



PRESS RELEASE  
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FLEMISH MINISTER FOR CULTURE, MEDIA, YOUTH AND BRUSSELS AFFAIRS  
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## FMDO wins Flemish Culture Award for Socio-Cultural Work for Adults 2013-2014

Today, the Flemish Minister for Culture Sven Gatz presented FMDO (Federation of Moroccan and Global Democratic Organisations) with the Flemish Community Award for Socio-Cultural Work for Adults 2013-2014. The jury praises FMDO for the quality assistance provided by the many volunteers, the board members and the loyal supporters, and for its vision on empowerment, community building and education. The presentation took place at the end of the *Trefdag Socius* in Mechelen, the study day of socio-cultural work for adults, which this year focused on the theme 'Solidarity?!'.

FMDO was established in 1995 as the Federation of Moroccan Democratic Organisations, a coordinating body of self-organisations bringing together people with a Moroccan background in the Brussels area. Almost twenty years later FMDO has evolved into a global organisation, counting more than 130 member organisations in Flanders and Brussels. With a small team of young passionate people FMDO organises professional and high-quality activities. The federation succeeds splendidly in reaching out to a large number of people and really making a difference. It knows what goes on inside associations and tries to guide, train and support people in a creative and qualitative manner.

FMDO has set up two projects to meet real needs of people with a different ethnic-cultural background. Through the project *Twee (t)huizen, één gids* (Two houses/homes, one guide) FMDO has trained intercultural city guides in Antwerp and Ostend, who share their own personal outlook on life in the city, seasoned with experiences from their countries of origin. Thanks to the project *Moeders Zonder Grenzen* (Mothers without Frontiers) women, as "educational ambassadors", offer information on education in their own mother tongue to (mainly) newcomers and their own network. For almost every project FMDO calls in the assistance of an extensive network of organisations, with cooperation being the absolute priority. As a result, one-off partnerships often develop into long-term partnerships.

Flemish Minister for Culture Sven Gatz said: "With catching enthusiasm and great commitment the founders and volunteers of FMDO achieve strong participation and involvement of ethnic-cultural minorities, with respect for each other's identity and individuality."

### *Trefdag Socius 2014*

*The presentation of the Flemish Culture Award took place at the conference and heritage centre Lamot in Mechelen at the end of the annual study day for professionals from the sector of socio-*

*cultural work for adults, organised by the support centre Socius. This year, the annual study day was dedicated to solidarity, a cutting-edge theme which is part of the sector's DNA so to speak. More information is available at: [www.socius.be](http://www.socius.be).*

#### **Flemish Culture Awards 2013-2014**

On the proposal of a jury of experts the Flemish Minister for Culture pays tribute to individuals or an organisation that in the course of the past season made a notable contribution to cultural life in Flanders. The Flemish Culture Awards create public awareness of the laureate at a major event in the sector, which generates attention and appreciation for both the sector and the winner. A cash prize of €12,500 is connected to the Culture Award. The Government of Flanders sets aside €20,000 for the Flemish Community Award for General Cultural Achievement. Each laureate receives the bronze statuette 'La ultima isla' by Philip Aguirre.

More information is available at: [www.cultuurprijzen.be](http://www.cultuurprijzen.be)