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Conference announcement

On the 30th and 31st of January 2014, the First European Conference on Citizen Initiatives for Solidarity with the subtitle 'Mobilizing European Citizens for Global Development' will take place in Brussels. The conference is organized by a consortium of Belgian and Dutch organizations – among them NCDO, Wilde Ganzen, 11.11.11, HIVA-KU Leuven – whose focus is to facilitate, study or support efforts for Global Development. The conference venue is within walking distance from the Brussels railway station.

There are many ways in which European citizens contribute to Global Development. Most often through donations, fair trade purchases or online polls and petitions, but that's not all. European citizens also participate in volunteering and organizing own practical initiatives with the aim of supporting scale development interventions in the Global South. In that way, they put their personal and direct efforts into global development. The way in which such civil activity is labeled and organized differs from country to country. In some European countries such small citizen initiatives are simply part of the community. In other countries the nature and dynamics of these initiatives make them appear as a different brand.

With this First European Conference the organizers would like to bring about:

- A true European analysis and identification of the significance of citizen initiatives in development: who are they? How are they called or categorized? What do they do? Which extent do they bring about in the world of development? Are they supported by governmental funds or technical advice? Are they represented in the North-South forum?
- Networking and knowledge exchange among those who take an active interest in thriving grassroots initiatives on global development in their countries. We especially want to reach those who are studying, funding, assisting and advocating for such initiatives.
- Taking stock of the needs for better support, funding, representation and policy visions, and translating this stock-taking into a joint declaration.

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