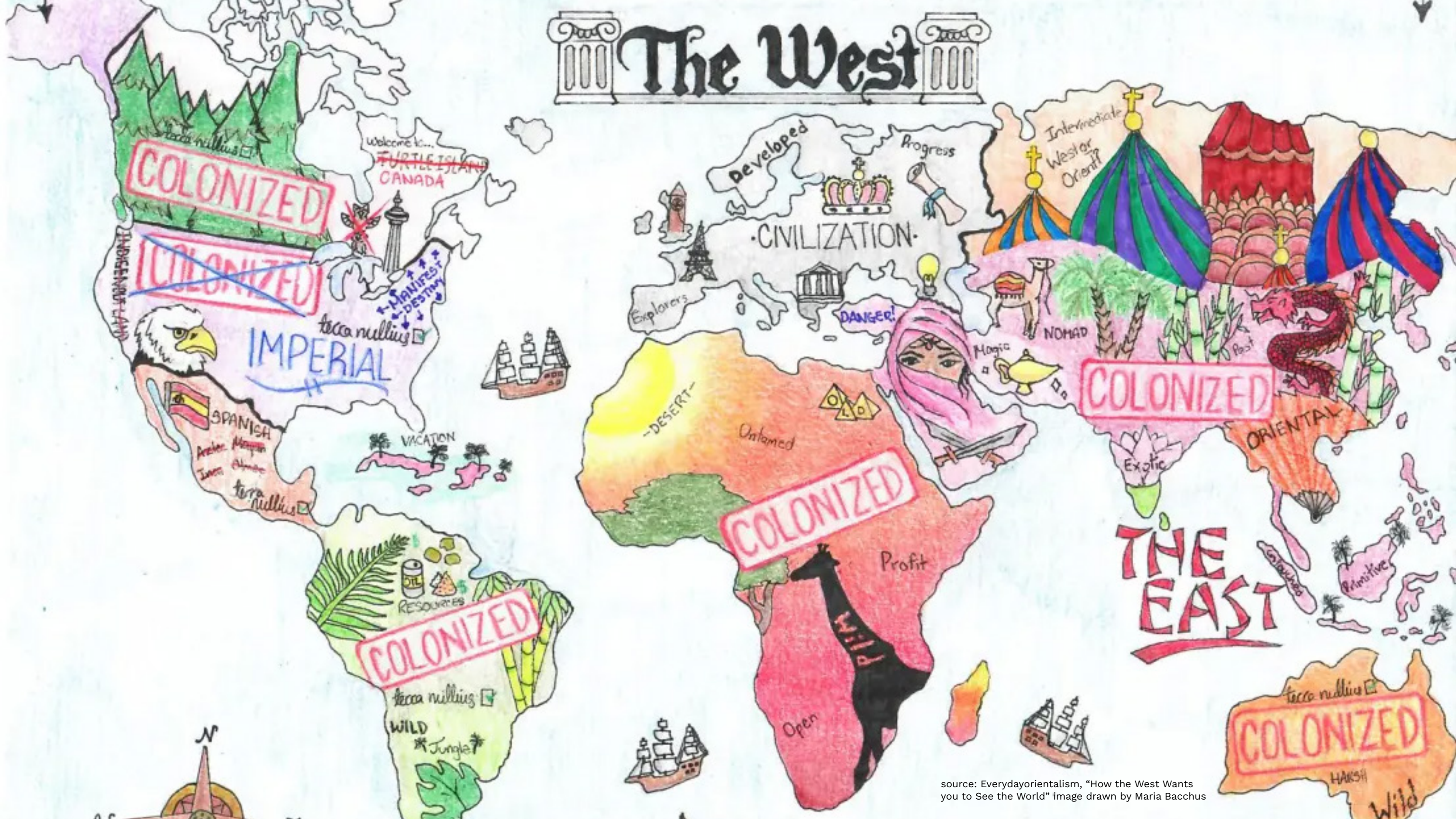


SHARED SPACES SHARED LIVES

Imagining the integration of natives with refugees living in isolated temporary asylum shelters through common spaces of interaction

The West



source: Everydayorientalism, "How the West Wants you to See the World" image drawn by Maria Bacchus

1. CONTEXT + PROBLEM FIELD

- *European Union*
- *Netherlands*

RESEARCH AIM

2. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- *Theories*
- *Case studies*

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

3. ANALYSIS

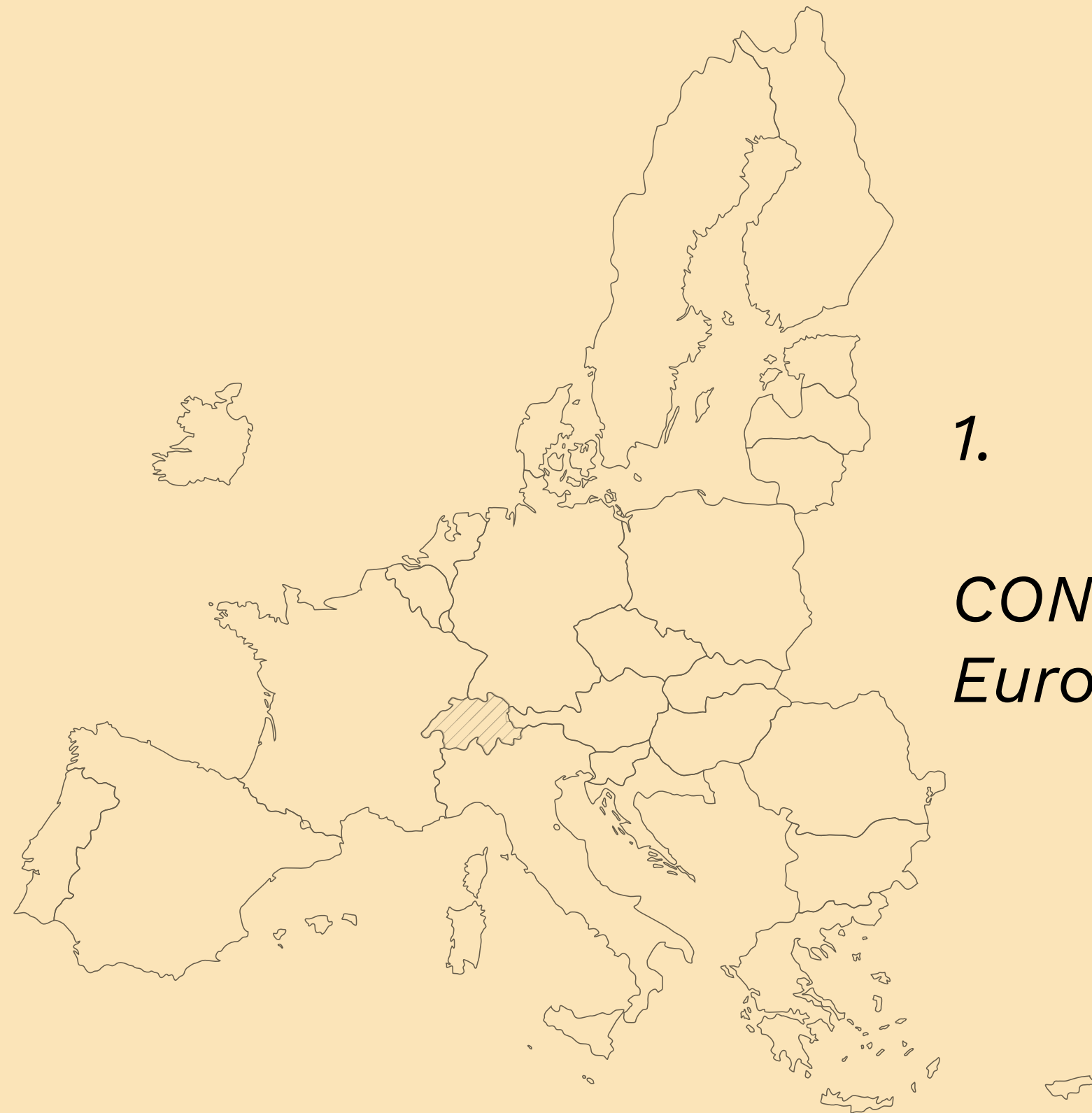
- *About the asylum procedure and the shelters*
- *Case studies*
- *Interviews*

4. DESIGN & POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- *Strategy*
- *Design guidelines*
- *Policy recommendations*

5. REFLECTION

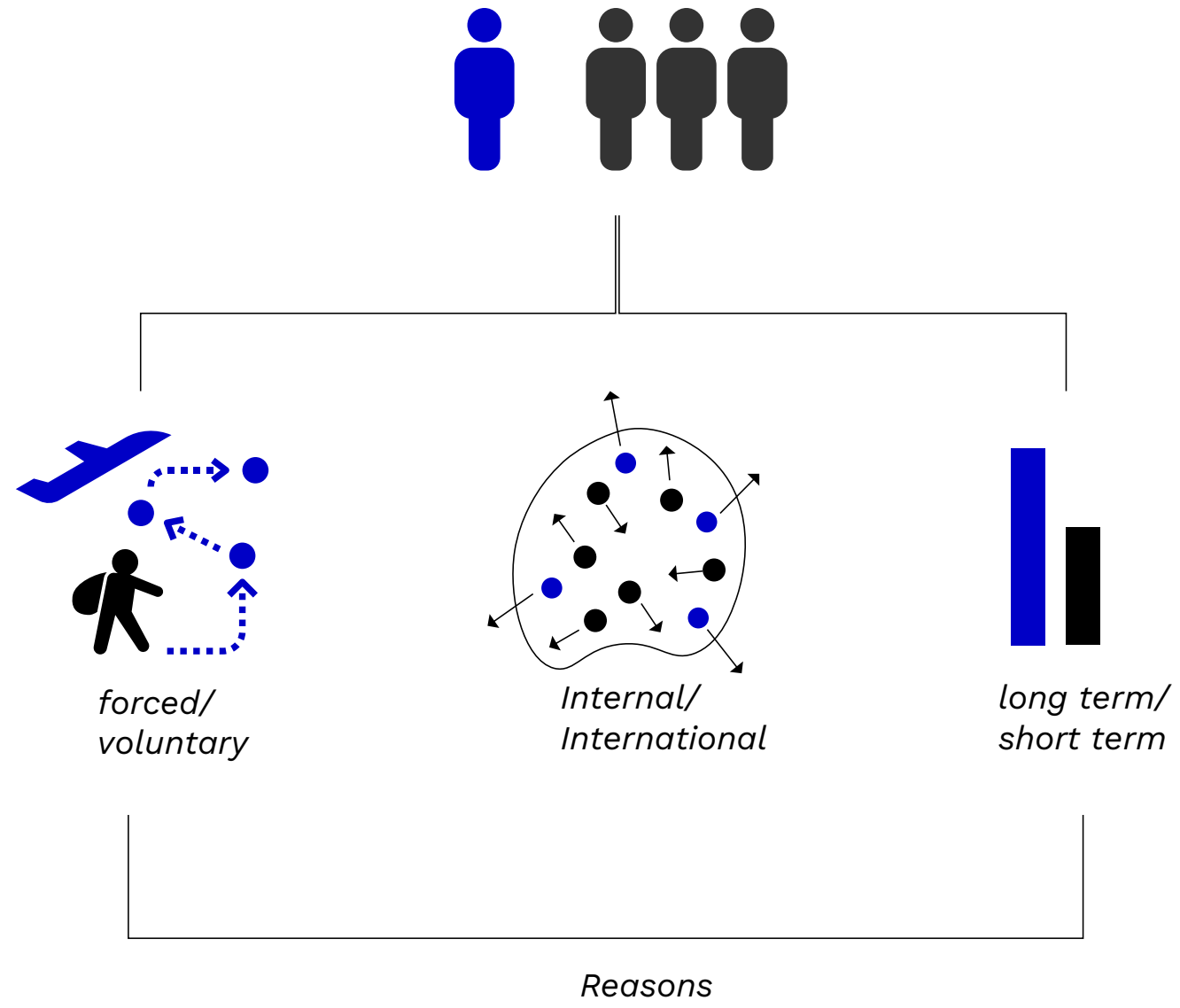
- *The project*
- *Personal experiences*



1.

*CONTEXT/
European Union*

Types of 'Migrants'



