

INLIA works





**INLIA**

Partner of people

## Preface



It is our pleasure to offer you this booklet *INLIA works*.

You obviously already knew that INLIA works. For years (almost 30 years already), the board, staff and volunteers have, with great devotion, worked hard for 'the strangers within our gates'. They want to share their experiences with you: our client and our support. Consequently, you receive stories you can publish in church

gazettes, on a regular basis. We visit all regions every half-year; and we have a website through which you can follow our work and find a lot of relevant information. All of this shows that INLIA works.

INLIA also works for you. This is after all part of our task. The national Inspiration- and Expertise day that we hosted in Amersfoort on April 8th was meant to support you as well as further strengthen the mutual bond. We experienced this day as very valuable and encouraging. We have also received many positive reactions. The title covers it well: it was a beautiful balance between inspiration and the exchange of knowledge. This day certainly contributed to your wish to receive practical information, to exchange ideas and to encourage each other. We will follow this up.

As the board, we would like to seize this occasion to introduce a new board member to you. We are delighted that Evert Jan Hazeleger (Consultant Mobility PKN) has responded positively to our request for him to strengthen the board of INLIA. In the past years, many of you will have known Evert Jan in the position of program manager of Kerk in Aktie, a position from which he followed and supported INLIA's work. We are therefore very happy with his arrival.

We hope the booklet *INLIA works* not only shows which challenges lie ahead for us but also shows the amount of work you and we – separately and together – have done in the past period. INLIA works!

Jan Eggink,  
Chairman of the Board.



John W R van Tilborg  
CEO of INLIA

## No matter how dark it may seem...

Recently somebody asked me: *Why do you shelter all these people without really knowing who they are, what their backgrounds are, without knowing the risks that they bring with them?*

I explained *that we do know*: these are people, yes: people. Just people but then from far. Foreigners, migrants who have given up much, sometimes even everything; sometimes they have even lost themselves. Sometimes they are very innocent people and other times they knock on our doors straight from prison. Sometimes they are very amiable people and other times they are not that easy to get on with. All of them with their own history. But foremost they are people that need assistance.

Some are sick, seriously ill even: kidney diseases, cardiac failure, diabetes, psychoses, schizophrenia and I could go on. Others do not have any faith anymore in a future; they do not see any prospects in their lives anymore nor a way to resume their lives. They have given up. They blame themselves or others for this.

Sometimes it is extremely tough, even for our team that shelters and guides these people. It touches me as well when I look at our staff when they, once again, sigh deep. However, I also see those same colleagues usually enthusiastic, energetic, full of confidence and working professionally to help those amiable and less amiable people, our guests, on their way. To help them further, because standing still

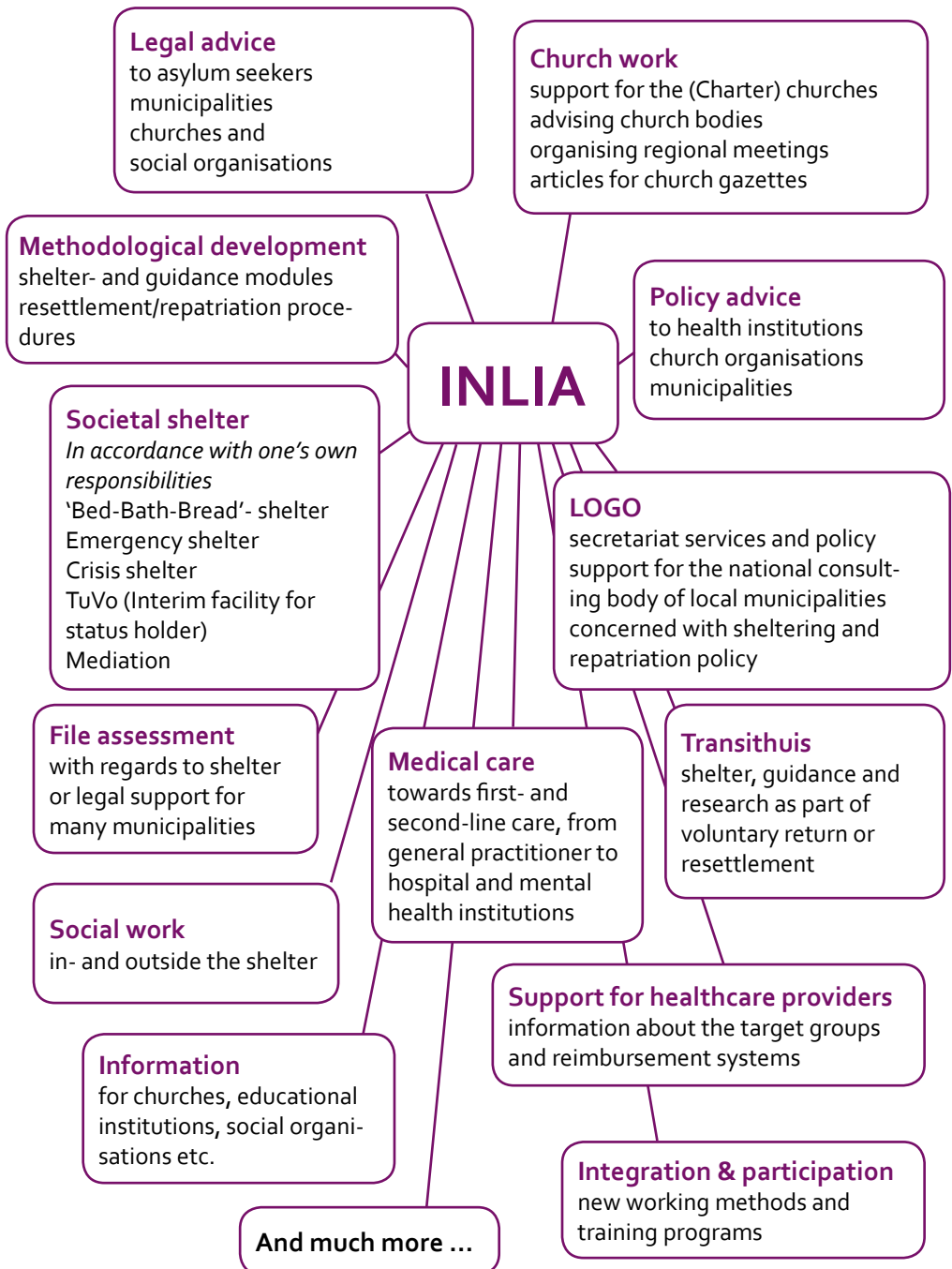
will not bring them anywhere. We want these people to be able to take their future into their hands by resettlement – in their own country or a third country – or by being admitted here. In all cases, we want to move away from the hopeless, threatening existence of living on the streets; unhealthy for them as well as for society.

