BIG CITIES and MIGRATION
The Hague 31 January – 1 February 2007

SUMMARY NOTES FROM WORKING GROUPS
(DRAFT)

Each working group addressed the various themes selected and was asked to report key points from discussion in the plenary sessions. At the end of each presentation to the plenary, Walter Schmid offered some reflections in response, also based upon his experience for many years as a senior official in a major city with responsibility for refugee and migration affairs.

Session 1: Social Cohesion 31 January 2007

GROUP 1: Efrain Jimenez

Acknowledge different visions of social cohesion. Need for open discussion and respect in public and private spheres to be ensured. Receiving societies are also constantly changing. Are their common norms and values? We should highlight common ground and citizenship as the way of living together rather than integration.

- Need to recognize migrants primarily as (new) citizens with rights and obligations.
- City Government needs to create spaces for dialogue, to explain the law, how the host society functions. Help migrants understand their rights and opportunities in the host country.
- One important challenge is training of local government staff, teachers, police.
- Create consultative councils by NGO leaders. They can usefully ‘translate’ between migrants and city authorities.
- Need to involve the private sector (Sweden and LA). Rely on a demand – driven approach by established big companies training employment and stimulating small scale enterprise. Need to have initiatives for case study (as e.g. in Sweden) so as to identify labor need and the need for specific skills and go with that to the migrant community. Need to identify what they have to learn, so that they can get a job and get on in the society.
- Advantages of the community approach, positive for integration, but negative for social cohesion. Need to reflect on the respective role and contribution of associations and local Government?

GROUP 2: Rachel Kurian

City’s development should be a shared process. The cities need to develop specific policies to improve services and ban discrimination.

- Increase social relations, mutual understanding and ties within different groups of society.
- Housing is of a particular importance. Investments are needed especially in citizenship rights. Highlight benefits of diversity and challenge ignorance and stereotypes.
- Empowerment and upward mobility for the marginalized.
- Involve local initiatives and ensure inclusion of all actors.
- Importance of “enlightened leadership”.
- Strategic importance of looking at gender, women rights also for future generations.
GROUP 3: Hans Metzemakers

Citizenship as shared responsibility. Speak of common interest, not of differences. Cities should involve everyone and promote the feeling of belonging. Recognize migrants as part of society. To empower migrants to live the lives they want to live. Understand the importance of work, not only in economic terms but also a source of social well-being and recognition. Ensure equal opportunities in employment, education and for example politics.

- Stimulate bottom-up activities which often prove more sustainable than top-down governmental initiatives; paring of new-comers with old-people etc. Give higher priority to the role of civil society.
- Shift is required in approach from measures targeting immigrants to measures targeted at the receiving society and its institutions.
- Equal access to labor market. Recognize skills and qualifications and use them effectively.
- Anti-discrimination training and building up inter cultural competences within civil services.
- Apart from equal treatment, affirmative action may be required.

Good practices:
- Anti-discrimination training for civil servants (Lyon).
- Pairing experiences of recent immigrants with Dutch natives acting as volunteer coaches.
- Initiatives to promote “ownership”, “citizenship”: from bottom up. Aimed at bringing people together on joint interests such as safe neighborhoods, businesses and schools.

GROUP 4: Ding Bagasao

Vision of a just and human society with clear opportunities for upward mobility. Address the specific problems of undocumented migrants. Negative perception of migration is an obstacle to social cohesion. Create better understanding of the value of diversity. Address spatial ghettoisation.

- Business start-up programs bringing together migrants with the same skills and interests with local people. Extent common programs into sport and culture.
- Work for a realistic perception of migration by the population and the media. Migrants fulfill necessary gaps for example in economy in host countries. Their contribution need to be made visible.
- NGO’s should be supported with resources and have an institutionalized access to decision/policy makers, for example the Global Forum.
- Cities should acquire and disseminate comprehensive information about cost and benefits of migration.

GROUP 5: Berend Jonker

Policy should not focus on the ‘migrant issue’ but address social issues as matters of concern for all groups of the population. Two-way process to achieve greater social cohesion

- The understanding by the migrant community of the way the host society functions/its values and norms is often not sufficient. Need to engage in introduction courses/language acquisition.
- Shared values cannot be imposed
- More opportunities for migrants to raise their voice.
- Look at rural development to prevent migration to big cities.
GROUP 6: Simon Hogerzeil

To become citizen is a fragile process. The transition needs extensive time while the change to a new society and culture occurs rapidly. Participation has to be seen as relationship building process to which local leaders should contribute. The goal is citizenship within an alliance of cultures; the challenge is respect/equity, citizenship opportunities and equality vs. identity. Human rights, respect and responsibility are guiding principles.

