be presented at the meeting are based on two levels : 1. integration of ethnic minorities (role of non-governmental organisations, structural help organised by municipal authorities, support of state bodies, specific EU support) 2. citizens' sport activities – structure and results, role of volunteers and city authorities, relation to the social inclusion of minority and disadvantaged citizens.

Day 1: Wednesday November 12th 2008

Travel day Czech participants, in the evening arrival in Meppel

Day 2: Thursday November 13th 2008

10:00-10:30 Registration of Participants

10:30-11:00 Welcome and Opening of the Meeting by the Mayor of Meppel, Mr. Westmaas

11:00-11:15 Coffee Break

11:15-11:45 Municipality of Most: Outline of problems connected to Roma population

11:45-12:15 Municipality of Meppel: Outline of Dutch policies regarding minorities and best practice

Moroccan minority in Meppel

12:15-12:30 Questions

12:30-14.00 Lunch

14:00-14.30 Introduction to the Meetings (group is already divided into the two groups)

14:30-17.30 Field excursion to sporting association or civil society organisation

17:30-19.00 Leisure Time

19:00-22.30 Dinner with all participants

Day 3: Friday November 14th 2008

Meeting 1: Sporting Associations: Around 25 Dutch and Czech citizens will participate in this meeting are Dutch and Czech citizens who are involved in a local sporting association – either as a volunteer or as an employee. The main aim of this meeting is to reach a concluding statement which will entail a strategy on how sporting associations can best involve volunteers within their organisation. The objectives of this meeting are: a) to learn from each other how different associations are organised; b) to exchange experiences on how the associations involve volunteers within their daily work; c) to discuss how sporting associations can contribute to active citizenship and social inclusion.

09:30-10:00 Summary of Experiences Field Excursion

10:00-10:30 Dutch Associations present how the association is organised and what the role is of volunteers within the association

10:30-11:00 Czech Associations present how the association is organised and what the role is of volunteers within the association

11:00-11:15 Coffee Break

11:15-12:30 Discussion on how sporting associations can contribute to active citizenship and social inclusion.

Meeting 2: Civil Society Organisations: Around 35 Dutch and Czech citizens – who are involved in

a civil society organisation focussing on minorities, either as a volunteer or as an employee – will participate in this meeting. The main aim of this meeting is to reach a concluding statement on how civil society organisations can be involved to promote the integration of minorities. The meeting will focus on the following objectives: a) to learn from each other how different organisations are organised, what the role is of volunteers, and how they organise their activities (i.e. exchange of best practices); b) to exchange experiences on how the different organisations are trying to get minorities to participate in the association (especially women) and how EU funding can be used in this

09:30-10:00 Summary of Experiences Field Excursion

10:00-11:00 Workshop: 1 professional civil society organisation and 1 volunteering organisation explain their way of working

11:00-11:15 Coffee Break

11:15-12:30 Exchange of Best Practices (including use of EU funding) based on workshop

Plenary Session: this part of the programme is open to all interested persons including media in order to disseminate the results of the meetings.

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-15:00 Debate on how the intercultural dialogue can contribute to the enhanced integration of minorities

15:00-15:30 Intermezzo – music performance

15:30-16:15 Representatives of the two groups present conclusions of the meetings and chairmen presents overall conclusion. Results are presented to representatives of the two municipal councils

16:15-17:30 Informal drinks

17:30-19:00 Leisure time

19:00-23:30 Dinner and intercultural evening with all participants. Czech and Dutch music bands will perform

Day 4: Saturday November 15th 2008

10:00 Participants are picked up for excursion to Amsterdam

12:00-13:30 Lunch in Amsterdam

13:30-16:00 Rijksmuseum and/or Van Gogh Museum

16:00-18:00 Boattour through canals including guide

18:00-20:30 Dinner

20:30-22.30 Return to Meppel

Day 5: Sunday November 16th 2008

Czech participants return to Czech Republic

Tools / methods (maximum 4,000 characters)

Explain HOW you intend to achieve your aims. Describe the methods and tools to be used to encourage debate, reflection, and learning (e.g. discussion groups, site visits, games, presentations), and how you want to give visibility to your event.

