



CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Symposium

“Diverse, inclusive and healthy regions”

3 AND 4 DECEMBER 2024

SAXION UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES, ENSCHEDE, THE NETHERLANDS



organized by the E³UDRES² Research Network “Diverse, inclusive and healthy regions”¹

Small and medium-sized cities and their rural environments do not only differ in terms of their history, economic situation, spatial embedding, living conditions and cultural traditions, but also face territorially different changes in terms of their socio-demographic constellations. Whereas ageing and depopulation has brought changes in many European regions, other regions have growing populations due to changing migration and mobility patterns. The latter have become more diverse in terms of socioeconomic characteristics, age, race and ethnicity, lifestyles and living arrangements, sexual orientations, and gender identities. Ongoing efforts to reflect on and adapt to changes of regional communities are necessary. The recognition of diversity, equity and inclusion are important to regions’ development.

Therefore, we want to strengthen cooperation to address the following key question: How can and transfer at local and regional levels be improved to facilitate inclusion, health and wellbeing and better meet the needs of diverse groups and local authorities? The focus will be on small and medium-sized cities, in particular studies focusing on the E³UDRES² regions. Research originating from larger urban settings is encouraged, provided that it is relevant to the topics listed below and provides insights into local and regional dynamics.

Various researchers of the Universities of Applied sciences of St Pölten (Austria), Fulda (Germany), Leuven (Belgium) and Saxion (Enschede/Netherlands) are working together within E³UDRES² network to deepen these questions and turn them into a strategic research agenda. In this context, a focused symposium will be organised at

¹ *EUDRES Research Network “Diverse, inclusive and healthy regions”

- HAW Fulda, Fulda University of Applied Sciences: Ilker Ataç, Monika Alisch, Cengiz Barskanmaz, Stamatia Devetzi, Benjamin Ewert, Martina Ritter
- St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences: Michaela Moser, Veronika Reidinger, Anne Unterwurzacher
- Saxion University of Applied Sciences, Enschede: Peter Gramberg, Brian Rengers
- UC Leuven-Limburg University of Applied Sciences: Katrien Vissers, Reinhilde Pulinx



Saxion in Enschede on 3 and 4 December 2024, during which these issues will be explored and discussed in an interdisciplinary way.

We hereby invite our E³UDRES² partners to contribute to this symposium in the form of a presentation.

The program will be assembled along four substantive themes:

1) Diverse and collaborative living arrangements in rural and small town areas

Which living arrangements are needed to ensure thriving communities of an increasingly diverse population in rural and small town areas? In which ways can self-determination, self-organisation and social inclusion of persons with different needs and ways of life be guaranteed? To what extent can a variety of living provisions and community work offers strengthen inclusion (especially in the context of youth and elderly, people with disabilities, people with complex (mental) health needs, LGBTIQA+ persons, asylum seekers and refugees, and people of colour)?

2) Cross-sectional work on community health, strengthening caring communities

How can cross-sectional work in communities be strengthened and broadened, taking an interdisciplinary approach and including a broad variety of professional and civil society actors? Which kind of quality criteria can be developed in a participatory way? How can inclusive structures with relevance for the everyday life be built and maintained? How can actual living realities for marginalised and „vulnerable“ groups be improved.

3) Local implementation of migration and social policies

It is to be explored how local authorities do respond to the various needs of migrants and mobile persons, (temporally) living and/or working in their regions, and which divergences between local/regionals and national policy frames might occur. Furthermore, the role of NGOs and civil society movements as welfare mediators is to be elaborated on. Moreover, new tendencies in restricting welfare benefits for migrants and the link between residence rights and social benefits are to be discussed. The issue of access to benefits can also be applied to other social policy fields and groups with special needs.

4) Empowerment, Diversity and Transformative Justice in Carceral Spaces

What constitutes the intricate web of local implementation of national and regional regulations and social dynamics in carceral spaces? What are the bureaucratic and discursive mechanisms employed by local authorities, and what potential convergences and divergences exist between local or regional approaches and national policy frameworks within the prison system?



Practical information

We look forward to receiving your proposals for contributions. The proposal should not exceed 400 words. Please indicate under which of the four themes your contribution fits.

Please send us your proposal no later than **28 October 2024** to these mail address:

Peter Gramberg, p.j.gramberg@saxion.nl

Please indicate the subject 'Symposium Enschede' in your mail. Also if you have any further questions about the symposium, please contact Peter Gramberg.

We will inform you on 8 November whether the proposal has been accepted.

The programme will consist of a number of plenary lectures, discussions in working groups and a working visit to a local institution. The exact format will depend on the number of participants and will be announced later upon confirmation.

The symposium will start Tuesday 3 December at 9.30 am and will last until Wednesday 4 December 5 pm.

The symposium will be free for researchers from participating E³UDRES² partners. Participants can fund travel and accommodation costs through their own institution / through Erasmus+ funds. Costs for coffee/tea/lunch will be taken over by Saxion.

The most suitable hotel is the Intercity Hotel near the railway station and Saxion building: <https://www.visit-enschede.com/locations/intercityhotel-enschede>