



ABSTRACT FORM

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Title of the contribution/Titolo del contributo	The hostel program - Recovery oriented care for people with long term drug addiction, within housing facilities and ambulatory care		
Objectives/Obiettivi	Providing housing facilities for long term drug addicted people with focus on all aspects of life, without focus on getting clean of the separation of mental health issues and substance (ab)use.		

**Contents-text/Contenuto-testo:
Max. 400 parole/words**

In the hostel program we provide sheltered housing care for people with severe and long term drug and-or alcohol addictions. We focus on all aspects of life, including the addiction but do not try to get our clients clean. Getting clean has been tried several times before for our clients and has failed every time. Our clients can use their substances inside of the facility. They can do this because we believe the addiction is part of the client and the addiction is so severe that excluding the addiction would practically be similar to excluding the client as a whole.

The program started early years of 2000 when the city of Utrecht experienced a big problem from a group of approximately 250 homeless drug addicted people inside of the city center. The situation escalated to the point in which the local government, health providers and local law enforcement could no longer accept the state in which the clients lived their lives. At this point the hostel program was started.

Inside the hostel program we experience a lot of recovery from our clients. At first: If we would not exist, our clients would be homeless inside the city. In the hostel program they experience a safe place, the security of meals, healthcare, guidance from a counsler and a peer worker. At second: Most of our clients experience (for the first time in their life) a place where they can be themselves, including the addiction. The addiction is not something they are expelled by, but is something which is seen as a part of them. At third:

Most of our client recover from the overwhelmingness of the addiction because of the long term care and the possibility to be themselves. Space for other parts of their life comes in, the addiction stays but in a less overwhelming way. This fact makes that most of our clients get to recover in their life, makes that they get to leave the hostel program (in a positive way) to their own homes over a couple of years time. Also at this stays, the client still use their substances.

Offcourse this program is controversial, also in the Netherlands. Problems occur with our neighbors inside the city center, the local government supports and partly initiated the program and the ambulantry care who finds it difficult to ajust their treatment to housing care in which substance use is so common.

* At the moment i am making a film about the hostel program. Primarily use of this film is for the Triest convention. Is it possible to play this film (10-12 min) at my presentation? Could their be a beamer and a screen at the site?