

Final International Policy Forum



Interreg IVB NSR Regional Development Project

Thursday 26 – Friday 27 september 2013
Het Godshuis – Sint-Laureins – Belgium



Thanks to the VRA-project the Meetjesland-brand could be launched.

Introduction Christian Byrith



Dear project partners, dear participants,

I would have very much liked to join you at the Policy Forum in Meetjesland but due to unforeseen circumstances I have unfortunately had to cancel my participation. Please accept my very best regards by writing to you instead.

In the current programme period many projects are at a late stage of implementation and tangible results are starting to emerge such as the Rural Power Pack developed by the partnership in Vital Rural Area. After its launch during your forum we hope to see the Rural Power Pack emerge as an example of successful transnational cooperation that has the potential to benefit the North Sea Region as a whole.

The aim of the IVB North Sea Region Programme is to make the North Sea Region a better place to live, work and invest in. Tackling the needs of rural areas is part of reaching this aim and the Vital Rural Area has an important role to play in working on using transnational

cooperation to find and implement solutions towards the challenges faced in rural areas.

Some words about the future. As you might be aware we are currently preparing the new VB North Sea Region Programme 2014-2020. We very much expect the new programme will become operational in 2014. A big thank you to those of you that participated in the consultation process for the new programme. We hope to be able to continue our cooperation in the future.

I wish you all a fruitful Policy Forum and look forward to following the Vital Rural Area in its final stages of implementation.

Kind regards,

Christian Byrith
Head of Secretariat
North Sea Region Programme

Introduction Bauke Schat



Dear Vital project partners and friends,

First of all welcome at our fourth and last Policy Forum in Meetjesland, Belgium!

After almost four years of hard work on our Vital Project we are happy to now present you the bundled results of our pilots and the Rural Power Pack, which has been finalised in recent months. This Policy Forum is a sort of “final conference” for us, yet it will much more – it is the starting point of our dissemination of our project results and tools to partner projects and regions elsewhere in Europe, and also (hopefully) of a number of follow-up activities and projects for all of us!

The work in our Vital Rural Area project has been successful and rewarding, as you may conclude from the fact that we have doubled the number of originally planned pilots, and have managed to achieve some first transnational transfer of results, as is the case of the Innovation House: the original pilot from Vejen, Denmark, has already led to similar or identical initiatives in Rogaland, Norway and Northeastern Friesland! And

the one in our region has already recently been opened, after less than a year of preparation!

This also gives me confidence on the continuity of our Vital Rural Area project. We plan to secure the results, as mentioned, not only in developing new projects but also in setting up regional “observatories” for (vital) rural areas in the partner regions and beyond, elsewhere in Europe.

I would like to use the opportunity to express my thanks to all partners for their hard work, especially to the Meetjesland for their support in hosting our Policy Forum!

Looking forward to meeting you all in Sint-Laureins!

Kind regards,

Bauke Schat
Project director Vital Rural Area



Broadband, innovation and video communication in Vejen Kommune, Denmark



Innovation is crucial to businesses operating in rural areas. In Norfolk, we have a rich heritage of innovation and would like to see modern businesses embracing these concepts of exploration and innovation.

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Partners in Vital Rural Area



Vital Rural Area

Vital Rural Area is a European co-operation project (2009-2014) of 13 project partners from six North Sea countries on the reinforcement of rural areas. See for more: www.vitalruralarea.eu.

It is a European co-operation project (2009-2014), (co-)financed through European Funding (ERDF) from the INTERREG IVB Programme for the North Sea Region (NSR, www.northsearegion.eu).

The project tries to find transnational strategies to fortify regional rural areas by finding new and innovative solutions to three main socio-economic problems, encountered in most rural areas, being: a lack of economic development and innovation, negative or insufficient exposure of the region and downsizing in the level or the accessibility of services and amenities. These problems were turned into three main challenges:

- 1) The empowerment of SMEs towards new economic prospects and innovations
- 2) branding of the region, towards a professional exposure
- 3) optimizing services, towards more and better accessible services and amenities

The projects performed in Vital Rural Area were bound to either one of these three main issues. In a later stage the projects has evolved into best practice pilot cases, of which originally some 20 had been planned, the number now amounting more than 40! They have been discussed and improved and sometimes tested and implemented in

other Vital regions. Underlying all projects the Co-operative Agreement Approach was used as an organisation and process instrument that ensures the sustainable implementation of project results.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE BY WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SUSTAINABLE AND COMPETITIVE REGION

The project has tried to find transnational strategies to fortify regional areas and addresses, therefore, first of all in three content-related and strongly inter-connected work packages (WPs) three major themes connected to regional development:

- empowerment of SMEs, towards new economic prospects and innovations
- branding of the region, towards a professional exposure of regions
- optimizing services, towards more and better accessible services and amenities

On the basis of the activities and experiences in the work packages, the project has now developed, implemented and tested a transferable general working method for sustainable projects on regional development: the rural power pack, or RPP. This RPP, as well as the policy ideas, will now be disseminated and communicated at EU and national level and to other European Regions in the last year of the project period (end of project now foreseen: July 2014).



The Rural Power Pack

An integral and interactive set of best practice project cases, containing experiences and tools, to be applied for problems commonly encountered in contemporary rural areas.

A designed brochure (Newsletter) has been developed recently and is available at the Policy Forum!

The central part of the Vital project is formed by the Rural Power Pack, built up from the delivery of 'best practice' project results from the partners. By exchanging and transferring experiences of completed projects, we discovered opportunities, but also barriers to the implementation of successful solutions. But we also discovered a lot of common ground between projects, resulting in arranging them under one or more of seven main themes. The combination of scientific knowledge, experiences and exchange of information between partners resulted in case studies and a set of tools for each theme. This provides the reader with access to our knowledge and experience in real issues encountered in contemporary rural areas.

The Rural Power Pack has evolved into a complete working method that can be applied in many situations when commonly encountered problems or challenges are faced. It consists of three mutually dependent 'approach lines': the basis is formed by best practice project cases studies, from the participating regions (Local/Regional approach). Simultaneously, the Themes and content approach were formulated in work packages, that have evolved into the seven main themes. The Methodology underlying the participative way of working is based on a problem solving approach, consisting of four sequential steps that facilitate a general and focused handling of the problems, commonly encountered in rural areas. The Cooperative Agreement Approach is used throughout the case studies as a process instrument that ensures the common realisation of goals (organising power) by connecting people and organisations.