- Pay attention to family structure and dynamics and invest in emancipation and integration of immigrant women.
- Mind shifts are needed to think in terms of assets, new solidarities and active alliances of culture.
- Participation and relationship building as an intermediate step toward integration.
- Need for pragmatic attitudes in local implementation of centralized policies.
- Semantics: look into the relationship between mindsets and prejudiced terminology: words do matter.
- Relationship building: for example in the form of Roadshows – local consultation/interaction between municipalities and community leaders (South Africa).

Comments to the group reports: Walter Schmid

- The issue of citizenship seems to be crucial for most cities, but the concept of citizenship changes. In the city context citizenship is not only conceived in the framework of the legal system, but as social reality. Migrants, independent of their status, are part of the city’s population and should be included as all the other groups in the process of political decision taking.

- Equal opportunity is key for social cohesion and should be promoted. A clear set of rights and obligations for all is needed. It includes the right and the obligation to participate in public life. Cities can contribute to the effective implementation of such a policy.

- All groups seem to highlight the value of diversity. Cities are genuinely places of diversity. Division of labor, social, cultural and ethnic diversity has always been the driving force of urban development. The value of diversity should be recognized.

- The issue of empowerment is of paramount of importance for migrants. Cities can promote empowerment of individuals by specific programs or promote the empowerment of institutions such as migrant organizations and communities.

- Finally, cities seem to prefer an issue-oriented debate rather than a debate on migration since many issues like housing, education, security are of common concern to migrants and the indigenous population.
Session 2: Local Governments and Political Participation

GROUP 1: Efrain Jimenez

To develop a concept of ‘shared citizenship’.
- The level of political rights for migrants varies greatly from one city to another. Fast track to acquire citizenship in Belgium. In Sweden municipalities have strong positions. While in Bangladesh there is a specific situation of Pakistani refugees deprived of a number of rights. South Africa has a specific context as a young democracy. France and other European countries migrants of EU-members have a right to vote in local elections.
- Set up consultative boards of migrant communities. Migrants need to have a voice and opportunities to relate to city authorities even if they have no voting rights.
- In areas where migrants have a particular interest adult education and women’s participation should be promoted.
- Invest in schools and civic education in disadvantaged neighborhoods.
- Great efforts should be made to avoid labeling specific migrant groups as ‘terrorists’.
- Positive interaction between old en new migrants is highly desirable.
- Situation of undocumented people is of particular concern to cities.

GROUP 2: Rachel Kurian

Migrants should have full participation in all political parties and should be involved in the process of public policy planning. Migration should not been seen as 'problem or a particular issue per se. Provision of basic human rights for all undocumented migrants.
- Political rights for all migrants, particularly voting rights from local to national level and especially including the rights of women.
- Diversity in national/local policies: for example in The Netherlands foreigners have voting rights in local elections after 5 years of residency.
- Greater city support of migrant organizations.
- Promotion of education programs on political rights and access to public services.
- Knowledge sharing on local voting rights for migrants is still insufficient

GROUP 3: Hans Metzemakers

The vision is a general participation in the political system, avoiding stereotyped representations of migrant communities.
- Voting rights for immigrants, at least at local levels (as in The Netherlands, Sweden)
- In the absence of voting rights ‘advisory boards’/consultative bodies (with elected members, experts of representatives of organizations) sometime could function as replacement to ensure representation vis a vis city authorities. “Double system” exists in a number of Dutch cities.
- Fight against discrimination.
- Political parties should organize training for aspirant-candidates from minority groups
- Debate on quotas on parties’ election lists: the question is if it is effective, and not a drawback of further stigmatization. Qualification should remain the first criteria.
- Open system to select candidates (rather than the old boys’ networks)

GROUP 4: Giovanna Marconi

- Cities across the world have to deal with different legislative frameworks. Process of granting rights differs from country to country, even from city to city. Diversity of experiences (for example the set-up of foreigner councilor positions in Italian municipalities). Research into these various practices would be useful.
• Focus on provision of adequate information on the host country political system and develop courses in civic education (by multi-language guides).
• Empower migrants to know and enjoy the political rights they have.
• The concept of citizenships needs revision. Voting rights at the national level should have priority over the local level.
• Rights at the local level should be promoted as well as participation in local elections.

**GROUP 5: Wim van Doorn**

Granting political rights for migrants can provoke opposition from other groups in society. These adverse reactions should be taken into account. Stress the value of migrant participation in the development of joint solutions in the interest of every one.

• Fundamental Human Rights should be respected independent of the legal status. Undocumented children and the elderly should be particularly protected.
• We should strive for a right to vote for legal migrants at municipal level.
• We should organize NGO’s to promote legal participation.
• Every cities’ legislative body should have regular parliamentary sessions on migration issues.
• Strengthen civil society support for migrants; favorable tax regimes for NGO’s working to promote political participation of migrants should be introduced.