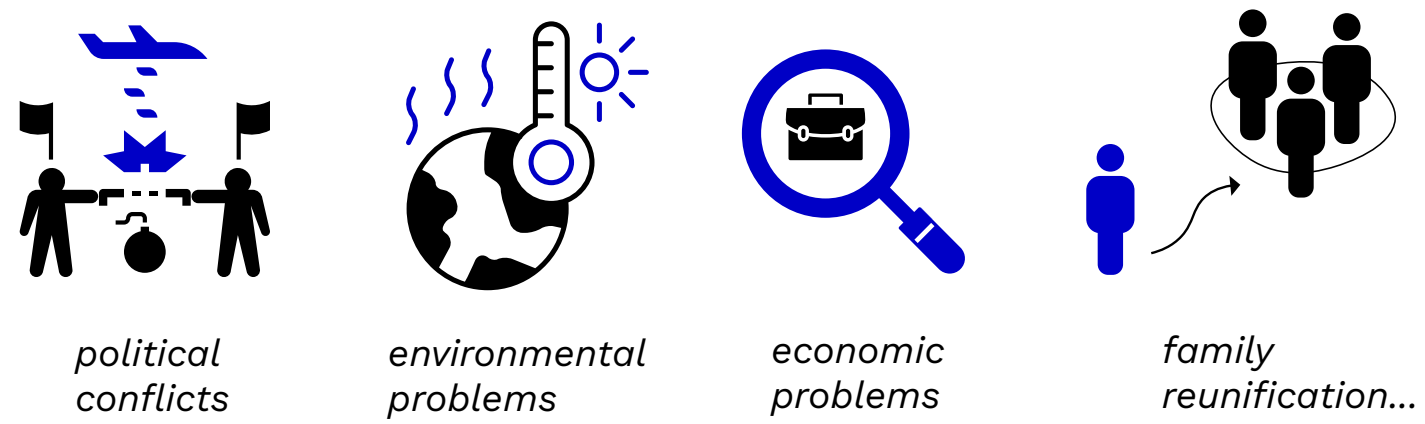
'Migrants' OR

'Immigrant' OR

Refugee? OR

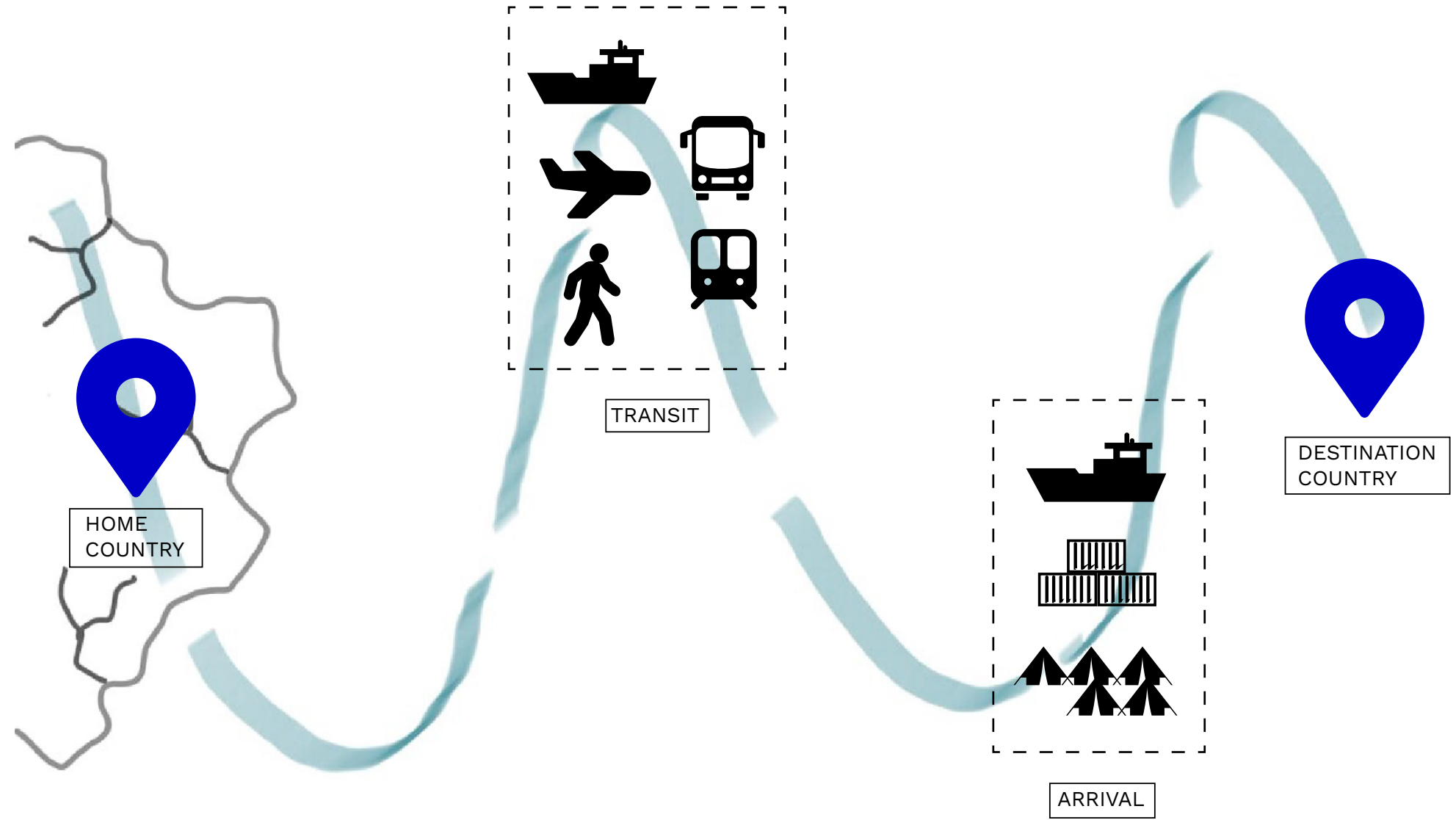
'Asylum Seeker' ?

Are they all the same?



source: International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The Journey





Refugee boat in the Mediterranean source:
Massimo Sestini / eyevine



Hungary's border fence with Serbia, Rebecca
Harms / Flickr



Greece, Europe
© Jörg Brüggemann

Transit

At Borders

At the destination

Failure of EU laws

- limits to harmonisation
- unequal distribution of refugees (Dublin regulation)
- Implementation gap
- Vulnerability to stress

NEW PACT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM

- keeps people at the border in the first country
- poor reception standards in strained border countries
- racial profiling
- delay access to the asylum procedure
- prolong detention at the borders

- people would be obliged to apply for asylum or other forms of legal stay in the **Member State of first entry and remain there**
- Asylum seekers who come from a country where less than 20% of people who apply for asylum in the EU have their claims approved would be automatically referred to the **border procedure**
- states to transfer responsibility for asylum seeker in a so-called **“safe third country”**

COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM

- determines **which Member State is responsible** for examining an asylum application
- establishes common standards for **fair and efficient** asylum procedures
- minimum common standards for asylum applicants' **living conditions**
- establishes who **qualifies as a refugee** or a beneficiary of subsidiary protection and that provides a series of rights for beneficiaries

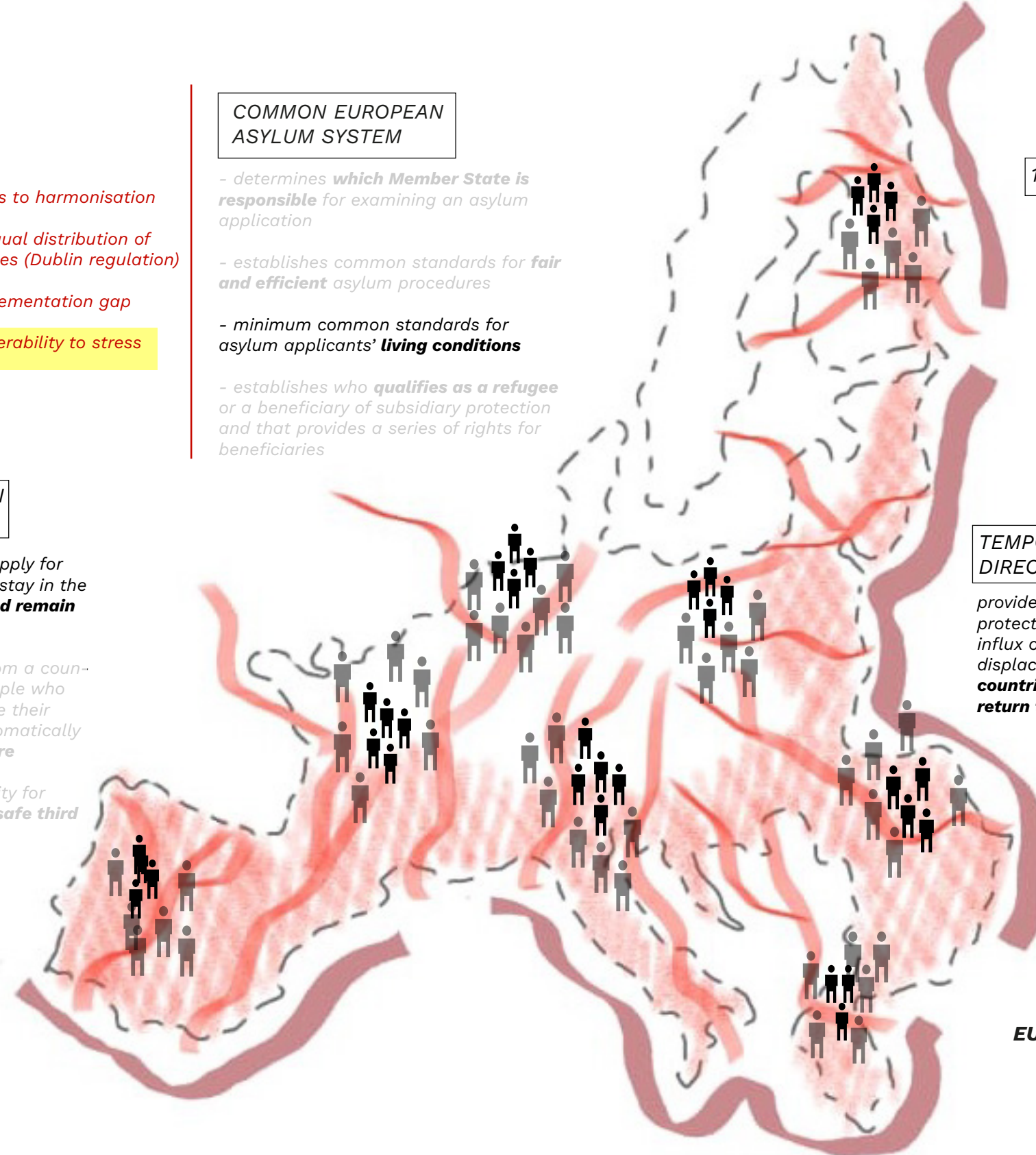
1951 GENEVA CONVENTION

TEMPORARY PROTECTION DIRECTIVE

provide immediate and temporary protection in the event of a mass influx or imminent mass influx of displaced persons from **non-EU countries who are unable to return to their country of origin.**

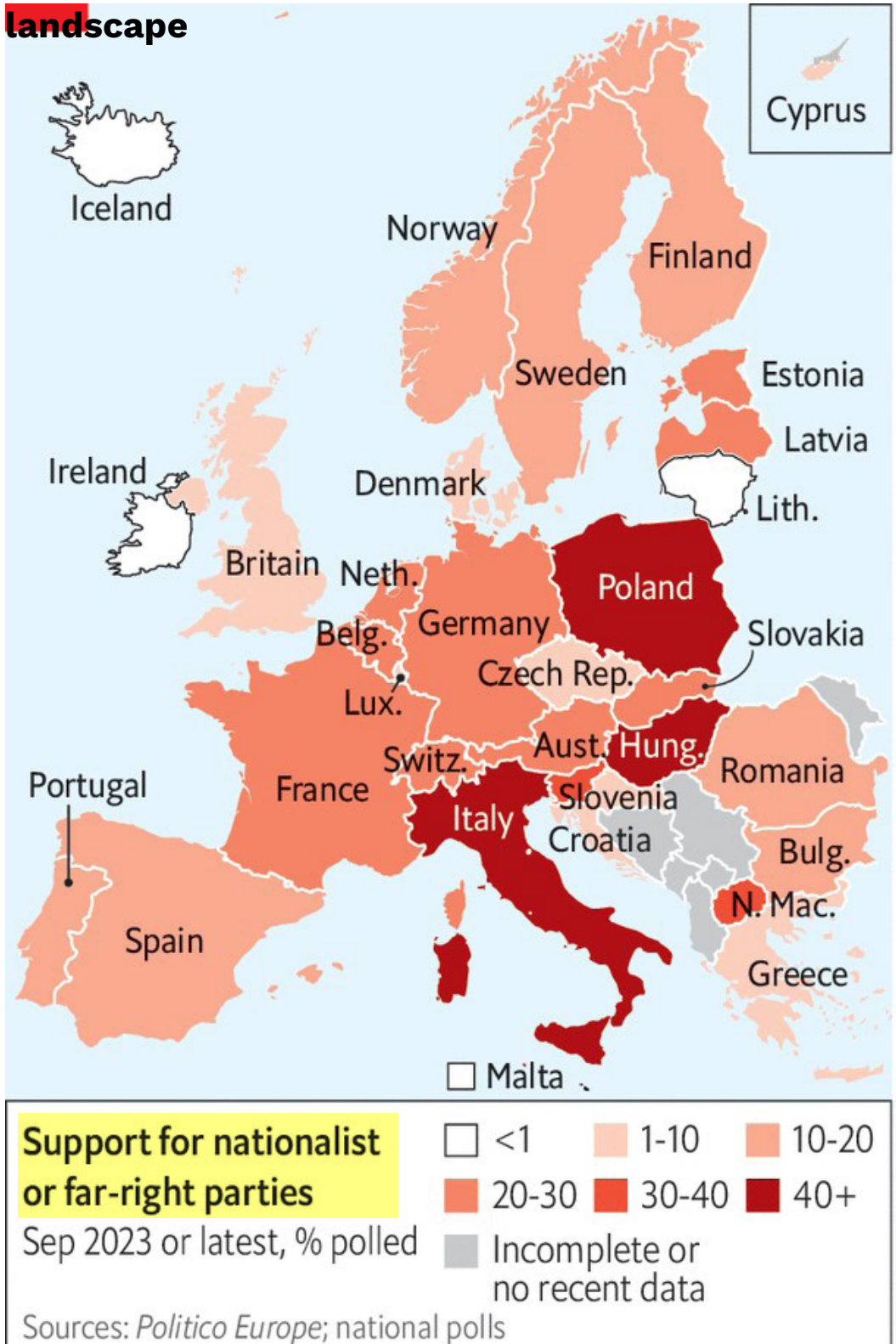
- does not include mass migration happening from specific countries

Note: Climate Migrants are recognised under these laws



EUROPEAN UNION

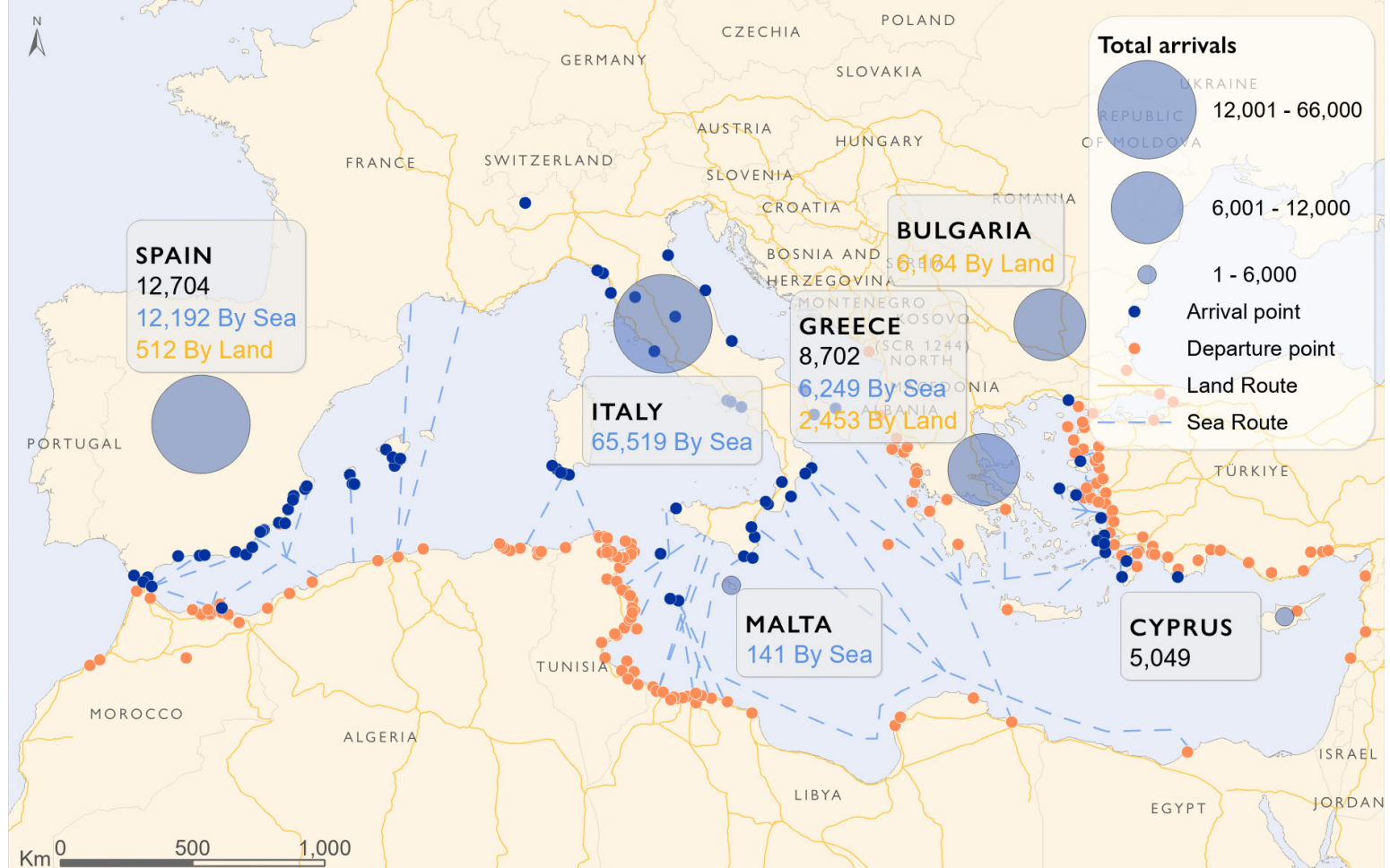
Political landscape



Deal With Tunisia: The European Union's Latest Attempt To Externalize Its Refugee Problems. source: theowp.org, Euronews

