

# The Hague International Centre timeline

**2002** – The **International Corner** was set-up in the Information Centre of The Hague.

**2003** – The first hospitality/expat centre in the Netherlands

The International Corner became **The Hague Hospitality Centre** – a welcome desk offering information about the city to international media, visiting diplomats and visitors. This was an initiative of Willem Post (from the Department of International Affairs at the Municipality of The Hague), who brought the idea back from his travels to the United States.

**2006** – Renamed **Xpat Desk**

The Hague Hospitality Centre moved to the space that we currently occupy and was renamed the Xpat Desk.

Then Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende officiated at the opening.

There was a dedicated team to attend to all walk-in visitors, and ACCESS\* joined as a partner to help the international community with settling-in.

*\* The Hague was one of the first municipalities in the Netherlands to partner with ACCESS. ACCESS is a not-for-profit volunteer organisation that serves the needs and interests of the international community. They provide support, information, and guidance to cope with the challenges of expatriate living.*

**2006** – The Municipality of The Hague hosted the first Feel at Home in The Hague Fair, organised by TheHagueOnLine and ACCESS.

**2007** – Welcome to The Hague tour was developed to help bridge the gap between the local and international community.

**2010** – 29 November 2010, Relunched as **The Hague International Centre**

The Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) desk was incorporated in the Centre, enabling us to offer a one-stop-shop concept to facilitate a fast-tracked immigration process (municipal registration (BRP), issuance of citizen service number (BSN), residence permit, and work permit) for expats.

A conscious decision to focus on English-language communications in order to reach a wider international audience.

**2013** – The Municipality of Delft and Leidschendam-Voorburg started working with The Hague International Centre.

**2014** – The Municipality of Rijswijk started working with The Hague International Centre.

**2016** – The Municipality of Wassenaar started working with The Hague International Centre.

**2018** – Launch of new branding with new website, online registration tool and social media channels.

**2019** – Launch of Partnership programme CONNECT seminars and Welcome book.

Highest annual registration of internationals – almost 5,000!

**2020** – We have welcomed more than 50,000 international newcomers through The Hague International Centre.