

'Proefwonen' (BE)

Facilitating access to social rented housing for people with disabilities and/or mental health needs

Van Puyenbroeck, J., Vranken, B., Mettens, K., Vandergucht, A., Naessens, L. , & Schrooten, M.
Research Group Social Work, Odisee University College, Brussels

Workshop: New Models for community based living, ZERO project conference Vienna 2015

Why?

- Waiting lists for **social rented housing** in Belgium (Flanders region)
- support need is **not a criterion** to speed up regular allocation of a social rented house
- Little options to “**try out**” independent living
- Social Housing providers are faced with **vulnerable clients**, but don't have enough means to support them , are seeking **collaboration** with care providers.

Whereto?

- Organisation/legislation
 - Facilitate the **access** to social rented housing for people with intellectual disabilities and/or mental health needs
 - better **co-operation** between providers of social rented housing services and care/support services
 - explore **legal barriers** in this cooperation
- People with disabilities/mental health needs
 - to find **affordable** housing
 - to (learn to) live **independently** and
 - to be a **responsible** tenant

How does the service you provide facilitate independent living and social inclusion of your target group?

- Person centered planning: after a process of exploring the housing and support needs, a **care provider** can register their client for **social rented housing** and **legally bypass the normal waiting list**
- **Accepting support during social renting** is a condition to participate in this program
- Local, intersectoral steering committee: **matches** clients/candidates to specially **reserved** houses, fully integrated in the community (7% of total patrimonium)
- **Integrated** care: housing and support services in contact with each other
- **Temporary** character: program support can evolve to regular support, can be consensually but also one-sidedly terminated.
- **Evaluation:** high succes rate and client satisfaction

What are some of the challenges you have had to deal with, or that you are still dealing with, and how are you addressing them?

- **Legal aspects**
 - Rally local **political support** for **positive discrimination** of people with disabilities/mental health needs
 - the **obligatory condition** of accepting support for social renting
- Local scale → challenge to embed the project on a **(supra-) local scale**
- Matching demand and supply of houses at the right time
- Anonymity and confidentiality as a matter of **deontology** and community building

Contact

Research: Mieke.Schrooten@odisee.be, Joris.Vanpuyenbroeck@odisee.be

Social rented housing provider: info@wpz.be

Local authority: info@woonwinkelzennevallei.be, info@halle.be

Regional authority: anne.vandergucht@wvg.vlaanderen.be

