



De men...
steunpunt aan de ene kant...
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in alledaags voorbeeld is de kru...
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el bij het steunpunt). De last kan...
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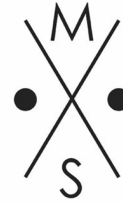
droomt(h)uis



“From Here to Home”:
Constructing a Dialogue
between Contemporary
and Historical
Migration Narratives

collectief MOOS & partners

THOMAS
MORE



dAnsbeeld

EduKempen
CVO VOLWASSENENONDERWIJS



CAW
versterkt welzijn



Vlaanderen
verbeelding werkt

Turnhout
Talentenschol
GROEIEN NAAR JE BESTE IK



collectief MOOS



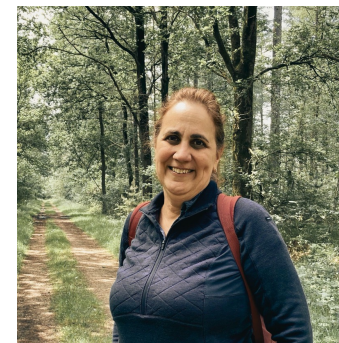
Illustrations: Ruth Govaerts, Tinne Driessen, Sanne Verstraelen, Dido Drachman. Painting: Nils Blommér.





d r o o m l t l h u i s

- Migration stories
 - past and present
 - to and from the Kempen
- Migration as historical and universal part of humanity (Massey 2009)
- Lived experiences
 - personal testimonies
 - literature and archives
- Differences and similarities
- Migrants and refugees
- Connection in diversity



