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Biography

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René Spitz, born on 30 July 1955 in Maastricht, the Netherlands, has twenty five years of work experience with the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IOM and UNHCR regarding refugee, human rights, asylum, migration and development issues. He worked as protection officer, program manager and policy officer both in the Netherlands as well as in the Middle East (Syria) and Africa (Cameroon and Angola). He was posted from 2004 until 2009 at the Netherlands embassy in Damascus, Syria.

He has a master's degree in Social Sciences from the Tilburg University (1982) and in Politics and Development Studies from the International Institute of Social Studies in The Hague (1984). René Spitz has been accepted in 2008 as external PhD-student by the Leiden University with a research proposal on 'state-civil society relations in Syria. EU good governance assistance in an authoritarian state'.

René Spitz is currently posted at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague as Coordinator Migration and Development/Deputy Head of the Migration and Asylum Division.