



## Future2work<sup>2</sup>

### “Work buddies” acting as a link between residents of reception centres and the labour market

**Fedasil** - the Belgian Federal agency for the reception of asylum seekers – supports (both with own resources and AMIF funding) several projects aimed at labour integration of asylum seekers. Future2work<sup>2</sup> is one of these projects.

**Stebo** (social organization) and **Randstad RiseSmart** (more commercial view) work together within the Future2Work<sup>2</sup> project. The project is operational in 4 reception centres in the Belgian province of Limburg. In each centre 2 ‘work buddies’ are present every week. These work buddies are **professional employment coaches** from both Stebo and Randstad Risemart. They have a linking function between the reception centre and its residents on the one hand, and a network of employers, employment agencies and intermediary organisations on the other.

Through a personalised approach and the dynamic use of methodologies depending on the person and their situation, this project seeks to bring asylum seekers closer to the labour market. **It's not just about matchmaking.** Efforts are made to strengthen their resilience and autonomy. In concrete terms, this means working on preconditions, competence and cultural awareness, orientation, training, job market exploration, job application training, work experience, etc. In addition to reaching and activating asylum seekers through outreach work and familiarising them with the Belgian labour market, they are seeking cooperation with employers and giving them an insight into the practical obstacles faced by this group of potential employees and working in a complementary way to existing services.

The work buddies activate, coach & support residents from the reception centres in all phases of their journey to work. Of course, work buddies do not do this alone. All activities involve collaboration with existing local initiatives inside and outside the reception centres.

**More info:** <https://stebo.be/partners/projecten-realisaties/future2work-2/>

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