

Conference on Migration and Development



Towards a common agenda for Africa and Europe? Opportunities and obstacles

Migration, climate change, insecurity, and inequality strongly affect countries in Africa as well as in Europe. Is it possible to tackle these issues through a common agenda based on shared interests? Where can we find realistic opportunities for co-operation without turning to wishful thinking? And which practical steps should be taken at the national, European and African levels?

Four eminent speakers will explore these questions at this conference organised by Globalisation Studies Groningen and SIB-Groningen on 14 December. In an active exchange with you and the other participants in seminar sessions, we will discuss the topics of labour migration, climate change, social inclusion, and migration agreements. You are warmly invited because your input is needed. Let's think together!

The event takes place in the Doopsgezinde Kerk (Oude Boteringestraat 33, Groningen, the Netherlands) from 11:00 to 16:00 hrs, including coffee/tea, a musical interlude and lunch. Participation is free, but please register. In order to participate in the conference, please register through the following link by selecting your preferred seminar:

<https://goo.gl/forms/SFmFR34jpG3JVV9D2>.



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Speakers and Sessions

Francesco Mascini is regional coordinator for migration in North Africa (the Maghreb and the Sahel) at the Netherlands Embassy in Tunis. He will discuss the most important African migration routes and the ways to enhance international co-operation in regulating migration flows. Francesco Mascini will also lead a seminar on these issues with **Joost Herman**, Professor of *Globalisation Studies and Humanitarian Action* at the University of Groningen, president of the International Humanitarian Action (NOHA) Association, and expert in international humanitarian law.

Bram van Ojik is a Member of Parliament and spokesperson on foreign affairs and migration of the GreenLeft party. Previously, he was migration envoy and Director for Social Development for the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Bram van Ojik will examine how development cooperation and civil society action can stimulate inclusive social development in Africa and the EU. Van Ojik will further discuss this in a seminar with **Jacques Zeelen**, UNESCO Chair holder at Gulu University in Uganda and professor of *Lifelong Learning and Social Intervention in the context of Globalisation* at the University of Groningen, as well as leader of the international network *Youth, Education, Work* (YEW), addressing issues of Early School Leaving and educational innovation.

Bernard Wientjes is the former chair of the Dutch employers' federation VNO-NCW and Emeritus Professor of *Enterprise and Leadership* at Utrecht University. He discusses the relation between migration and labour markets, especially how regulated labour migration, through measures such as a 'green card', may improve the economies of African and EU countries. In the seminar session, he will be joined by **Ronald Skeldon**, Professor of Human Geography at the United Nations University UNU-MERIT in Maastricht and at the University of Sussex, and researcher of circular migration, the impact of the financial crisis, and migration and climate change.

Pradeep Monga is Deputy Executive Secretary at the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. He will examine the impact of desertification and other types of environmental degradation on migration, as well as possible forms of local and international action to tackle these problems. Pradeep Monga will also lead a seminar with Dr. **Andreas Backhaus** of CEPS (a leading think tank on EU affairs in Brussels), who investigates human capital in historical perspective, and the climate change - migration nexus.

The conference ends with a plenary reflection with all speakers participating in order to formulate possible elements of a common agenda for Africa and Europe. This concluding discussion will be directed by **Max van den Berg**, Honorary Professor of *Global Governance and Sustainable Livelihood* at the University of Groningen and main organiser of the conference.



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