Regina Veloso de Veen
Brazilië – Beerse, 2008



Wincent Adamowicz,
Polen – Wortel, 1951



Marcel Van Deuren en Jos Geudens,
Arendonk – Canada, 1954

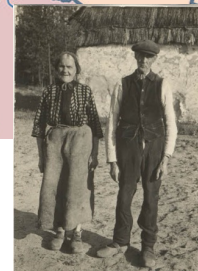
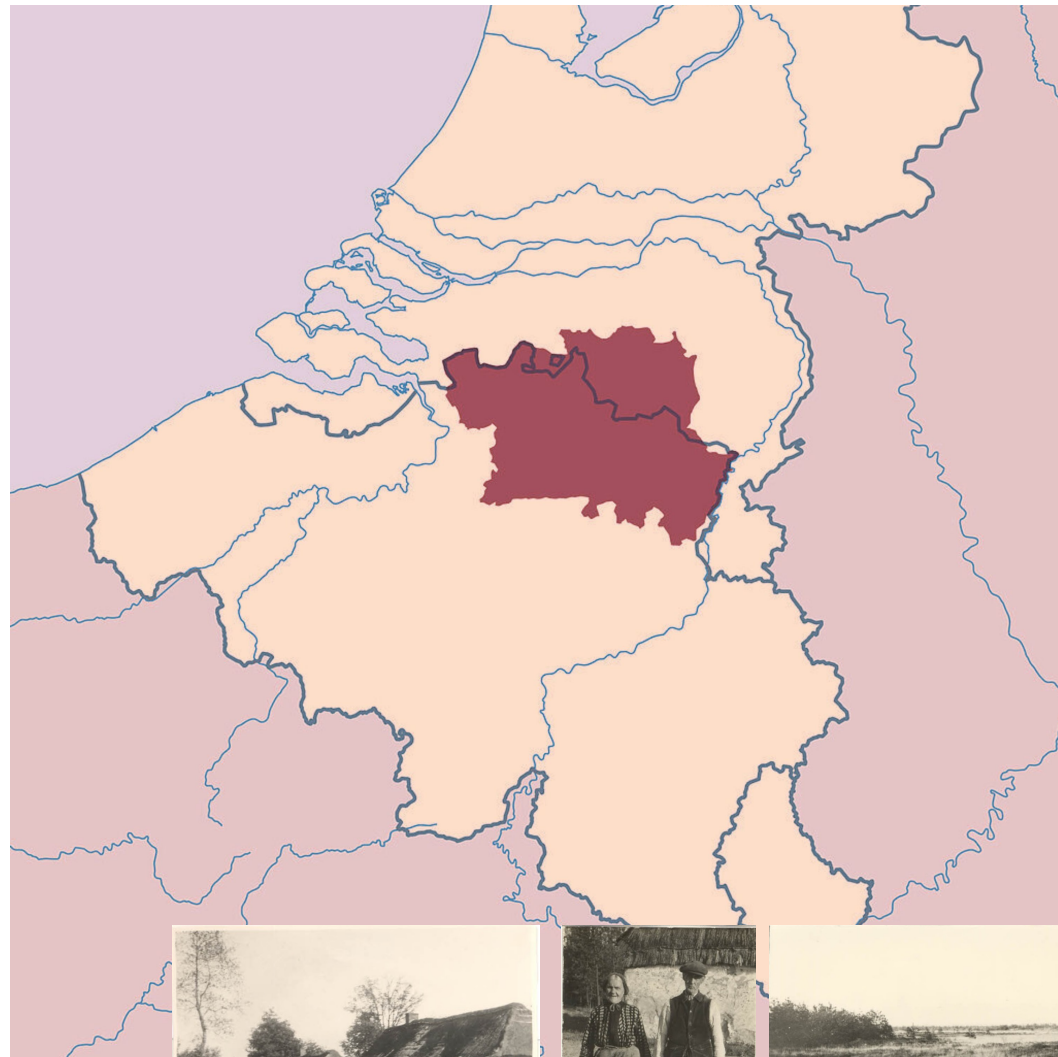
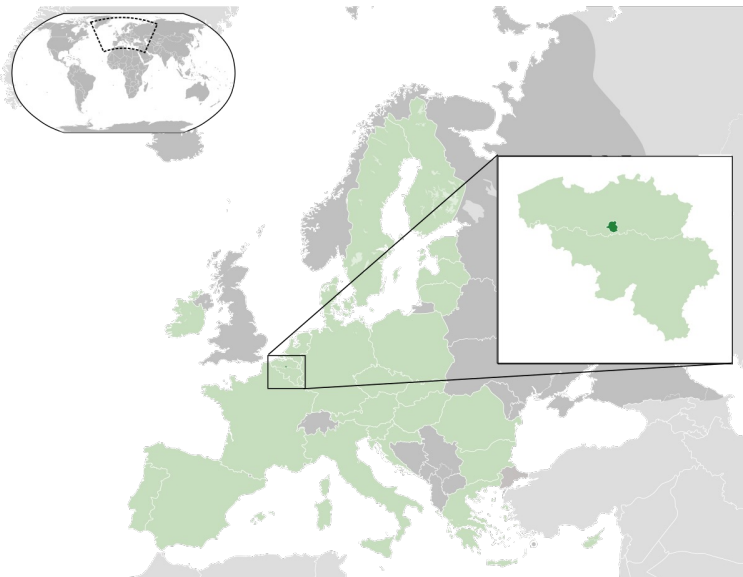




Kempen

migrant and refugee
mapped against an
already existing 'authentic'
identity, shaped by (a.o.)
'white' heritage

(R. Bromley 2015)





Outcomes

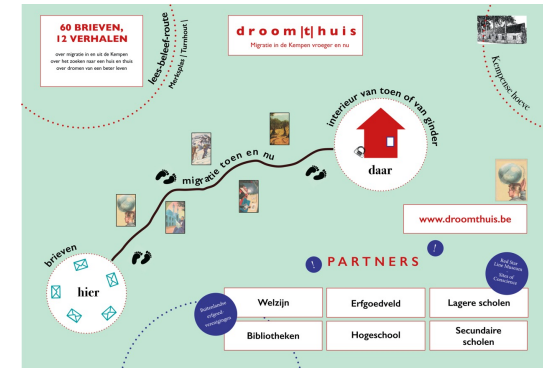
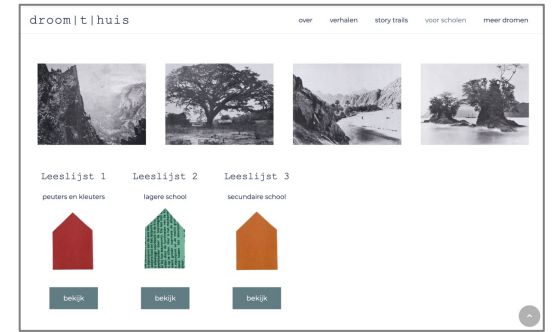
January 2024 – December 2026

