

## Context: diversity & inclusion

The title of the Coehre conference 2022 is 'Urban Health: Inclusion and sustainability in super-diverse cities' is translated into this student program. Rotterdam is defined as a super-diverse city, also known as a majority-minority city, hosting more than 200 different nationalities. Ethnicity however is not the only factor that makes a city (super) diverse.

Diversity often leads to inequalities. The reduction of inequalities within and among countries is one of the 17 Social Development Goals (SDG's), adopted by the United Nations in 2015, as a call to action to ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

### ***SDG 10: Reduce inequalities within and among countries***

*Inequalities based on income, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, race, class, ethnicity, religion and opportunity continue to persist across the world. Inequality threatens long-term social and economic development, harms poverty reduction and destroys people's sense of fulfilment and self-worth (...). We cannot achieve sustainable development and make the planet better for all if people are excluded from the chance for a better life.*

Source: [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment)

'Leave no one behind' is the central promise of 2030 for SDG number 10. And this means: *"eradicate poverty, end discrimination and exclusion, and reduce the inequalities and vulnerabilities that leave people behind"* (UN, 2015). For the city of Rotterdam the promise 'Leave no one behind' means that everyone in this city feels at home: an inclusive city.

It's quite a challenge for a city with more than 200 different nationalities. And that is not the only difference: beliefs, sexual orientation, religion, culture, income and age are also aspects of this diverse population. Living together in a diverse city does not just happen. And to feel at home it's important that every resident is seen and heard.

*"Inclusiveness starts with awareness. If you're aware of who you are and what place you occupy in society, you can also see how others fit in. That's where the process towards an inclusive Rotterdam begins"* (Gemeente Rotterdam, 2019).

As a future health professional you work with clients with different backgrounds. Understanding your clients start with listening and showing intercultural sensitivity. This will be your first step towards the prevention of exclusion and creating an inclusive environment in a (super)diverse city.