**Group 6: Simon Hogerzeil**

Challenges: influence and participation in policy making, redefinition of citizenship. There should be a synergy between levels of government vs. local autonomy. Nature of the problem is technical, political commitment and financial. Opportunities: Civil society (NGO’s) can balance policy shortcomings.

• Local dialogue & capacity building in desks or forums on a monthly basis (i.e good practices: ‘roadshows’ in Johannesburg) favors relationship building.
• Empowerment by local initiatives, decentralization by participation in decisions.
• Diversification of representation: set-up of neighborhood consultative councils.
• Vision of local governance on the bases of stakeholdership. A concept of citizenship could be developed in a concept of ‘stakeholders’. Pragmatism in problem solving, turning policy into actions.
• Linking horizontal and vertical networking at all levels; interface policy & implementation. Appointing ‘liaison officers’ to provide an interface between local migrant communities and higher city authorities.
• Strengthen the information flow, for example through local consultation councils, where you can identify local problems quickly and feed them in to city decision making. Importance of information flow, real time knowledge. Linking and feedback.

**Comment to the group reports: Walter Schmid**

• Granting voting rights and political rights is a precondition for formal participation. Cities are generally in favor of granting such rights. However cities have limited power and impact on national legislation. Where cities can act they can promote the introduction of voting rights in the local level.

• Besides granting of formal rights, cities have a number of options to promote participation of migrants in the preparation of decisions. Consultative bodies and procedures can be established for special issues or planning processes. Furthermore cities have the possibility to give migrants better access to jobs on all levels of public services.

• Informal relations between city authorities and migrant communities could strengthen participation in an effective way. As it is with relations between city authorities and business
there are multiple ways to increase migrants' involvement through personal reliable contacts. Much depends on informal relations.

Session 3: Education

GROUP 1: Wandile Zwane
- Provide schooling for all children irrespective of their status, migrant or otherwise.
- Issues of religion and ethnicity should be dealt with as part of the core curriculum of schools.
- Specific attention is needed for the gender unbalance and barriers for women to access modern education/divide with traditional settings and cultural restrictions.
- Distinguish but equally consider needs of children and parents with regard to education.
- Pre-schooling is a means to guarantee that all children enter the school system on a more equal footing.

GROUP 2: Rachel Kurian
- Identify specific education needs of migrant communities and their children.
- Give priority to pre-schooling of children, particularly to strengthen their language competences so that they may access mainstream education at the same level.
- Particular attention should be given to the access of women to education.
- Address early drop out.
- Provide parents with assistance to support their children’s school path. Guarantee an environment as ambitious as equal as possible.
- Need for multicultural education.
- Address gaps in levels of education and employment – implies addressing discrimination.
- Accessibility of language courses for adult immigrants may also have a bearing on access to naturalization processes.

GROUP 3: Hans Metzemakers

How to re-design curricula so all (cultural) differences can “meet” the dominant culture through education? How to bridge class differences through educational means? What are the limits of education concerning private-public spheres? What is the role of language teaching in integration processes? To what extent would we want to promote dominant culture through language education? Teaching in the dominant language is necessary for integration, but should migrant(s) (children) be educated in their “offspring” language? Where do the responsibilities of the school system end?

- Accessibility of language courses for adult immigrants may also have a bearing on access to naturalization processes.
- Teaching parents is necessary for both their own integration as well as for the position of the child. Examples of good practice:
  Lyon/Stockholm have successful university students/professionals helping migrant children with education, and setting examples of how becoming successful.
- Provide more information about educational provision at all levels of the school system to address the lack of transparency of school systems for immigrant parents (which causes lack of decision-making capacity).
- Two-way education by diverse scope of events can/will promote cultural tolerance. BUT religions/culture based schools will only promote segregation.
- To strengthen relations between parents and educational staff (incorporation in school boards).
- Conceive schools not only as places of education but a place of socialization, including spare time programs and adult education.
- Migrant children should be able to see their own reality reflected in school curricula.
- Acknowledge importance of mother tongue.
- Cultural bias in a number of tests.
GROUP 4: Nabil ben Allouch

- Conceive education as a mechanism to prevent xenophobia and to promote cultural diversity.
- Be sensitive to potential conflicts of values and cultivate relations between teachers and parents.
- Promote mixed schools and promote experiments in multi-cultural, multi-religious education.
- Introduce course about migration history + to learn more of the values of the host country.
- Universal access/right to education as in a number of countries including Jordan.
- Recognition of foreign diplomas/ equivalence.
- Fundamental role of parents in stimulating tolerance, respect and in upgrading orientation and services in schools.
- Pre-departure orientation seminars for would-be migrants depending on the destination country.
- Schools of tomorrow with cosmopolitan emphasis, global values.

