

Municipality of Utrecht:  
**Agreement in the Netherlands on undocumented migrants:  
results after two year**



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Gemeente Utrecht

[Utrecht.nl](http://Utrecht.nl)

In which country is this?



- 2002 but can be any year somewhere in Europe



## Situation Utrecht in the winter 2017

- **Sleeping rough in the Utrecht forest area**



## Basic Principles Local Utrecht Policy

- **Human Rights Treaties:**
- European Convention on Human Rights
- International Convention on the Rights of the Child
- European Committee of Social Rights
- Necessary care and shelter to vulnerable undocumented within the municipality
- Public order competence Mayor



## Policy Objectives Utrecht Migrant Policy

**Objective:** to prevent and reduce illegal stay in the Netherlands

### The result is:

- either a residence permit and integrate in Utrecht through coaching to education and work
- or “reconnection” to the country of origin
- homelessness and rough sleeping on the street is not the solution, but part of the problem



## What are the strategic implications?

- Litigation based on human rights conventions: European Social Charter, UN convention Right of the child
- Winning by losing strategy for undocumented families with children
- Vulnerable undocumented migrants is main focus, not every service for all
- Coalition of municipalities, national and international (Eurocities, C-MISE), NGO's and scientific community



## Utrecht policy undocumented migrants

### **Solution oriented and pragmatic:**

1. Profesional guidance is essential
2. Support Centre Perspective for former Unaccompanied Minors and medical shelter (PTSD)
3. Emergency shelter rejected asylum seekers Utrecht offers shelter to 235 undocumented migrants
4. EU migrants successful approach Polish organization Barka





## What are the results in Utrecht?

Total results 2002- 2019: **92% solution rate:**

- 59% legalized and integration in Utrecht society
- 19% reconnected to countries of origin
- 13% again right for shelter in national asylumcentres
- 8% lost to illegal stay



## Agreement local and national government november 2018

- Most undocumented in shelter Utrecht are future citizens we want to activate as soon as possible and integrate after legalizing their stay. Results are a key factor.
- An agreement (september 2018) and cooperation between 5 municipalities and national government for 3 years based on local experience and is paid 70% by national government (42.5)
- Professional guidance combined with shelter, care and activation for mainly former refugees. National government agencies have to work together with NGO's and NGO's are in charge of the individual cases
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## Results Utrecht and 5 pilots april 2019 till november 2020

| Results   | Utrecht<br>20% total | 5 pilots   |
|---|----------------------|------------|
| Residence permit (incl. families)               | 41                   | 72         |
| National shelter with new promising application | 53                   | 190        |
| Reconnection/return to country of origin        | 6                    | 61         |
| With Unknown Destination                        | 10                   | 102        |
| Medical shelter                                 | 14                   | 30         |
| Shelter stopped                                 | 7                    | 84         |
| Other solution                                  | 7                    | 32         |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>131</b>           | <b>571</b> |



## Preliminary results

- After many years of opposite views NGO's, Local and national government positive gain in understanding each other
- Need to muster perseverance with immigration agencies.
- One year extension (2022) of the pilot to bring more results in Covid 19 circumstances and after that a long standing agreement 2023 will be negotiated
- The succesfactor is local approach close to the migrants with an trustworthy relationship with NGO's and working together with national agencies

