

Thursday 24 November | SID-NL Member Event

Increasingly Inclusive: The Importance of Involving All

On Thursday 24th of November, SID-NL hosted its members and invited guests for the member event 'Increasingly Inclusive: The Importance of Involving All'. Scheduled for the event were two discussions and two workshops, of which members could choose one discussion and one workshop to attend. The discussions were: "Inclusion Works!" by Yetnebersh Nigussie of the Dutch Coalition on Disability and Development (DCDD) and "Responding to the Refugee Crisis: Stretching Borders with Action and Dialogue" by Christiaan Hogenhuis of Oikos and Annette Bombeke of VluchtelingenWerk. The workshops were: "Youth Participation: Can We Do It Differently?" by Robbert de Waerdt of Oxfam Novib, and "Drawing the Line: Benefits of a Participatory Approach." by Tesora Veliscek of WomenWin. After gathering in the Atrium of the ISS with some tea and coffee, Kees Biekart opened up the event by welcoming our members and giving a short introduction. Our members then attended the discussion of their choice. After the discussions part of the programme ended, guests attended a workshop of their choosing. At the end of the programme, discussions continued and connections were made during drinks at the Butterfly bar. We would like to thank all of the participants, speakers and guests for contributing to a wonderful afternoon!

"Inclusion Works!"

By Yetnebersh Nigussie of [Dutch Coalition on Disability and Development](#) (DCDD)

The Dutch Coalition on Disability and Development consists of 13 Dutch Agencies, which all have a particular attention for inclusion.

What is disability? The impairment of a person X barriers. The barriers can be policy barriers, communication barriers, or physical barriers. So it is important to note disability is not only impairment; it is the combination with the social, physical environment.

To start the discussion, all participants were given a green and red card, and the participants had to raise the green card if they thought the statement was a fact, or raise the red one if they thought it was a myth.

1. More than 15% of world's population has some form of disability. Fact: in different places it is more, for example in Ethiopia it is 17.6%, but worldwide average is 15%.
2. The UN Convention of Rights of People with disabilities (UNCRPD) established new rights for people with disabilities. Myth: it did not establish new rights, but it was the first legally binding convention concerning people with disabilities. It brings together in one document all of the existing rights in other conventions and international human rights treaties, and identifies the specific actions that states must take to protect against discrimination on the basis of disability. The Netherlands is a ratifying member of UNCRPD.
3. Only some goals of the Agenda 2030 (Sustainable Development Goals) are including people with disabilities. Myth: All goals include people with disabilities, as the 2015 SDG's have the overarching principle of 'Leave no one behind'. Because of that all 17 goals also apply to people with disabilities, although, only 11 explicitly mention people with disabilities.
4. Disability prevalence is higher amongst women than men. Fact: Female disability prevalence rate is 19,2%, compared to 12% for males.
5. Disability is more a development issue than a human rights issue. Myth: it is both. Disability for long was considered a charity issue. People with disabilities were not seen as right holders. But they fought and demanded their rights, and used the human rights framework to work on equal opportunities. Nevertheless, there is a very strong link between poverty and disability, which is why it is both a human rights & development issue.

As part of the open discussion, Yetnebersh highlighted that "Inclusion without reasonable accommodation is the worst form of exclusion." For people that have been segregated for long, it is not easy to be included, because they develop their own segregation; inclusion works perfectly in an environment where we have barriers removed. Additionally, in relation to the issue of disability and data, it was also stated that in some countries in Africa there is also no social security system in place, so there would not be benefits to be recognised as a disabled person, like it would be here in the Netherlands "where at least you can get disability parking".

"Responding to the Refugee Crisis: Stretching Borders with Action and Dialogue"

By Annette Bombeke of [VluchtelingenWerk](#) and Christiaan Hogenhuis of [Oikos](#)

Annette Bombeke - VluchtelingenWerk/Dutch Council for Refugees

The organization is not a development organisation; it is partly funded by the government. Involves 13,000 volunteers since last year, showing there was a huge national drive to help refugees by the media and general population.