Results

- website with stories
- two story trails
- educational trajectory

Participants

- colleges, schools, libraries, artists, volunteers, cultural professionals
- intergenerational and intercultural contact





Heritage & social cohesion

- Variety of migration stories (heritage?)
 - rich and nuanced portrayal of migration
 - mutual understanding and empathy
- Participation in heritage activities
 - contributes to individual well-being
(Thomson et al, 2012; Drysdale, 2018; Ateca-Amestoy et al, 2021)
 - fosters social cohesion
(Murzyn-Kupisz and Dzialek, 2013; Jepson and Clarke, 2015; Power and Smyth, 2016; Beel and Wallace, 2021)



Involvement of migrants & refugees

- Inclusive project design
- Schools
- Active search for participants & stories
 1. interviews
 2. artistic workshops
 3. volunteering



droom | t | huis
is collecting stories about migration

What is droom|t|huis?
Droom|huis is a project by collectief MOOS about migration from all over the world to the Kempen and vice versa, in the past and present. We collect stories about the search for a house and home. What do 'a house' and 'a home' mean? When does a place feel like home?
By telling many different stories, we show how the search for a home is part of being human. In this way we want to contribute to more diversity and connectedness in our society.

Who are we looking for?
We are looking for people who moved to the Kempen from another country and want to tell us their story. In order to tell and process the story as correctly as possible, we are looking for people who already speak some Dutch.

- M / F / X
- All ages
- Any origin
- Minimum NT2 2.2

What happens with your story?
You tell us what you feel comfortable with and how you want to tell your story. If you agree to it, we will make an audio recording so that we can write down your story as accurately as possible. We will never make that recording public.
Before we continue working on your story, we will ask you to read it in Dutch and in your native language. We would like to use a portrait photo, but that's no obligation. The publication of your story and photo will only happen with your permission.
We collect the stories on a website and use them as inspiration for an outdoor reading trail for children in Turnhout and Merksplas, with fictional stories about migration.

Practical
Do you want to participate or have questions? Send an email to info@collectiefmoos.be. We will then make an appointment and come to you with a maximum of 2 people. The recording of the story will take a maximum of 2 hours.

Thank you! Alison en Heleen, collectief MOOS



1. Collecting stories through interviews



Yulia,
from Ukraine, 2022



Elaleh,
from Iran, 2019



Ilonka,
from Hungary, 1947

Reaction from respondent:

*"You have turned my life into a wonderful story.
Thank you for sharing my emotions. I am very grateful."*





2. Artistic workshops



**World Health
Organization**

- “improved mental well-being”
- “supporting the preservation of personal identity, heritage and experience”
- “promoting social inclusion, social cohesion, social acceptance and belonging”

World Health Organization. *Arts and health: supporting the mental well-being of forcibly displaced people.* 2022.



Vlaanderen
verbeelding werkt

2. Artistic workshops

Visual arts:

- gelli-plate printing and crafting tiny houses with natural materials: room for experiment and diverse end results
- parent & child, and young people
- public space and refugee asylum centers Arendonk, Turnhout



2. Artistic workshops

Visual arts:



| Activity type | Psychological | Social | Behavioural |
|-------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Visual and participatory arts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes imaginative engagement (28) • Enables relaxation and encourages personal growth (29,30) • Improves well-being and helps with processing experiences (31,32) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates friendships and a sense of belonging (33) • Improves social cohesion by increasing social engagement and community well-being (29,34,35) • Supports the establishment of a cultural identity (34,36) • Facilitates mutual acceptance between displaced individuals and their host communities (34,36) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds communication and language skills (36) • Reduces behavioural difficulties (37) • Helps with developing practical skills that are useful in the labour market (38) • Promotes skill-sharing (35) |

World Health Organization. *Arts and health: supporting the mental well-being of forcibly displaced people*. 2022.



