



## Summary

# Welcome to Leiden: a vision of the city's internationalisation

### **“Take advantage of the opportunities in an international society”**

Leiden is becoming increasingly international. We see this in the increase of diverse groups of internationals: knowledge workers, migrant workers, students and refugees. For centuries, Leiden has been an international city with residents from many different countries and cultures. This internationalisation is expected to continue. For us as a municipality, it means we need to take a different approach in several areas. This includes primary tasks like services, but also playing a stimulating and facilitating role.

Areas where we can optimally capitalise on the opportunities of internationalisation are in the social sphere, in which everyone is included, and in the economic field, where creating a good business climate improves everyone's welfare. This is because internationalisation offers opportunities for Leiden and all its residents due to the increasing number of international companies and conferences, the effects of this on welfare and well-being, as well as filling up sectors experiencing a tight labour market. This produces more jobs, for those with practical skills at secondary vocational education level (MBO) and for the more highly educated (higher professional education and university). Pursuant to the Municipal Executive Agreement 'Together we make the city', it is important here to ensure that everyone, including Leiden's international residents, feel included in our society and can continue to have a role to play. This makes Leiden an attractive (inter)national environment in which to live, work and study. It requires conscious decisions and initiatives by the municipality to take advantage of these opportunities.

This vision policy document shows that internationalisation has an impact on all policy areas. In this document, we show the direction the city wants to take.

In the coming years, we want to:

- Capitalise on opportunities with respect to internationalisation for the city and its partners.
- Work with partners from the city and the region to resolve problems.
- Attract national and international talent to Leiden, based on our profile as city of International Knowledge and Historic Culture.
- Focus on promoting internationalisation.

Policy areas identified as goals for the coming period:

**1. Integration and Meeting, including health and sport:**

- a. Obtain more insight into specific issues concerning internationals with respect to integration.
- b. Make improvements in the social city climate aimed at internationalisation.
- c. Identify social opportunities and take action to promote meetings between international and non-international residents of Leiden.
- d. Focus on the concept of being a Leiden resident among international visitors (from international conference-goers to migrant workers).

**2. Education:**

In 2019, ambitions, opportunities and tasks were formulated in the Leiden Educational Agenda, under International city. Prioritisation and implementation of this subject will need to be elaborated further.

**3. Knowledge and Economy:**

- a. Consult strategic partners about sustainable growth of the number of internationals.
- b. Use Human Capital/ attract talent particularly internationals in sectors experiencing a tight labour market (education, healthcare, construction, energytransition).

**4. Urban development and housing:**

Housing: investigate housing situation in relation to internationalisation.

**5. Services:**

- a. Adapt services to changing society (communication, KCC, website).
- b. Continued development of the Expat Centre: from ECL to International Centre Leiden

The vision has been adopted by the city council on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2020. An implementation plan will be drawn up for these goals, in which prioritisation and actions are formulated. Do you have questions concerning the city's vision about internationalisation? Please contact Laura Platte (policy advisor internationalisation) through [L.platte@leiden.nl](mailto:L.platte@leiden.nl).



**Leiden**