Many – and truly not only extreme populist – politicians express mainly what they think the public wants to hear: *They have to leave the country and so we should not shelter them, you are giving them false hope, etc.* These are the same politicians who put these people out on the streets. Out on the streets without money, without food, without shelter, without care and without guidance: the amiable and the less amiable. These politicians behave like they have no idea what they are doing, not just to these people, but to all society, with this nonsolution. To force people to survive of what the streets offers.

What now then, now that those people are out on the streets with nothing? How can I see them – my neighbours, my colleagues, you and your loved ones, the amiable and the less amiable people – differently than born out of a mother, creatures of the same Lord, our father. And I am becoming despondent about the many politicians that want to score at the expense of others.

But then I remember: every year Easter comes again. Then we know that no matter how dark it is, light will drive away the darkness.

John W. R. van Tilborg



**120 people – many hands carry out the work at INLIA**

### **35 professionals**

generalists and specialists, residence mentors, lawyers, social workers, counsellors, administrative staff, social pedagogical staff, social legal staff, etc.

Full-timers as well as part-timers. In total over 27 fte.

### **8 interns**

motivated, involved and serving from an abundance of social and/or legal studies in order to become professionals.

### **almost 100 volunteers**

from language classes to sewing classes, from painting to holding conversations about taboos, and from being a buddy to supervising internships of guests. They help the people on their way.

### **5 external specialists**

with great commitment, they provide the extra support for our financial administration, projects, ICT, and communication.



A social worker of INLIA in conversation with a client



A report from the 'Bed-Bath-Bread'- shelter

### *It seems scarier to me that a dangerous person lives on the streets*

It is the morning after my spring break. I do not have to work yet because I have the morning off, but I check my email already. What I read ends my holidays acutely. The day before a man has been delivered to the shelter, who according to the Central Agency for Asylum Seekers (COA) is aggressive and extremely dangerous. As a result of that danger, the COA is paying for extra security. I change my bathrobe for appropriate work wear and set off to the shelter in the former Formule 1 Hotel.

My colleagues tell me the story of the COA: The man is prohibited from all COA-centres. He cannot even go to the shelter for risk cases because he previously tried to create a fire there. In the past, he has stabbed someone, for which he has been imprisoned for one and a half year. Now he has threatened to cut the throats of children. He has been removed by a team of 8 officers from a special police force. And he has been brought to us.

Luckily the night has passed without any incidents. I decide to get in touch with the COA. 'Should the man not just be in their location in Ter Apel?' 'No, you can not bring him back here, absolutely not. That is extremely dangerous, even for your staff', is the answer. I want to see his papers; is the man indeed prohibited from all COA-facilities? And has he – as is alleged – really exhausted every legal avenue? I'm promised that all files will be sent to me.

To my surprise I later hear that the man should report in Ter Apel the next day. We hear that there, they will tell him that his request for asylum has been denied. Two colleagues will go with him. At the gate, an IND employee – accompanied by 4 police officers and 2 security officers – tells him the bad news. The man goes back with us calmly. He can stay, as long as he behaves well.

