REGIOPLAN

Regioplan

Regioplan Policy Research is a policy research and consultancy agency operating both nationally and internationally.

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Regioplan International Newsletter 2011

SEPTEMBER 2011

INTRODUCTION

Regioplan Policy Research, founded in 1984, is a policy research firm, specialised in socio-economic policy-oriented research. One of our main strengths is our interdisciplinary approach, which covers the following fields of expertise: migration and integration, employment and the labour market, crime and safety, education and youth, economic policy and business, social policy, health care, good governance and regional development and urban policy.

One of Regioplan's larger international clients is the European Commission and its various Directorate Generals. Our international research activities and advice include e.g. impact assessments, policy evaluations (ex-ante and ex-post), country comparisons, feasibility studies, scenario studies and benchmarking.

NEWS

- Undeclared work in the EU
- Migrants leaving the Netherlands
- Migrants from third countries
- Civic integration abroad
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- Public space
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- Neighbourhoods

Undeclared work in the EU

Regioplan recently completed a Feasibility study on establishing a European platform to prevent undeclared work. Together with our partners at the University of Sheffield, Linköping University and the Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD) in Sofia, we provided the Commission with an independent in-depth analysis of the feasibility and added value of creating a European platform to

prevent and fight Undeclared work. The study focussed on cooperation between labour inspectorates, and other relevant monitoring and enforcement bodies. Apart from an internet based web survey and interviews with experts and stakeholders, expert workshops were held in Amsterdam, Sofia and Vilnius. Based on the results, we recommended to create an Expert Network on Undeclared work with representatives of all Member States, and of all the relevant policy areas: tax, social security and labour.

Regioplan manager Piet Renooy was invited to present this study at the International Conference on Fundamental Social Rights and the Posting of Workers in the Framework of the Single Market in Brussels on June 26-28. More information on this conference can be found here.

Whereas this project focused on preventing and fighting undeclared work, Regioplan previously conducted several studies on the scope and nature of undeclared work. See for instance Undeclared work in the European Union. In this study a comparison was made between all EU member (and candidate) states. In addition, Regioplan offered recommendations for a direct survey method to measure undeclared work. Together with Colin Williams from Sheffield University, we developed a database of good practices on fighting undeclared work in all Member states. The development of this database is commissioned by Eurofound.

Migrants leaving the Netherlands

Commissioned by the Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, Regioplan recently explored migration motives of higher educated migrants with a Dutch, Turkish, Moroccan, Surinam, Afghan or Iraqi background. The results of 75 interviews, presenting social and personal views, reveal considerable variation in migration motives. Dutch and Surinam migrants identified a stressful and crowded Dutch society as an important motive to migrate. Their aim was to find a more relaxed social environment. Second generation Turkish and Moroccan youngsters mentioned the hardened political climate in the Netherlands as an important push factor. Turkish youngsters however see more economic opportunities in their country of origin than Moroccans. For the two groups of political refugees, safety and social security in the country of origin is of course a decisive factor. However, refugees migrating to other host countries mentioned limited opportunities on the Dutch labour market as an important migration motive.

Migrants from third countries

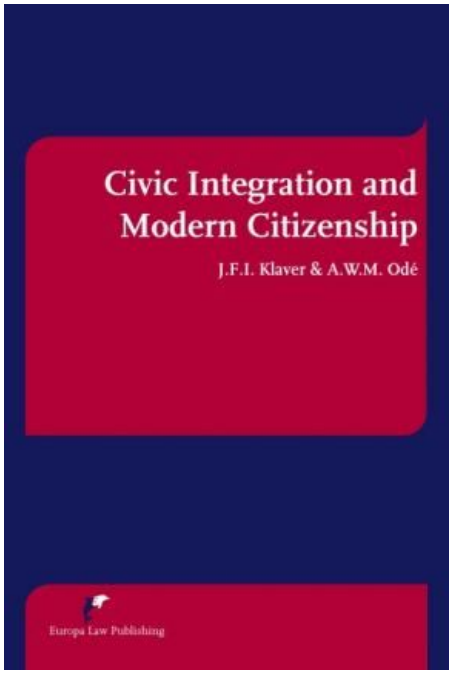
Another study carried out by Regioplan on migration is on the use of Community law by family migrants from third countries on behalf of the Research and Documentation Centre, Ministry of Justice. The study showed an increase in the number of family reunification immigrants entering the Netherlands from another EU Member State as a partner of a person with the Dutch nationality or with a permit to stay in the Netherlands. This allows them to avoid the obligatory civic integration examination in the country of origin.

