Inspectorate of Education
Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

An introduction to The Hague

SICI 30th General Assembly 19 november 2025

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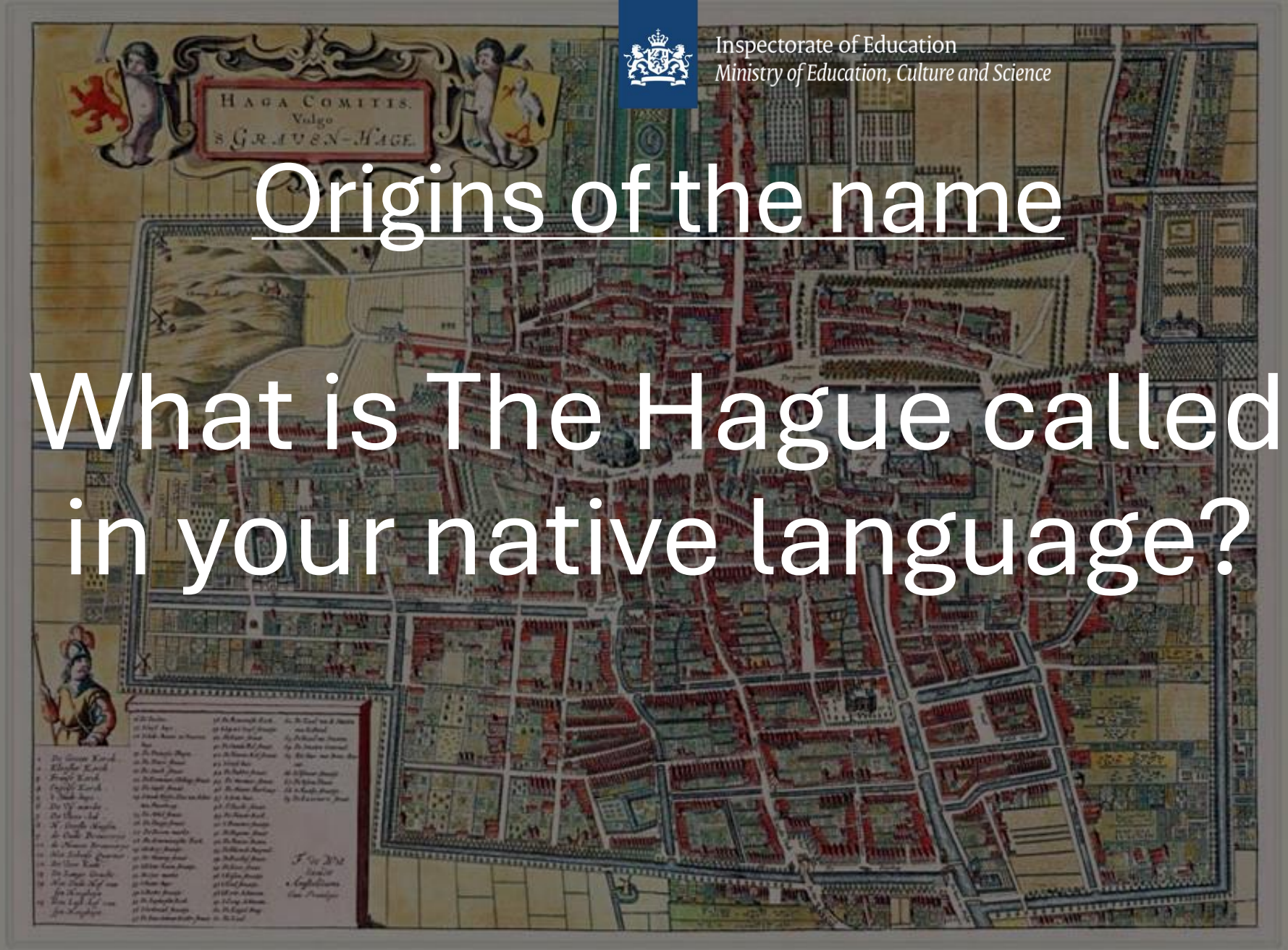
The City of The Hague

- 3rd city of the Netherlands with 570.000 inhabitants
- Seat of the Dutch government
- The Hague was not an official city until Napoleon



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Origins of the name

What is The Hague called in your native language?