Someone asks me that week whether I do not find it scary that someone like that is in our shelter. I answer that every person has a right to shelter. And that I would find it scarier if a dangerous person would be out on the streets. The documents of the COA that would prove everything? I still have to receive them. Meanwhile, the man is a good guest who chats with fellow-guests and works a lot in his vegetable garden.



## Shelter – in the administration of INLIA

In 2016, approximately **100.000** overnight stays were provided under INLIA's administration and responsibility.

**150.000** overnight stays was the average on April 1st, 2017.

### At **12** locations

Among others the 'Bed-Bath-Bread'- shelters in the former Formule 1 Hotel and on the boat *Amanpuri*.

In addition to this, the staff of INLIA offers shelter in 10 houses and apartments.



The 'Bed-Bath-Bread'-boat *Amanpuri*, on which 112 guests are staying. The *Amanpuri* received worldwide attention when she was commissioned as a shelter for asylum seekers in January 2017. It was distributed internationally by press agency Reuters and this among others led the Italian RAI to do a live television broadcast about it. In Sanskrit *Amanpuri* means *Place of Peace*, in Malay *Safe Castle*.

## Social shelter and guidance

### **48** different nationalities

are staying in the social shelter.

Top 9: Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Armenia, Somalia, Guinea, Eritrea, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria.

**Besides the 112 beds that we have in the *Amanpuri*-boat** we also shelter 115 people in the former Formule 1 Hotel.



Weekly, the guests are being paid out their allowance in the bbb+

### **More than 100** patients in our social shelter

We accommodate and guide more than 100 medical patients among whom 58 psychiatric patients and 27 addicts. Also, there are 21 persons past 60 years old. The eldest person is now 78 years old. The past year, two elderly clients passed away.

### **Already 51** visits to the embassy

organised and accompanied by us, leading to 35 people receiving an identity document. Some people's requests have been denied, others still have to deliver additional information, but in more than 50% of the cases a document has been received. After we have removed any possible obstacles so that our guests can look to the future ahead, we believe that there are two roads ahead that we can take with them: a residence permit or resettlement in the country of origin or a third country.

A report from the 'Bed-Bath-Bread'-shelter

### *We can always call him, our 'lieutenant'*

We do not experience them every day, but luckily often enough: success stories. Stories with a happy ending. Of people who unwind in our shelters, revive and are able to 'conquer' a new future prospect. Because that is often what they do: conquering. They truly have to work hard for this and usually they need all our help. Take, for example, the story of our 'lieutenant'; Aayan from Somalia.

Aayan arrived at INLIA in April 2015, from Ter Apel where his repeated asylum request had been denied. He had been in the Netherlands for six years already. The silly thing is that his family members – mother, brother and sisters – did receive residence permits in Norway. They are Reer Hamar, a tribe that is being oppressed and persecuted in Somalia. The Dutch IND knew this, did not doubt the family ties, but still did not think it was relevant. Aayan had to leave, if it was up to them.

As a result, he arrived in our 'Bed-Bath-Bread'-shelter. A good-natured man who spoke Dutch well and wanted to make himself useful. And he soon did. Together with 'mama', as everyone called her: Farah, the Somalian woman who had undergone a knee surgery (you may know her from the story 'syringes and a pair of pliers').

Whenever I had to discuss or arrange something with the Somalian community – for example a visit to the embassy – I would bring them in. The 'lieutenant' and mama then made sure that everyone gathered. Embassy visits are the way to obtain an identity statement; extremely important for the future prospects of people. Aayan translated my story to the people, but also indicated the questions and worries the community had. A pivotal role. If there was any 'hassle' with anyone, he would mediate without taking sides. A diplomatic talent.

Luckily for him, an embassy visit led to him receiving an official certificate of nationality and also a residence permit. He now lives on the other side of the country, but still helps sometimes. We can always call him. The lieutenant of mama, helpful to all.

A dilemma

## Do we shelter everyone or do we draw a line?

Sometimes there are people who report themselves at our 'Bed-Bath-Bread'-facility whom we know to have a criminal record. Sometimes for relatively small offences, sometimes for heavy crimes. Criminal offences, committed in the Netherlands or in the country of origin. This results in the question: do we shelter everyone or do we draw a line?

Often we do not know why someone has committed an offence and sometimes we never find out. We could, for example, be dealing with child soldiers, who have had to do horrible things to prove their loyalty to the 'army'. Or people who are addicted, mentally instable, emotionally hardened by their past.

We are guided by a fitting passage from the Bible: Matthew 25, verse 35-40: *For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Then the righteous will answer him: Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you? The King will reply: Truly I tell you: whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.*

A prisoner was visited; nowhere does it say that this happened because he was innocent. A sick person received care, others food, something to drink and clothes. Basic services that we offer to everyone in our 'Bed-Bath-Bread'-shelter. To healthy people, sick people, addicted people, people with stress and also to people with a criminal record.