The RPP Methodology used is based on a problem solving approach, consisting of four layers:

1. THE DEFINITION OF PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

We discovered that problems can be preferably written as “lacks of...” to help focus on specific areas that can function as the starting point for solving the problem. We found seven main topics that cover most of the problems encountered in rural areas:

- A Lack of ambition
- B Lack of education
- C Lack of power
- D Lack of services
- E Lack of infrastructure
- F Lack of jobs
- G Lack of young talent

2. THE SOLUTIONS PUT FORWARD BY THE VITAL RURAL AREA PROJECT GROUP

Based on the projects in partner regions we came up with seven main themes:

- A Innovative approaches to education
- B Broadband and digital services
- C SME Empowerment and Entrepreneurship
- D Good governance
- E Community building
- F Welfare and Lifestyle
- G Profiling and Branding of the region

3. BARRIERS ENCOUNTERED IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROPOSED SOLUTION

The Vital Rural Area group listed eight of barriers often encountered and covering most of the obstacles, regularly impeding implementation.

- A Regulations
- B Demography
- C Money
- D Time and timing
- E Politics
- F Ownership
- G Landscape
- H History, culture and customs

4. THE TOOLS DERIVED FROM THE PROJECT CASES STUDIES ARE DESCRIBED IN THE PROJECT FORMATS AND GROUPED IN A SECTION UNDER THE THEMES

The tools derived from the project cases studies are described in the project formats and grouped in a section under the themes. The toolbox of the Rural Power Pack is not an instrument suitcase, strictly spoken, but comprises case studies offering the reader access to our knowledge and experiences in the issues encountered in contemporary rural areas. We also described more general tools that may be helpful in guiding you in finding creative solutions for problems encountered (such as www.innowiz.be).



Location Meetjesland

The Meetjesland is a rural region between Ghent and Bruges, at the border of the Zeelandic Flanders (the Netherlands) in the North.

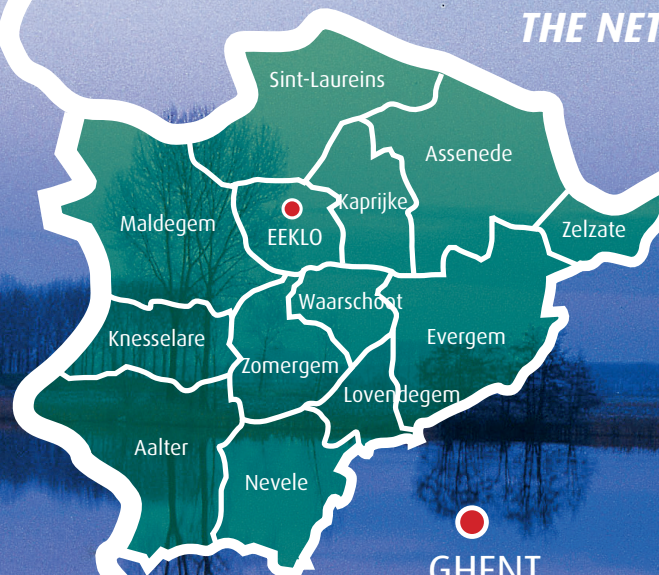
There are 181.047 inhabitants spread across 13 municipalities. Eeklo is the Center City of the Meetjesland.

The total area: 66.292 ha

NORTH SEA

THE NETHERLANDS

BRUGES



GHENT

Het Godshuis

Het Godshuis is situated in picturesque Sint-Laureins, within easy reach of the historic cities of Ghent, Bruges and the beaches of Knokke. You can make free use of the sauna and steam bath.

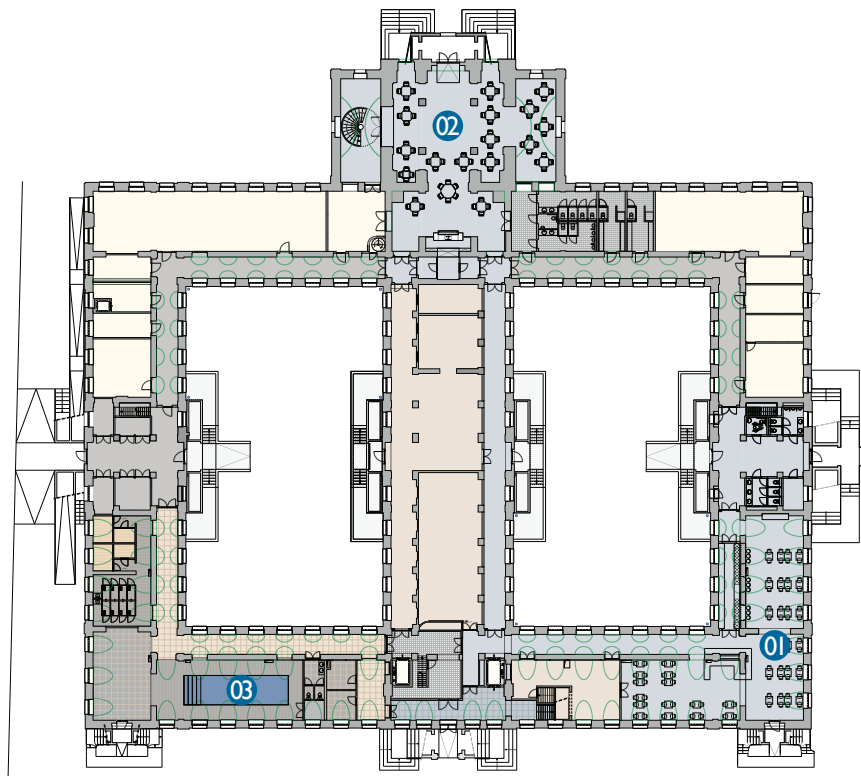


Het Godshuis was built from a 19th century monastery and consists of impressive vaults and galleries. Rooms include traditional details such as thick walls and wood beam ceilings. They also feature modern facilities including free WiFi, flat-screen TV and modern design bathrooms.

Antonia's Brasserie offers an extensive breakfast, culinary meals and romantic candle light dinners. During summer, you can sit out on the terrace with a refreshing drink.