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Origins of the name

- In Dutch: Den Haag
- ‘s-Gravenhage
- Name goes back to the 13th century: Die Haga

Meaning: “The count’s hedge / the count’s hunting area

The Hague: heart of Dutch government for over 500 years

- The Binnenhof is the oldest parliamentary complex in the world still in use
- Started as residence to the count of Holland in the 13th century
- Home to the government of the Dutch Republic in 1584
- Many different functions over the centuries
- Currently undergoing heavy renovation work

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The Hague today: an informal capital

- Every Dutch ministry is based in The Hague
- The Dutch Inspection of Education is **not** based in The Hague, but in Utrecht
- Ministry of Education is the 3rd highest building in the city at 142 metres.
- Home to six (former) royal palaces and residences of the Royal Family.

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The Hague today: international city of justice and peace

- Home to more than 150 international organizations and 110 embassies
- International Court of Justice – Solving conflicts between countries
- International Criminal Court – Deals with war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity by individuals.
- Tribunals for Rwanda and former Yugoslavia

The Hague today: Bikes

- More than 400 kilometers of cycling paths in The Hague
- Everyone cycles

The Hague today: Bikes

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The Hague today: Bikes

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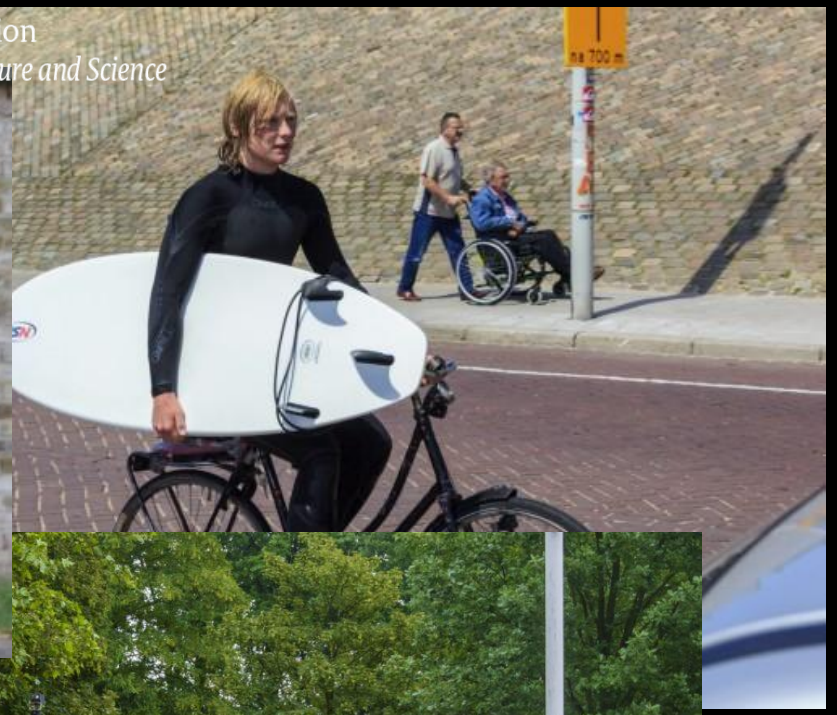

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The Hague today: cultural highlights

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highlights

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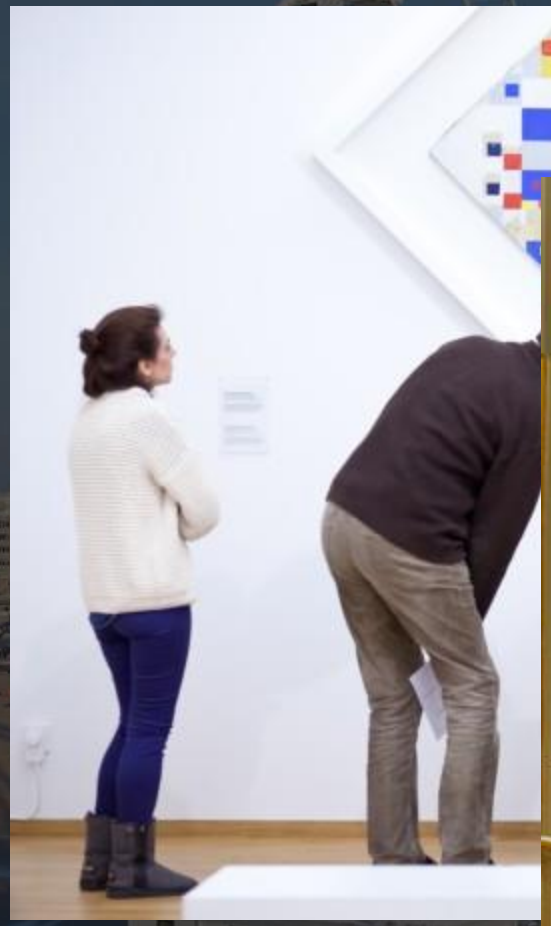
highlights