INLIA's guests should be safe, that is our first priority. Everyone who receives shelter at our 'Bed-Bath-Bread'-shelter bears his/her responsibility for this. If someone affects this safety, then there are consequences. This often involves an official warning, in the worst cases we prescribe a ground ban. But even in these cases, we do not abandon people. Even in these cases, we still arrange a place for them in the regular night shelter for the homeless. They, together with the social reintegration worker of INLIA, will look at what they can and should do to return in a sound way to the 'Bed-Bath-Bread'-shelter.



If the Dutch authorities impose a fine or prison sentence on an alien for a committed crime, this has consequences for his or her residence permit. In many cases, this permit will not be prolonged or even will be withdrawn.

Our experience is that people who report to the 'Bed-Bath-Bread'-shelter after a prison sentence cannot be deported. For the safety of the society, we do not want these people to be put out on the streets, especially because the chances for relapse then increase.

So what is the answer to the question? Do we shelter everyone or do we draw a line? INLIA helps everyone. Proceeding from the biblical inspiration, to protect society and because everyone deserves a second chance. A chance for a new beginning and in order to realise this you have to work on yourself. You can only do this when you have a place to lay your head down at night, when you have a place where you are allowed to eat and a place where you can get help if you are not able to get your life back on track on your own. Jesus did not say that you should only visit the innocent in prison.

## Inspiration- and Expertise day 8 April 2017; a photo report



Meeting and encouraging each other, exchanging knowledge and sharing experiences: That was what it was about on April 8. Participants came from all over the country; from Winsum to West-Souburg and from Zevenaar to Zaandam.

It was a busy day, with meetings, lectures, performances and various workshops from which participants could choose. The exhibition that INLIA made for its 20-year anniversary in 2008 had been put up for inspiration in the lobby.



Lectures and workshops were well visited and appreciated.



Kysia Hekster – reporter of the Royal Family and former correspondent in Moscow – talked about her work at the NOS, the Dutch public broadcasting company. She focused especially on the news coverage of refugees.



The Sicilian pianist Giacomo Caruso performed a musical interlude at the event in Amersfoort. Caruso also lend his cooperation to the ceremony in which dr. Pietro Bartólo of Lampedusa was awarded the 'Living Stone' in the Martini church in Groningen on October 8, 2016.

Writer/actress Rosita Steenbeek talked about her encounters on Lampedusa, with dr. Bartólo among others. She went to the island to write an essay for the month of spirituality. This booklet – 'Love thine enemies' – became a big success.





INLIA-director John van Tilborg gave the workshop Issues of Principle. He talked about the limits of relief support and challenged the participants to discuss in- and exclusion. What should we, for example, do with refugees with an 1F status or a criminal record? Van Tilborg ended with TIPS: Theory by Inspiration and Practice by Socialization. INLIA works for society: humanitarian for those involved, social for us all.



Geesje Werkman of *Kerk in Actie* encouraged us to not give up because 'good things take longer' and especially: 'God does not let go, what his hand started'. Guests of the 'Bed-Bath-Bread'-shelter in Groningen offered her two drawings, as gratitude for her hard work. The drawings are made by Folorunsho Adebisi, a guest of the bbb+ as well.

At the end of the day, participants gave some tips for our anniversary of next year: the 30 year existence of INLIA and the Charter of Groningen. This is not something to celebrate, but it is something to dwell on. We will put together a taskforce to help us form this event next year.



## Who is going to pay this?

INLIA advises parishes about requests of asylum seekers to reimburse costs:

### Fees

The government charges fees for providing documents like passports and driving licenses. In the asylum procedure, no fees are charged. However, requests for a 'normal' residence permit are subject to fees.

A rejected asylum seeker who wants to request a residence permit based on medical grounds, on the basis of the 'no-fault'-criteria, harrowing situations, private- or family lives, has to pay fees. The government almost never waives these fees and the COA does not recompense these costs.

As a result, someone could make an appeal to your parish. These fees are often large sums of money. Therefore, we advise you to ask the lawyer about the reasons for the request and its chance of success. It would after all be a shame if the diaconal money is spent on a request without prospect. You can always ask us how we judge the case.

### Registry costs

Registry costs are costs that have to be paid to the court when one submits an appeal or a request for a temporary ruling. The court can offer exemption if someone does not have any income or any other means. It is important that the lawyer requests this immediately when submitting the appeal or requesting the temporary ruling.

### Legal costs

Anyone who has little or no income can be assigned a lawyer by the Legal Aid Board; this means that the Board will pay a large part of the legal costs. Usually the Board does charge a personal contribution for the procedure of a regular residence permit. This personal contribution can be adjusted to zero. If an asylum seeker is no longer in a centre for asylum seekers, he has to submit a statement about the absence of income. You, as a church, can make a statement (in which you describe the situation of the person involved and your involvement). The lawyer does not have to arrange this at the beginning of the procedure, this can also be done later.