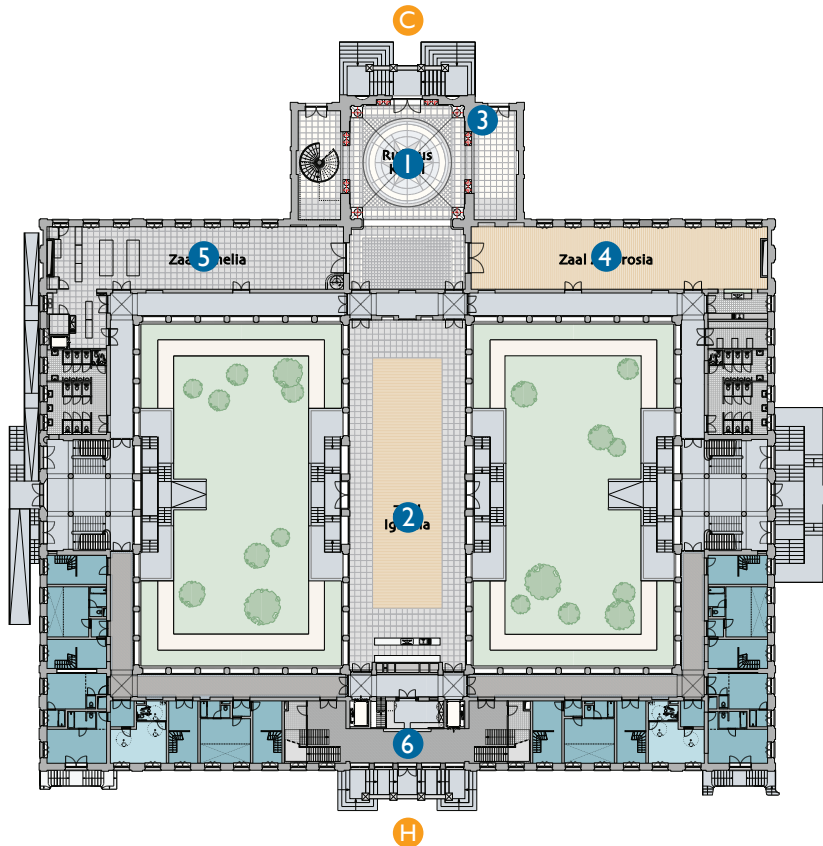
If you need to relax, you can visit the wellness centre and make use of various massages and beauty treatments.

Floor -1



- 01 Breakfast Room
- 02 Congress Café
- 03 Wellness

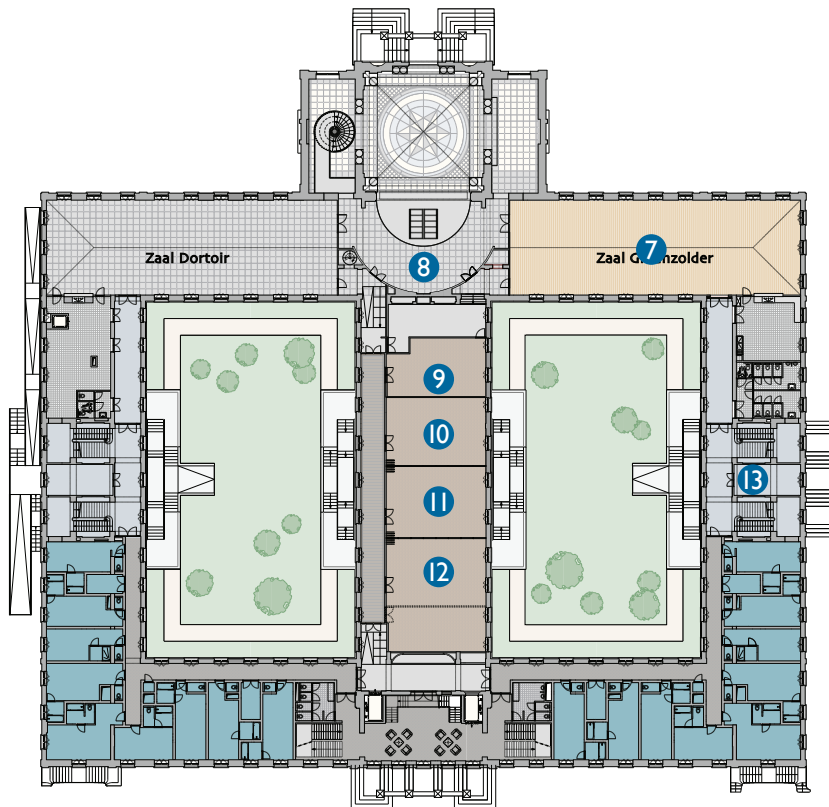
Ground Floor



- 1 Congress Lobby
- 2 Congress Hall
- 3 Congress Office
- 4 Congress Exhibition
- 5 Cooking Area
- 6 Hotel Front desk

- H Entrance Hotel
- C Entrance Congress

Floor +1



- 7 Banquet Hall
- 8 Choir Screen
- 9-13 Seminar Rooms



The picture symbolizes the ambition of rural areas in the Kortrijk region to be(come) vital regions. Architectural beauty, smart design, community meeting ground, co-designed services, confident governments and integration in and therefore preservation of in the beautiful nature all are new values of a proud and dynamic communities.



West Flanders, a top recreational area,
an economic growth region,
a region with a high quality of life.

General Programme

Wednesday 25th September 2013

- Morning**
- Project Management Meeting
 - Lunch
- Afternoon**
- Partner meeting (VRA partners only)
 - Visit to ArcelorMittal
- Evening**
- dinner
 - Informal drinks and music in 'Meetjesland Congress Café'

Thursday 26th September 2013

- Morning**
- Breakfast
 - Official welcome and registration
 - Opening Policy Forum
 - Interviews and Keynote speakers
 - Entrepreneurial discussions
 - Uncovering the RPP "Toolkit"
 - Opening Exhibition
 - Lunch Buffet
- Afternoon**
- Interviews and Keynote speakers
 - Discussion with youth from the partner regions
 - Exhibition

- Evening**
- Choice activities: Cycling tour or Cooking workshop
 - Reception
 - Gala Dinner (dresscode: smart casual)
 - Casino Games
 - Afterparty in 'Meetjesland Congress Café'

Friday 27th September 2013

- Morning**
- Breakfast
 - Welcome and registration of new participants
 - 10 working group sessions (2 rounds)
 - Plenary Feedback
 - Podium discussion with EU, national and regional representatives of partners/North Sea Region
 - Launch of the dissemination of the Rural Power Pack
 - Closure
 - Lunch
- Afternoon**
- Guided tour through the historical city centre of Ghent

Wednesday, 25th September

Morning:

Arrival project partners

Afternoon:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 10.30 – 11.30 | Project Management Meeting (Seminar room 12) |
| 12.00 – 14.30 | Lunch (Breakfast room) |
| 13.30 – 17.00 | Partner meeting, briefing Policy Forum (partners only, no other Representatives of partner organisations!)
(Seminar room 12) |
| 13.30 – 14.00 | Introduction |
| 14.00 – 15.00 | Presentation about the Rural Power Pack (RPP) & the dissemination strategy |
| 15.00 – 15.30 | Coffee break |
| 15.30 – 16.30 | 4 parallel work sessions – Chair: 4 members of the RPP core group (Seminar rooms 9-12) |
| 16.30 – 17.00 | Plenary session: presentation of the conclusions of the work sessions |