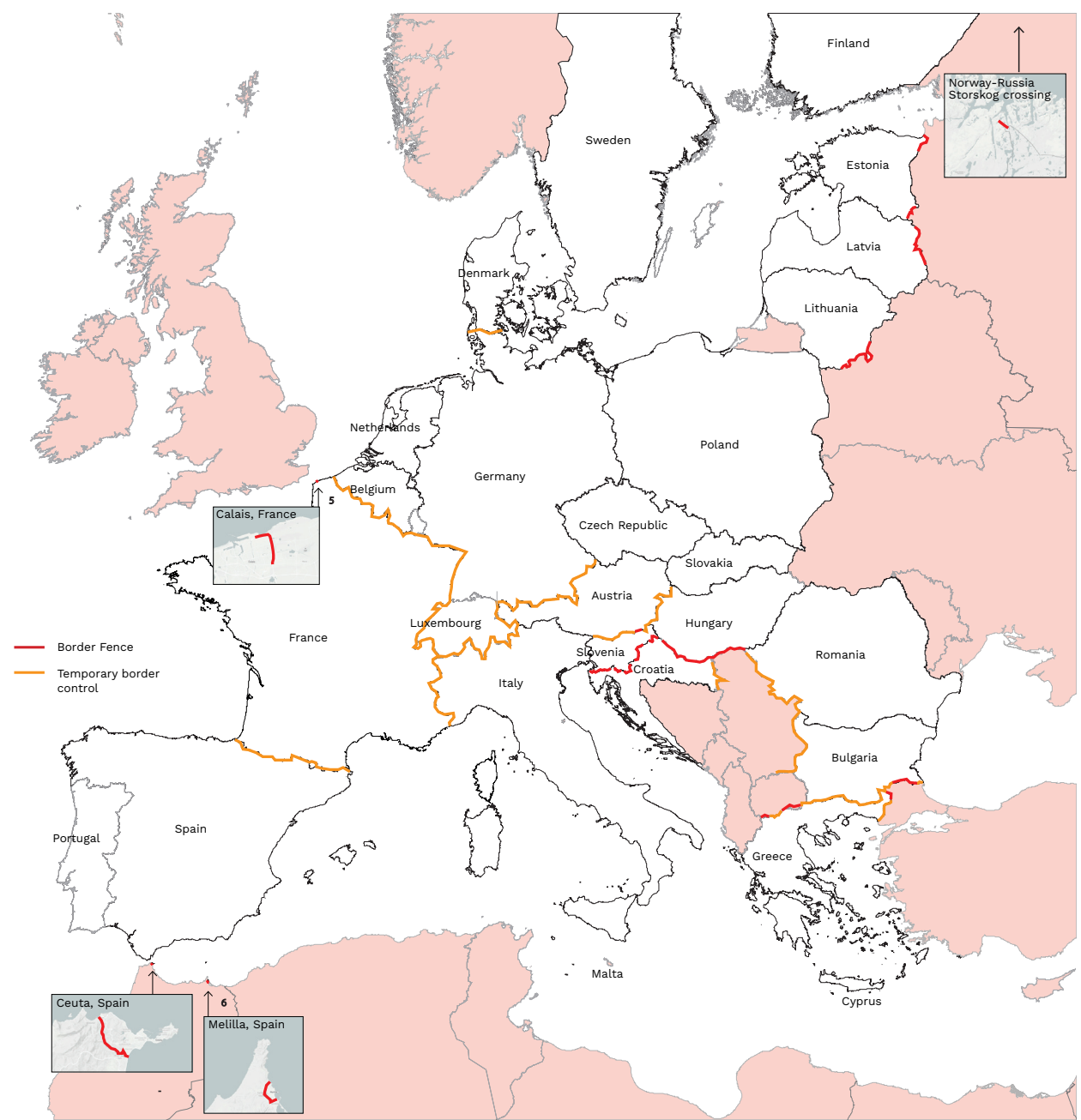
Arrivals to Europe
01 January - 30 June 2023

98,279 TOTAL **85,890 By Sea** **12,389 By Land**



This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM. Source Data : IOM, National Authorities
source: Europe — Mixed Migration Flows to Europe, reliefweb

Arrival points at sea



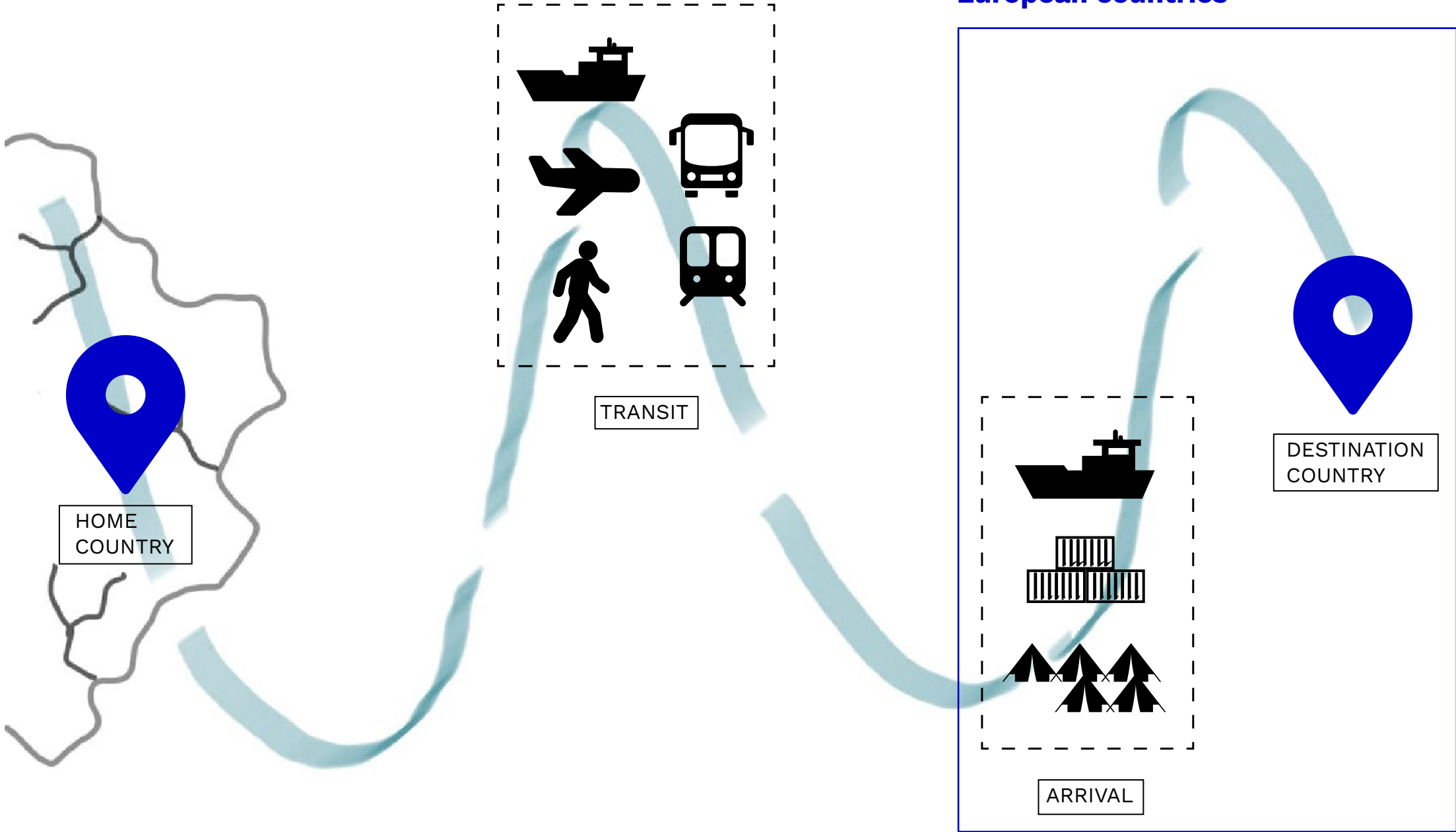
source: Border Fences and Internal Border Controls in Europe - World, 2017

Land borders



WHAT NEXT..?

Focus - Destination Country



Spatial outcomes



source: This aerial picture shows migrants' tents at a camp on the outskirts of the city of Calais, northern France on September 16, 2023. © Sameer al-Doumy, AFP



source: Gyms, schools and municipal buildings are being used as temporary reception facilities in Germany to house additional asylum seekers | Photo Felix Kästle / picture alliance

Camps VS Temporary Asylum Centres

1.

*PROBLEM FIELD/
Netherlands*

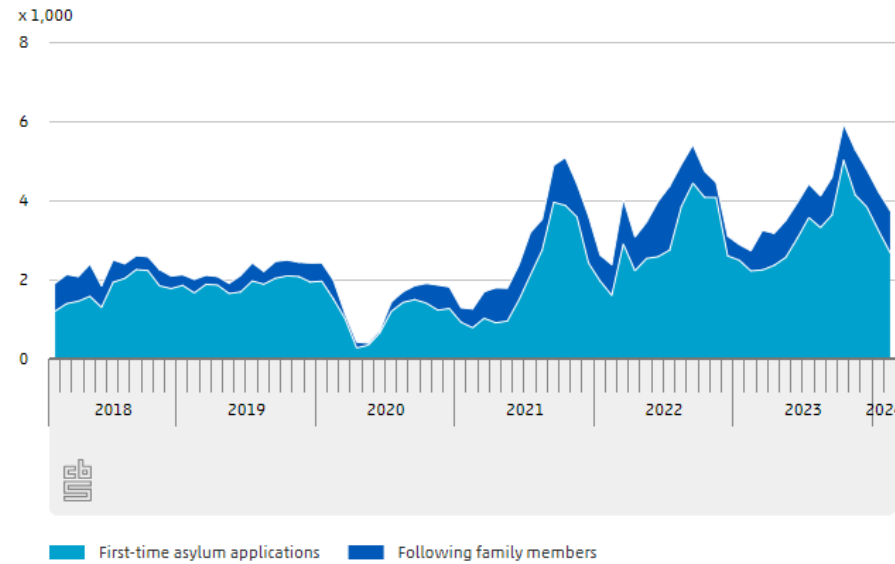
Location

The Netherlands



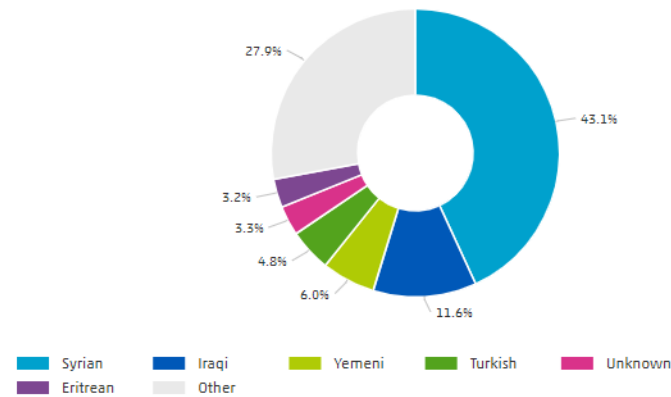
Arrival situation

Asylum seekers and following family members



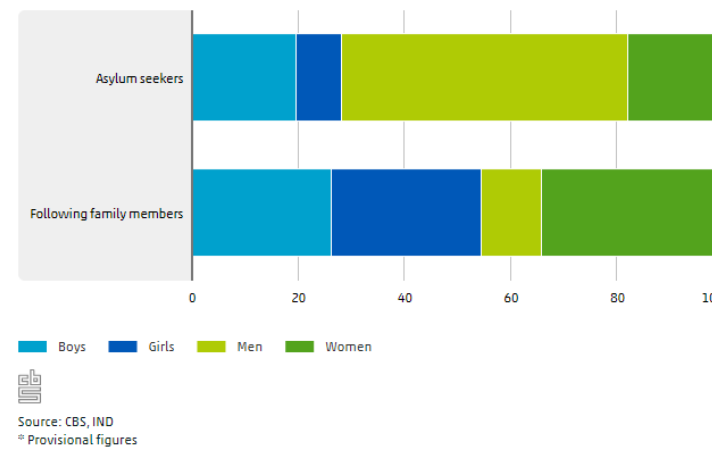
Differences between asylum seekers

Nationalities of asylum seekers and following family members, February 2024*



- highly dependant on social assistance benefits
- highly feel Dutch even with less years of staying in the country because of the safety they feel
- majority of them have contact with the native Dutch citizens and friends from own community within the country

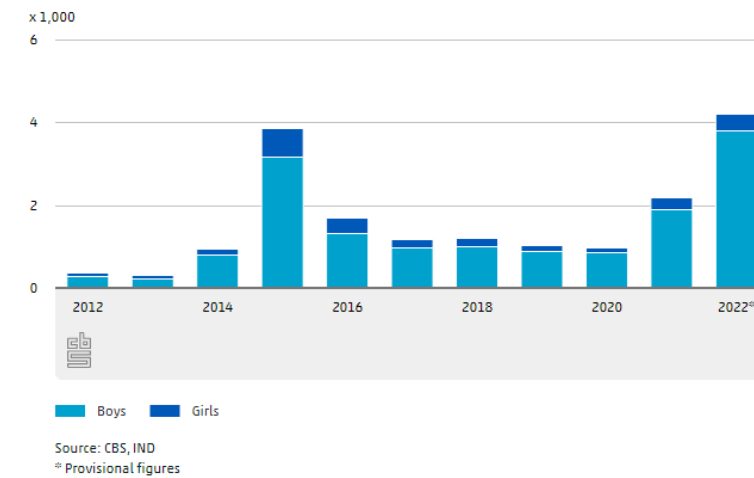
Asylum seekers and following family members, February 2024*



- engaged in more public-facing activities including being expected to join the army
- get a job and income and then have family reunification.

