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Migrant Organizing Dynamics and Transnational Links: The Capeverdeans in Lisbon and Rotterdam

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Conceptual Framework

Hypothesis:
- Link between social capital and political engagement
- The nature of ethnic civic communities is an important predictor of political participation (Fennema and Tillie, 2001)
Capeverdean Settlement Patterns in the Region of Lisbon

- Oldest group of labour migrants in Portugal (1960’s)
- Total population 22,000 in the Metro Lisbon (20% of the total foreign population)
- High concentration in the first metropolitan ring (North Bank - Amadora, Oeiras, Loures and Sintra)
Settlement Patterns and Socio-demographic position of Capeverdeans in Rotterdam

- Around 15,000 people with Cape Verdean background (reduced level of new entries – stabilization/soft increase trends)
- Settlement 1950’s onwards
- Workers in shipyards, sailors
- Low ranks of the labour market
- Lower levels of education and job qualifications among first and second generations
Capeverdean Residential Patterns in Rotterdam

% Centro

Quociente de Localização

- 0.00 - 0.30
- 0.31 - 0.60
- 0.61 - 1.00
- 1.10 - 1.50
- 1.51 - 3.00
- 3.10 - 6.00
- > 6

% em Roterdão: 7.33
% máx.: 28.69
% mín.: 0.41
## Organizing dynamics in the Region of Lisbon and in Rotterdam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Lisbon Region</strong></th>
<th><strong>Rotterdam</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 organizations interviewed</td>
<td>75 organizations interviewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational density 2.06 per 1000 Capeverdean residents</td>
<td>Organizational density 4.99 per 1000 Capeverdean Residents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boom of associations in the 1980s and 1990s</td>
<td>Boom of associations in the 1990s – recomposition process</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Types of Organizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lisbon</th>
<th>Rotterdam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diversified</td>
<td>Highly diversified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50% social welfare</td>
<td>27% sports organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14% Immigrant interest</td>
<td>17% homeland-oriented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14% Culture</td>
<td>13% culture</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Intra-organizational networks

Lisbon
- Inexistence of overlapping board membership
- Inexistence of formal umbrella associations
- Higher levels of contacts than of collaborations

Rotterdam
- 39% of organizations have interlocking directorates
- Umbrella associations
- Higher level of contacts than of collaborations
## Inter-organizational networks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lisbon</th>
<th>Rotterdam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Most contacted organizations:</strong></td>
<td><strong>NGOs</strong></td>
<td><strong>Social institutions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Political parties</strong></td>
<td><strong>Neighbourhood organizations</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>High Commissioner for Immigration</strong></td>
<td><strong>Average number of contacts 11</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Average number of contacts 8</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Transnational Networks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Rotterdam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- 64% of the organizations have linkages with homeland organizations and diaspora organizations</td>
<td>- Overwhelming majority (75%) has linkages with the homeland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Close links with homeland local organizations, political leaders, political parties</td>
<td>- Close links with homeland local organizations, political leaders</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Political Participation

Lisbon
- 75% of the organizations are not involved in protest activities

Major Issues
- Citizenship rights
- Immigration and Integration policies

Rotterdam
- 94% of the organizations are not involved in protest activities

Major issues
- Housing
- Heritage cultural rights
- Racial harassment
Political Participation

Lisbon Region
- Low level of political involvement in receiving country

Rotterdam
- Higher level of political involvement in receiving and homeland politics
Transnational Practices

New Dynamics
- Wider scope of Intervention
- Institutionalization
- New Social Actors
- Identity Politics
Concluding remarks

Types

- Lisbon social services and culture organizations
- Rotterdam – sports, culture and home solidarity organizations /umbrella
Concluding remarks

- Low density of inter-organizational networks
- Higher density of intra-organizational networks
- Nodal associations (highest density of intra and inter-organizational networks)
- Transnational links 1: Home-orientation does not seem to weaken with second and third generations
- Transnational links 2: Home-orientation and origin country development support seem to be more present in the Rotterdam organizations. However, few organizations are actively involved in this kind of activities.
- Transnational links 3: Relevance of transnational activities involving members of several places of the “CapeVerdean Migratory Archipelago”, both political and socio-cultural
Concluding remarks

- Overall tendency to non-confrontational forms of claims-making
- Nodal associations (higher level of political participation)