



PRESS RELEASE

Awareness Raising about Culture and Development in Europe

Paris, October 15, 2007

Seminar on “Culture, Social Cohesion and Integration Challenges” December 13-14 2007, Zoetermeer, the Netherlands

A two-day seminar on “**Culture, Social Cohesion and Integration Challenges**” organized within the framework of the EU co-funded project on ‘Awareness Raising for Culture and Development’ (ARCADE) will be held in **Zoetermeer, the Netherlands on December 13-14, 2007**.

ARCADE is coordinated by ACTED in partnership with ENTP, the European New Towns Platform and CIR, the Interdisciplinary Centre for Comparative Research in the Social Sciences. The project brings together actors of culture and development from various backgrounds (including representatives of local authorities, NGOs, foundations, universities, international organisations as well as artists and cultural practitioners). Its objective is to exchange the latest ideas and practices related to culture and its role in conflict prevention, economic development, social cohesion and poverty reduction in both developed and developing environments.

The meeting in Zoetermeer is the second seminar of the ARCADE project, after a seminar in Barcelona on “culture and conflict prevention” held in September 2007. It will be an opportunity for actors involved in decentralised cooperation, culture and development to exchange ideas and share good practices related to culture, social cohesion and integration challenges. Main topics of discussion will include culture as a tool for cohesion between rural and urban identities, the integration of minorities through cultural projects and methods for promoting cultural diversity in society, among others. Particular emphasis will be given to the analysis of successful examples of cultural projects related to integration and social cohesion both in Europe and in developing countries.

Including both field experiences and practices as well as research-based presentations, main contributions should be ensured by representatives of local authorities, together with cultural and social development actors (more information available at <http://arcade.acted.org>).

In addition, a Central Asian **crafts exhibition** will take place in parallel to the seminar. The exhibition will aim to sensitize the wider public about local production and its impact in terms of poverty alleviation and economic development. It will showcase fair trade as a tool to achieve more balance in the global exchange of cultural goods. The exhibition will present innovative ways to include traditional techniques and patterns in handicraft adapted to modern lifestyle and contemporary markets.

We hope that this preview of the ARCADE project and the coming seminar in Zoetermeer are of interest to you. To **register as a participant** and for all other inquiries, please send an email to arcade@acted.org.



Agency for technical
cooperation and development