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highlights

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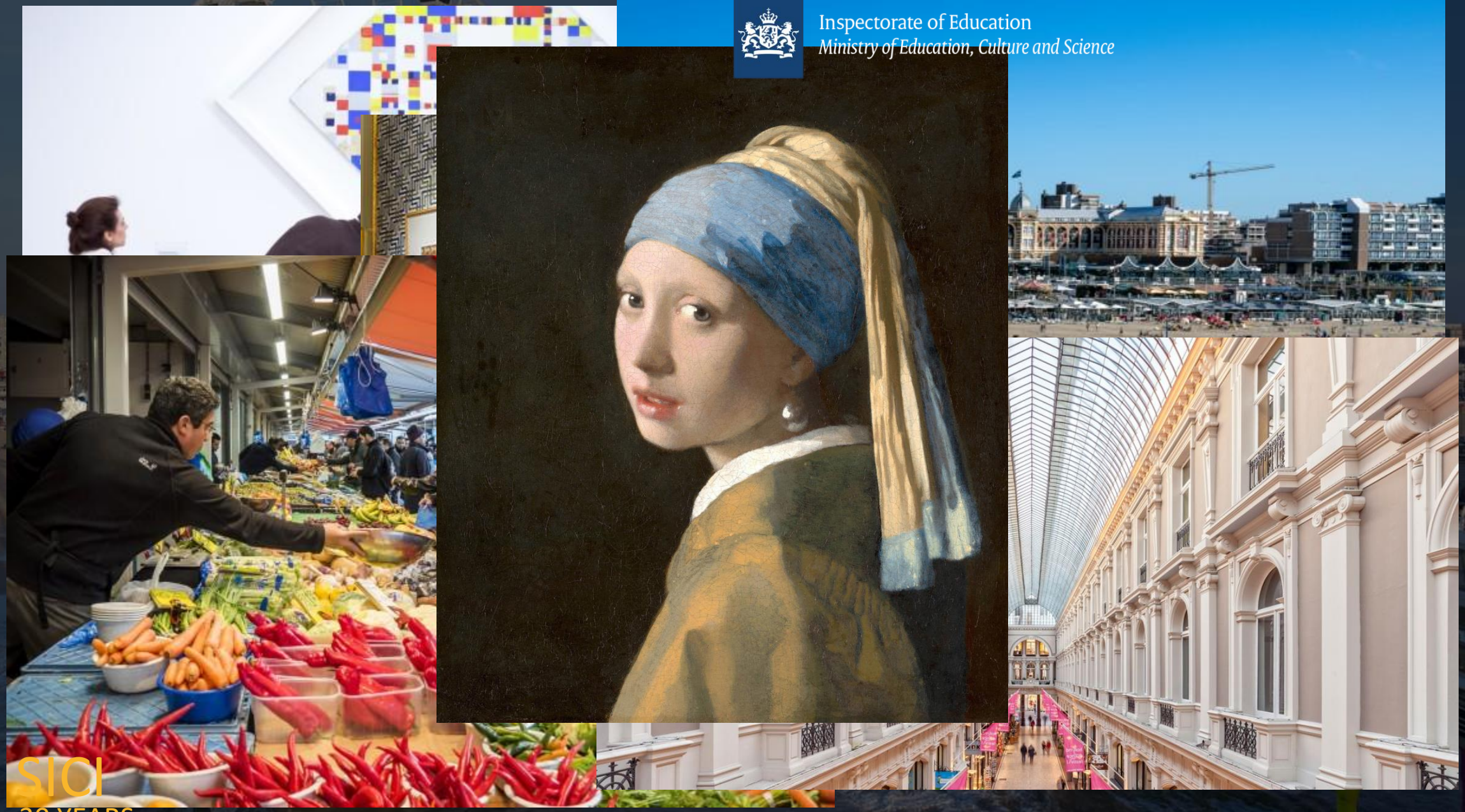