### Travel costs

Asylum seekers who do not receive government support sometimes have to make travel costs with regards to medical/mental treatments, lawyer appointments or court sessions. The travel costs will not be recompensed. At INLIA, we therefore often use cheap train tickets (for example from shops like Kruidvat, AH or Hema). With regards to lawyer appointments, we often ask the lawyer whether the meeting can be done by telephone.

## Medical costs

For asylum seekers who do not receive government support, there is a safety net arrangement for medical emergency costs. The Central Administrative Office (CAK) carries out this arrangement. Unfortunately, most healthcare providers are not well informed about the existence of this arrangement. It includes:

- The general practitioner and other doctors or care providers can declare the expenses of medical emergency care to aliens who are not insurable to the CAK.
- If the general practitioner needs to refer the asylum seeker, he can refer them to hospitals or GGZ-institutions that have been specially contracted by the CAK.
- For medication, the asylum seeker can likewise go to specially contracted pharmacies. However, he or she must pay €5.00 per prescription. Some municipalities recompense this personal contribution.

You can find more information about this arrangement of the provision of care to not insurable aliens via: <https://www.hetcak.nl/zakelijk/regelingen/onverzekerbare-vreemdelingen/vragen>

Dental costs are not recompensed for asylum seekers of age who do not receive government support. In some municipalities, there are agreements with dentists who occasionally provide dental care for free. In among others The Hague and Groningen, these agreements have been established partly as a result of the support of The Royal Dutch Dental Association (KNMT). Furthermore, there are academic dental studies that sometimes offer help in exchange for a reduced rate (sometimes even for free).

## Costs medical declaration

Sometimes doctors ask financial compensation for drawing up a medical declaration or for a transcript of the dossier. The doctor can charge the IND if 1) the medical files have been requested as part of a procedure at the IND or 2) if the doctor answered questions using the form of the IND. If the lawyer approaches the doctor with his/her own questions, then the doctor can charge the costs to the lawyer (and, thus, to the alien).



Workshop of barrister at law Berber Swart at the Inspiration- and Expertise day 8 April 2017

## ***NOW, WE CAN NEVER SAY AGAIN THAT WE DO NOT HAVE A FAMILY***

**Santa Claus exists! At least for Darlington and Prosper Isaacs from Assen. On December the 5th, 2016, the brothers, who had been in the Netherlands for already 15 years, finally received a residence permit. Officially 'on account of dire conditions', unofficially because an action committee of councillors, people of Assen and the towns preacher brought the story of the brothers time and time again to the attention of the media.**

In 2001, Darlington and Prosper fled the civil war in Sierra Leone. They arrived in the Netherlands when they were 11 and 14 years old. They speak Dutch fluently with a beautiful northern accent. They went to the University of Groningen and the Hanze University of Applied Sciences. They graduated as civil engineer and communication scientist, but could not build their lives until 4 months ago.

They arrived in the Netherlands too late for the 'General Pardon' of 2007 and in 2013 they were too old for the Children's Pardon. And so the brothers risked falling outside all the arrangements. Darlington and Prosper, however, continued fighting. A battle that did not go by unnoticed in their place of residence Assen. Dozens of inhabitants, councillors of the municipality of Assen and preacher Rev. Bert Altena raised 13.000 statements of support from people who believed that the brothers should stay in the Netherlands. INLIA supported the brothers with legal and financial help.

The action committee, of which INLIA was part as well, increased the pressure on the House of Representatives and Secretary of State Dijkhoff with a video message in which famous Dutch people like rapper Lange Frans and television presenter Jochem van Gelder called the situation Prosper and Darlington were in inhumane. And every week when the brothers had to get their obligatory stamp at the IND, many people went with them. These were 'beautiful' images and quotes for the media, which fanned the flames further.

Meanwhile behind the scenes, the legal battle to keep the Isaacs brothers in the Netherlands continued. And with success. Secretary of State Klaas Dijkhoff used his discretionary authority to offer the brothers a residence permit. Thus Darlington and Prosper received the most beautiful present that they could have ever dreamed of on Sinterklaasavond (the evening of 5 December, when the Dutch celebrate Santa Claus). 'That was the most beautiful night of my life,' says Prosper. 'Thank you to all the people who helped us. We can never say again that we do not have a family,' Darlington adds.

Prosper and Darlington can now both resume their lives. In fact, they both already have a job and can finally realise their dreams.

A report from the 'Bed-Bath-Bread'-shelter

### *Murat was in a bad shape and only weighed 47 kilos*

'But he is a Syrian, is he not? They are allowed to stay, aren't they? Everyone knows it is war over there, surely?' Our communication advisor looks at me with a puzzled look. I just told her about Murat, a Syrian man who we sheltered after the COA evicted him from the centre for asylum seekers.