Arrival of other Policy Forum Guests and partner representatives

Complementary programme/excursion others/early arrivals:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 14.00 – 17.30 | Visit to the steel company ArcelorMittal (attention: bus leaves at 14h. at the entrance of the hotel) |
| 18.30 – 20.00 | Informal dinner Policy Forum Guests (Breakfast room) |
| From 20.00 – ... | Informal drinks and music in 'Meetjesland Congress café' |

Thursday, 26th September

07.30 – 08.45	Breakfast (Breakfast room)
08.45 – 09.30	Official welcome and registration of all participants (Congress lobby)
09.30 – 09.35	Opening by Katia Retsin, chair of today (Congress Hall)
09.35 – 09.40	Opening Address: Marga Waanders, mayor of Dongeradeel
09.45 – 10.20	Snaph interviews
10.20 – 10.50	Key Note 1: Eise Van der Sluis
10.50 – 11.10	Coffee/Tea break (Congress lobby)
11.15 – 11:30	Key Note entrepreneurial discussion 1: Panel with 2 ambassadors (Congress Hall)
11.30 – 12.00	Uncovering the RPP "Toolkit", Demo, interview with the members of the core group Rural Power Pack
12.00 – 12.25	Key Note entrepreneurial discussion 2: with some vital entrepreneur representatives from Norfolk, Denmark and Sluis Zeeland Flanders
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch Buffet (Congress lobby) Exhibition
14.00 – 14.30	Key note 2, Jan Briers, governor of the province of East-Flanders (Congress Hall)
15.00 – 16.00	Key Note 4: Adjiedj Bakas, futurist, on future scenario's and perspectives for especially rural areas
16.05 – 16.25	Coffee/Tea break (Congress lobby)
16.30 – 17.00	Discussion key notes, "Life" discussion with youth from the partner regions moderated by Annagreet Miedema (Congress Hall)
17.00 – 17.15	Wrap-up + Finale day
17.30 – 18.15	Choice Activity Option 1: Cycling tour (10km) (appointment at the entrance of the Hotel) Option 2: Cooking workshop with regional products (Cooking area)
19.00 – 19.45	Reception (Choir Screen)
19.45 – 23.00	Gala Dinner (dresscode: smart casual) (Banquet Hall) Welcome to the Gala Dinner by Mr. Franki Van de Moere, mayor of Sint-Laureins
23.00 – 24.00	Casino Games (Congress lobby)
23.00 – ...	Afterparty in 'Meetjesland Congress café' with life performance of 'Tôape Geraapte' at 24.00h

Friday, 27th September































- 07.45 – 08.45 Breakfast ([Breakfast room](#))
- 07.45 – 10.30 Room check out ([Hotel desk](#))
- 08.45 – 09.00 Welcome and registration of new participants ([Congress lobby](#))
- 09.00 – 09.30 Flashback on Day 1 & day 2 ([Congress Hall](#))
- 09.30 – 09.45 Introduction to the working groups (on policy issues RPP) ([Congress Hall](#))
- 09.55 – 12.00 2 rounds of 5 thematic, parallel working group sessions
Format: General/academic speaker 10 minutes, 1-2 pilot presentations max. 10 minutes, then working sessions /discussions
- 09.55 – 11.00 Round 1 ([Seminar rooms 9, 10, 12, 13 and Congress Hall](#))
- 11.00 – 11.15 Coffee break ([Choir Screen](#))
- 11.15 – 12.00 Round 2 ([Seminar rooms 9, 10, 12, 13 and Congress Hall](#))
- 12.00 – 12.30 Plenary Feedback ([Congress Hall](#))
- 12.30 – 13.00 Podium discussion with EU, national and regional (policy) representatives of partners/North Sea Region
- 13.00 – 13.15 Closure and launch of the dissemination of the Rural Power Pack: What's next for our Vital Rural Areas?
- 13.15 – 14.15 Lunch ([Breakfast room](#))
- 14.30 – 15.30 Debriefing of partners, follow-up/additional meetings and appointments ([Seminar room 12](#))
- 15.15 – 17.00 Guided tour through the historical city centre of Ghent ([appointment and departure city walk: 'Korenmarkt' at 15:15](#))































After 14.00h: Departure of all other participants.























Workshops 27th September

Theme	Chair	1st Case study (09.45 – 10.30)	2nd Case study (10.45 – 11.30)	External expert
Chances for rural areas confronted with demographic changes	Peer Rexen (Seminar room 9)	Modelling of “Chances for areas confronted with demographic changes” (NL/B) Mike van de Wijnckel / Jeanette Groeneveld	The Innovation House (DK/NL/N) Else Meyer and Auke Piet van der Meulen	Prof. Dr. Dirk Strijker (NL)
Broadband and broadband applications (education, care, public services)	Simon Simonsen (Seminar room 10)	Klassegas: Fibre to the Classroom (NL) Willem Wouda	Digital commerces and services (DK) Simon Simonsen	Mr. Klaas Rus (NL)
SME Empowerment and good governance	Filip Meuris (Seminar room 12)	Towards a Regional Open Network by cooperative approach (B) Wouter Degadt / Filip Meuris	Stimulating innovation and business growth in rural SMEs (UK) Eve Cronin	Mr. Gijs van Hesteren (NL)
Branding and profiling the region	Wim Beernaert (Seminar room 13)	Dwaande Campaign Fryslan (NL) Mr. Jelle Boerema	Branding Meetjesland (B) Els Oyaert	Dr. Frans Thissen (NL)
Healthy ageing, welfare and community building	Peter Laan (Congress Hall)	Lifestyle improvement in Finnoy Islands (N) Mayor Gro and Dr Eivind	Smart Rural Network Society (NL) Marcella Jansen and Martijn Ledegang	Prof. Dr. Anja Declerq (B)



















List of participants

1	Aalberts Arie	 the Netherlands
2	Afzal Lema	 Belgium
3	Arnaut Mark	 Belgium
4	Azoug Maxim	 Belgium
5	Baert Martine	 Belgium
6	Bakas Adjedj	 the Netherlands
7	Baute Cindy	 Belgium
8	Baute Tilly	 Belgium
9	Bauwens Romanie	 Belgium
10	Beernaert Wim	 Belgium
11	Behrens Wilhelm O.	 Germany
12	Beke Johan	 Belgium
13	Beke Johan	 Belgium
14	Belmans Liesbet	 Belgium
15	Bergsagel Eline	 Norway
16	Bernon Daniël	 Belgium
17	Bernon Mrs.	 Belgium
18	Beullens Lisa	 Belgium
19	Bijleveld Lieuwe	 the Netherlands
20	Blondeel Kathy	 Belgium
21	Blondeel Kathy	 Belgium
22	Boerema Jelle	 the Netherlands
23	Bogaert Jill	 Belgium
24	Bosma Sylvia	 the Netherlands
25	Bottema Jenna	 the Netherlands
26	Bourgonjon Morton	 Belgium
27	Braet Salina	 Belgium
28	Briers Jan	 Belgium
29	Brouwer Menno	 the Netherlands
30	Bulté Daniëlle	 Belgium




