Unsecured conditions

Unaccompanied minor aliens

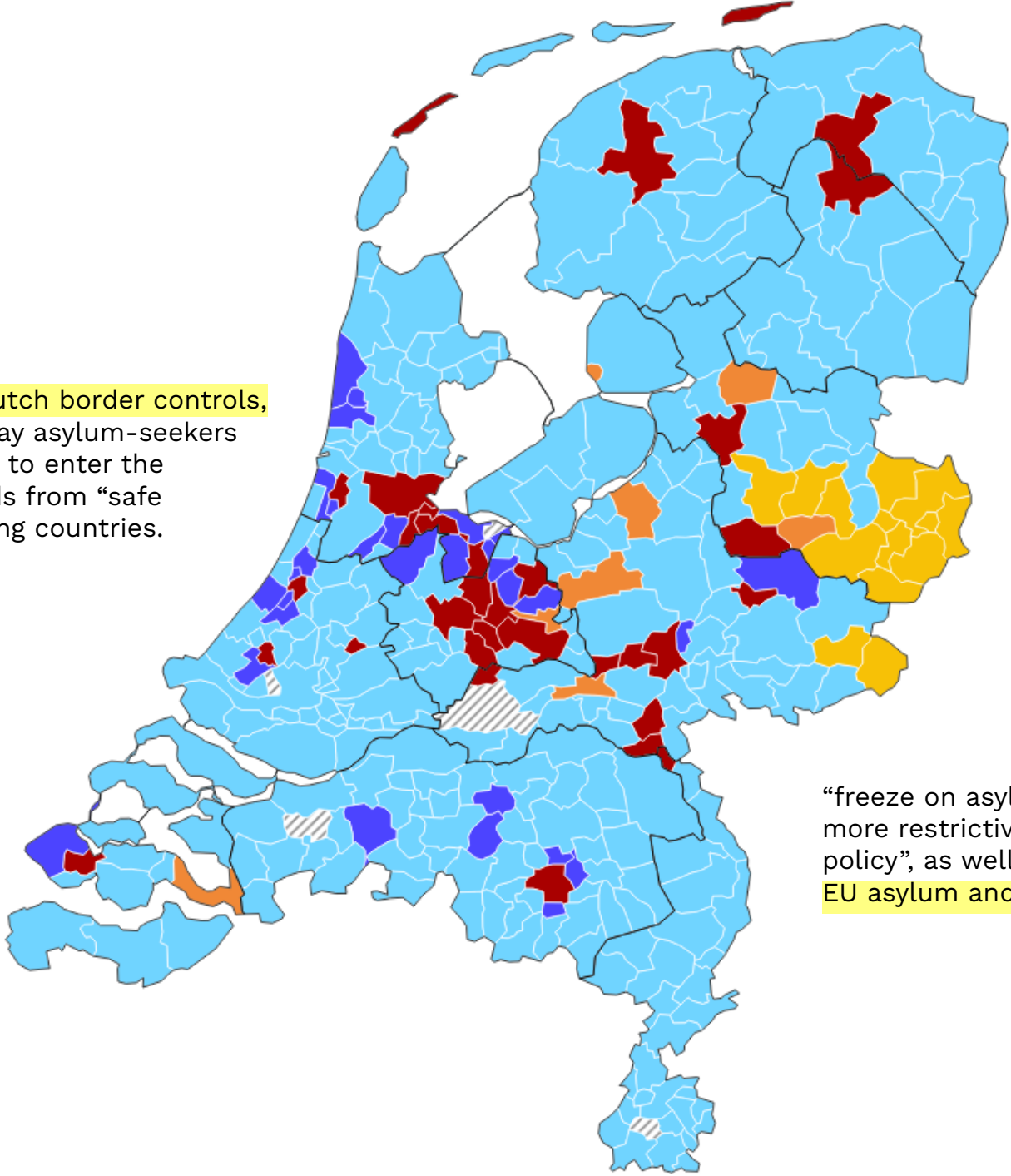


- minors are disappearing from refugee centres, particularly from Ter Apel.
- majority end up in the hands of criminals

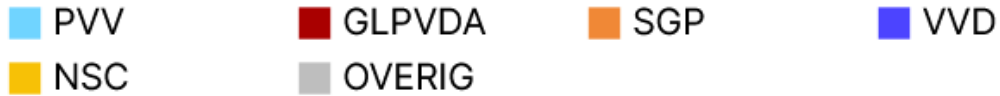
Current Political situation

“restore Dutch border controls, turning away asylum-seekers attempting to enter the Netherlands from “safe neighbouring countries.”

“We want less Islam in the Netherlands and we will achieve that through: less non-Western immigration and the introduction of a general halt to asylum”



“freeze on asylum” and “a generally more restrictive immigration policy”, as well as an opt-out from EU asylum and migration rules”



source: The election in cards: PVV also popular in the Bible Belt, NSC in the northeast, Jessurun & Kersten, 2023, NOS

Resistance from people

A TALE OF TWO TYPES OF ASYLUM SEEKERS

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

DUTCH TOWN WELCOMES ASYLUM SEEKERS "IT'S OUR DUTY AS CHRISTIANS"
Harskamp verwelkomt vluchtelingen: 'Opvangen is ook onze christelijke plicht'

Bewoners van Harskamp staan open voor de komst van Oekraïense vluchtelingen in de barakken van de kazerne daar. Dit blijkt uit de eerste reacties.

Marc Nickel 03-03-22, 22:50

THE SAME DUTCH TOWN THROWS FIREWORKS AND STARTS FIRES PROTESTING AGAINST ASYLUM SEEKERS FROM AFGHANISTAN

Vlammen en vuurwerk bij Veluwe protest tegen noodopvang Afghaanse vluchtelingen: politie grijpt in

Een protestbijeenkomst in het Veluwe dorp Harskamp tegen de komst van vluchtelingen uit Afghanistan zorgde vanavond voor chaotische taferelen in het centrum van Harskamp. Ongeveer 250 personen, schreeuwden leuzen en staken vuurwerk af.

Albert Heller 24-08-21, 22:32

BUT NOTHING TO DO WITH RACISM

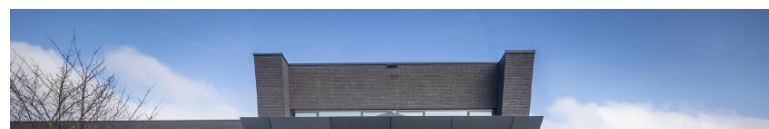
NEWS

Asylum seekers are not allowed to stay in the Van der Valk hotel in Uden for the time being after objections from local residents

AsylumThe municipality must first make a decision on the permit application from the Safety Council and the COA. The new residents would actually move in on December 11 and stay there until October 1, 2026 at the latest.

Roland van Erven • December 8, 2023 • Reading time 1 minute

Listen To share



Unstable reception conditions

REPORTING

Drugs, violence and theft: it's no fun for anyone in Ter Apel anymore

Asylum crisisLocal residents are fed up with the nuisance caused by the asylum seekers' center. But above all, they want other municipalities to help accommodate asylum seekers: "The asylum seekers' center does not have to go."

Denise Retera • December 10, 2023 • Reading time 3 minutes

Listen To share

NEWS

Inspection: residents of emergency asylum shelters run significant health risks

Asylum shelterAccording to the inspectorate, the municipal shelters are "not suitable for shelter that lasts longer than a week."

Naim Derbali • March 9, 2023 • Reading time 1 minute

Listen To share

Proposed solutions

BACKGROUND

Velsen-Noord may vote on asylum seeker ship: 'Should we send those poor wretches away now?'

Asylum seekersIn Velsen-Noord, the choice of whether the shelter with a thousand asylum seekers may remain is left to the residents. "We were promised that it would really only be for six months."

Romy van der Poel • March 3, 2023 • Reading time 6 minutes

Listen To share

NEWS

COA wants to allocate up to 750 million euros for emergency accommodation of asylum seekers on ships

Asylum shelterCOA chairman Milo Schoenmaker told the newspaper on Monday *Fidelity* that the organization wants to use shelter boats for "an even longer period of time". "Ships are equipped for a longer stay."

Flori Hofman • November 20, 2023 • Reading time 1 minute

Current Distribution

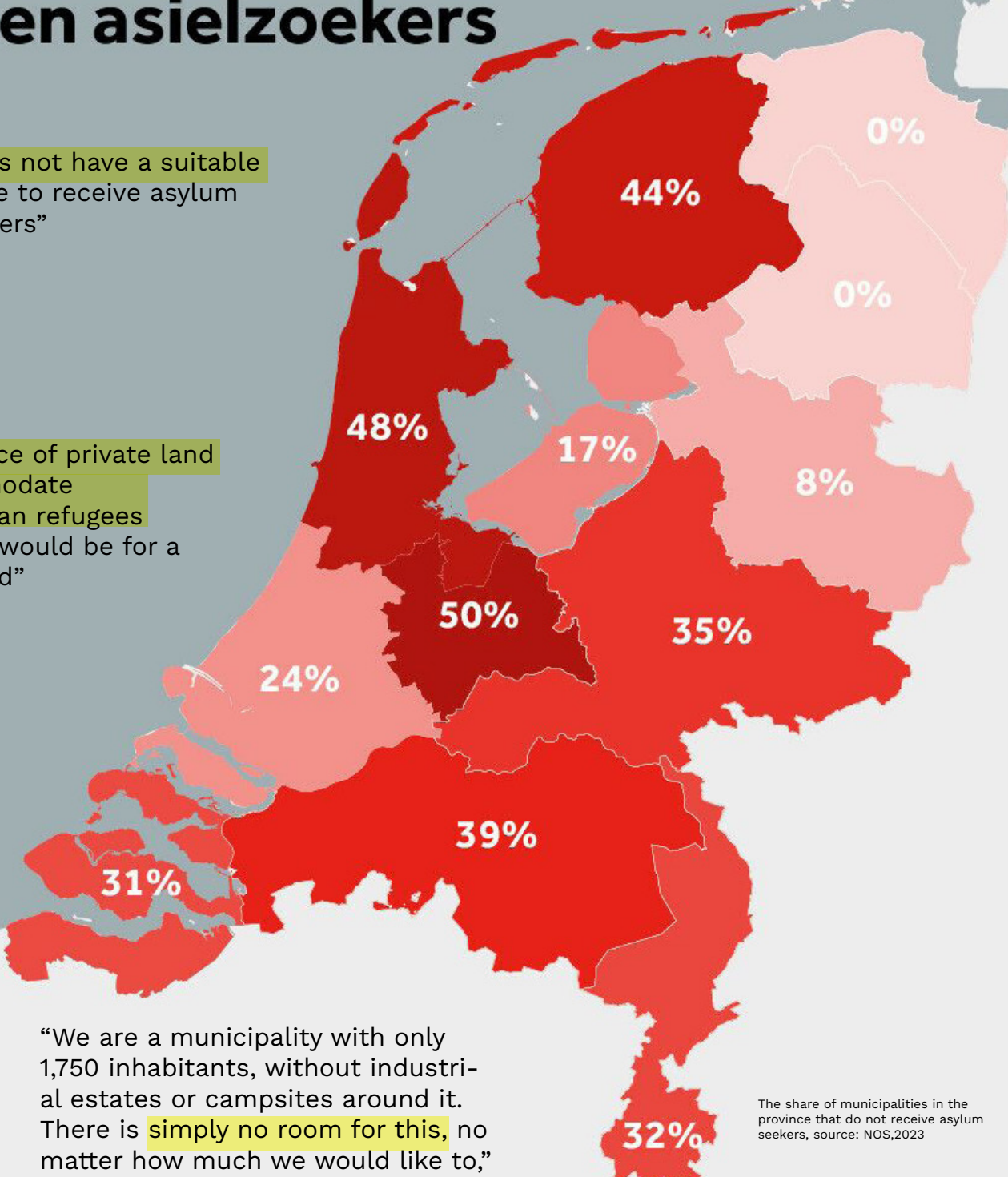
die geen asielzoekers

“does not have a suitable place to receive asylum seekers”

using a piece of private land to accommodate the Ukrainian refugees because it would be for a short period”

“We are a municipality with only 1,750 inhabitants, without industrial estates or campsites around it. There is simply no room for this, no matter how much we would like to,”

The share of municipalities in the province that do not receive asylum seekers, source: NOS,2023

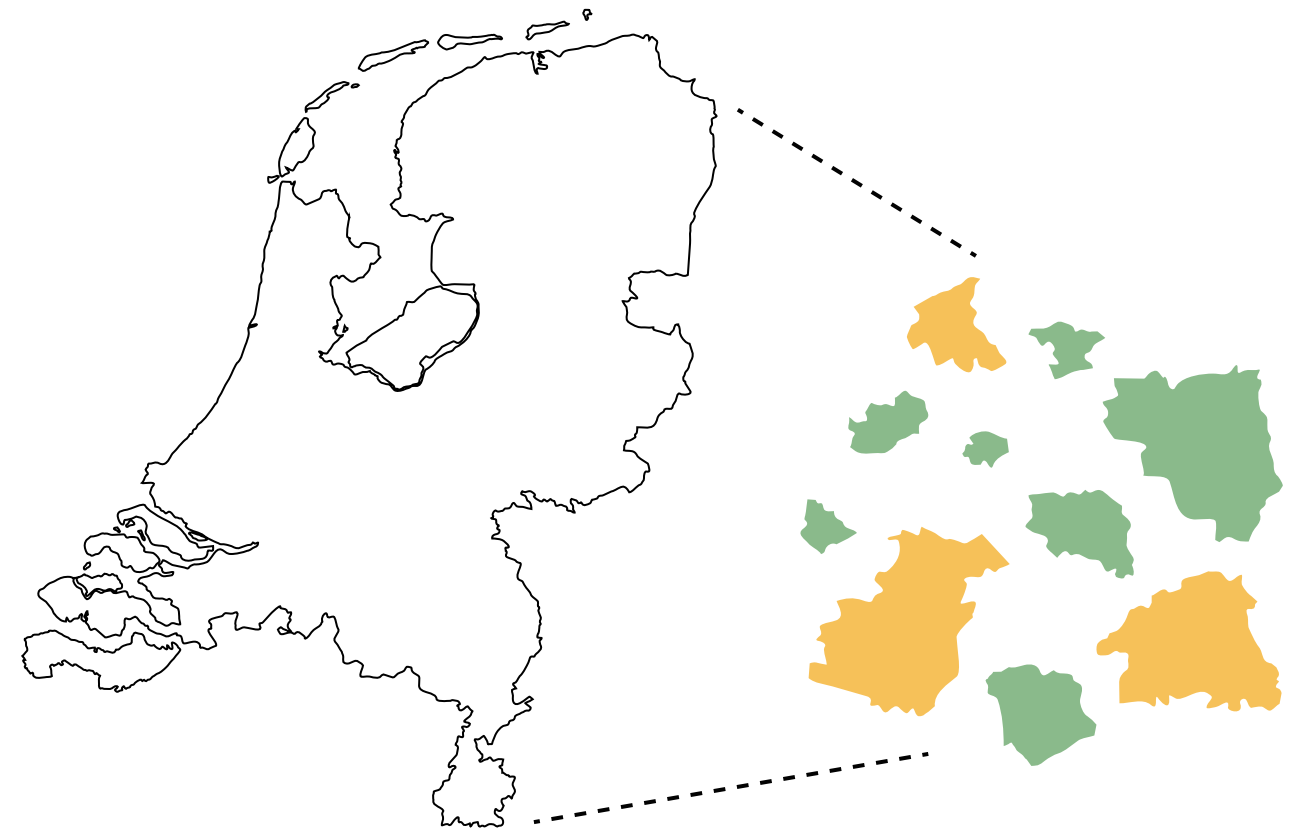


No asylum shelters



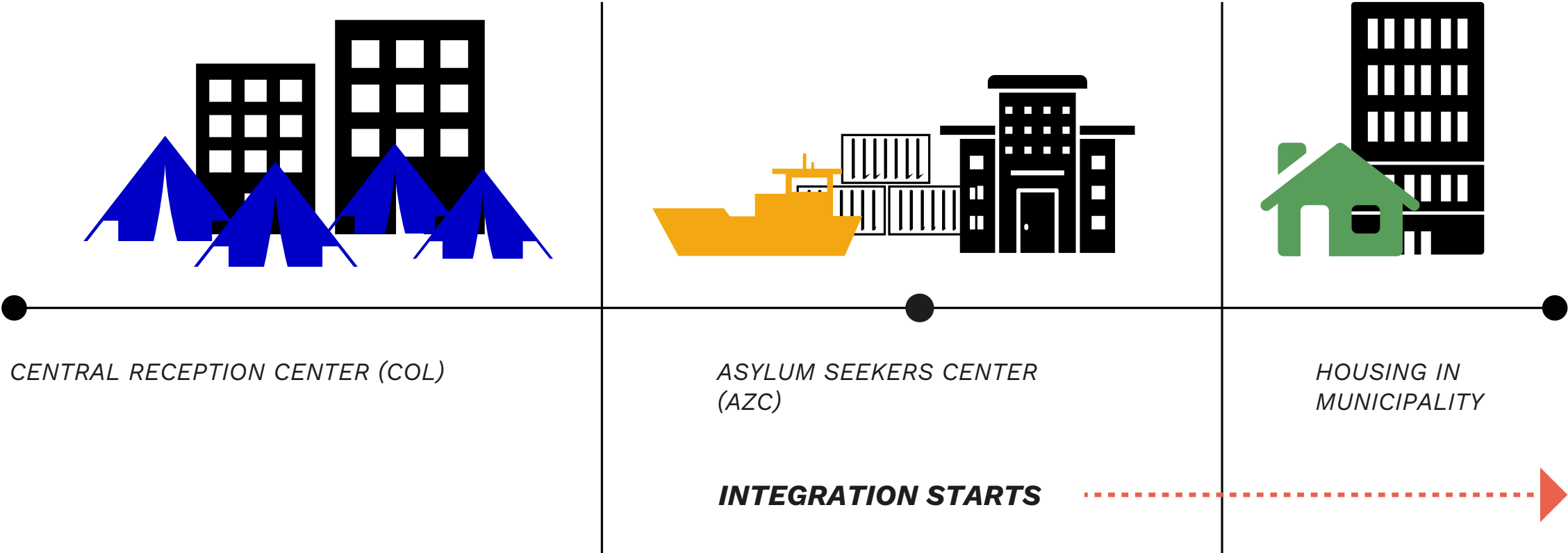
Distribution of asylum shelters in the last 12 years

