

# BRIEF 4

## MIXED LIVING

Stichting de Tussenvoorziening

Utrecht, The Netherlands

# ID CARD



## PROJECT TITLE.

Mixed Living

## MAIN OBJECTIVE.

To support formerly homeless individuals by integrating them into mixed living communities, where they live alongside regular tenants and build social networks to aid their transition to stable housing and social inclusion.

## TARGET AUDIENCE.

Individuals who have experienced homelessness, especially those with weak social networks.

## IN NUMBERS.

25

**Mixed Living projects**  
since 2014.

250

**individuals** housed in these  
projects.

93%

**housing stability rate** for  
participants.

## SUMMARY.

Mixed Living projects in Utrecht offer stable housing to formerly homeless individuals in shared communities, fostering social networks and rehabilitation. This approach, with professional support over three years, significantly shortens the transition to independent living, promoting long-term recovery and reducing the need for intensive support. It also creates stronger, more cohesive communities, contributing to both individual and collective wellbeing.



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# Project description

## Recreate a social environment for isolated individuals

The Mixed Living programme supports homeless individuals with limited social networks. Around 50% of people in shelters lack meaningful support, increasing their risk of returning to homelessness. The programme brings together formerly homeless individuals and regular tenants to create supportive communities. Clients are selected by an intake team based on motivation, network and needs. Regular tenants are chosen by the housing corporation, based on motivation and registration time, in close coordination with the organisation. Each person has a tailored profile and support plan.

## A rapidly growing programme

The programme began in 2000 with 't Groene Sticht. In 2014, Majella Wonen marked a key milestone, and between 2019 and 2024, over 25 projects were launched in the Utrecht region. These initiatives have housed around 250 people. The Municipality of Utrecht finances part of the support, and charities contribute to furnishing and initial costs. A study by Hogeschool Utrecht found that 93% of formerly homeless participants remained stably housed over time, demonstrating the programme's long-term effectiveness.

## A decreasing annual cost, shared governance

The average annual cost per participant is €25,000, decreasing over time as support needs lessen—reaching €0 after three years. They aim to provide their clients with a personal budget to cover basic needs such as furniture and household items, which depends on private funding. Regular individual guidance is funded through standard care, while extra support like community coaching relies on subsidies. The programme is governed jointly by social organisations, housing corporations and municipalities, ensuring both shared responsibility and sustainability.

## TIMELINE

2002

Launch of the first mixed living project, 't Groene Sticht, in Utrecht, and 2003, with the arrival of the first residents.

2014

Second mixed living project, Majella Wonen, initiated, followed by further developments.

2019-2024

Over 25 mixed living projects implemented, housing 250 former homeless individuals.

# Inspiration note

## A Realistic Way to Do Housing First?

The Mixed Living project offers a practical and effective implementation of the Housing First approach by providing formerly homeless individuals with stable housing from the outset. This eliminates the need for intermediate steps, such as staying in shelters, which are often barriers to long-term stability. By integrating these individuals into mixed communities with regular tenants, they gain not only a home but also a supportive social network that aids their rehabilitation. The project's success lies in its collaborative model, involving housing corporations, social organisations, and municipalities, with professional guidance tapering off over three years. This enables a smooth transition to independent living, reducing the likelihood of relapse into homelessness and promoting long-term recovery.

## The Importance of Social Mixing and Combating Isolation

Social mixing is a key element of the Mixed Living project, as it fosters interactions between formerly homeless individuals and regular tenants, creating a sense of community and shared responsibility. This integration helps break down the stigma surrounding homelessness and facilitates the development of social bonds, which are essential for long-term stability. By working closely together in community activities and daily life, individuals build trust and mutual understanding, combating the isolation that many homeless people experience. This approach is crucial, as research shows that isolation and lack of a supportive network are significant factors in preventing successful reintegration into society.

## Inspiring Success Factors of the Mixed Living Project

The success of the Mixed Living initiative can be attributed to several key factors. One of the most important is the active commitment of all parties involved—housing corporations, local municipalities, and care organisations—which ensures the project's sustainability. The project also benefits from motivated residents who choose to be part of the community, contributing to a positive and engaged atmosphere. Additionally, the focus on providing individual homes for each resident ensures that they can live independently while still being part of a supportive community, making this a model of inclusive and sustainable housing.



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People who have been homeless usually have weak social networks. ID Card supports homeless people by housing them in a mixed community. What is especially essential, no time pressure is put on them. Those involved have three years to develop a social network, since a network does not build up overnight, especially people with a past in homelessness.