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Co-housing refugees together with local populations

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Co-Lab Research

a knowledge hub for collaborative housing

Data base and geographical mapping of collaborative housing in Europe



Comparative international research on collaborative housing



Educating future professionals in the built environment



Refugee integration through collaborative housing in Amsterdam



TU Delft

www.co-lab-research.net

Integration through collaborative housing?

- housing of refugees classical view:
 - access to housing
 - housing as shelter
 - housing as enabling condition
- regard housing as an integrative factor *in itself*

The Dutch context of housing refugees

- right to social housing
- geographical dispersal policy
- sustained higher level after 2015 peak
- suboptimal integration outcomes

Amsterdam, 2015

- height of the Syrian conflict; large influx of refugees
 - ever-increasing scarcity of housing
 - acute need to house significant number of refugees
- need to look outside existing stock
- temporary dwellings
 - lack of public support for a large concentration of refugees

The Startblok Riekerhaven



The Startblok Riekerhaven

- 283 refugees
 - Syrians
 - Eritreans
 - other nationalities
- 282 Dutch tenants
- 18-27 years (at entry)
- 5 year contracts
- 10 year project
- owner: social housing corporation De Key





The Startblok Riekerhaven

experimental solution:

mixing young Dutch adults and
recent young adult refugees

in collaborative housing

→ creation of a *community*



The Startblok Riekerhaven

- self-organisation and self-management
- cohousing
- learning Dutch language and Dutch culture
- stimulating social networks of both young Dutch and refugee tenants

→ becoming the model for all Amsterdam refugee housing



Beyond the Startblok

- Startblok 2
- Other projects in NL
- Projects elsewhere in Europe

- ‘magic mix’; extending this approach to people in a reintegration process





Project Curant, Antwerp, Belgium



Venligbolig Plus, Copenhagen, Denmark



Policy recommendations

- consider stimulating social (re)integration through **cohousing** refugees and/ or other people on (re)integrating trajectories with less vulnerable, local people

options to stimulate public support:

- temporary dwellings (cost-effective, quick to realize, less intrusive, adding to stock)
- mixing with young local population (since most refugees are young)

Future research questions

- evidence-based qualitative and quantitative analysis
- distinguish separate elements & subgroups

Get in touch!

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