342



source: Spreidingswet Heeft Vooral Invloed Op Opvang Asielzoekers in Utrecht En Noord-Holland, 2024, NOS

Stages of Asylum Process





Central reception



Temporary shelter

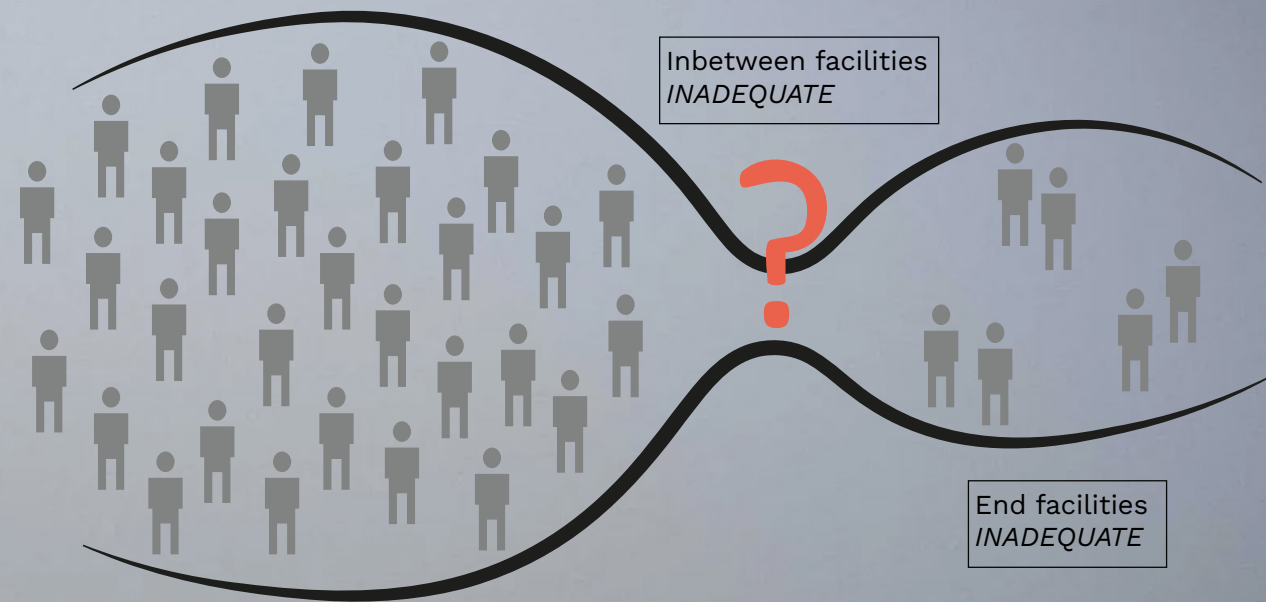


Social housing

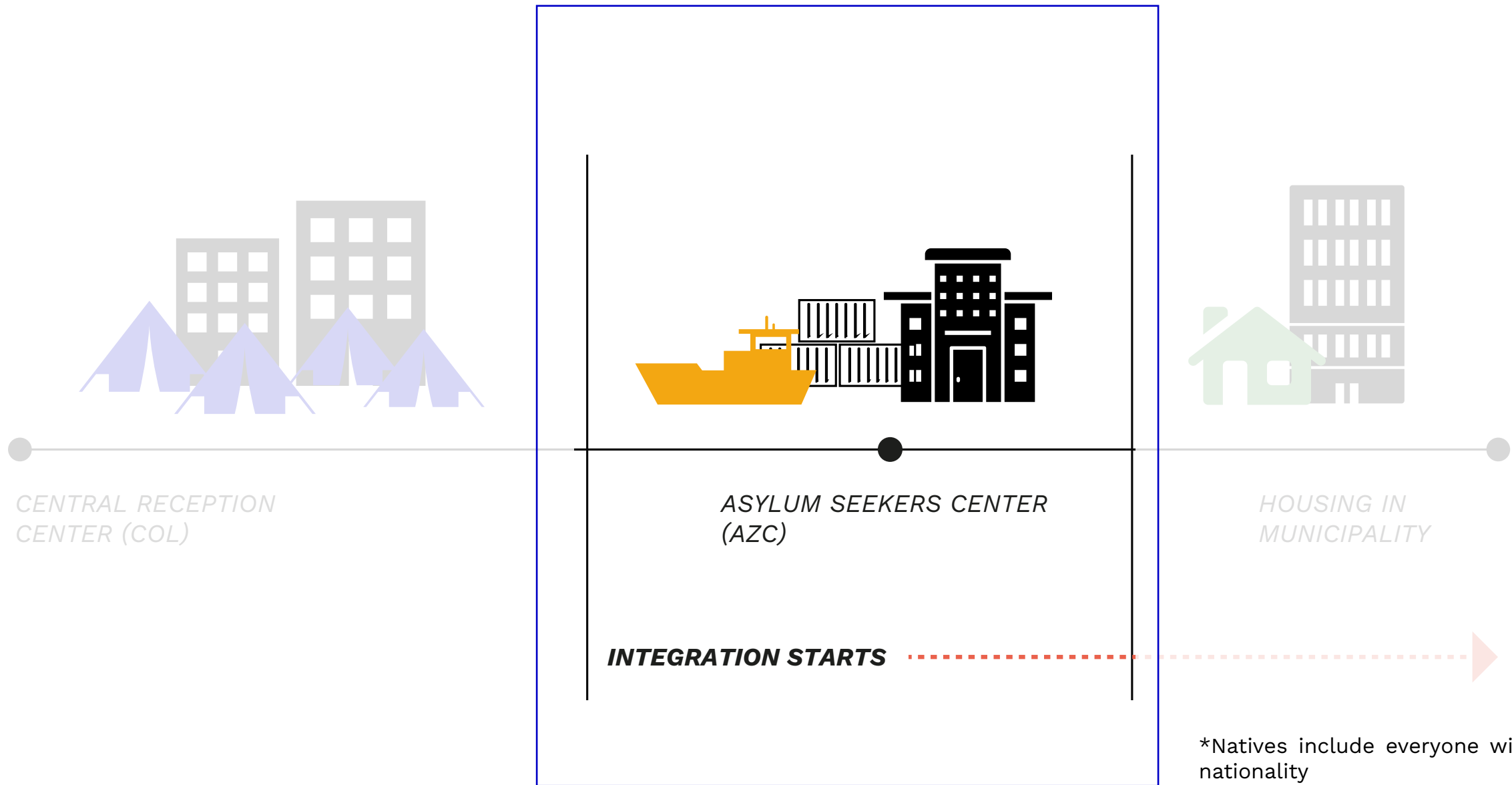
Central Reception Location, Ter
Apel



CENTRAL RECEPTION CENTER (COL)



outskirts of Ter Apel



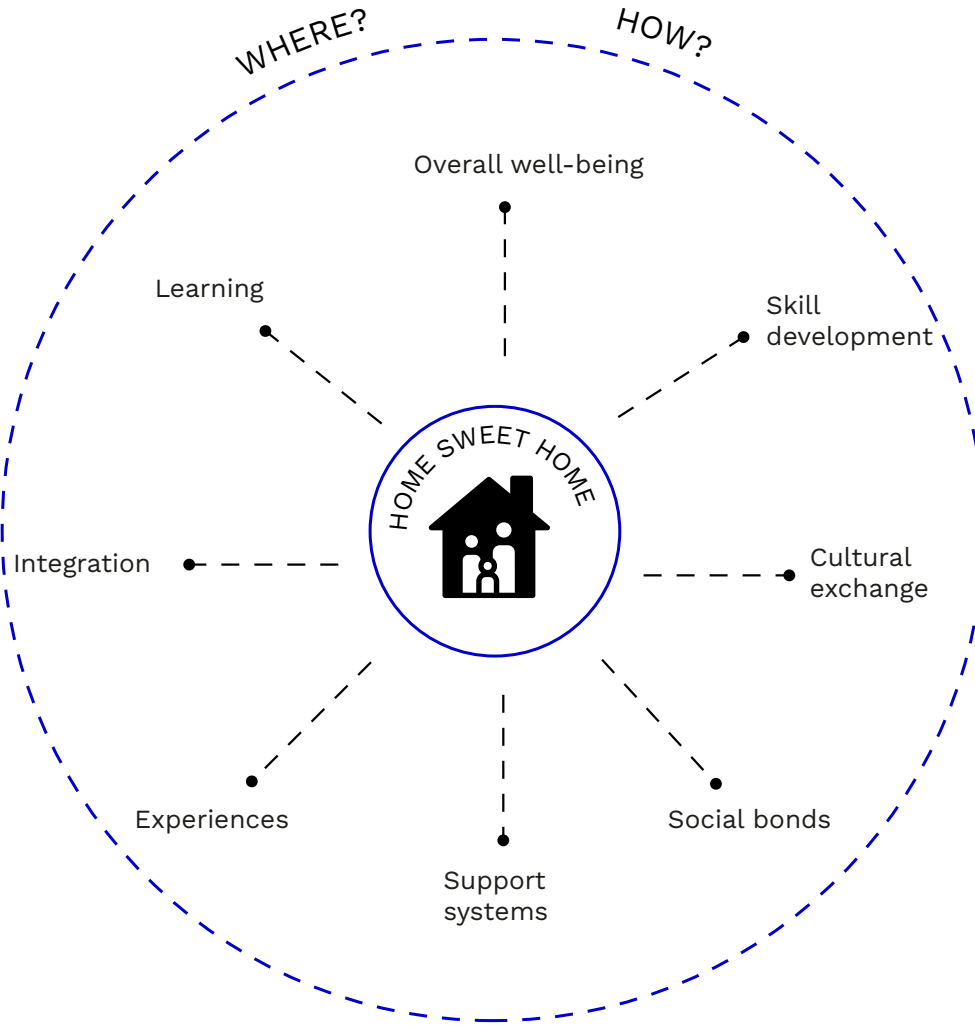
*Natives include everyone with Dutch nationality

Research Aim



Temporary 'Home'

Spaces outside home



+ Political Institutional Challenges

How can **common spaces** provide a **setting for interaction** between asylum seekers living in isolated temporary asylum shelters and native citizens in the Netherlands?

2.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Conceptualising:

What characteristics of common spaces influence the interaction between refugees and native citizens?

Contextualising

What is the asylum procedure in the Netherlands and what is the spatial translation?

Analysing:

What are the locations and spatial characteristics of temporary asylum shelters in the Netherlands? How do these influence interaction between refugees and native citizens?

Projecting:

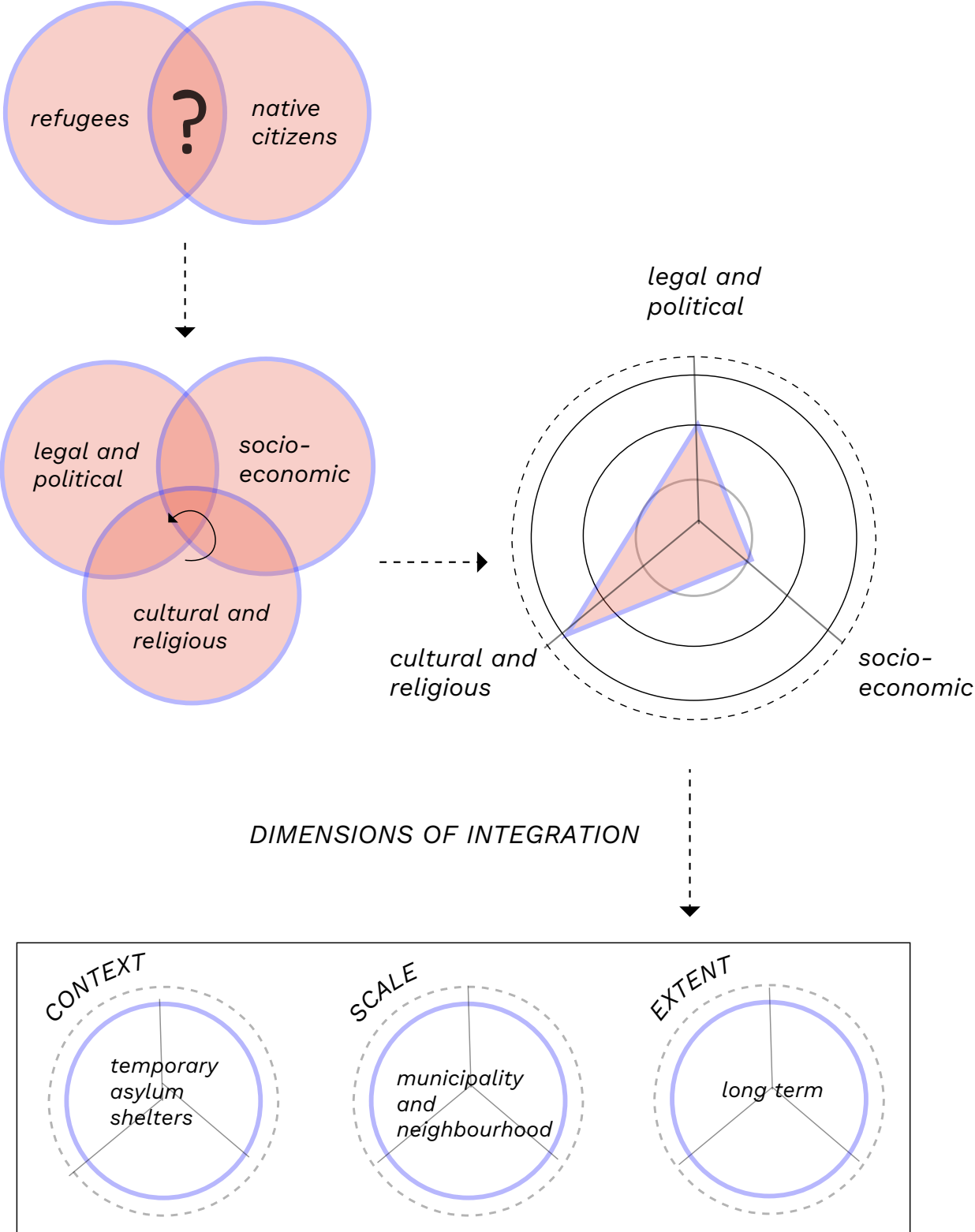
What are the needs and future ideas of refugees living in isolated temporary shelters, the municipality, NGO and natives? What kind of spatial qualities of common spaces support meeting these needs?

