

Foundation The Rainbow Group

Our Mission

Foundation The Rainbow Group (FRG) is a NGO committed to people with social problems, the homeless, drug-users and those with psychiatric problems. The organization provides shelter, relief and aid, drug consumption rooms, occupational therapy and work and reintegration projects. We help prevent social isolation through buddy-projects and we support marginalized people to take an active role in society. Empowerment and participation of clients are keywords in all our activities. We are in it together!

The organization employs more than 150 professionals and works with 650 volunteers. The FRB has 9 drop-in centers all over Amsterdam, 4 drug consumption rooms and 2 needle exchange programs, where more than 97.000 syringes have been exchanged in 2010.

FRG has a low threshold approach, hands on mentality and a lot of experience in harm reduction and involving target groups at all stages of service provision.

Activation

Clients can participate in different work and activation projects run by the Foundation Rainbow Group. Activation is important for our clients and helps them to structure their day and to get a better grip on life. Being able to contribute to society is an essential part of empowerment. Therefore FRG has developed a wide range of different working projects, from a bicycle workshop and art studio to a small restaurant in a former farm.

The aim of reintegration for risk groups in Amsterdam:

Centrally in the re-integration policy of Amsterdam the main point stands: 'work is the aim, participate the norm'. Which ambition certainly also applies to the (drug)addict clients and clients with mental problems. Also if outflow is not paid work immediately or seems a feasible option, Amsterdam wants to stimulate these clients as much as possible to participate actively.

Main point thereby is that clients are stimulated, as much as possible on own strength, to use all the possibilities which are available in the city. As far as they cannot function on own strength in the society, they can count on the required commitment of the community. Especially when the client is counted to the risk groups. Thereby it is in thought of the imminent risk on of sliding down to social isolation or alienation of the society, or that the person will form a risk for itself or is/its surroundings (for example in the form of nuisance).

For customers with a benefit and without perspective on work and who are part to the risk group, is the re-integration policy a bit of a exception. The commitment of instruments and resources does not have to lead these clients in the sign of outflow to paid work. For them the social service can continue paying for the participation to forms of dayspending from its re-integrationgoals

Activation within the Rainbow Group:

For several years the Rainbow has put dozens of projects in to activate people. As a result, they participate in the society. Clients work at a silversmith, bicycles workshop, make art and much much more. And not unimportant, they keep their own shelter running: Together with the volunteers and staff they clean, cook, buy the grocery etc. In this way they help with keeping the costs low.

But that is the outside of the story. What means activation for real? Imagine yourself: you lead your life without aim, for years, on the street. When you participate in one of the projects suddenly you are expected, at a fixed time, at a fixed location. To work. To make beautiful things, or practically busy to be. You provide to a contribution to something what is larger than your life only. You belong somewhere. You arrive in a structure, which offers a first grip.

In this way activation is a source of growing self-confidence. The frustration concerning what is goes wrong in your life, decreases. The use of alcohol and narcotics frequently also. And for the society nuisance there is less, because clients work during the day and are less in contact with the seductions of the street.

That is exact what gladly sees the Rainbow Group. Activation as a time point. The problems no longer pile up themselves, the downward spiral is bent. Hereby advantages come together. For a single people, but in fact for our all.

Method:

The clientgroup are people with very poor job prospects. The guiding in activationprograms of this group asks for a special treatment. For this reason we work according to supported employment, a method that focuses on the reintegration process

This method has his focus specific at the reintegration process, completed with the rehabilitation approach. Supported Employment have been in the first place intended for people with a multi problems and comes from the US. It has been developed with the thought that having a job is good. The method works it focuses on the potential of people and not the impossibilities due to illness or addiction

The skills, knowledge and attitude are used for the clients to learn handle its restrictions. The negotiation process (between care worker and client) is at issue. The client becomes a full negotiation partner and feels that he must take responsibility for the decisions and the consequences, and must learn carry those. The client is rehabilitated as a citizen and loses his role as a patient.

At Supported Employment the client is supported during the work by a workcoach. The method is targeted on that and the workcoach will stand beside the client. He helps the client true society and stimulates participation, Provides him with feedback and where necessary support.

