



CURANT

Cohousing and case management for
Unaccompanied young adult Refugees in
ANTwerp

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EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund



Overview

1. The project: CURANT
2. Case management
3. Cohousing
4. Conclusion



CURANT: Cohousing and case management for Unaccompanied young adult Refugees in ANTwerp

Unaccompanied young adult refugees: Countries or origin (top 3 in 2016): Afghanistan, Guinee, Syria, mainly boys, # UMRs in 2015: 3.099 and 1.076 in 2016

Problem: Lack of adequate support

1. Housing problems
2. Unclear future perspective
3. Lack of supportive networks (formal & informal)

'Vulnerable' condition (multilayered status) yet 'resilient' individuals

Project partners



Antwerp Public Centre
for Social Welfare



Social-cultural NGO for civic
education and participation of
adults



Experimental urban youth
organisation, in
Antwerp/Ghent/Brussels



Antwerp agency for
integration of
newcomers



Diagnostic and therapeutic support
to migrant and refugee children



| Intervention Actions & Objectives

1. Refugees:

- Decent & affordable housing
- Cohabitation with a local flatmate (“buddy”)
- Tailored, centralized professional support (‘case management’)

*Goal: empowerment of 75 up to 135 young adult refugees (18-21)
more skills, diverse & enlarged social networks, social
participation in society → more independent*

Intervention Actions & Objectives

2. Buddy's:

- Training and support

Goal: increasing intercultural competences

3. Stakeholders:

- Training
- Case management

Goal: increasing cooperation and expertise on unaccompanied young adult refugees



Unaccompanied
young adult refugee
(17-22 years)

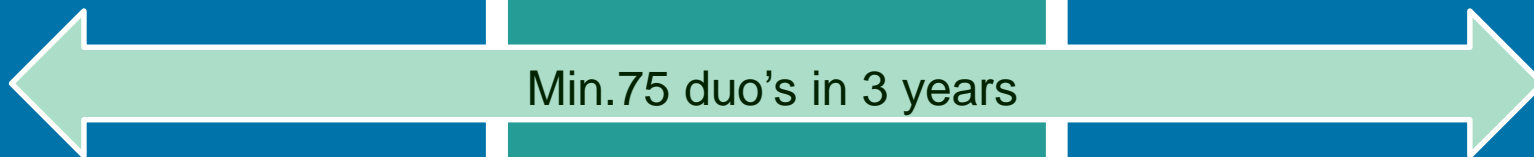


Share:

- living room
- kitchen
- Bathroom



Young volunteer
'buddy'
(20-30 years)



Min.75 duo's in 3 years

One-2-one integration

Evaluation Study

Researchers: Rilke Mahieu, Stiene Ravn, David Corradi

Supervisors: Chris Timmerman, Noel Clycq

Mixed-method, longitudinal & multi-perspective (refugees, buddy's and stakeholders) design

- *Interviews*: refugees, buddies, CURANT team members
- *Observations*: project activities, project meetings
- *Survey*: buddy's, refugees
- *Additional data*: Intake forms and notes (refugees and buddies), Trajectories, Documentation of case meetings (on individual refugees), Administrative client data of OCMW, Dutch language tests

Tailored, centralized professional support

1. Individual follow-up and assistance
2. Self-knowledge
3. Well-being: psychological counseling, housing
4. General skills and knowledge

Enable young refugees to make sound study and future choices, enabling pursue their educational/professional goals



Cohousing with a buddy: opportunities for support

Various types of support to the refugee

- **Practical support to the refugee:** administration, practicalities, translation, school, ...
- **Emotional support to the refugee:** listening, empathy, companionship, reducing loneliness,
- Broadening **social networks**

Cohousing with a buddy: opportunities for learning



The communal living space as a real-world learning environment

- **Language learning:** practice language in everyday context (with a willing, patient, familiar person, safe environment)
- Learning about receiving country society formal regulations and rules
- **Two-way learning about culture:** observing and exchanging about cultural habits, values and world views (e.g. food, religion, ...)
- Changing perceptions about refugees
- **Buddy as a role model:** Learning by observation: attitude, ... how does the other person handle certain issues?

Final remarks

1. Need for holistic approach to needs of young adult unaccompanied refugees
2. Include non-formal learning contexts

More information:

<http://www.uia-initiative.eu/en/uia-cities/antwerp> (ENG)

<https://www.antwerpen.be/nl/overzicht/cohousing-curant-1>
(NL)

https://www.uantwerpen.be/images/uantwerpen/container2459/files/CURANT_Groundwork_for_evaluation_and_literature_study_2017.pdf (ENG)

