The functioning of the Platform for Ethnic Minority Parents in the Netherlands

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Abstract

In 2006, a beginning was made with the establishment of a national platform for ethnic minority parents and of local platforms for ethnic minority parents in thirty big cities in the Netherlands. The project is funded by the Ministry of Education, with the support of the national Dutch parents’ associations. The goal is to stimulate parental involvement and participation. To reach the ‘invisible’ minority parents, the project employs the ‘community-approach’ paradigm. In addition, various innovative approaches are introduced to stimulate minority parents and their networks to participate in schools and to implement a culture aiming at change. The platforms develop debates about the policy of community-empowered schools in which the schools’ pedagogical task is supported by other activities in the community.