

RESEARCH ON MIGRANT HOUSING

How migrants are housed has a significant impact on integration. WUR professor of Development Economics Nico Heerink will be investigating the effects of housing in collaboration with his Chinese partners from Nanjing Agricultural University.

‘In the Netherlands, we are mainly focusing on the integration of seasonal labourers, migrant workers and refugees,’ says Heerink. ‘In China, the key issue is domestic migration from rural areas to urban centres — that involves over 240 million people, primarily temporary migrant workers. These migrants often live close to their work or in designated districts.’

Heerink says this method of housing hampers integration, which, in turn, leads to segregation, unemployment, poverty, addiction and crime. ‘The research is partly a survey. Our researchers will also study the effects of innovative housing programmes. In the Neth-

erlands, there have been pilot projects where refugees are housed with Dutch residents in a single apartment block.’

The research is funded by the Dutch Research Council (NWO), which provided one million euros from the Merian Fund. The Chinese research council contributed 520,000 euros. **® RK**



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