Strategy-building:

How can spaces facilitating interaction between native citizens and refugees living in isolated temporary shelters be implemented?

Conceptualising

Dimensions of Integration



1. Creating environments

2. Changes in attitudes & behaviour

3. Institutional Change

Common Spaces

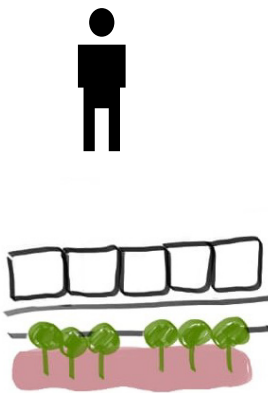
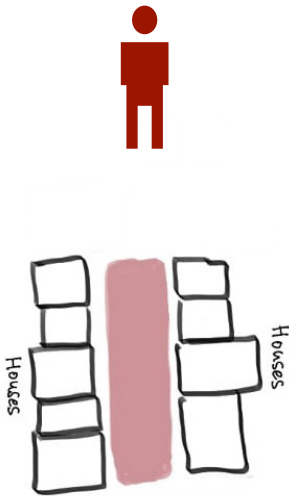
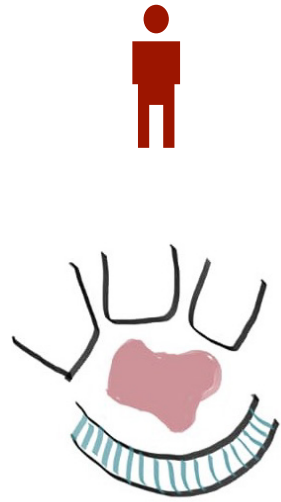
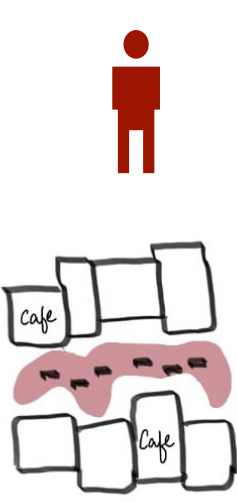
I want to use my singing skills at the cafe that I visit every week

We want to organise an event for our upcoming festival in the small meeting space near my shelter

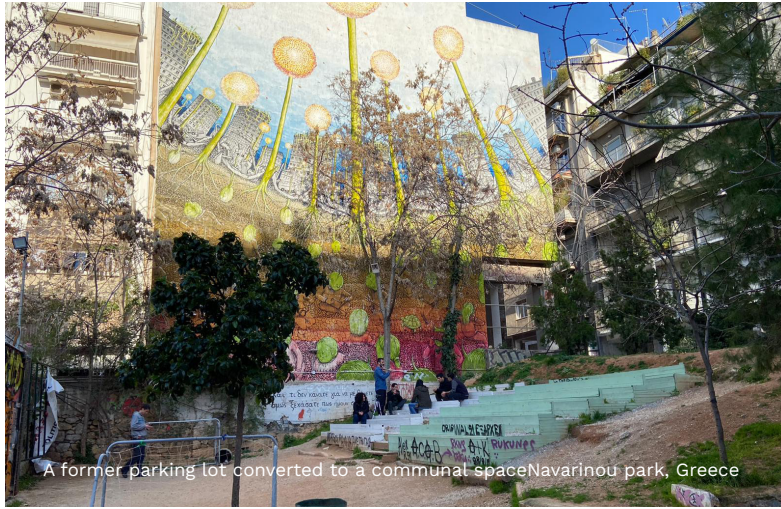
I want to organise a city tour with the refugees in my city

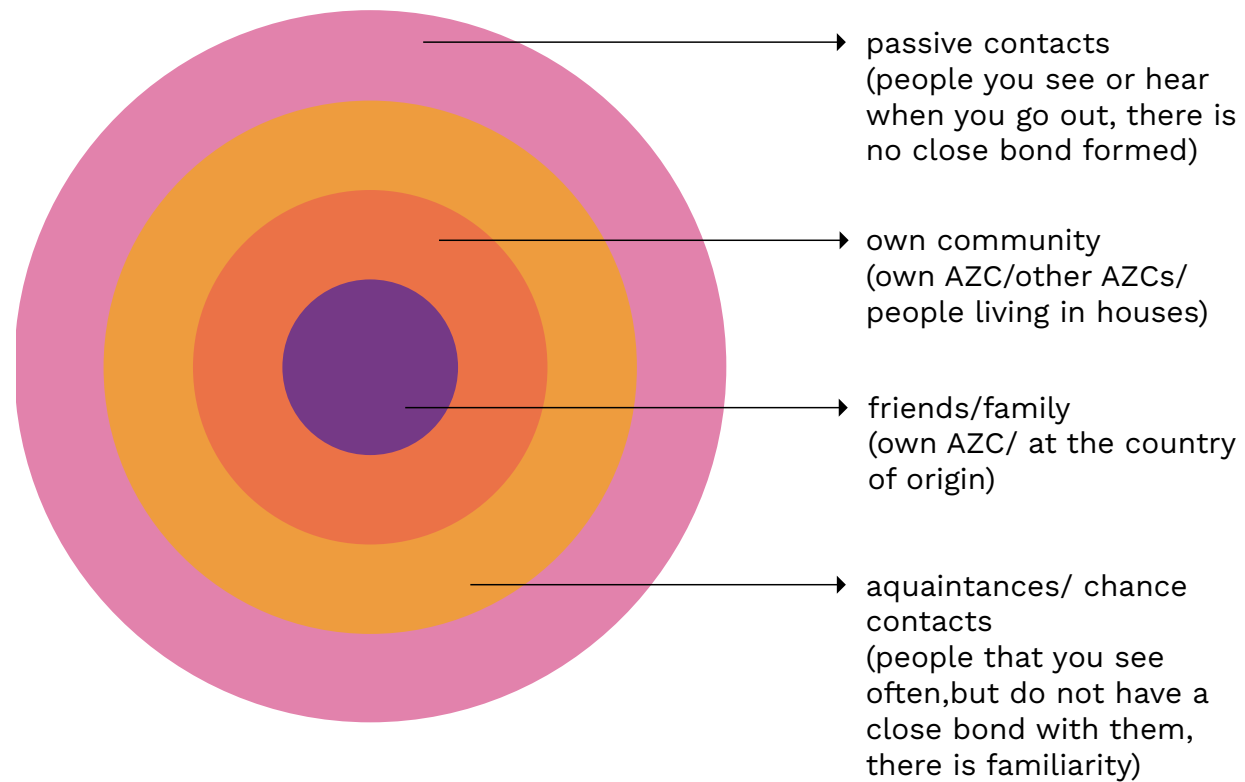
I want to sell my country's food during the market days

I want to develop the green empty open space in front of my house with more people

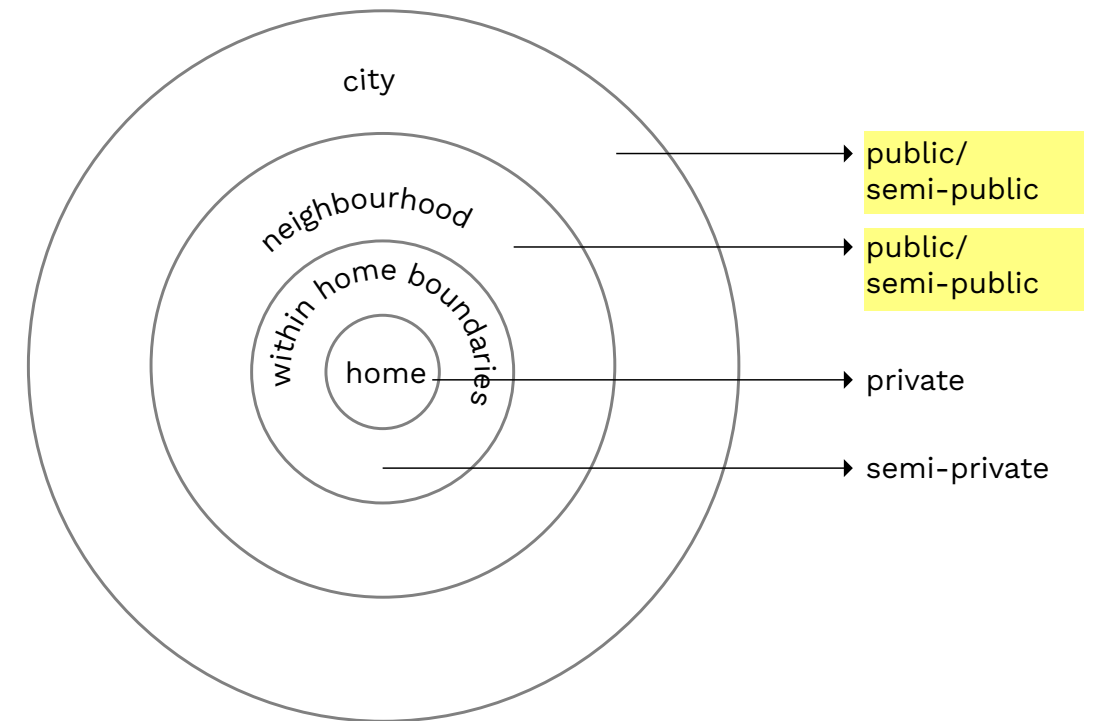


Breaking the authoritative power in public spaces





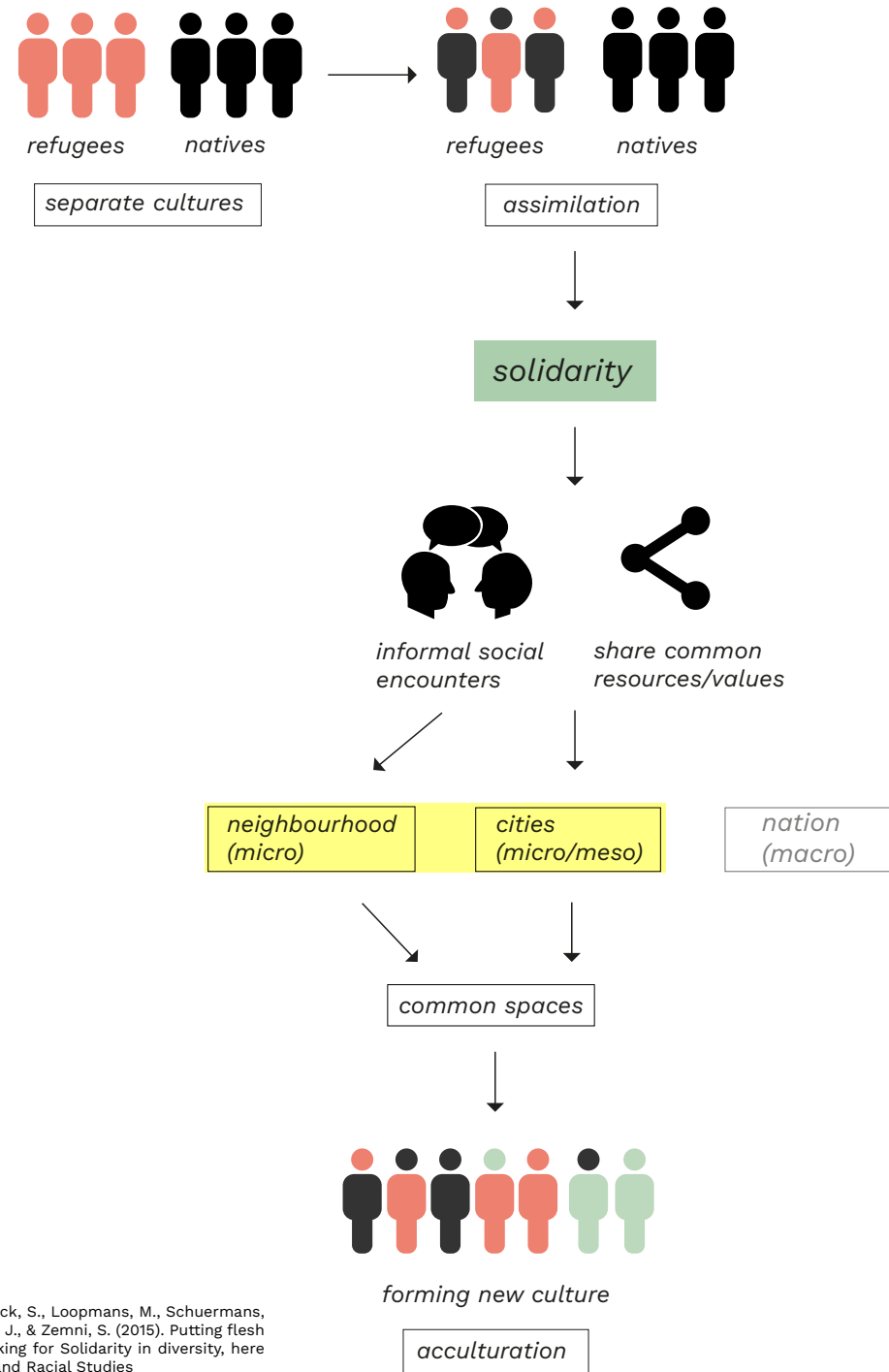
adapted from the diagram by (Hoogland, 2000)