GROUP 5: Marijke Jansen

Vision: Equal opportunities for everybody; enthusiasm and rewarded talents; life long learning; role models within migrants communities; income generating programs; valorization social knowledge; person oriented education; possibility to change profession; anti-nationalism/ tolerance and diversity in teachers.

- Affirmation of the universal declaration of human rights (of the UN) include in the curriculum (fighting vulgar/ racism language among students).
- In literature use (positive) migrant stories – also for life long learning.
- Provide good after school study facilities (e.g. building with internet, supervisors, library, and pedagogical consultants).
- Income – add job incentives to be able to follow school (vocational training, offer free courses), also for adults.
- Language courses for adults, also in the workplace.
- Extra-curricular activities (provided by local governments) after school.
- Successful migrants come to the school to inspire children.
- Validate & certify the professional capacities of the migrants, so they can work in the host country within their own profession.
- More time in the school program for person - to - person time, between students & teachers to develop social behavior (and give inspiration).
- ‘Big Brother – Little Brother’ system to create role models.
- Stimulate schools and educational institutions to hire teachers from different ethnic background, but same treatment.
- Exchange of teachers around the globe (e.g. Erasmus-program).
- Promote the development of social behavior through increased person to person interaction between students and teachers.
- Introduce tutorial systems between older and younger children.
- Higher teachers from different ethnic backgrounds and to promote teachers exchange programs.
- A life long learning possibility. Certify and validate migrants professional capacities and to promote life long learning.
GROUP 6: Simon Hogerzeil

- Education should be developed as ‘a tool for citizenship’, promoting and carrying shared values.
- Mixed use of educational facilities permits learning, but can serve to include wider services; health clinic, center for parents to meet.
- Allocate resources to schools and their environments so that it can bring the school in balance with the environment
- Multicultural staff
- Emphasis on informal education
- Individual counseling from pre-schooling to higher-education to prevent drop-out.
- Co-education approach.
- Reference to the Millennium Development Goals.

Comments to the group reports: Walter Schmid

- Most groups underline the importance of access by migrant children to the school system. In fact, in the area of education cities have an important word to say. Schools are more and more seen as the real ‘factories of social integration’. However, it should be kept in mind that in many cities of the world not only migrant but also indigenous children have no access to schools. Access to education therefore is a request valid for all children.

- The role of the parents in successful schooling is recognized. Cities therefore can promote a better inclusion of parents in the education of there children. This is particularly important for girls since traditional gender patterns prevent many of them from getting access to higher education and vocational training which is so important for social advancement in modern societies.

- Experience shows that pre-schooling of migrant children has positive effects on integration processes. Investments in this field are almost everywhere within the competence of cities. The step from school to professional life is crucial for many migrant children and should be of particular concern.
1 February 2007

Session 4: Health, Housing and other Social Services

GROUP 1: Wandile Zwane

- Create multi-ethnic centers which could be run by NGO’s to educate migrants in health issues and prevention of STDs (Los Angeles).
- Indigenous citizens should be included in the delivery of public services in order to increase mutual understanding.
- Creating space for an inter-ethnic dialogue.
- Issue of information: for example in Johannesburg where insufficient knowledge/figures are on the number of undocumented migrants and the care they need. Specialized centers for immigrants. Another challenge is human trafficking.
- Chittagong: vulnerable situation of Pakistani refugees which are expected to return but not welcomed to do so by the Pakistani government. Health centre and education are nevertheless provided.
- The Hague: needs have to be more clearly identified + sharing practices in other cities.
- Key importance of education Information campaigns at schools.
- Formation of practitioners as specific problems keep on occurring in particular communities.

Housing

- Cultural segregation can be fought with open housing policies, more social housing provisions and less discriminative practices in private housing (Lyon).
- "Rental” subsidy system ensured by the central government in the Netherlands (handled by the local government) + legal entitlement to housing.
- Status of undocumented: hardly any rights or voice. Need to provide informal support, make use of public opinion and build upon the mobilization of ordinary citizen (Los Angeles). Further space for dialogue and community leaders is needed.

GROUP 2: Catherine Tactaquin

- Financial support for migrant communities to support community based integrated services.
- A familiar and culturally sensitive/ trusting environment can increase trust of migrants in public services.
- Cities should conduct research to identify factual barriers preventing access to public services.
- Establishment of an emergency fund for health care for migrants in special needs.

GROUP 3: Hans Metzemakers

Health: Ideal - all people are covered, without discrimination. Nobody should be left out: Ensure access to basic health services for everyone, especially vulnerable people such as the undocumented, children or sex workers. Challenge remains: Who supports the costs of free access? Create an inclusive system. There is access but not automatically.