31	Buyck Maria christina	 Belgium
32	Buyck Sofie	 Belgium
33	Buyse Dominique	 Belgium
34	Buyse Marc	 Belgium
35	Caboor Alex	 Belgium
36	Coene Hugo	 Belgium
37	Coene Hugo	 Belgium
38	Coene Wendy	 Belgium
39	Cooman Elke	 Belgium
40	Coppejans Jasper	 Belgium
41	Coppens Delphine	 Belgium
42	Cronin Eve	 United Kingdom
43	De Baerdemaeker Iris	 Belgium
44	De Coninck Philippe	 Belgium
45	de Groot Wouter	 the Netherlands
46	De Guchtenaere Jana	 Belgium
47	de Jong Jaap	 the Netherlands
48	De Keyser Jan	 Belgium
49	De Keyser Patricia	 Belgium
50	De Man Linde	 Belgium
51	De Martelaere Joeri	 Belgium
52	De Mey Elisabeth-Laura	 Belgium
53	De Muynck Noah	 Belgium
54	De Neve Sander	 Belgium
55	De Pau Filip	 Belgium
56	De Roose Céline	 Belgium
57	De Vlaeminck Emma	 Belgium
58	De Vriendt Stefanie	 Belgium
59	De Wachter Betty	 Belgium
60	De Waele Patricia	 Belgium

61	De Wispelaere Annie	 Belgium
62	De Wispelaere Christiaan	 Belgium
63	De Wispelaere Jens	 Belgium
64	De Witte Cedric	 Belgium
65	Declercq Anja	 Belgium
66	Decorte Guido	 Belgium
67	Degadt Wouter	 Belgium
68	Delva Julio	 Belgium
69	Demerode Gilian	 Belgium
70	Depestele Jan	 Belgium
71	Deroose Theresa	 Belgium
72	Devriendt Sofie	 Belgium
73	Dhoore Francesca	 Belgium
74	Dielman Michiel	 Belgium
75	Driesen Santina	 Belgium
76	Dumont Jens	 Belgium
77	Duthoy Eric	 Belgium
78	Duursma Geesje	 the Netherlands
79	Everts Henk	 the Netherlands
80	Evrard Olaf	 Belgium
81	Feenstra Lieuwe	 the Netherlands
82	Feusels Luc	 Belgium
83	Flathus Ola	 Germany
84	Foré Fauve	 Belgium
85	Generet Matthieu	 Belgium
86	Gijssels Filip	 Belgium
87	Gobeyn Anneke	 Belgium
88	Goethals Simon	 Belgium
89	Goossens Marie-Louise	 Belgium
90	Goossens Stef	 Belgium

91	Groeneveld Jeannette	 the Netherlands
92	Groeneveld Michiel	 the Netherlands
93	Groeneweg Maarten	 the Netherlands
94	Gyselbrecht Terry	 Belgium
95	Gyssels Arne	 Belgium
96	Haegeman Davy	 Belgium
97	Hartland Gramstad Victoria	 Norway
98	Hellebuyck Christa	 Belgium
99	Hennes Erik	 Belgium
100	Hermanns Wietse	 the Netherlands
101	Heuer Mirco	 Germany
102	Hofstede Hendrik Jan	 the Netherlands
103	Holthuis Oeds	 the Netherlands
104	Jansen Marcella	 the Netherlands
105	Janssens Rudiger	 Belgium
106	Janssens Stephan	 the Netherlands
107	Joye Bernard	 Belgium
108	Kjølvik Oddny	 Norway
109	Klinkenberg-Franken Cootje	 the Netherlands
110	Kloet Melissa	 Belgium
111	Kloster Helga	 Norway
112	Kortwijk Detje	 the Netherlands
113	Kristensen Anne Sydow	 Denmark
114	Laan Peter	 Norway
115	Lacres Tom	 Belgium
116	Lagrou Jonas	 Belgium
117	Lameire Ingeborg	 the Netherlands
118	Lammers Jan	 the Netherlands
119	Laroy Vincent	 the Netherlands
120	Ledegang Martijn	 the Netherlands

121	Liefting Cees	 the Netherlands	151	Rexen Peer	 Denmark
122	Maas-van der Hamsvoort Hetty	 the Netherlands	152	Robrecht Veerle	 Belgium
123	Maenhaut Charlotte	 Belgium	153	Roelandt Jens	 Belgium
124	Maenhout Tiny	 the Netherlands	154	Ruebens Katrijn	 Belgium
125	Marysse Kurt	 Belgium	155	Rus Klaas	 the Netherlands
126	Matthys-Dezutter Eddy	 Belgium	156	Schaafstal Griete	 the Netherlands
127	Mejer Else Dyekjær	 Denmark	157	Schat Bauke	 the Netherlands
128	Meling Bente Emilie	 Norway	158	Schautteet Maxime	 Belgium
129	Mercy John	 Belgium	159	Scheir Leander	 Belgium
130	Meuris Filip	 Belgium	160	Schellekens Paul	 the Netherlands
131	Meyer Else	 the Netherlands	161	Schreiber Heiko	 Norway
132	Middel Jaap	 the Netherlands	162	Seselle Marc	 Belgium
133	Miedema Annegreet	 the Netherlands	163	Seynhaeve Kathleen	 Belgium
134	Molenaar Paul	 the Netherlands	164	Shishova Maria	 Russia
135	Naeyaert Bart	 Belgium	165	Sijsma Jan	 the Netherlands
136	Nauta Sytze	 the Netherlands	166	Simon Carola	 the Netherlands
137	Nekhaichuk Katerina	 Belarus	167	Simonsen Simon	 Denmark
138	Nieuwenhuis Siebe	 the Netherlands	168	Skartveit Gro	 Norway
139	Olsen Hana	 Belgium	169	Skifjell Heidi	 Norway
140	Oosterhuis Wim	 the Netherlands	170	Smitz Rauda	 Belgium
141	Oyaert Els	 Belgium	171	Soberon Robert	 Belgium
142	Paridaen Stephanie	 the Netherlands	172	Spittael Caroline	 Belgium
143	Pertry Lucie	 Belgium	173	Spittael William	 Belgium
144	Pieters Annemieke	 Belgium	174	Standaert Laurent	 Belgium
145	Poelman Sonja	 Belgium	175	Steenkiste Guido	 Belgium
146	Quityn Iris	 Belgium	176	Steyaert Céline	 Belgium
147	Rabaut Minke	 the Netherlands	177	Strijker Dirk	 the Netherlands
148	Reijniers Frans	 the Netherlands	178	Tavernier Ann	 Belgium
149	Reimann Bettina	 Germany	179	Tavernier Jef	 Belgium
150	Retsin Katja	 Belgium	180	Thissen Frans	 the Netherlands