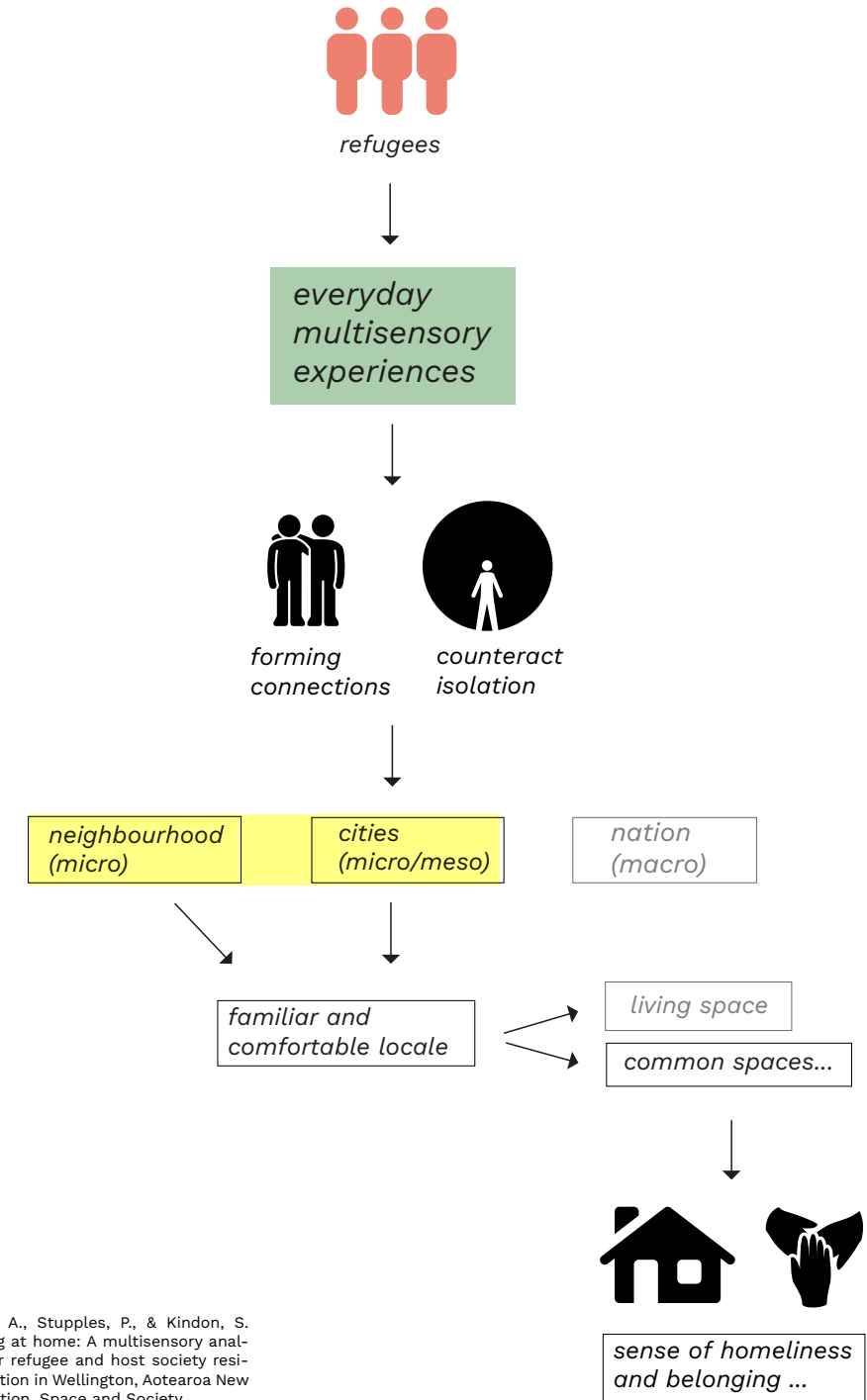
zones of interaction (Hoogland, 2000)

Being Present = harden stereotypes OR incidental encounters

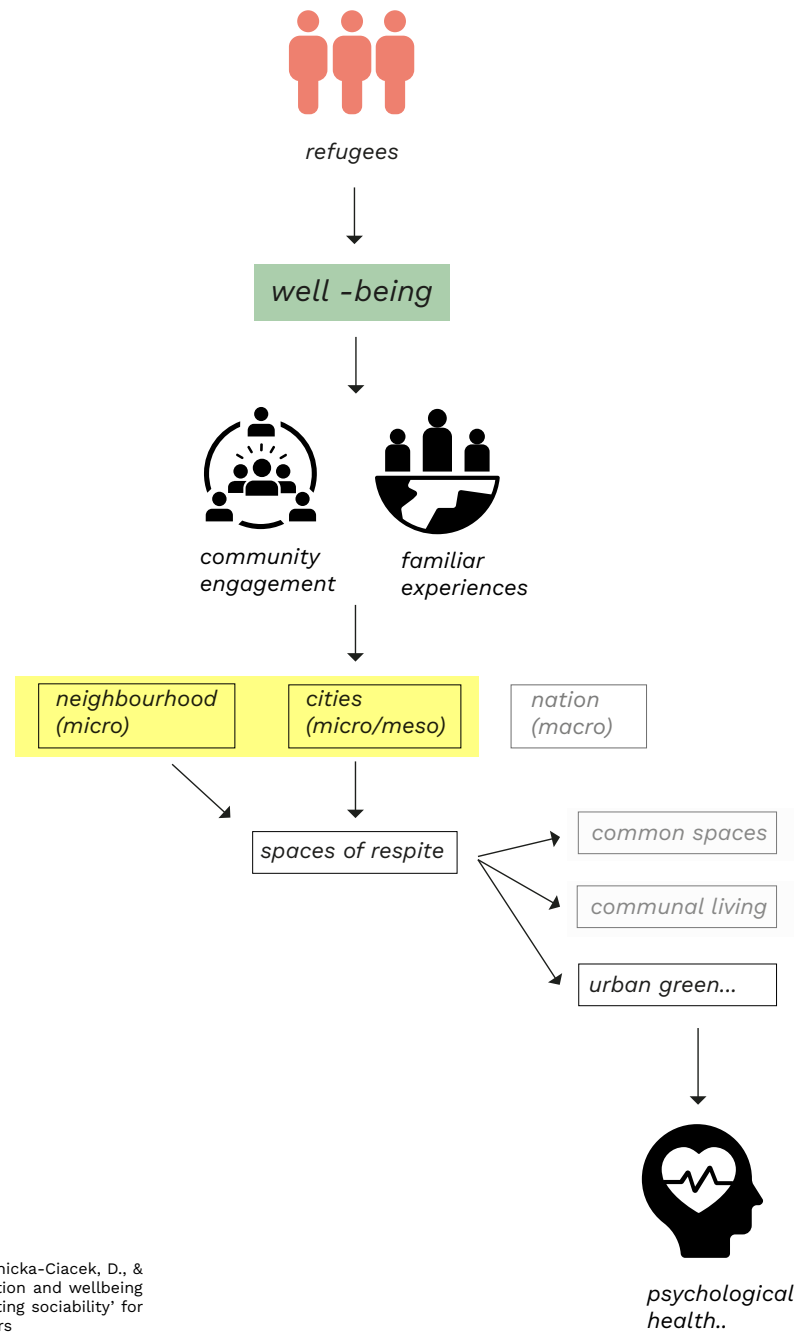
Engaging in activities = learning process across different cultures + initiate new attachments



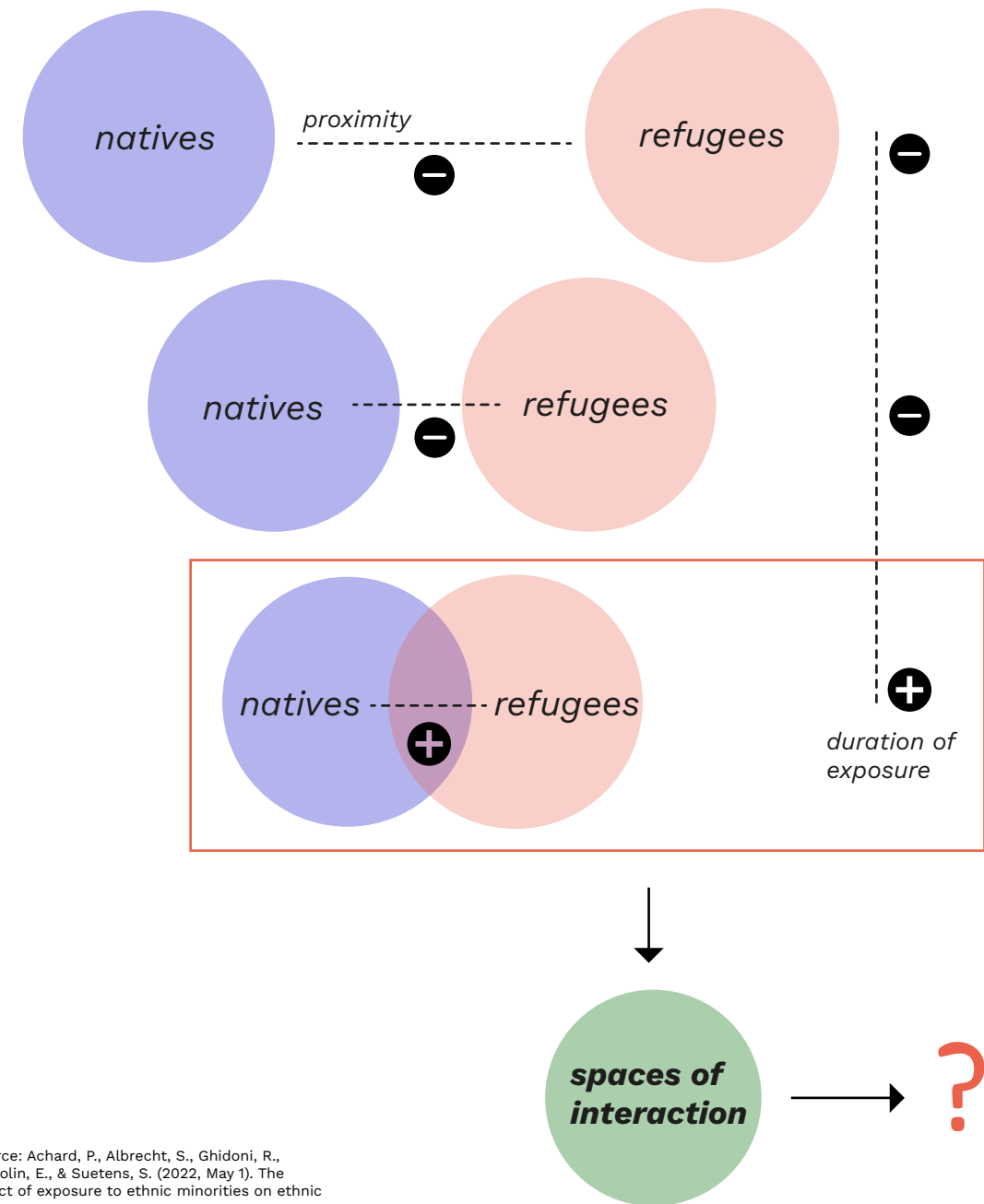
source: Oosterlynck, S., Loopmans, M., Schuermans, N., Vandenabeele, J., & Zemni, S. (2015). Putting flesh to the bone: Looking for Solidarity in diversity, here and now. Ethnic and Racial Studies



source: Kale, A., Stupples, P., & Kindon, S. (2019). Feeling at home: A multisensory analysis of former refugee and host society residents' integration in Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand. Emotion, Space and Society



source: Rishbeth, C., Blachnicka-Ciacek, D., & Darling, J. (2019). Participation and wellbeing in urban greenspace: 'curating sociability' for refugees and asylum seekers



source: Achard, P., Albrecht, S., Ghidoni, R., Cettolin, E., & Suetens, S. (2022, May 1). The effect of exposure to ethnic minorities on ethnic preferences.

Manifestations of 'Common spaces'

Empowerment



Arab shops, Farah Supermarket, London

Feel of Familiarity



Arabic book shops run by Yemenis, Singapore

Equality

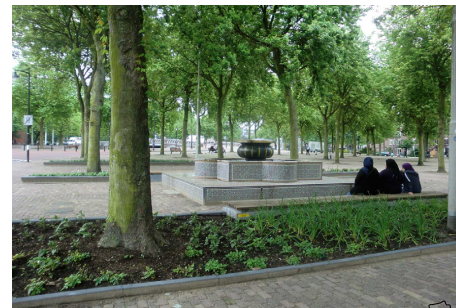


Festival decorations in the streets of Singapore for Eid



Public park called 'Thai Park' that accommodates street food festival by Thai community, Preussenpark, Berlin- **Sense of Belonging**

**Community parks
- Sense of belonging**



Art piece by the Moroccan community on a public market square - **Sense of Identity**

**Art /sculpture
- Sense of Familiarity
+ Identity**



**Space name/events
- Sense of identity**



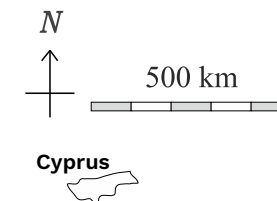
Privately owned public market spaces for ethnic minorities, Bazaar Vest trade centre, Denmark - **Empowerment through employment opportunists**

**Market spaces
- empowerment**

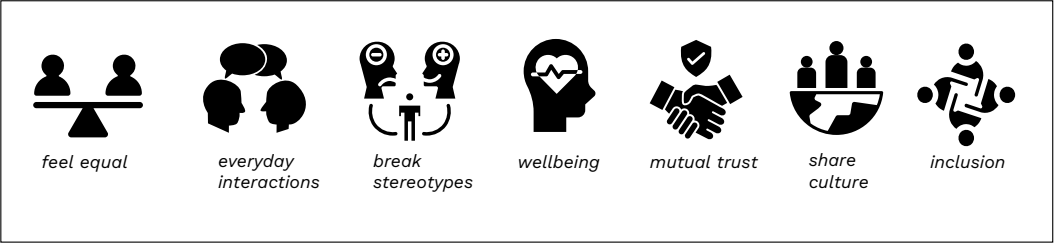


Public space in a former supermarket parking area in an immigrant neighbourhood, Piazza dell'Immaginario, Italy - **Coexistence and Social Inclusion**

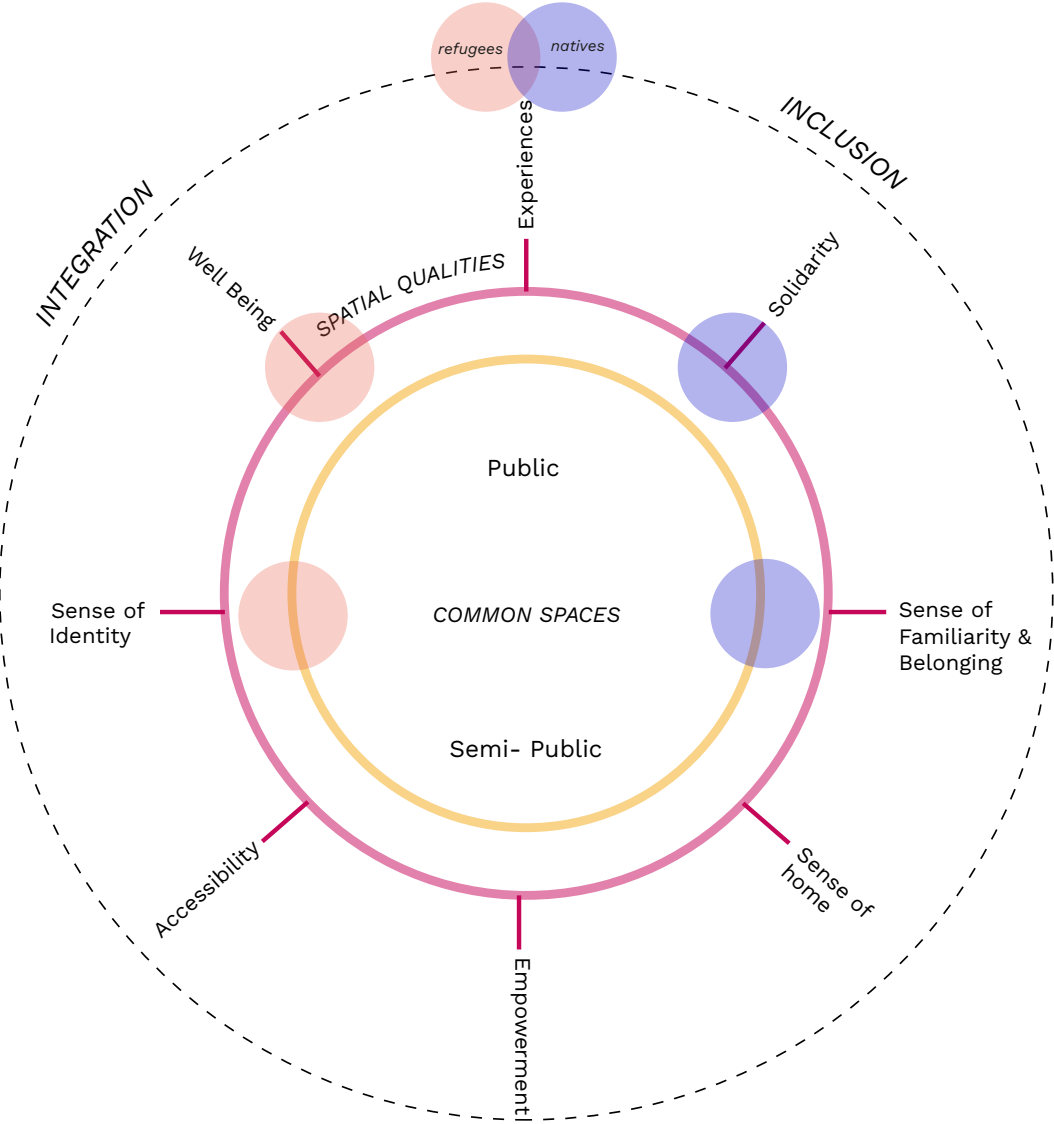
**Neighbourhood public spaces
- Coexistence + social inclusion**



Conceptual Framework



REASONS



3.