Area of work within the Netherlands: asylum process (fair asylum procedure, integration, and lobby and advocacy). *International Programme:* NGO Twinning, which more accurately explains the nature of cooperation of DCR with other refugee-assisting organisations (not telling them how to do things, but giving them examples of the Netherlands), and they work together to improve the situation. Areas that the DCR work in are areas they have a lot of expertise in; including legal aid, integration, working with volunteers, border monitoring, and referral mechanisms (done mostly in cooperation of civil society or NGO's with governmental institutions or the government).

Christiaan Hogenhuis – Oikos

Oikos only works within The Netherlands. Oikos presents itself as 'A broker for deep dialogue on tense societal issues with a global aspect'. 'Dialogue': meaning to discuss (not debate) and coming from a place of mutual understanding (not agreement and harmony). 'Deep': because every voice counts (also minority voices), and it is about someone's inner motivations. A broker: because it sees itself as a facilitator, working with different parties and have no own agenda.

On refugee issue: on the one side massive support for receiving refugees, on the other hand intense resistance to it. Oikos is part of the StayHuman campaign, which had three main goals; showing broad support for refugees, stimulating sound debate, and supporting the doubting 'silent middle'. Oikos believes the issue is not so much about refugees but about supporting the majority middle ground in their views of refugees. Oikos approach: collect insights and start with realising what one's own issues and perspectives are. It is important to remember that everyone wants to 'stay human', but realize that the 'silent middle' is everywhere (not just poorly educated, middle class, and middle aged man stereotype). To conclude: there is a need for revitalising a broad and deep societal dialogue.

Once the floor was opened up for discussion with the attendees, it was highlighted that local governments are much more successful at influencing the dialogue on refugees than from a national level. Finally, it was determined that in order to move the debate around refugees forward we need to talk about facts and need to start from perspectives of locals with negative views of refugees.



“Drawing the Line: Benefits of a Participatory Approach.”

By Tesora Veliscek of [WomenWin](#)

Women Win and Going to School India designed Drawing the Line as a toolbox to inspire participants in setting standards of protection and safety for programmes. During this session participants experienced this tool first-hand and learnt the benefits of this participatory approach.

The participatory approach used by Women Win in factories in India is designed to involve young women working there to identify the main problems and needs for a more inclusive working environment.

The workshop had participants taking the role of women who work in those factories. They were given several cards with necessities written on them in different languages, such as: “I know my rights at work because they are posted and visible”, or “I have clean drinking water available all the time at work”. The participants were divided into two groups and each group had to arrange their cards in three categories: very important, important, and least important. Finally, they had to organize the cards in terms of whether those are needs that girls already have or do not have at their workplace. This participatory approach provides a safe environment for girls to prioritize and categorize their needs; in order for them, NGOs, and employers to act and improve their working conditions. Participants of this workshop learned the importance of a participatory approach for the definition of problems and possible solutions which involve the main actors, which in this case are young working women. They also experienced the ways in which organizations such as Women Win work in order to foster inclusion of women all over the world.

“Youth Participation: Can We Do It Differently?”

By Robbert van de Waerdt of [Oxfam Novib](#)

The workshop started with a round of introductions by the participants and having them answering the question “why are you interested in youth participation?”. The answers varied from people being involved with organisations centred around youth participation, students doing research on the topic, to retirees being inspired by their grandchildren to find ways to be actively engaged in their interests. This followed by an introduction by Robbert van de Waerdt and a brief description of what youth participation meant for Oxfam Novib and how it could be done differently: by working jointly with the global youth to challenge barriers that prevent them from enjoying their rights, participating fully in society, and being an effective voice in decision-making processes.

The participants were then given the opportunity to give their opinion ranging from ‘completely disagree’ to ‘completely agree’ on a number of questions, for example: “Different young people are equally represented in decision-making processes”, “Current youth participation practices are good”, and “Participation in decision-making is important to people”.

Finally, the participants were divided into smaller groups to discuss what is a good example of youth participation and what can be done differently to engage the youth. The participants of this workshop learnt that increasing youth participation is a multi-faceted issue: there is great dispute as to how engaged the youth are or should be, how to go about engaging the youth, how much change that will actually create, and who actually benefits from involving young people in decision-making processes.