181	Trenson Rob	 the Netherlands
182	Twigge Robin	 United Kingdom
183	Ukeyeva Zhazira	 Kazachstan
184	Uyttendaele Kenneth	 Belgium
185	Vaardal Åge	 Norway
186	Van Audenaerde Melina	 Belgium
187	Van Canneyt Stef	 Belgium
188	van Damme Thamar	 the Netherlands
189	Van de Moere Franki	 Belgium
190	Van de Vijver Francesca	 Belgium
191	Van de Voorde Pieter	 Belgium
192	Van de Walle Mario	 Belgium
193	Van de Wijncel Mike	 the Netherlands
194	Van de Woestyne Geert	 Belgium
195	Van De Wynckel Eline	 Belgium
196	Van der bruggen Maxim	 Belgium
197	van der Lijn Frederieke	 the Netherlands
198	van der Meulen Auke Piet	 the Netherlands
199	Van der Sluis Eise	 the Netherlands
200	Van der Spiegel Izaak	 Belgium
201	Van Herck Bart	 Belgium
202	van Hesteren Gijs	 the Netherlands
203	Van Hoyer Dirk	 Belgium
204	van Hulle Frank	 the Netherlands
205	Van Kets Bart	 Belgium
206	Van Laere Ann	 Belgium
207	van Oosten Douwe	 the Netherlands
208	Van Peteghem Emily	 Belgium
209	Van Rechem Rebecca	 Belgium
210	Van Zandijcke Christine	 Belgium

211	Van Zele Elke	 Belgium
212	Vanderbruggen Jan	 Belgium
213	Veerle Lagaert	 Belgium
214	Venema Froukje	 the Netherlands
215	Verdurmen Paul	 the Netherlands
216	Verhaeghe Margot	 Belgium
217	Verheecke Peter	 Belgium
218	Verhelst Eline	 Belgium
219	Vermeire Bert	 Belgium
220	Verpaele Leontien	 Belgium
221	Verplaetse Tony	 Belgium
222	Versele Jef	 Belgium
223	Vestbø Eivind	 Norway
224	Visser Jan Jitse	 the Netherlands
225	Viten Eli	 Norway
226	Vliebergh Astrid	 Belgium
227	Von der Haar Regine	 Germany
228	Vos Rianne	 the Netherlands
229	Waanders Marga	 the Netherlands
230	Waelput Dirk	 Belgium
231	Walburg Jan	 the Netherlands
232	Willems Annick	 Belgium
233	Willems Annick	 Belgium
234	Willems Celine	 Belgium
235	Wittevrongel Marijn	 Belgium
236	Wouda Willem	 the Netherlands
237	Wylleman Jonathan	 Belgium



Within the framework of the Vital Rural Area project the municipality of Sluis realized together with residents, clubs and institutions a digital communication platform for the (self) promotion of the region.

Social Media Profiles



KATJA RETSIN

Host, Announcer,
Writer

KATJA RETSIN

E-mail: megakatja@me.com

Katja Retsin is a Flemish host and announcer for radio and television. Furthermore, she writes books and columns. Retsin lives on the outskirts of Meetjesland (Astene-Deinze). She is married to the Flemish actor Jan Schepens, with whom she has two daughters and a son. Retsin studied for translator and interpreter English-Spanish. After that she followed a course Media and Communication, which made her went to work at the radio and television. First she was two years production assistant at the production company IDTV, after which she risked her chance as VJ at MTV music channel.

After four years she moved to the VRT, where she went to work as announcer and presenter. In April 2008 Retsin said goodbye to the broadcast station to focus on her presenting work. Katja is also owner of a few shops for women's clothing and is active as a writer of children's books.



Katja Retsin

@megakatja

Presentatrice. Houdt van tv-shows met veel wink-wink en een snuffje bling-bling. Tv presenter. Loves shows with a lot of wink-wink and a whiff of bling-bling.

MARGA WAANDERS

Mayor Dongeradeel



MARGA WAANDERS

Spriens 3,
9155 AK Raard,
The Netherlands

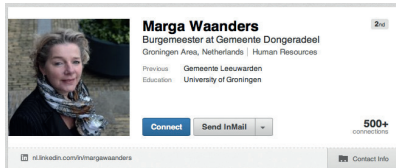
Tel: +31 (0) 519 298 707

E-mail: bestuurssecretariaat@dongeradeel.nl

Website: www.dongeradeel.nl

M.C.M. (Marga) Waanders (Beckum, October 1959) is a Dutch politician of the Labour Party. In 1990 she was elected to the city council of Leeuwarden and from 1995 she was party chairman of the Labour Party.

Besides her political activities, Waanders was a Dutch teacher and then spokesman of the management board of the NHL University. In 2001, she succeeded in that community Peter the Elders as City Council Member and almost eight years later Waanders was appointed Mayor of the city Dongeradeel.



EISE VAN DER SLUIS

Director SNN (Northern Netherlands Co-operation)



EISE VAN DER SLUIS

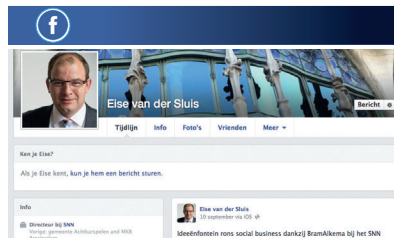
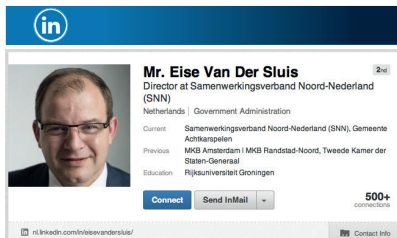
Laan Corpus den Hoorn 200,
9728 JS Groningen,
The Netherlands

Tel: +31 (0) 505 224 928

E-mail: vandersluis@snn.eu

Website: www.snn.eu

Eise van der Sluis is the former project director of the Vital Rural Area project and is currently Director of SNN, Northern Netherlands Co-operation. SNN works to develop the local economy and encourage co-operation between research, education, SMEs and government. In the past he was also general director at the municipality of Achtkarspelen and director at MKB Amsterdam | MKB Randstad-Noord.