- Health provisions covered by insurance (not in rural areas). State hospitals if you don’t have insurance or private hospitals.
- Undocumented people, can they get help? Tourists? In France the Card Vitale covered by state & complementary insurance company. Universal basic provisions covered by state, but only for legal French people. But there is discrimination in the universal system. Holland: access to the same services and provisions.

Housing
Ideal: Diversity in the plans of local governments to include different groups with different ethnic origins; give people the possibility to choose; quality of housing must be on a same level.

- Ethnic groups get together in special neighborhoods; this strategy is not very conducive for social cohesion.
- More efforts should be made for social housing, but conditions, quality, sanity at least at minimum level.
- Set up commissions to react to the shortage of social housing and allocate social housing on a non-discriminatory basis (against evidence of unfair priorities/ personal networking); observation, setting clear and transparent criteria’s.
- Ensure diversity in building programs. Not demolish old neighborhoods, but preserve good housing and take into account special needs. Building for actual residents, not for the ones wished for.

Other services
- Information guidance: make information available in the migrants’ languages and develop a helpline (for example in London where information is provided to immigrants in their mother tongue). Includes translation services. Help lines (migrant telephone) in a call-center as information service which supplies comprehensive & guidance information for those who are new in a society.
- Pre-schooling service. Child care services and pre-schools to help integration process for migrant children.
- Ombudsman available for everyone.

**GROUP 4: Gert Zandsteeg**

- Creating basic housing and infrastructure. Expansion of services as a key to public health/ sanitation, impact on life expectancy/ heath.
- Enforcing laws and regulations in informal settlements along security and public health plans.
- Record data to address problem – decentralization is key.
- Recognizing the important role of the private sector which, due to low public budgets of local authorities, has in many cities the lead in providing housing (Jordan).
- Use taxation legislation as an instrument to promote the construction of housing.
- “Mega-cities” have to focus on basic infrastructure (water, energy, streets, sewage system) in order to allow the private sector to take care of the rest.
- Allow undocumented migrants to access the health Care system.
- Because the opportunities and conditions are often better in the cities these public service should be extended also to the surrounding and rural areas in order to reduce migration to the mega-cities.

**GROUP 5: Wim van Doorn**

Vision: equal access; basic services; primary health care centers that provides basic health services for everyone, free of charge.

- Mediators to help migrants find their way in the health and social services (e.g. lectures, classes in communities). ‘Cultural facilitators’ may guide people to the public services.
- Incentives given by local government to enterprises/businesses to provide housing for their employees.
- Within city planning the city council obliges civil society and businesses, to be part of social housing (e.g. 20% of construction of houses should be social housing; tax incentives and rewards)
- Cities may oblige housing entrepreneurs to provide a certain quota of social housing.

**GROUP 6: Refik Bismilla**

Vision: Authority and autonomy.

- Link up the creation of basic housing and infrastructure with the extension of public services.
• Enforcing laws and regulations in informal settlements in order to improve security and public health.
• Address the abuse of (il)legal migrants in housing, rental informal settlements – hotbeds for insecurities and crime - by making sure that laws are correctly enforced on security/public health requirements.
• Link up urban planning with planning processes of surrounding municipalities in order to share the burden of integration spread.
• Create basic census and records to know more about access to public services and poverty indicators/gaps.
• Using urban planning to promote integration of (ethnic communities)
• Collaboration between neighboring municipalities to pool limited resources share social housing, land reform and house ownership to promote stakeholdership.

**Comments to the group reports: Walter Schmid**

• The reports underline the big differences that exist between mega-cities in the south and cities in the north. These different realities have to be taken in account when developing concrete actions. In mega-cities authorities are not in a position to provide for all inhabitants housing or making water available to everyone. There first priority is to provide basic services for all.

• Once services are provided the question is whether migrants have access to them. Cities can through different measures increase the accessibility of services be it by enabling migrants to make use of these services or by developing the public services themselves in a way to serve all sectors of the population including migrants. Reflection should be given to the increasing importance of cooperation with the private sector. Not only in the construction and housing sector but in the health services as well new forms of public private partnerships may emerge. Cities could develop new models of such partnerships.
Session 5: Migrant Enterprises and Business Opportunities

GROUP 1: Efrain Jimenez

- Stakeholder cooperation is key to develop conducive environment for entrepreneurship: access to capital, expertise-sharing, academic involvement, government transparency.
- Capacity-building shops / business incubators and provide technical assistance and administrative advice.
- Influence stakeholders in order to guarantee migrants easier access to financial capital.
- Create new chambers of commerce and promote cooperation amongst small businesses in order to exchange good practices and build up networks. Networks are essential.
- Capacity building program for schools in order to initiate a new entrepreneurial culture.
- Increase the employability of migrants by teaching them basic skills for a specific job.
- Address discrimination barriers effectively. Most countries have regulations to restrict discrimination in job application but it is hard to enforce and monitor.
- Stimulating small business creation is important as large companies are often reluctant to hire immigrants.
- Banking and money can be a major stumbling block for undocumented residents. Business and financial communication should go through intermediate networks.

