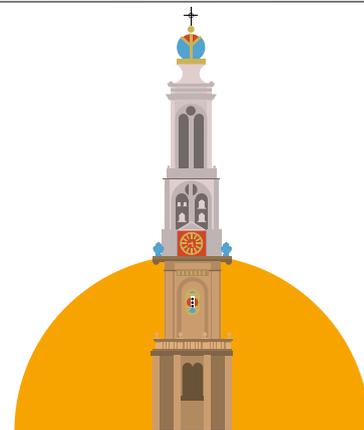


Highlights from IDEA Netherlands (NL)



Changing the Neighbourhood wins the European Youth Award for best mobility project

'IDEA NL succeeded in building bridges not only between the participants, but also within their community, which has even led to concrete improvements in some neighbourhoods.'

– Erasmus+

In May 2015 IDEA NL received the award for the best youth mobility project of 2014 from the European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport. IDEA NL won this prize together with youth organisations D'Broej in Brussels, KRAS in Antwerp and Combiwel in Amsterdam

During Changing the Neighbourhood, young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Amsterdam, Antwerp and Brussels sought ways to transform and improve their neighbourhoods. They tackled issues like the safety of public areas and police discrimination and exchanged ideas on how to improve their situations through debates and dialogue. The project was successful and has been granted „best practice“ status by EU Commission fund Erasmus+.

For example young people in the Amsterdam Diamantbuurt convinced local authorities during a debate of the need for a safer town square in their neighbourhood. Their wish was granted when they were given the budget to renovate “their” square, with the Mayor of Amsterdam paying a visit to congratulate them!



IDEA Debate Exchange 2014, Hoorn, NL

45 student debaters from thirteen countries across Europe took part in the IDEA Debate Exchange in July 2014 to develop new ideas for debate training, events and for creating more sustainable development of their own debate organisations. Some were from new debate organisations, others represented organisations with 25 years of history. Meeting outside competitions for the first time, participants shared ideas on how to develop their activities and increase cooperation and left the Exchange energized and excited about starting up new programs and training curriculums.

For many participants this was the first event they had attended where they could learn how to provide training to new debaters and more experienced ones in a systematic manner. Equally, the organisation of public debates, tournaments or debate clubs, had previously been something learned through trial and error and could now be learned from those who had run multiple ones. Everyone welcomed the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn from student debaters from across the continent.



Mind your Wallet makes difficult topics debatable

Debt is a serious problem for forty to fifty percent of young people below 24 in the Netherlands and Belgium. It is one they hardly ever discuss, making them more susceptible to getting into difficulty. IDEA NL's Mind your Wallet programme aimed to get young people talking about financial problems and how to tackle them through debate and awareness exercises.

The project reached 122 young people in six locations in the Netherlands and Belgium through training. 22 youth workers and teachers were trained how to make financial issues a debatable topic and 354 people gathered at public debates. It made the participants more aware of how easy it is to get into debt and how hard it is to get out. Mind your Wallet continues in 2015 with training and public debates in new cities.