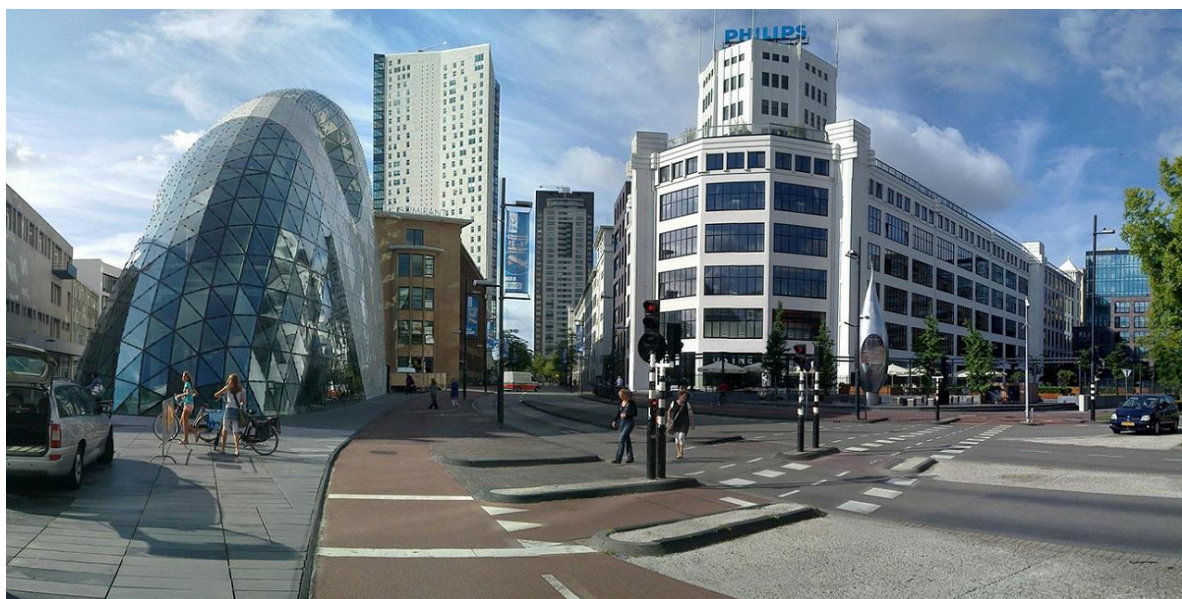


### **Background information for this webinar**

The region around the city of Eindhoven, in the South-east of the Netherlands is an exceptionally vibrant tech hotspot. Over 40% of the country's R&D budget is spend in this one region alone. Next to world leading big companies, the region is home to thousands of high-tech SME's and start-ups. The region boasts one of the highest patent densities worldwide.



This all would not be possible without the inflow of thousands of international researchers and engineers into the region. The region is home to some 23.000 international knowledge workers, from all over the world. A large part of these bring their families with them.

Eindhoven was a trendsetter when it comes to dual career and social integration services. Initially starting at the university, and rapidly being adopted and expanded by the region at large, a variety of support programs and activities was developed and implemented. To the level that you can no longer speak about 'well intended individual activities' anymore. Instead, a whole international ecosystem was created.

From early on, through their participation in different programs, accompanying spouses and partners play an increasingly important role in the region. Hence the theme of this webinar.

Where some managers and policy makers start frowning the moment 'accompanying spouses and partners' are being mentioned ('oh, yes: that problem'), we strongly believe that, when properly welcomed and supported, internationals spouses will actually be of added value to the region in which they settle.

In this webinar we will:

- Sketch the history of the support for the international researchers at the university
- Show how that was adopted by the region at large
- Present an overview of the spouse support programs
- Zoom in on the activities of the Expat Spouses Initiative
- Show you how, in turn, the spouses invest in the region in different manners.