GROUP 2: Steven Broers

- Cities can support migrant entrepreneurs to set-up new Chambers of Commerce.
- Improve cooperation with trade unions to better the conditions of precariously employed people – i.e. ‘day workers’.
- Provide small expertise bureaus.
- Realize access to information on the local labor situation and other relevant information to persons willing to move and settle in urban areas.
- Adapt license system to the need of small migrant businesses, i.e. street vendors.
- Strengthen the vocational training of migrants and persuade companies to hire them.
- Community oriented and based workers from local governments or chamber of commerce can help migrant groups set up small businesses.
- Stimulate large corporations to set up funds for local development in the field of housing.

Group 3: Hans Metzemakers

- France/ Holland, ethnic migrant entrepreneurs often only focusing on their own group. How to make them real up into mainstream? Differences in business approach in order to get them to another level. Certain (quality) measures should be taken.
- Consultation of ethnic entrepreneurs by the Chamber of Commerce. Get ethnic entrepreneurs into center.
- In order to get migrants into businesses they need to know where to find the right support. Improve information for migrant starters.
- Fight discrimination by legislation and training.
- Diversity policy for migrants who don’t seem to get up the ladder.
- Minimize bureaucracy to start migrant enterprise. Avoid unnecessary barriers like language requirements to start a business. Be realistic about requirements.
- Focus on job related language training (for example Stockholm).
- Create partly subsidies jobs for less qualified migrants.
- Promote diversity management in businesses.
- Need for governments and public institutions to set the example in terms of employment and access to equal job opportunities for all. Set a minimum % for level migrant workers especially within the local government/ administrations.
- Develop policies to accommodate workers and businesses from the informal sector (Lagos) rather than adopting a repressive approach.
• Need for an inclusive and practical approach to entrepreneurs and all economic actors.
• Stressing the skills & capacities of migrants: forward looking mentality.
• Istanbul: City project to start your own project contributing to the city.
• How do we use their talents? Utrecht: 60% of new enterprises have a migrant background; Challenge is to provide business plans. Starters’ centers could be useful as enabling structures.
• Young migrants: advising/educating other migrants. They are generally more skilled than other generations.
• Promote migrants – regulate street sellers: domestic services/ illegal employment and if legally, tax for employed which the employee can’t afford anymore.
• Informal sector – how to deal with? Temporarily employment agencies.
• Support family structure – employ one the most skilled family member which won’t become a problem for social welfare. Discrimination: network principle to employ other migrants.

GROUP 4: Marleen van der Veen

• Facilitate self employment and the employment of migrants.
• Provide easy access to credits.
• Blur the difference between migrants and local enterprises with regards to access to credits and capacity building.
• Rural area should be developed to diminish incentives for migration: through decentralization, outsourcing of companies, co-operations for farmers in rural areas, programs to develop entrepreneurial skills.
• Pairing of migrants with locals in job search.

GROUP 5: Wim van Doorn

• Validation and (re)certification of migrants’ skills and qualifications.
• Include migrant entrepreneurs in networks and business organizations.
• Promote and initiate good examples of migrant businesses.
• Introduce a quota of migrants which businesses have to hire.
• Promote anti-discrimination by means of communication.
• Make visible and known to contributions of migrants to the cities’ economy.
• Language support at the workplace for adults.

GROUP 6: Sitla Bonoo

• Set up organizations of entrepreneurs. Open their markets beyond the ethnic communities.
• Facilitate starts up and liberalize the legal requirements.
• Highlight the role of women in small businesses and strengthen their positions. Family businesses have an important role to play.
• Cities can with regard to their own economic behavior give a good example and choose migrant enterprises as business partners and service providers.
• Cities can include migrants to larger extend in their own workforce and make use of the creativity of higher educational migrants in the community.