BERNARD JOYE

Managing Director



BERNARD JOYE

Enjoy Concrete nv
Vaartstraat 50A,
8630 Veurne,
Belgium

Tel: +32 (0)58 28 00 76
Fax: +32 (0)58 28 00 74
E-mail: info@enjoyconcrete.be
Website: www.enjoyconcrete.be

Bernard Joye describes himself as a "farmer's son with a passion for concrete". From that passion arose already two companies. Furnibo focuses on various buildings in poured concrete and other materials and Enjoy Concrete on precast concrete, and that both for Furnibo and third parties. This also did not escape the outside world Furnibo was nominated twice by Trends as a fast growing and innovative business model. Furnibo is also the only building that is allowed to call itself ambassador of the province of West Flanders.



JEF VERSELE

Director at Brewery
Van Steenberghe
Sales representative

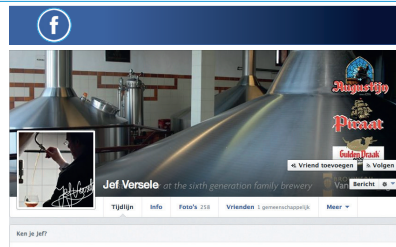
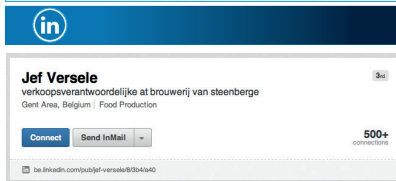


JEF VERSELE

Brouwerij Van Steenberghe
Lindenlaan 25,
9940 Ertvelde,
Belgium

Tel: +32 (0)9 344 50 71
Fax: +32 (0)9 344 54 20
E-mail: info@vansteenberge.com
Website: www.vansteenberge.com

Jef Versele is director at the brewery Van Steenberghe which is led by Paul Van Steenberghe and Jef Versele. The future of the brewery is guaranteed thanks to the arrival of the 7th generation. During a training of many years in the brewery, the rules of traditional brewing go from one generation to the next. The passion and the brewer's blood – you are born a brewer, and you die a brewer – still set the tone in this modern brewery.



PETER LAAN

Visionary entrepreneur



PETER LAAN

Director Consultancy FARO Advies
Diepenveenseweg 16,
8121PN Olst,
the Netherlands

Tel: +31 (0)6 42 28 89 61


E-mail: peter.laan@faro-advies.nl

Website: www.faro-advies.nl

Skype: [peterlaan5](#)

Peter Laan is visionary entrepreneur and director of FARO advies which was founded in 2005 by himself. As owner of FARO advies the main business of Peter is free lance consultancy in rural development, professional training and coaching and the set-up of international cooperation throughout the EU. Peter Laan was project leader in a large amount of projects such as Vital Rural Area, LEADER "Kop van Noord-Holland" and 'Transformation of farmsteads' (by order of InnoNetwerk, Utrecht). One of the main publications of Peter Laan is the Handbook for establishing cooperative projects within LEADER+ (publication for the National Network LEADER+ / Rural Areas, 2006, in Dutch and English).





Peter Laan

Visionary entrepreneur at FARO Advies

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Previous **(Groning) Consultancy, Fontys University of Applied Science**

Education **(Erasmus) Universiteit Overijssel**

University of Nijmegen

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SIMON SIMONSEN

Project Manager
at Vejen Kommune

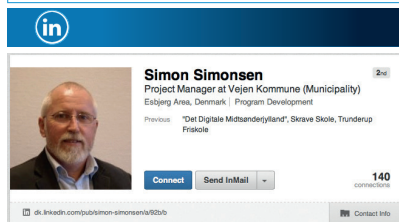


SIMON SIMONSEN

Udvikling & Erhverv
Rådhuspassagen 3,
DK-6600 Vejen,
Denmark

Tel: +45 21 792 230
E-mail: scs@vejenkom.dk
Website: www.vejenkom.dk

Simon Simonsen is Project Manager at Vejen Kommune (Municipality) since January 2007. He was also Project Manager for "Det Digitale Midtsønderjylland". Mr Simonsen has 23 years of experience as teacher in Skrave Skole and Trunderup Friskole. His main interests are: FTTH, Fibre to the Home to everybody, use of fast broadband connections, development in rural areas, development of digital public services, digital health care, innovative use of ICT technologies for better quality of life. Honors & Awards: In "Guide to Broadband Investment" published by the EU-Commission in 2011 the "Midtsønderjylland FTTH Project" was mentioned as an example of "Best Practice".



FILIP MEURIS

Co-founder at MyMachine

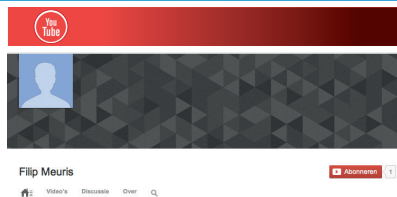
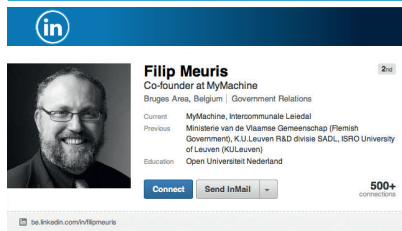


FILIP MEURIS

President Kennedypark 10,
8500 Kortrijk,
Belgium

Tel: +32 (0)56 24 16 16
Fax: +32 (0)56 22 89 03
E-mail: filip.meuris@leiedal.be
Website: www.leiedal.be

Filip Meuris is co-founder of MyMachine. MyMachine is an initiative of The Community Foundation of West-Flanders, Leiedal and Howest University. MyMachine is a concept for children of all ages who want to create their own 'dream machine'. Primary schoolchildren invent a 'machine' (an IDEA) which is developed further by university students (a DESIGN) to be finally built by pupils from technical secondary school (a MACHINE). He is also head of e-Government Department at Intercommunale Leiedal.



ELSE MEJER

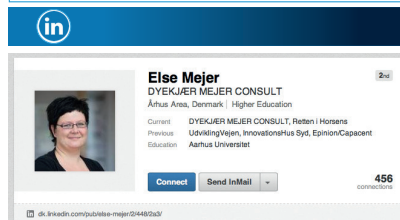
Dyckjær Mejer Consult

ELSE MEJER

Dyckjær Mejer Consult
Sdr. Tingvej 10,
DK-6630 Roedding,
Denmark

Tel: +45 30 112 177
Fax: +45 73 848 510
E-mail: else@dyckjaermejer.dk
Website: www.dyckjaermejer.dk

DYCKJÆR MEJER CONSULT was founded by Else Mejer. Else Mejer previously worked as a project manager at UdviklingVejen. During this time she gained a thorough knowledge of project management and fundraising, especially in the fields of green energy, welfare technology and innovation. Else Mejer has a wide experience in the preparation of project applications, project management, matchmaking in relation to partnerships and the preparation of reports.