Civic integration abroad

The evaluation of the civic integration examination is part of the evaluation of the Dutch Civic Integration Act. Under the Act, immigrants have to pass an examination in the country of origin before they can apply for a residence permit. Regioplan has evaluated the process and the effectiveness of the exam, by way of document study, interviews and field work in four countries of origin (China, Ghana, Turkey and Morocco). The study showed that most of the candidates and mission staff believed that passing the examination would help them integrate in the Netherlands. They believed its main benefit to be greater knowledge of Dutch society. On the other hand, the candidates found their own proficiency in Dutch to be too poor to help them significantly.

Civic integration and modern citizenship

Regioplan managers Jeanine Klaver and Arend Ode published a book on Civic integration and modern citizenship, written within the framework of the Cross Border Welfare State research project. The central aim of this project is to illuminate the complex relationship between immigration, social security and integration in Western democracies from various angles. For the case studies on Flanders, Canada and the United States many interviews have been conducted with scholars, policy makers and stakeholders. Examined according to the theories of modern citizenship, civic integration in the Netherlands seems to be mainly inspired by the concept of active citizenship. From a historical perspective, integration policy must be understood from the results of the former integration policy, a changing definition of the integration problem and a new vision of the relationship between government and citizens. This study is commissioned by Stichting Instituut GAK and published by Europa Law Publishing. The book can be ordered here.



Public space

"Street images, a glance behind the scenes of camera surveillance" is the title of a chapter in "Check In / Check Out, the public space as an internet of things" written by our colleagues at Regioplan. The publication can be ordered here. Their knowledge on CCTV (Closed-circuit television) is profound, as a result of multiple research projects for several ministries and local governments on the effectiveness and influence of camera surveillance. Recently, Regioplan completed a study on the effectiveness and consequences of camera surveillance in Antwerp.

Firearms

Regioplan conducted an Impact assessment on the implementation of stricter legislation for extra-community import and export of civilian firearms. The study was conducted to support the European Commission in developing a proposal for an EC legislative instrument to implement article 10 of the United Nations Firearms Protocol. Regioplan consulted stakeholders representing different interest groups, including private parties such as firearms dealers and hunting associations, Member States' licensing authorities and NGO's. The study provided an evidence base for a policy option to improve scrutiny of transfers and allowing better enforcement of laws. In the past year, our study resulted in political agreements on stricter rules for combating illicit trafficking in civilian firearms; see June 2011 press release. The European Parliament and the Council will now vote to formally adopt the text of this Regulation. Click here to see the Impact Assessment Report and Impact Assessment Summary.

Trade missions

Commissioned by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regioplan conducted research on the effects of trade missions. Economic missions are used by the Dutch government as a method to promote international business and to stimulate the export of Dutch goods. According to our research, 75 percent of the companies identified a relative advantage as a result of participating in these trade missions. The expansion of their international network was one of the most important benefits of this mission (83%). Participants not only referred to expanded relations with other international companies but also with foreign governments and governmental organisations. A majority of the companies (75%) was satisfied with the trade mission because of the knowledge exchange opportunities with other companies. However, only twenty percent stated that the trade mission resulted in (increased) export to the trade mission country.

Neighbourhoods

In the past year, Regioplan has conducted multiple research projects on communities and deprived neighbourhoods. Our researchers examined the different socio-economic situations in deprived areas in towns and cities. They explored the relationship between concentrations of social housing, socio-demographic profiles of neighbourhoods and the effects of local policy initiatives of local governments, housing corporations and social welfare organisations. Based on these studies, we provided information on the main socio-economic problems in neighbourhoods and advised on relevant policy instruments to tackle these problems.

Further information

More information can be found on our website: http://www.regioplan.nl/pagina/english. For further information on our international and European projects and for new requests for proposals, please contact Elske Oranje at elske.oranje@regioplan.nl or info@regioplan.nl.

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