# The role of community life: receiving messages and giving voice to people

Lode Draelants
Internationaal Comité vzw

THE COMMITMENT OF SOCIAL PARTNERS

TO TACKLE SOCIAL EXCLUSION WITHIN THE LABOUR MARKET



#### Internationaal Comité?

Not international!?



- NGO / umbrella –org.
- +300 local groups of immigrants in BE
- Superdiversity!
- 20 employees
- +1.000 volunteers



## Internationaal Comité?











- 1. Leadership development in communities of ECM
- 2. Bridging & bonding
- 3. Giving voice to people> Advocacy

Integration



# Employment is key to integration



#### A (good) job is important for

- Self esteem and identity
- Feeling of acceptance in society
- Lower poverty risk
- More social contacts
- Broader experiences (learning)
- Positive for educational level of next generation
- Higher quality of living
- Better health
- General feeling of well being

- ...



# Employment is key to integration



**Employment** 

role for civil organization like IC



# Employment is key to integration



But in BE/Flanders/BXL people with immigrant background DO NOT (enough) find their way onto the labour market



## Employment in Flanders 2008 – 2014

(OECD - 2014)

	Goals Flemish gov. (Goals Pact 2020)	Degree of employment 2008	Degree of employment 2014
Flanders (overall)	76%	72,3%	71,9%
Not EU -nationals	58%	47,2%	44,6%
Persons born outside EU	64%	56,3%	53,3%

## Employment in Flanders 2008 – 2014



Maybe immigrants don't try hard enough?



## Employment Flanders vs intenational



#### OECD –statistics state that:

Belgium has the worst employment rate of "immigrants"...

of all developed countries...

in the world.



## Employment in Flanders 2008 – 2014



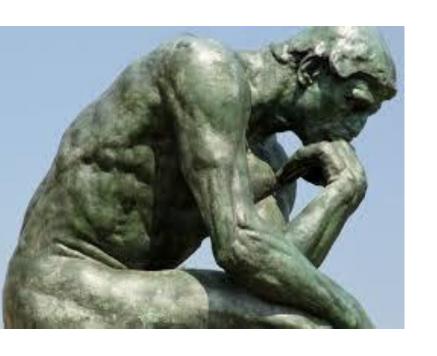
So...

 or we had some bad luck with our immigrants,

 or there's something off in our system...



#### What can WE do?



How can IC, as a civil society organization,

Contribute to improve the labour market situation

of people with a migration background?





#### IC cannot

- actualy give jobs to people
- individually assist people





+ finding a jobseems a veryindividual endeavour+ competitive!

So almost all (government) support focusses on individual trajectories...







IC started listening to people with migrant background, experts, employers, ...





Improving "essential side –conditions"





Helping people to Improve Dutch





#### Building social networks

(1/3 jobs in BE are found via-via)





Help to establish self –confidence!





#### Improve mobility

(Physical & mental)





Help capacity building via volunteering –work





Explaining "hidden keys and codes"

(inform people about the labour market, the art of soliciting, ...)





#### Giving voice.../advocate

- for good childcare
- for "openness" towards (super)diversity
- Not just for equal rights but for fairness in opportunity
- •





Government needs to do its part, but can not do it alone.

Civil society needs to step up!