Comments to the group reports: Walter Schmid

• It should be recalled that in the global economy business and migration is an interlinked concept. A high number of big companies are owned by international stakeholders and run by CEO who are migrants. In this context however focus lies on small businesses.
• Cities’ possibilities to intervene in a free market are limited. But there is space for action. Firstly municipalities can develop a new spirit and culture with regard to small migrant businesses and liberalize their rules of licensing and regulations. Incentives can be given to startups through knowledge, tax breaks or financial contributions.
Session 6: Open working groups / Advice and suggestions to THP for follow up

MIGRANT ENTERPRISES, EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES: Ding Bagasao
(Yaya Kane, Mahmut Dogan, Efrain Jimenez, Gert Zandsteeg, Alexey Bodobedov, Aderanti Adepoju, Steven Broers, Omer L. Ari)

THP should base its positions on the value of multiculturalism. City governments should empower migrants particularly with regards to setting up of businesses through the facility of a “migrant desk” or “resource center” which can advise on taxation issues, business opportunities and relating skills to job demands. We need to be aware of the risk of over burdening cities and accommodating migrants in such a way as to create a perception that this is unfair as far as the situation for locals is concern. We should stress the similarity between the migrant and local entrepreneur. In addition to being entrepreneurs migrants may also work as staff in business enterprises.

Advises to THP:
- Produce a concept paper stressing the positive value of multiculturalism and highlighting entrepreneurship in all economic areas of society. The paper should include references to best practices of entrepreneurship within a multicultural society, and stress the distinctive role cities can play in encouraging linkages between city authorities and entrepreneurs. In this way cities can promote not only entrepreneurship and the proper use of resources but also forms of responsible citizenship.

HEALTH: Simon Hogerzeil
(Ayesha Mangera, Rachel Kurian, Refik Bismilla, Marijke Jansen)

- Undocumented workers (i.e an estimated 30% of the population in Johannesburg) are often not a target group. Good Remuneration for ensure of health care personal in countries of origin to maintain the quality of Health Sector provision.
- Answer/ vision/ recommendations: there are compelling economic and social arguments to include the migrant community as a target group and so ensure public health access to equitable and sanitation facilities.
- Complication: socially excluded migrant workers for various reasons face barriers in accessing the health care services resulting in negative impact on the (social mental and physical health and well being) migrant.
- Situation: it has been extensively documented that primary health care clean water sanitation & living conditions are highly cost effective interventions in promoting good health and economic productivity of the whole population – migrants make a significant contribution to economic growth of a country. Need to adopt a risk based approach.
- Arguments: risk of not doing this: spread of infectious diseases; malnutrition; social tension/criminality.
- Positive effects of investments: less demand on health & social services on the long term, increased productivity.
- THP should endorse the notion of the human and economic value of investing in a healthy and productive workforce.

Statement
Migration raises important issues of public health policy. Primary health care, sanitation and good living conditions are highly effective in promoting good health and economic productivity. Socially excluded migrants (including undocumented migrants) face barriers in accessing health care services resulting in an unnecessarily loss of social, mental and physical wellbeing. There all compelling economic and social arguments to include the migrant community as a target group and so ensure access to public health facilities. Failure to do so risks the spread of infectious diseases, malnutrition and mental health stress.
CITIZENSHIP: Wim van Doorn
(Sevki Sirma, Rabin Baldewsingh, Hans Metzemakers, Leila Rispens-Noel, Mostafa Kamal)

- In the longer term THP should promote transnational citizenship. In any case all migrants should receive the grant of citizenship after five years.
- Cities should respond to basic needs of all people legally resident in the community on a non-discriminatory basis.
- City authorities should resist the use of terminology stigmatizing the migrant as “the other” (i.e allochtoone/autochtone) and favor plural identities rather than fixed and imposed ones.
- Cities should promote “active citizenship” and support initiatives developed by citizens groups themselves.
- Cities should promote creative partnerships between all members of the community in schools, businesses, civil society organizations.
- Key role of civic education, training and communication.

HOUSING, EDUCATION AND OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES
(Louis Levêque and Abosede Francisco)

- Given the absence of common standards for the treatment of migrant workers, THP should join calls for the signing and ratifying of the UN Convention on the Right of Migrant Workers and their Families.
- Receiving states should make explicit their labor needs which can be satisfied by a positive immigration policy.
- As most migrants move to cities this can constitute considerable pressure on the housing stock. City authorities and housing associations should encourage the building of low cost housing. Both through their own direct house building projects and the private sector.
- Vulnerable situation of undocumented workers in France underpaid and under protected.
- Initiatives to encourage businesses to provide social services to their (immigrant) employees are useful (for example Lyon)

SOCIAL COHESION: Catherine Tactaquin
(Wandile Zwane, Ozden Yalin, Yoyce Overdijk-Francis)

- About creating space for communicating and understanding mutual interest and creating a feeling of belonging.
- Leadership essential; space to exchange and understanding interest and efforts.
- Migrants should be trained, but we should also train the leaders to learn the others from the community about what it is we can enjoy from each others.
- Positive image and self-esteem is necessary to recognize one’s contribution.
- Emphasis and use of Human Rights based approach.
- Cultural programs: carnival for example, prolonging and facilitate these initiatives and young meeting and by them the parents; exchange program of young people, which can become ambassadors of multicultural cities. Local activities for children and their parents to meet.