2. Artistic workshops

Dance and movement:

- at heritage sites Merksplas Kolonie, Stadsboerderij Turnhout
- inspired by migration stories
- investigate relationship emotion, body, physical expression



2. Artistic workshops

Theatre and dance:



| Activity type | Psychological | Social | Behavioural |
|-------------------|---|--|---|
| Theatre and dance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aids emotional and creative expression (18–20) • Supports recovery after traumatic experiences and reduces stress (21) • Supports the emotional processing of grief (22–24) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates solidarity (25) • Enables collaborative reflection (19) • Builds respect for cultural differences (20) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves communication skills (19) • Promotes the use of cooperative behaviours and strategies (19) • Supports the development of compassion through role playing (26,27) |

World Health Organization. *Arts and health: supporting the mental well-being of forcibly displaced people*. 2022.



2. Artistic workshops

Literature and writing

- primary school De Stip in Arendonk, spring 2025
 - with OKAN-class
- libraries Merksplas and Turnhout
 - writing/podcasting workshops with young people
- educational trajectory for schools
 - story trails
 - reading lists
 - writing challenge





2. Artistic workshops

Literature and writing:

| Activity type | Psychological | Social | Behavioural |
|------------------------|--|---|--|
| Literature and writing | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Increases confidence and ability in managing daily difficulties (10,11)Provides a sense of hope and improves well-being (12,13) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Creates spaces that facilitate creativity and communication (14)Gives voice to silenced groups in debates about social action and social justice (15,16) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Develops empathyBuilds communication and languageHelps with health literacy skillsFacilitates emotional expression (17) |

World Health Organization. *Arts and health: supporting the mental well-being of forcibly displaced people*. 2022.





3. Volunteering

- Active participation in project
- Personal development and social cohesion
- Meaningful social roles, valued cultural knowledge and experience

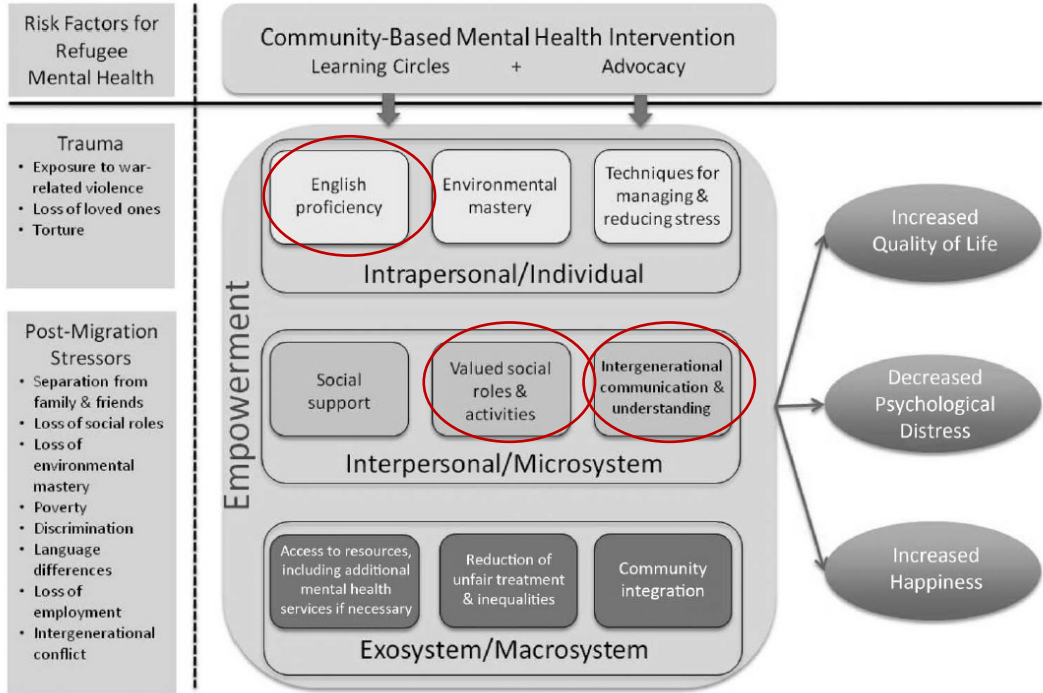


Figure 1. Conceptual model of the intervention.

Parker 2014



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Thank you !



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