

Protecting your international investment. ACCESS-Amsterdam helps businesses get the most from foreign employees.

Amsterdam's international companies invest a great deal of time and money in the import of skilled foreign employees. While HR departments commonly use relocation companies to help their new arrivals with tasks such as finding accommodation and registering with the authorities, much needed support on a more personal level isn't usually provided.

For many expatriates, the reality of feeling settled is a complex and personal issue as both they and their partners need to adjust with many social and cultural factors. If this adjustment isn't comfortable their professional performance can suffer and they may even choose to return to their native country, thereby wasting the company's substantial relocation investment.

However, thanks to the ACCESS foundation, help is at hand. Formed 20 years ago to support the international community in The Netherlands, ACCESS is a not-for-profit organisation staffed by English-speaking expatriate volunteers who provide helplines, information resources, education and recreational courses, delivered with the empathy that only fellow migrants can offer. ACCESS picks up where the services of relocation companies end by advising clients on matters of a more personal nature such as choosing a doctor, a school, or even a lawyer. ACCESS also provides a means of social support for non-working partners whose psychological wellbeing is of as much concern to the relocated employee as their own issues.

ACCESS is able to work together with HR departments to complete the relocation package by providing its own welcome packs as well as human support in the form of a personal chat or informal group briefings. These resources can help ease the pressure on HR departments and foreign employees alike.

The Amsterdam Chamber of Commerce (Kamer van Koophandel) is pleased to support and promote the contribution ACCESS makes to the Amsterdam business community, and for that reason is hosting a reception to which heads of PR departments are invited to meet with ACCESS members to discuss how its services can be of help.

The reception will be held at the Amsterdam Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday 13th November from 15.00 till 18.00.

Mayor Job Cohen will give the keynote speech and attendees will have the opportunity to discover more about ACCESS and how it is also working together with the City of Amsterdam to improve communications with the international community. Drinks, a buffet and other entertainment will be provided.

Entrance is strictly by advance registration with ACCESS. To register for the event please contact ACCESS at events-amsterdam@access-nl.org as soon as possible. The ACCESS website is www.access-nl.org.