ROBIN TWIGGE

Owner The Swan Hotel



ROBIN TWIGGE

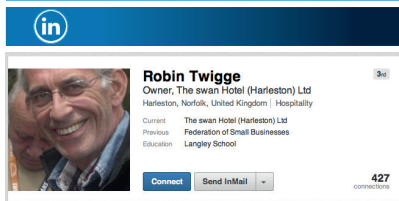
The Swan Hotel
The Thoroughfare Harleston,
Norfolk IP20 9AS,
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)1379 852221

E-mail: rtwigge@aol.com

Website: www.harlestonswanhotel.co.uk

Robin Twigge is an experienced entrepreneur and is the current owner of the Swan Hotel (Harleston) in Norfolk with extensive experience in hotel management both in the UK and abroad. He has owned and run a number of hotels and is currently based in the Waveney Valley area of East Anglia. In addition to his private ventures Robin is the Regional Chairman of the Federation of Small Business East Anglia, covering both Norfolk and neighbouring Suffolk. He has been involved with the Federation of Small Business in various capacities, including founding a new branch, since 1995. This organisation is one of the key support mechanisms for SMEs both regionally and nationally and is of particular importance in Norfolk given how reliant our local economy is on SMEs. Outside of work Robin's interests are varied. A keen Rotarian, he has been involved with the organisation for more than 20 years. Additionally, he is a huge fan of rugby as well as classic cars.



GIJS VAN HESTEREN

Innovator and business
developer at Kabelnoord

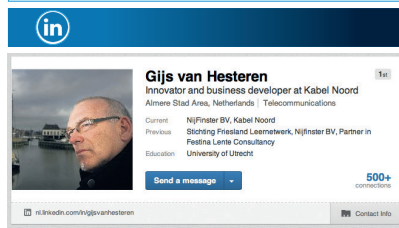


GIJS VAN HESTEREN

Kabelnoord
The Netherlands

Tel: +31 (06) 535 361 62
E-mail: g.vanhesteren@kabelnoord.nl
Website: www.gijsvanhesteren.nl

Gijs Van Hesteren is innovator and business developer at Kabelnoord. His Twitter profile mentions: "Look, dream, think, do." For Gijs Van Hesteren innovation is the search to connecting ICT, multimedia and digital infrastructures with social strategies and ambitions.





JAN BRIERS

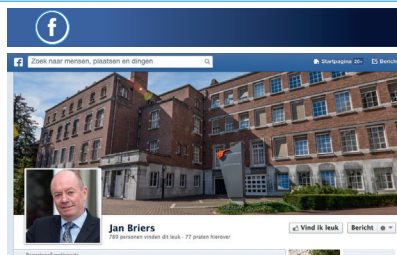
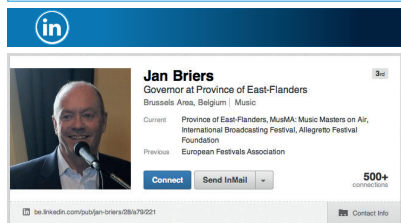
Governor East-Flanders

JAN BRIERS

Provinciehuis
Gouvernementstraat 1,
9000 Gent,
Belgium

Tel: +32 (0)9 267 80 25
E-mail: kabinet.gouverneur@
oost-vlaanderen.be
Website: www.oost-vlaanderen.be

Briers graduated as translator and interpreter. After his studies Press and Communications, he worked at the National Lottery and at the Festival of Flanders, where he was managing director for the departments of Ghent and Brussels. Jan Briers is since February 1, 2013 Governor of the province of East Flanders. He is the Commissioner of the Federal and the Flemish government in his province. He is also Chairman of the deputation. Thanks to this unique position he is mediator and bridge between the different authorities active in the province: the federal government, the Flemish government, the provincial government and local authorities. He is also responsible for the cross-border cooperation from the province of East Flanders.



ADJIEDJ BAKAS

Trendwatcher, author,
speaker

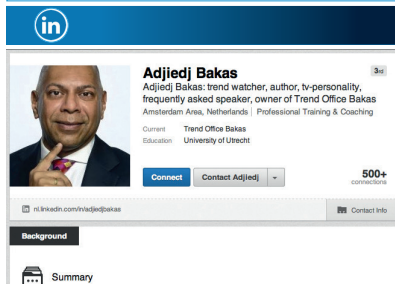


ADJIEDJ BAKAS

Trend Office Bakas
Sarphatipark 56 hs,
1073 CZ Amsterdam,
The Netherlands

Tel: +31(0)20 627 1017
Fax: +31(0)20 638 8401
E-mail: info@bakas.nl
Website: www.bakas.nl

Adjiedj Bakas (1963) is a highly acclaimed trendwatcher, author and speaker with roots in India, Latin-America and Europe. He researches financial, social, cultural, economic, technological and spiritual trends and interprets these for an array of clients. He is captivating, stimulating, visionary, humorous, inspirational, challenging, and accessible. He is provocative but always positive, even in these times of economic decline, hence a favourite phrase is: 'A kite rises highest when it flies against the wind.' Bakas is owner of Trend Office Bakas, based in Amsterdam.




Adjiedj Bakas
Adjiedj Bakas: trend watcher, author, tv-personality, frequently asked speaker, owner of Trend Office Bakas Amsterdam Area, Netherlands | Professional Training & Coaching
Current Trend Office Bakas
Education University of Utrecht

500+ connections

[Connect](#) [Contact Adjiedj](#)

info@bakas.nl [Contact Info](#)

Background

 Summary



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Om te zien wat hij met zijn vrienden deelt, stuur je hem een vriendschapsverzoek.

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AdjiedjBakas (Eng)
[@AdjiedjBakas2](#)

Trend watcher, author, speaker featured on GNN and BBC. Got my short e-book about The End of the Euro at amzn.to/10taPoZ Author of The State of Tomorrow Amsterdam • bakas.com

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Student journalism



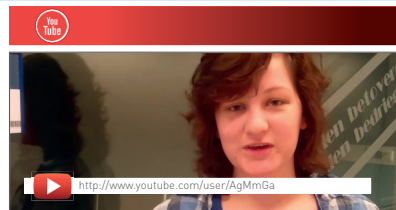
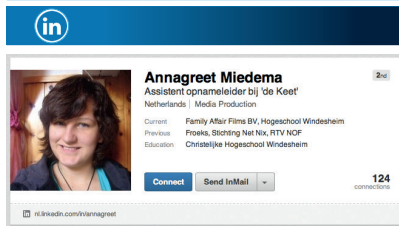
ANNAGREET MIEDEMA

Hortensiastraat 161
8013 AD Zwolle,
The Netherlands

Tel: +31 (0)6 114 014 19

E-mail: annagreetmiedema@
hotmail.com

Annagreet started at video production company NetNix as a host as a volunteer. Because of the people she met there Annagreet is now studying journalism. In the summer Annagreet is also working as assistant floor manager on the Frisian series 'De Keet'.



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