



Africa Day

Amsterdam, 14th April 2018

FEPS Activity Report

FEPS

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FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN
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On 14 April 2018, the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) in cooperation with the Foundation Max van der Stoep (FMS) organised the yearly Afrikadag. The Afrikadag is the biggest event in the Netherlands on Africa and international cooperation. The overarching theme of this year was "*Change we can believe in!* The power of activism and citizens' initiatives in Africa". Citizens everywhere organise themselves to stand up for their interests. Where politics are often still traditional and closed, ordinary citizens succeed to penetrate to power and force change, in many areas, such as women's rights, children's rights, the environment, peace initiatives, economic rights, anti-corruption, etc., helped by social media and the enormous growth of youth.



Keynote speaker of the day was Moses Isooba, Head of Operations of the pan-African movement Africans Rising. This is a movement working for peace, justice and dignity. Focus points are the improvement of accountability and ending corruption, and freedom of expression. The second keynote speaker of the day was Tikhala Itaye, youth activist and involved in the SheDecides initiative that focuses on sexual and reproductive rights for (young) girls and women.

The primary objective of the Afrikadag was to increase the public support for international cooperation: without broad public support you cannot have political support, while this is needed to achieve real change with regard to international cooperation. The Afrikadag always manages to reach a relatively young, large and diverse audience. This year we had about 800 visitors, 200 speakers and organisers and some 100 volunteers present at the Afrikadag. The average age of the visitors was 44 years old. Due to heavy (social) media outreach, we were able to reach even more people than those

1,100. With the Afrikadag, FEPS and FMS tried to create a positive and realistic image of Dutch and European efforts in the field of international cooperation and Africa.

During the Afrikadag we had a total of 42 workshops, debates, lectures, interviews etc. including an extensive cultural programme. The majority of the workshops was organised by FEPS and FMS partner organisations, ranging from large NGOs to smaller private initiatives and student organisations. Besides, there were 25 organisations present at the information market. In total, 54 partner organisations took part in the Afrikadag 2018.

The reminder of this activity report gives a short outline of some of the major elements of the Afrikadag 2018.

Opening

The day was opened by the director of the FMS, Arjen Berkvens, after which the director of the KIT, Mark Schneiders, welcomed us all in the beautiful KIT, which is also the first SDG house in the world! Afterwards, the floor was given to Ernst Stetter, Secretary-General of FEPS and co-organisier of the day in collaboration with the FMS: "International cooperation is key for development and sustainability".



The theme of the day was of course 'new activism' and who can talk better about this than activists themselves? Led by the new editor-in-chief of OneWorld, Seada Nourhussen, activists Moses Isooba of Africans Rising and Tikhala Itaye talked about their activism. Collaboration is important, an "equal partnership". Or as Moses pointed it out: "We need to break down those barriers of protection". The diaspora is also being an important component.

Activism and the SDGs: a happy marriage?

After the opening, we talked with politicians, activist, and NGOs about the importance of activism within the new Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) agenda. Activist are crucial in the implementation of the new development goals, according to Sacha Gabizon of WECF. However, activist Justus from Nigeria added: "Africa needs a fast implementation of these goals." There is plenty of work to do!



There was also space for Dutch MPs to explain their priorities for the coming years. Anne Kuik (CDA - EPP) and Kirsten van den Hul (PvdA – S&D) were glad to use this moment to stipulate their vision on international development cooperation. Kuik emphasised that not the entire development cooperation budget should be set, but that there should be some room left, for example, emergency aid. Van den Hul talked about the term 'third world', which should be abandoned: "We are one world and equal". In a few weeks, the new policy of Minister Kaag (Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation) will be expected. We shall then see how hard they need to fight for their priorities.

Prioritising people and planet

In the past few months, progressive leaders from all over the world came together to ensure that globalisation will not only be positive, but also progressive! But how to achieve this? FEPS has drawn up some recommendations and discussed them during this edition of the Afrikadag. What kind of solutions are needed for worldwide challenges such as migration and climate change? Chair of the PvdA, Nelleke Vedelaar, stressed that it is important to get in touch with your constituency and their "real-life stories". Only then you can find the right answers. Other speakers included FEPS Secretary-General Ernst Stetter, André Gerrits and Fatima Elatik.



#SheDecides: "When she decides, she can have the life she deserves"

With the initiator Lilianne Ploumen (PvdA – S&D) and Tikhala Itaye present, SheDecides was an important topic during the Afrikadag! And it remains an important topic. During the opening Tikhala already emphasised that: "She has a 'he' in it, so men also need to be involved." Lilianne emphasised during another session that #SheDecides is not finished yet! Much work remains to be done. MP Kirsten van den Hul spoke a lovely column on the topic of SheDecides. [Check it out here.](#)

Albert Schweitzer Prijs 2018

On the Afrikadag 2018, the Albert Schweitzer Prijs 2018 was awarded to the best initiative to improve healthcare in Africa. The expert jury awarded the project of Iris and Milou, "A step to the future", with the prize of €5.000, which they will use to start their project. Besides, every single

Afrikladag visitor could vote for their favourite project. With a record number of votes, the project "Mothers on the move" was awarded the audience prize of €1.000!



Art of Resistance

Another successful event was the special edition of the iAfrica Festival. With dancers from The Lion King, art, and a masterclass by Vamba Sherif the afternoon became a spectacular event

MASSIF Fund, Migration, and much more...

Like every year, there were many workshops during the Afrikladag. FMO held an interesting session about the MASSIF Fund. Because: "If a country can feed itself, it's the first crucial step in the right direction". There were also different workshops on migration, and one of them was organised by the Greens/EFA in the European Parliament. With statements such as "relief in the region sounds like a political slogan, a political answer, but not a solution", and "legal migration as a bargaining chip for illegal migration through seasonal work", it was a solid but interesting debate.

The Afrikladag market was full and interactive with a photo booth, quizzes, competitions, and lots of information for everyone. Bookstore Athenaeum was present as always with amazing books on Africa and at the OneWorld stand you could get the newest edition of the OneWorld Magazine. Would you like to become a friend of OneWorld? Then you will receive this magazine monthly!

FEPS and FMS would like to thank all the visitors, partners, speakers, volunteers, musicians, artist and caterers for their contribution and participation in the Afrikladag 2018.