The COA will do this when a first asylum claim is denied. According to the government, people then do not have a right to shelter anymore. I understand her question. How can the asylum request of a Syrian be denied? It is a complicated story and I will come back to this. But for me, it was not actually about the legal issues. It was about the humane aspect of it. Murat was physically and mentally in a bad shape. He was malnourished and only weighed 47 kilos.

Still, the COA wanted to put him out on the streets. At the urgent request of Murat's attorney, the COA asked a nurse to draw up a medical rapport. In it, she writes that Murat is visibly malnourished. He does not have any appetite, believes that the world can exist without him and has hurt himself before already. Both physically as well as mentally, his situation is dire. The medical advisor believes there is a real risk of suicide. The rapport concludes that it is medically irresponsible to put this man out on the streets.

Even though the COA does offer shelter to asylum seekers in mental emergencies, Murat is put into a cab. To us, the 'Bed-Bath-Bread'-shelter in Groningen.

The legal story is complicated because Murat has already requested asylum in Switzerland. This would align with the so-called Dublin Regulation: in the Dublin Regulation, countries have agreed that the country in which the asylum seeker first applies for asylum is responsible for either accepting or rejecting the claim and that this person cannot continue this process in another country. Thus, the Netherlands tells Murat: you cannot request asylum here. This, however, proves not to be correct. When Murat requested his asylum in Switzerland, Switzerland had not yet joined the Dublin Regulation. The Dublin Regulation is, thus, not applicable.

Murat, as a result, has a right to shelter. He can return to the COA, which by now has already happened. Luckily, he has been able to recover mentally and physically a little bit at our shelter. He is not suicidal anymore. We hope his recuperation continues in the ASC. But that such a damaged person first had to be evicted from the ASC...

A report from the 'Bed-Bath-Bread'- shelter

***Without treatment, she will face death – but not within the time frame specified***

She seems elderly already. A sweet old lady. Sweet she is, always grateful and happy moreover. Yet, she is not old: Anna, from Armenia, is only 48 years old. She looks so much older because she is extremely sick. Due to a chronic illness, Anna has developed cirrhosis. This means that her liver cells are being transformed into scar tissue, which causes the liver to function less and less. This process is irreversible.

Anna will die without a liver transplant. That is clear. The Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) does not contest this either. In Armenia, she is not able to receive a transplant. This is also clear and the IND does not contest this either. 'Piece of cake', you would think: this woman will not be deported. She will receive a residence permit based on medical grounds. She is already on the waiting list for a transplant. Her life will be saved. It's a no-brainer, right?

Wrong. Anna will be deported, if it is up to the IND. As it happens, it has not been proved that Anna will die within three months if she does not have any treatment. And that is the time frame that the IND uses as a rule. Will you not die within three months? Then you are not a medical emergency.

I stand in front of her. I have heard and read about these IND-decisions more often. But I have never been face to face with someone affected by such a decision. Someone who practically just received her death sentence via an official letter. A sweet old lady. She cannot even walk ten meters, that is how sick she is. She smiles at me. Who writes down a decision like this? Who types these words, these sentences? How do you manage that? I do not know the answer. I only know that we will do our best to help her to reverse her death sentence. I smile back at her and hope we will succeed.

*Anna received an adjournment of departure and is now receiving shelter from the COA again. We are anxiously awaiting the new decision.*

## The Interim Facility

In July 2016, INLIA opened a new form of shelter with an integration process, for status holders (refugees with residence permit). INLIA collaborates for this shelter with the COA, the municipalities Aa and Hunze, Borger-Odoorn, Emmen, Midden-Drenthe, Noordenveld & Tynaarlo and several other parties.

### What is the goal?

Social and civic participation and integration of refugees who have received a residence permit:

- to teach people who are allowed to stay the ins and outs of the Netherlands;
- to allow these future neighbours to start participating in their new municipality or region and to help them where necessary to an internship, a job or an education;
- to further the through flow in the centre for asylum seekers, where around 9000 people with a residence permit have been waiting for months to transfer to a place of their own.

### INLIA

#### Vision

Participation project



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## What does INLIA do?

- INLIA provides shelter combined with a process of social and civic participation by offering programs about topics such as financial matters, traffic rules, Dutch habits, etc. The team of INLIA has been supported by more than 80 volunteers from the local area.
- INLIA promotes a closer introduction to the local community and its surroundings. INLIA organises this together with (church) volunteers who take 'their' status holders on a field trip whereby they will pass all the highlights of the municipality concerned.
- INLIA works together with organisations like the Alfa-College (civic partnership lessons), Veilig Verkeer Nederland dept. Drenthe (traffic and biking lessons), the GGD (programs for health-care and sexual education) . Via the database of the organisation 'Work without Borders' status holders can be matched to employers.