The working method aims at the question of the client What are the client his wishes and aims? Which possibilities and skills are present and which are needed to reach the eventual aim?

The five steps to reach durable reintegration

1. exploring the wishes
2. orientation for appropriate day spending
3. analysing the activities and the workplace
4. linking the workplace and the client
5. accompanying on the workplace and setting up coaching plans

Cooperation in the field of reintegration and participation:

Hi5 is a coalition between several institutions in Amsterdam who are committed to homeless, drug addicts and people with mental problems. The last five years the Rainbow and the coalition have offered more than 100 work projects. The offer is very diverse so that there are possibilities for every client. Sweep the streets, cooperate in a dayshelter, bicycles making, cooking, cooperate in the catering industry, distribution, printing, silversmiths workshops etc. Irrespective of the problems of the client there is always something possible for them. Even for the active chronic drug addicts we have possibilities.

These work projects, called Hi5, are available for chronic psychiatry clients, homeless and drug addicts

For our clientgroup small-scale projects offer the best solution: in protecting and supporting surroundings a broad scale to activities is available. Expressly it is also looked at where possible running through within the connected projects.

RESULTS work and activation Service finances work and income Hi5-dayparts for the customers who sit in a route.

| | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number of dayparts 1) | 19.293 | 15.705 | 8.500 | - |
| unique participants | 197 | 182 | 100 | 65 |

1) A day parts stands for 4 hours.

In 2010, within the Hi5 coalition there were in sum 706 persons active.

Some activation programs offers clients who cant be in a route (because they dont have any rights for instance) a way to spend there day meaningful. The Rainbow Groep organises several day spending activities. Some are financed by the municipality Amsterdam. Some are financed with fundraising money Examples are: carrier cycle transport, cleaning and sweeping the streets in the surrounding of the shelter.

| | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number of day parts | 14.127 | 17.885 | 14.329 | 9.606 |
| unique participants | 184 | 262 | 611 | 267 |

Developments in the field of reintegration and participation:

To be less dependent of municipal subsidy, in the Netherlands we search for different financial ways and innovations. To organise workplaces for people who are excluded on the labour market because of their handicap and/or addiction.

Having 'paid' work is for the most of our clients a way to have a appreciated acquire spot in the society. The last years attention is more and more given to possibilities this group of getting people to a form of work. A Example is a social ventures. The phenomenon social venture undergoes a big development within the Netherlands at this moment.

What is a social venture?

A social venture is a venture which uses beside economic also social objectives. At least 35% of the employees exist from people with a handicap or labour restriction. The social venture is financially independent and strives as every other company for a ongoing market position. By the specific composition of the staff social integration of employees with and without handicap is pursued.

The social ventures of the Rainbow Group:



Pre

The neighborhood farm, one of the last authentic farms in the city, has been cracked in 2001 because of imminent demolition. After some years the squatters started to work together with municipality. They raised money for the renovation of the farm and started a small neighborhoodrestaurant. Beside that a big scale of activities have been started up. The farm is managed by a very loyal and big group of volunteers. In January 2010 the Rainbow has started as the operator and administrator of the neighborhood farm. Meanwhile this particular public place runs with 70 volunteers and five employees as a real social venture. The professional worksurrounding help people to grow and qualify for a regular job.

Social enterprise Amsterdam Underground

The aim Amsterdam Underground is social participation of the homeless and addicted. This group has a large distance to the regular labour market by their problems frequently. Amsterdam Underground offers them the possibility of participating by working as a town tour guide. As a tour guide they receive a training, coaching, a telephone and expenditure compensation. The tours have been intended for everyone who wants know about concerning living on the streets of Amsterdam.

Welcome to the Amsterdam Underground citywalks "Stories of the street" Would you like to know the inner city from a whole other side? A fascinating, sometimes grim, but definitely not dull side? Then take a walk with a professional guide from Amsterdam Underground, something for you? Our city guides are living a nomadic existence and want to share that experience with others. They take you on a discovery passing along boats, parks and porches. They explain how to get money, booze and dope when you're homeless and addicted. They give you a peek into the world of the homeless. An existence where you can trust no one and where the law of the jungle applies. Be surprised by a fascinating personal story in which humor is not missing!