

## Newsletter NGO COMMEET September 2019

We are proud to present to you our second Newsletter, which provides you with an overview of the events and our activities during the month of September 2019.

### 1. Tax deductibility possibilities for donors

After a thorough preparation by our Treasurers, we received acknowledgment of the Dutch government of our status of Good Cause NGO on 1 September. This means that gifts and other sorts of donations which come from within the Netherlands can be tax deducted (conditions apply) by the donor in their annual Income Tax return.

We at NGO COMMEET consider this acknowledgment as a signal of trust and appreciation for our work. And we hope that many potential Dutch donors will see this as an encouragement to help and support our work with donations.

### 2. Second Toolkit: Integration of Migrants and other Displaced Persons

Following the many requests of colleagues all over the world, NGO COMMEET has decided to start with developing a second Toolkit. This one will be made available to the work of the many NGOs and volunteers who are busy supporting Migrants with integrating and settling down in their new home towns and communities. UNESCO has confirmed that this is an extremely important issue in stimulating the sustainable development of communities all over the world.

We are extremely happy with the signals of many community leaders who have declared themselves ready to support these Migrants, but who need some help to achieve this noble goal. It is one of the core ambitions of NGO COMMEET to provide instruments that can be helpful in this. Analogous to the first Toolkit on TVET and Entrepreneurship Training, it is our aim to compose a Step-by-Step Approach that can be used by everybody who is interested. In this specific case we want to ask Migrants themselves firstly to propose a 10-points Plan of Action on this.



The crucial question is: “What actions or policies do Migrants themselves find important to help them integrate better?” In the end, they themselves are the most experienced persons to express their own findings and wishes. In the final three months of 2019 we want this Migrant Toolkit Team to be built and introduced internally, and they are invited to start and finish their work in the course of 2020.

**We have already spoken with some migrants who are prepared to work on this Toolkit. However, they cannot do this alone. Therefore, we would like to ask every reader of this Newsletter to propose one or more additional members for this Toolkitteam. Age, nationality, education are not important. The ambition to create something useful and beautiful is all the more so! Please contact [maarten.schrevel@commeet.org](mailto:maarten.schrevel@commeet.org) if you know of somebody who might like to join this team.**

### **3. Installation of “Welcome and Networking Development Team.”**

Our NGO needs a group of colleagues that builds the relationship with external partners, invites new candidates to feel at home in our Cooperative and helps them to find their way to the right colleagues in the several sections. With external partners it is important to develop good working contacts, discover each other’s expertise and try to forge strong working ties that create synergy.

At the moment this team consists of three colleagues: (see also our website)

- Dr George Giannopoulos      Cambridge University
- Dr Alexandra Montague      Zuyd University Maastricht
- Ms Vasiliki Kioupi              London Imperial College

In the next COMMEET Newsletter in November these three colleagues will present themselves to you and give a more precise overview of their tasks in our Cooperative.

### **4. Presentation of the COMMEET colleague of September**

In the next couple of Newsletters we plan to introduce to you the volunteers working hard to make COMMEET successful. We start off with the Secretary of our NGO: Mr Maarten Schrevel.

The Secretary is in fact the supervisor of all administrative processes:

- Data management
- Internal and External Communication, including Social Media
- Keeping track of reports and legal issues.

It is the aim within our NGO to staff all functions in the Cooperative by more than one person. This will diminish management risks in the Planning & Control.



#### **A personal introduction**

Hello, my name is Maarten; I have been on the COMMEET Board since 1 July 2019. By the time you are reading this Newsletter I have just retired (which is no doubt one of the reasons why Jos Hermans asked me to join COMMEET). Naturally I was wondering how I could usefully spend all the available free time, so Jos’ request came at the right moment! By the way, you may have noticed this picture of mine is more up-to-date than the one in our COMMEET website ...

After finishing my master's degree studies in English Language and Literature at Groningen University in the Netherlands (now so many years ago) I quickly landed in higher education, starting at an independent College of Technology & Engineering, and ending at the Zuyd University of Applied Sciences in Heerlen, the Netherlands.

Apart from my work as a senior lecturer of English, I held various positions at Zuyd. I was the Coordinator of Internationalisation for the Tech schools for many years, and, during the last 8 years, Secretary (and later Chair) of the Exam Board of the course of Oriental Languages and Communication. I always enjoyed working for Zuyd, especially where it involved interviews with individual students who needed assistance. This ranged from sending students abroad for an exchange or an internship to, occasionally, bending the rules a bit to help others get through their studies.

Together with Jos and other colleagues we, at Zuyd University, were among the driving forces of a large international university exchange network, called the Magellan Exchange. We organized student and staff exchanges among 40 partner universities in about 10 different American, European and Asian countries. Our students learned a lot from these exchanges, just like we and other staff did. Perhaps the most important thing we have all learned was that the more different cultures you were immersed in during your youth, the fewer your prejudices are likely to be in your later life ...

My reasons for joining COMMEET are simple. I am absolutely convinced COMMEET is on the right track where it aims to stimulate communities anywhere in the world to develop themselves integrally and sustainably. All the people within a community should have a say in their own development; it should not be just the normal triumvirate of educators, business people and government who decide what is good for the community. I am quite prepared to devote a fair portion of my time and energy to assist communities to reach their goals!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me through [maarten.schrevel@commeet.org](mailto:maarten.schrevel@commeet.org)