UNDOCUMENTED PERSONS:
(Rosa Veldman, Jan Braat, Khedidja Bourcart, Nabil ben Allouch, Marleen van der Veen, Tunji Bello)

Focus on making the undocumented documented at national level:
- Can the city be an advocate in the legal process for documentation? Cities can put pressure in the national government and on international organization and institutions about the legal process, also about the unification of laws so that citizens won’t “suffer”.

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• At the root in the Big Cities they can use documented migrants to inform their communities in the home country about opportunities and in the meantime cities are affected most by migrants and also by national law, and no means to handle it.

• Is the city able to enhance everybody’s possibility to be a citizen (in the broadest sense) – protect human rights etc.? Implies:
  o Freedom of movement and job opportunities.
  o Rights? Education/ health care/ work rights, creating an environment that supports work for migrants, so they aren’t exploited. Here can be a role for labor unions.
  o Children have a minimum right to all social services as health care and education.

Action plan for cities on the topic of undocumented migrants:
Vision: Undocumented migrants are an integrated part of migration policy.
• Combat the exploiters of undocumented migrants in the cities (work rights).
• Regional cooperation: to enhance regional economy development focus on opportunities for the whole region.
• Need for cities to support the migrants in education, health care, work rights.
• Idea: international charter for big cities & migrants.
• Discussion: role of cities at national level: identify issues, make visible policy solutions.
• Organize migrants to talk to their home countries/ communities.
• Help with the communication with the city and advise the national government about these people, because cities face the problems.
• Migrants should organize themselves and in the home communities can communicate about the situation.
• Cities together can make an international charter on big cities and undocumented migrants.
• Cities have to exchange regional developments.

EDUCATION: Catherine Badonnel (Barbare Rivoira)
• Two approaches on education and migration: individual – global.
  Individual approach:
  o Specific but adapted tools and methods with a municipal monitoring to: promote language, mix socio-educational follow-up and parents’ involvement.
  A global approach:
  o Developing formal and informal education with a link between both.
  o Developing a school environment favoring children wellness and open-mindedness.
  o Building partnerships among all the actors of the co-education: educational, social, medical, cultural and after school recreation.
  o Promote language mixed schools and develop pre-school.

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION: Giovanna Marconi (Edgardo Ligon, Edith Chagnard-Peillard, Alexandre Kosak)
• Big cities should formally commit themselves; push for right to vote in local elections and take concrete steps to set up alternative measures when national legislation does not allow it.
• Advocate a revised and more inclusive notion of citizenship, based on residency rather than nationality.
• Set up neighborhood-based elected councils as force of proposal. Experience in Lyon (CREL) proved successful and acts as an instance of social cohesion at play.
• Key importance that advisory councils are vertically integrated in the policy making process to avoid side and “empty” institutions which are not given space and mean to impact and make a difference.
• Institutionalize a non-discriminatory approach in all areas of policy making (mainstreaming). Much apply also undocumented migrants in human rights.
• Cities support and participate in exchanging experiences (transnational observatories).
  Increasing basic knowledge of the immigration phenomenon is essential to elaborate sound policies for migrants’ inclusion.
• Big Cities need to advocate for more protection of migrant workers, and national enforcement of the international human rights framework and provisions (for example the UN Convention on
the protection of migrant workers and members of their families). Look into the Saint-Denis European Charter for Safeguarding Human Rights in Cities.

- Information is key for migrants to be given access to the political debate and policy making: emphasis on civic education and orientation to identify forums and places for debate.

**STEWARDS’ GROUP:** Astrid Dunselman

- Initiatives in this field should not only be open for the minorities, but everyone should be able to use the new policies.
- Responsibilities of migration seen for the government but individual commitment and initiatives from citizens will continue to be key. Shared interest and responsibility of all.

**Comment to the group reports: Walter Schmid**

- Migration and cities have many things together, globalization, and strong trend with urbanization around the globe. Urbanization can not be without migration. Demographically is not seen in the structure of states, need for the cities to be better heard. Because this have strengthen there position

- Cities are close to the realities then a national government or international forum. A more practical approach, which is an important issue, because you know about what your talking about. A city need a solution and can’t push it around. Cities and national governments do not always have the same ideas, they have a different focus. They are interested in practical shape of migrants. National governments usually have better change in the international agenda, cities have difficulties with this.

- NGO’s are also close to the people as the cities and can get move together, but also different. Cities also need to be democratic and they have to hear all their people and take that with that in the discussion. The majority gives the space which cities have, where NGO’s can be more outspoken.

- Cities are not heard so much internationally because declarations and manifests cities have to learn to be in a morn structured dialogue with the international relation.

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**Please e-mail comments/ suggestions and corrections back to us before Monday, 19th of February 2007:**

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