The meeting starts with a presentation of Dutch minority policies in order to provide some understanding how things work in the Netherlands. Following this the participants are going on a field excursion to gain insights in how sporting associations or civil society organisations function and to provide background information for the meeting on the second day.

On the second day the participants are challenged to exchange experiences and best practices

via workshops and presentations from Dutch (both meeting 1 and 2) as well as Czech participants (meeting 1). Furthermore there will be a plenary discussion on the central theme of the meeting. This theme is the reason people are coming in the first place and, hence, will lead to some discussions.

Visibility is provided via local media (local tv and newspapers), but also via the participating associations and organisations as they can provide information about the event to their members, employees, and volunteers who on their turn can distribute the information in their own network. Also posters will be placed in central places. The results of the meeting will be published on the websites of the two municipalities and will be made public via the local media, next to this a coloured brochure will be made with all the results of the meetings and contact information. Also, all interested citizens are invited to the closing session of the meeting in order to achieve a broad dissemination of the results.

Explain HOW the local community from the organizing town is actively involved in planning and implementation of the meeting:

The local community from the organizing town is first of all involved via the twinning committee. This committee consists of citizens of Meppel who are volunteering for the organisation. The twinning committee is organizing the meeting together with the Municipality of Meppel and is thus directly involved. Next to this they are very active in organising several activities between the two municipalities on areas such as health care and education.

Furthermore, the people who are providing presentations and workshops are all citizens of Meppel. These people need to be actively involved in planning and implementing the meeting since they form part of the programme.

Thirdly, the meeting is focussed on citizens of Meppel who are working – as an employee or volunteer – for either a sporting association or a civil society organisation which implies these people will participate in the activities and are via this way involved in the implementation. Also other interested citizens of the Municipality of Meppel are invited to participate in the meeting. Special attention will be paid to involve citizens from minority groups..

Also, the contribution of all participants is necessary in order to achieve the main aims and objectives of the meeting. The cooperation between the Dutch and Czech citizens contributes to the discussion on the future of the European Union and to the sense of European citizenship. Finding a solution to a problem common (integration of minorities) to all member states of the European Union will result from the participation and cooperation between Dutch and Czech citizens.

Part III B Information concerning the participants

Participants from the organizing town / city / municipality

TOTAL number of persons from the organizing town participating in any of the events during the meeting:

35

Participants from invited towns / cities / municipalities

REMINDER: the list of participants with their original signatures must be submitted after the meeting with the final report.

no.	Country	Name of the invited town (from other eligible countries)	Total number of participants	Male participants	Female participants	Age 25	Age 25 - 65	Age 65
1	CZ - Czech Republic	Most	30	15	15	8	20	2

<i>TOTAL</i>	30	15	15	8	20	2
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Composition of the groups from invited towns / Role in the meeting (maximum 4,000 characters)

Please specify, who the participants are and explain their role in the meeting (i.e. how they are involved in the preparation and implementation of the meeting).

The group from the municipality of Most consists of 30 citizens in total. The group from the municipality of Most consists of employees of non-profit organisations, sport volunteers and organisers, experts from municipality in the field of the social integration, town representatives responsible for sport and social minorities, ethnic minority representatives. Special attention will be paid to involve Roma citizens in the programme.

Especially in meeting 1, citizens of Most have a role as they need to provide a presentation. These people need to be actively involved in planning and implementing the meeting since they form part of the programme.

Furthermore, the meeting is focussed on citizens of Most who are working – as an employee or volunteer – for either a sporting association or a civil society organisation which implies these people will participate in the activities and are via this way involved in the implementation.

Also, the contribution of all participants is necessary in order to achieve the main aims and objectives of the meeting. The cooperation between the Dutch and Czech citizens contributes to the discussion on the future of the European Union and to the sense of European citizenship. Finding a solution to a problem common (integration of minorities) to all member states of the European Union will result from the participation and cooperation between Dutch and Czech citizens.

REMINDER: Elected local government representatives and municipal officials MUST NOT constitute the majority of the invited groups.

By signing the Declaration (Part V. of the application form) the Applicant certifies that the elected local government representatives and municipal officials do not constitute the majority of any of the invited groups.

Accommodation of participants from invited towns

How will the invited groups be accommodated?

hotel