## Why is this Interim Facility important?

### Status holders

- can start intensive social and civic participation sooner,
- can learn how to cope with life in the Netherlands, learn the rules, norms, values and the demands that are made of them, while living in relatively quiet surroundings;
- They will be able to get acquainted with their future living environment and will meet other status holders in the Interim Facility who will also live in their municipality or region;
- in some cases, they will have a chance of an internship, voluntary work or a job.

### Municipalities and their inhabitants

- will receive better equipped inhabitants who already speak a little Dutch, who are busy with participation lessons or are receiving an education,
- will receive neighbours who know their living environment and also have Dutch contacts or a small network there.

## Interesting facts and insights about the Interim Facility



- The building of the Interim Facility can house a maximum of **96** status-holders simultaneously.
- On March 27, 2016, **85** people stayed in the Interim Facility.
- Since the opening of the Interim Facility on July 1st, 2016, **175** status holders have participated in the project.
- The architect-couple Kalfsbeek donated the Cultural price of Drenthe they had received, worth €10.000, to the Interim Facility for the purpose of purchasing **97** bicycles for the guests.
- How better to integrate than by biking through the landscape of Drenthe, being introduced to the dolmens, the shepherds, and the Drentse Aa.....



Young status holders in the Interim Facility Eelde using the bikes

### ***WHAT INVOLVEMENT AND LOVE OF ONE'S NEIGHBOUR CAN DO***

**They have been mangled maximally by the asylum system, but with the help of the Church in Papendrecht, INLIA, Kerk in Actie and the 'Bed-Bath-Bread'-attorney, they have managed to overcome the system. The mother and sister of Khadija Sharif from Somalia are finally, after ten years, allowed to stay in the Netherlands.**

Khadija received a residence permit years ago. She had a house, was studying to become a maternity assistant and was trying to put her life back together. From one day to the next, she was sharing her small house with her mother and sister, having her allowance curtailed because she was giving shelter to 'illegal immigrants' and had to live of 40 euros a month, between the three of them.

Khadija's mother and her mentally disabled sister came from Somalia to the Netherlands in 2007. The IND doubted their nationalities and did not believe that the two were related to Khadija. A simple DNA-test could have proven this, but the IND did not do this. Mother and sister were put out on the streets.

Khadija took them under her roof, but as a result her benefit was cut. The Protestant Church in Papendrecht took the fate of these three women to heart. The Church showed them the way to the food bank and took care of complementary financial support.

This brought the peace they needed. Mother Shariff, on the advice of INLIA, turned to the Somali embassy in Brussel and managed to get a declaration of nationality. Her nationality was thus established. Kerk in Actie paid a DNA-test for mother Sharif from the emergency fund and the kinship was conclusively established.

With new proof and a new asylum attorney INLIA had arranged for her, she again requested asylum. More than a year later, this request was accepted. Khadija resumed her education to become a maternity assistant. Her mother, who is now 77 years old, can enjoy her old age a little and her little sister will finally receive the help and attention she needs.

Which shows what involvement, love of one's neighbour and a good network can do.

A report from the 'Bed-Bath-Bread'- shelter

## *Once more, we have to say goodbye to a sweet guest*

*In memory: Roza Khachatryan, the woman of the hugs*

Today, 3 March 2017, we bury Roza Khachatryan. 89 years old, from Armenia. She was the eldest of our group of almost thirty elderly people in the bbb+ in Groningen. She is the second guest to whom we have to say goodbye in only a short amount of time. In December, we buried Anzhela Balayan, 81 years old, also from Armenia.

Roza and Anzhela arrived at the bbb+ separately, but became close friends at our shelter. Roza was the first to arrive; last year March. A typical wise old woman. Really sweet as well. She would always grab you with both hands and give you a hug. I am involved, but as a social worker of course I have also learned to keep a professional distance. Roza did not care about this; you could not avoid a hug.

The last two months she missed her friend Anzhela terribly. Luckily she had her children and grandchildren near her. Roza arrived here with her son, daughter-in-law and two (now grown-up) grandchildren. Their asylum requests had been denied and thus they had been evicted from the government-accommodation.

Roza was 88 years old, sat in a wheelchair and was suffering a heart condition among other ailments. Evicted from the government-accommodation, out on the streets. Regardless of the fact that she was legal here because she had requested to stay on medical grounds and was allowed to await that decision in the Netherlands. Legal here, old and needy, yet still out on the streets.

We took them in. A nurse came by for medical assistance, other than that Roza's family took care of her. Cooking, washing, cleaning, doing groceries, going with her to the doctor or hospital as a translator; her children and grandchildren did it with devotion. They are grateful that Roza was allowed to reach such a blessed age. 'But she is my grandmother,' her granddaughter told me, 'and I will miss her.'

All of us will, by the way. The second death in such a short time is not easy for the guests, the staff and the volunteers. In a moment, we will pay our last respects to Roza. She deserves this. It is the last thing we can do for her and the least we can do for her children and grandchildren.

