

Plan Einstein, a model for asylumshelter



Asylumcrisis 2015/16

..... protesting at information meetings

- Asylumseekers get shelter, care, finance, etc
- People in Overvecht: we too are in need of housing, work, safety
- Images of protesting people in other countries and places in NL



Change of plans

- Discussions in small groups and really listen to what the people of Overvecht need.
- Diverse disciplines and experts by experience in dialogue with the people from the neighbourhood.



Change of Plans

made possible by EU – urban innovative actions (URLP)

- Change the ‘intruder’ to a present (added value to the neighbourhood)
- Listen to the direct neighbourhood needs and fears
 - Smaller shelter (600 → 400 refugees)
 - Housing for (dedicated) neighbourhood youngsters
- Create a common language -> Free English classes for all
- Free entrepreneurship classes for all
- Free social activities for all
- Free open welcoming space

- Group- and one-to-one activities

- Living together, learning together, working together



Living together, learning together, working together

- Activate from day 1 (personal development)
 - Inclusive
 - Future proof
 - Ongoing line
-
- Important:
 - Find a common denominator for activities in which the neighbourhood and the refugees are interested
 - Free open space
 - Level playingfield
 - 'Weak ties'



Eind 2018



Plan Einstein redefined



- Pillars
 - **Spaces for meeting** (free open space, mixed living, common living environment)
 - **Building social network** (through activities/courses/work, mixed living)
 - **Personal development** (through activities/courses/work)
- Principles
 - **Future free**
 - **Innovation and transfer of knowlegde**

Ecosystem of organisations

Locations near the shelter and in the city



Plan Einstein Pahud

- Start proces early 2022
 - Mixed housing
 - Free open space
 - Activities for refugees and neighbourhood
- February 2023 first residents arrive
 - Activity program starts
 - **More emphasis on 'work'**
 - **Jobhunter since october 2023**
 - **Together with COA**



Partners Plan Einstein – Utrecht eg:

- Stichting tijdelijk wonen – temporary living
- Refugee Council – interviews, courses like Mindfit
- Welkom in Utrecht – activities, coordination of Utrecht initiatives and matching to refugees
- **Social Impact Factory – coaching, company visits, create your career events**
- **University of Applied Sciences / Utrecht University – computercourses (InclUUsion), course entrepreneurship, monitoring Plan Einstein**
- **New Dutch Connections – matching to businesses (e.g. Deloitte, Accenture, Arcadis, Camas IT), empowerment**
- **Build your own future – courses entrepreneurship / working skills, courses for women and young people**
- Volksuniversiteit Utrecht – **Business English**
- StuT – theatre workshops, Radio Einstein (podcast)
- Eet Mee – connecting refugees and Utrecht residents though dining together
- De Voorkamer – **Artisan courses (bike repair, wood /metal course)**, creative workshops, music, language cafe
- Het Wilde Westen – cooking together, music, dance
- De Buitenkamer - gardening

Plan Einstein

asylumseekers & work

- **Intake, orientationphase, developmentphase, work**
- But, it is not a linear proces
- Asylumseekers - group consisting of diverse people
- Diversity of activities is needed, and time is needed
- Diverse organisations are needed for asylumseekers to take the next step





**TOEKOMST
ACADEMIE**





BUILD YOUR OWN FUTURE

Turning ideas into
business or work



Questions?



More information?

l.maats@utrecht.nl -Liesbeth Maats – policyadvisor municipality of Utrecht

planeinstein@vluchtelingenwerk.nl

<https://plan-einstein.nl/>

<https://welkominutrecht.nu/>

<https://www.uia-initiative.eu/en/operational-challenges/utrecht-urip>

Short documentaries:

- [Breaking down barriers between locals and refugees in Utrecht | Euronews](#)
- [Road Trip Project / Plan Einstein, Utrecht, The Netherlands - YouTube](#)