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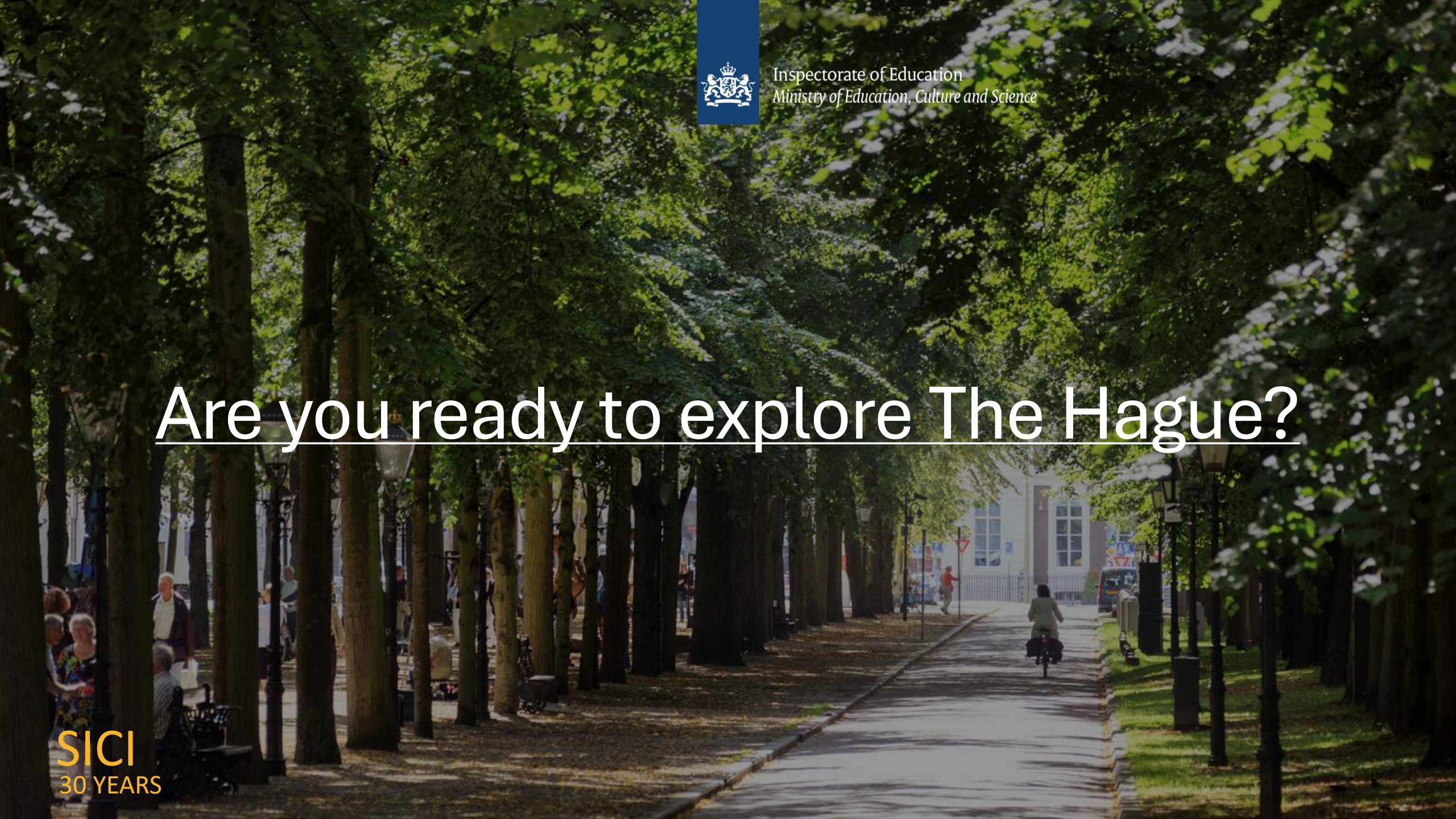

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Are you ready to explore The Hague?

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