We now count 28 people who are over 60 years old in our shelter. Fourteen of them are over 65 years old. Elderly who are put out on the streets. It happens, in the Netherlands. It surprises me that there is barely any fuss about this. The discussion about elderly care in the Netherlands is mainly about the quality of the care at home or in the nursing homes.

But the fact that we put elderly out on the streets in this country when their asylum request has been denied; it passes tacitly. To date, there has not been any national agitation, no petitions on social media, no parliamentary questions, no action committee.

In fact: there are even voices that say that there should not be a 'Bed-Bath-Bread'-shelter at all. Where should these elderly go then? Most of them need homecare; help with washing and getting dressed, and most of the time also medical care. On the streets, they will not receive this. That is unacceptable, surely?

Do we really want that: to put needy elderly out on the streets? How do we view that, in this country? I wonder. But right now I will first say goodbye to Roza Khachatryan. Thank you for the hugs, Roza, rest in peace.



Mrs. Anzhela Balayan from Armenia is buried at Selwerderhof (Groningen)



The living stone is a brick with an inscription that references the Bible verse that mentions living stones, in the First Letter of St. Peter, chapter 2 verse 4 and 5 (NBV): *As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

As a visible token of a great appreciation, INLIA will present this award to a person or a faith community that has particularly committed itself to helping refugees in desperate need, and in doing so is an inspiring example to all of us on how to act in line with the biblical commandment 'the living stones.' Former recipients are among others Ineke Bakker, then secretary of the Council of Churches in the Netherlands, and Sister Karin of the Lutheran Alsike Cloister in Sweden.

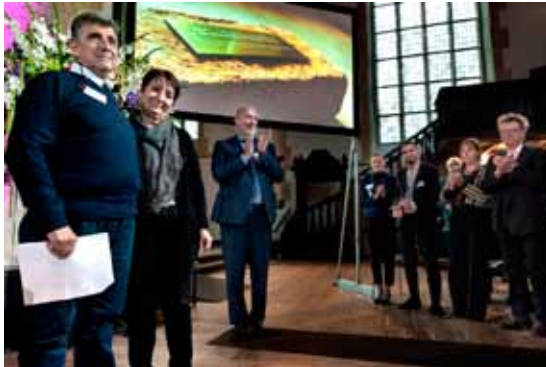
## The Living Stone for Pietro Bartólo

On October 8, 2016, the citizens and authorities of Lampedusa received the award 'The Living Stone' in the Martini church in Groningen for their impressive dedication to refugees. In recent years more than 300.000 refugees have arrived on this Italian island in the Mediterranean sea (of only 25 square kilometre; Schiermonnikoog is almost twice as big!). Not their number but the need of the people is the primary concern for the citizens of this small island.

Dr. Pietro Bartólo, doctor on Lampedusa, accepted the award. As the only doctor on the island, he has taken care of all immigrants, dead and alive, that reached on Lampedusa.

He was addressed by the director of Amnesty International in the Netherlands, the chair of the Dutch Roman Catholic Bishop Conference, the Deputy Mayor of Groningen and the board and director of INLIA.

In his expression of gratitude, dr. Bartólo cited Pope Francis who said about refugees: 'Migrants are not a danger; they are in danger.' He appealed to the audience to support Northern-Europe to offer refugees a new life: 'We on Lampedusa are the door of Europe, but you are its house.'



During the ceremony, a student choir of high school *het Maartenscollege* from Haren sang a Sicilian refugee song. A chamber choir and an ensemble performed the world debut of the oratorio 'Songs of Exile' of renowned composer Chris Fictoor.

Hundreds of members of (Charter)churches, ecclesiastical and civilian administrators, civil servants, doctors, care givers, professionals, volunteers as well as other interested parties attended. We will not forget this special gathering anytime soon.



## Church relations in the region

### **180** charter communities

have remained of the almost 300 communities after the fusion of 'Moving Forward Together' churches to PKN (Protestant Church the Netherlands).

### **470** other local churches

are also involved in the work of INLIA.

### Around **650** local faith communities

thus support INLIA.



A delegation of the Council of Churches receives some explanation about the bbb+

**Almost all** denominations are represented from Protestant, Roman Catholic, Remonstrant and Reformed to Baptist, Mennonite, Evangelist, Old Catholic and the Quakers.

### **Twice** a year we visit all regions in the country

to talk with the church-communities that support INLIA, to share experiences and to anticipate future developments in the immigration policy.



John van Tilborg gives a presentation to the Council of Churches in the Netherlands, who paid a working visit to INLIA.

## Have you become curious?

Representatives of local churches are more than welcome to visit INLIA as well.

Annually, around **18.000** unique visitors find their way to our website  
Look at our website yourself; it will be completely updated soon!

**[www.inlia.nl](http://www.inlia.nl)**

## Colophon

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