*ASYLUM PROCEDURE
AND THE SHELTERS*

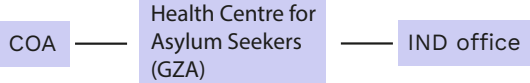
Contextualising and Analysing

The Asylum Process

No contact with natives
controlled and unsafe environment
idleness, uncertainty

Accommodation - Ter Apel(Groningen) / Budel (Noord Brabant)

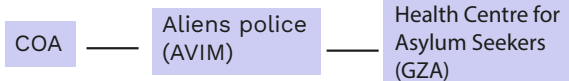
Duration - few days



- Basic education for children
- paid volunteer work (within reception/within the municipality)
- Allowance for food and clothing
- Start basic Dutch course

PROCESS RECEPTION CENTRE (POL)

CENTRAL RECEPTION CENTER (COL)

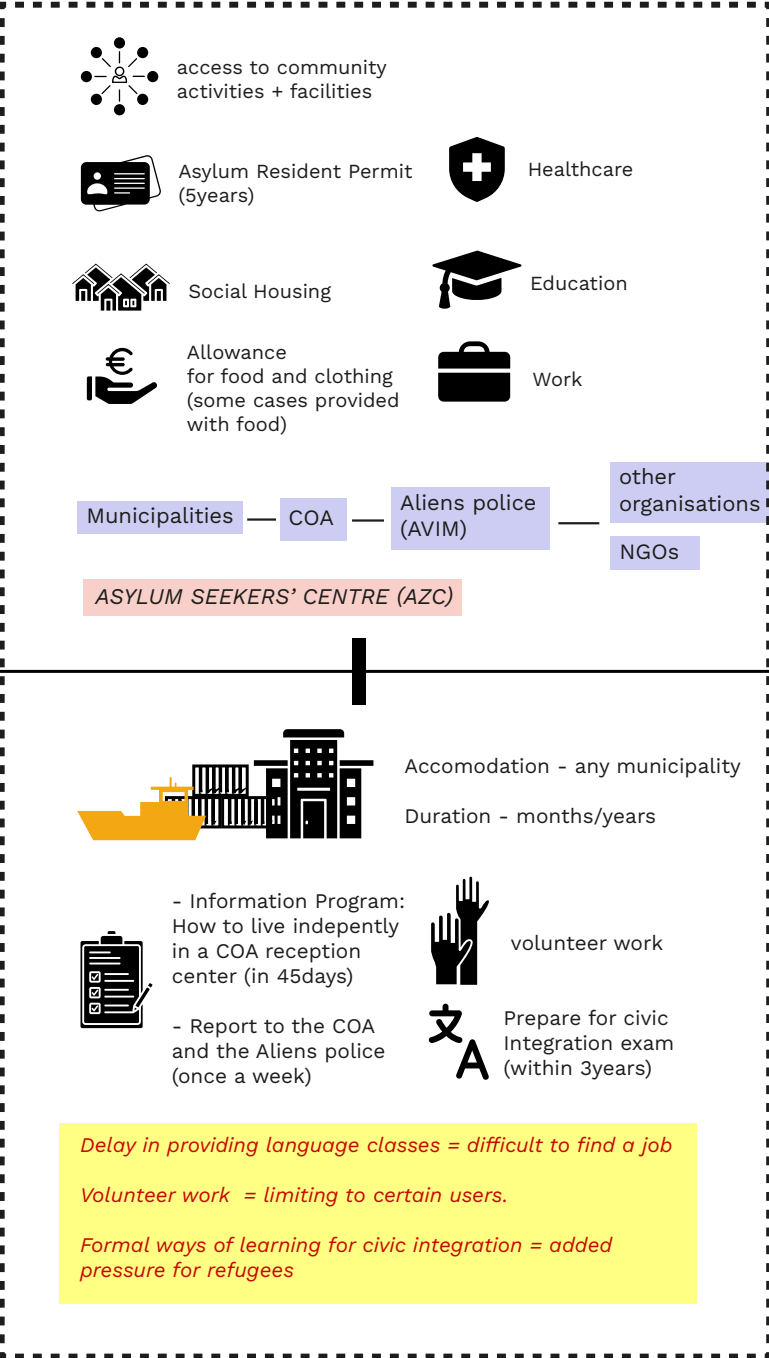


- Counselling services
- Application Interview
- Medical check-up
- Food and clothing

Accommodation - Ter Apel(Groningen) / Budel (Noord Brabant)

Duration - days/months

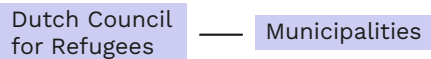
NIDOS → Independent family guardian Non- profit organization for Unaccompanied Minor Asylum Seekers (UAMs). They are processed separately and are provided guardianship.



Uncertainty in getting a permanent home.
Conversion of AZC gets into Flexible Housing = further delaying the housing process



HOUSING IN MUNICIPALITY



The municipalities look for a home suitable for the refugee. They can apply for rental allowance and the Dutch Council for Refugees help with arranging the necessary facilities required to start living in a new home.

- Asylum Resident Permit (5years)
- Permanent Resident Permit

source: COA (Central Organisation for Asylum Seekers)

Spatial implications of the procedure



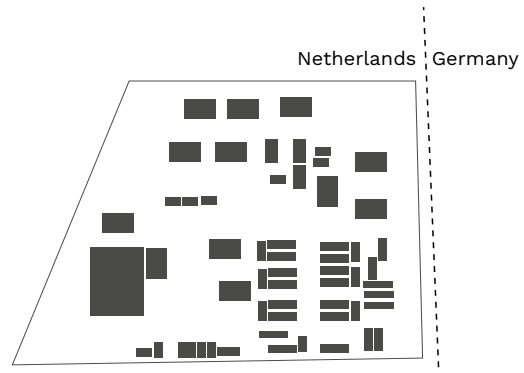
CENTRAL RECEPTION CENTER (CRC)



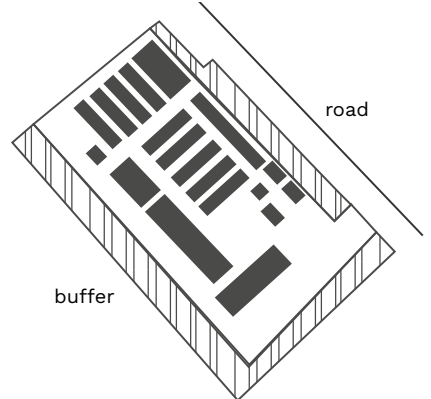
ASYLUM SEEKERS CENTER (AZC)



social-housing

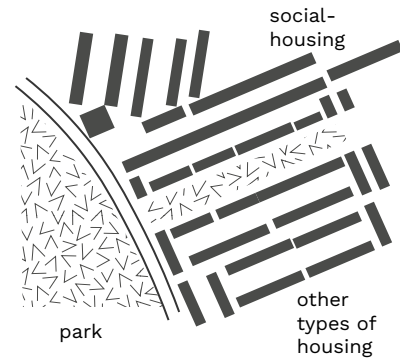


Netherlands Germany



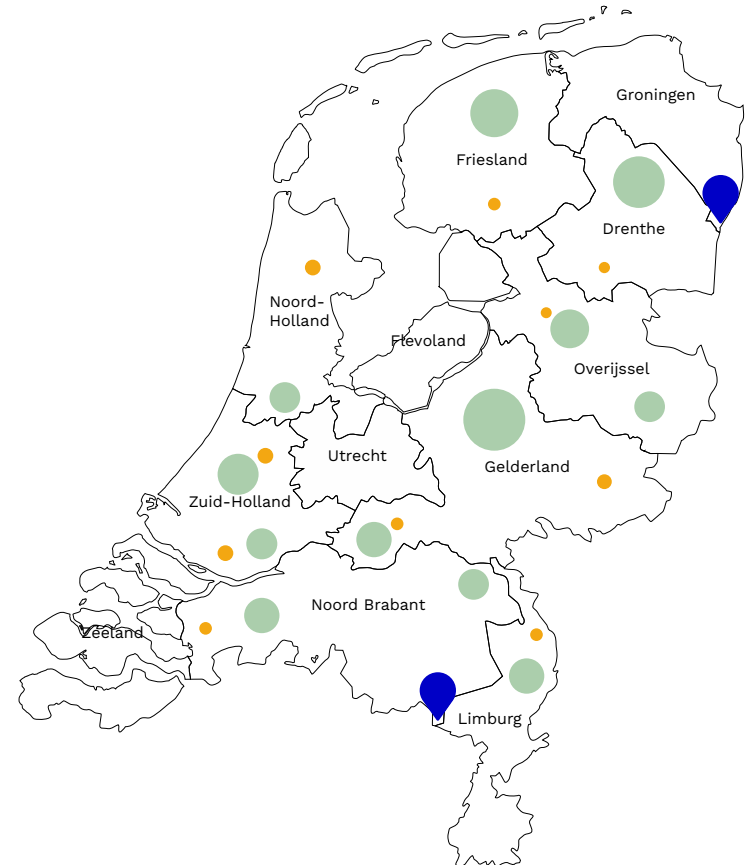
road

buffer

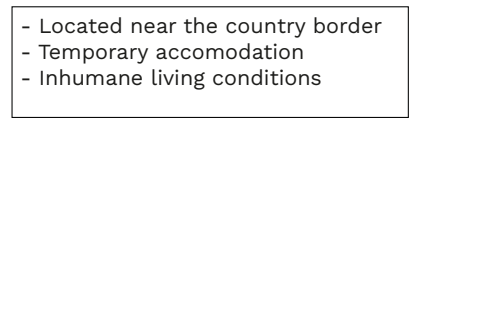
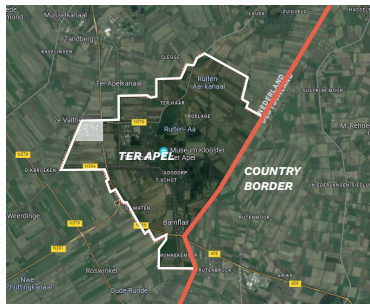


park

other types of housing



SPACES



- Located near the country border
- Temporary accommodation
- Inhumane living conditions

- Located on peripheries of the city/town or near industrial area or green houses
- Temporary accommodation
- Living conditions vary

- Located in cities/towns/villages
- Permanent accommodation
- Living conditions vary

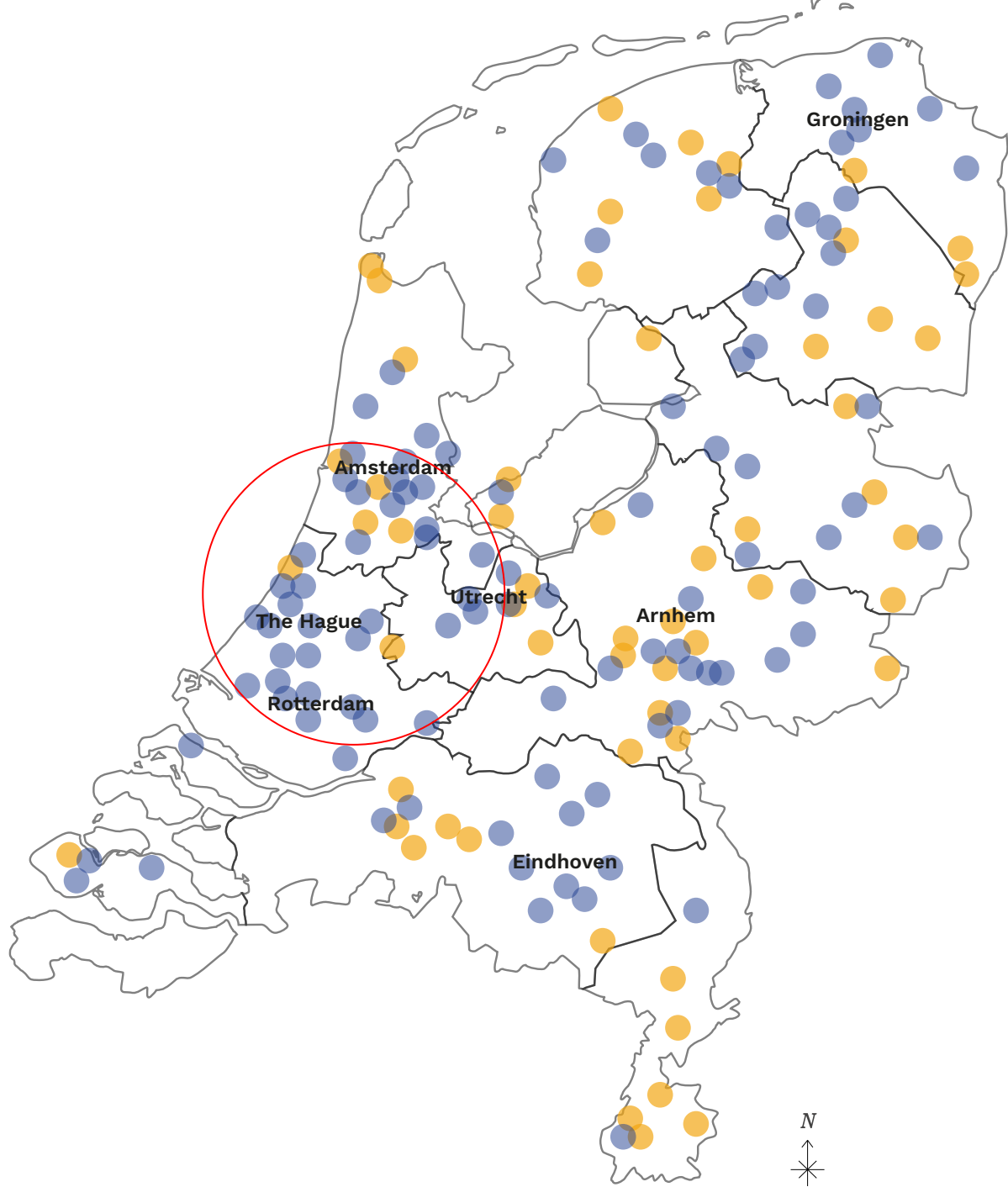
CENTRAL & PROCESS CENTER

RECEPTION CENTER (AZC)

RECEPTION CENTER (AZC)

PERMANENT HOUSING & ESTABLISHING CULTURE

Locations of the existing temporary asylum shelter in the Netherlands(2018)



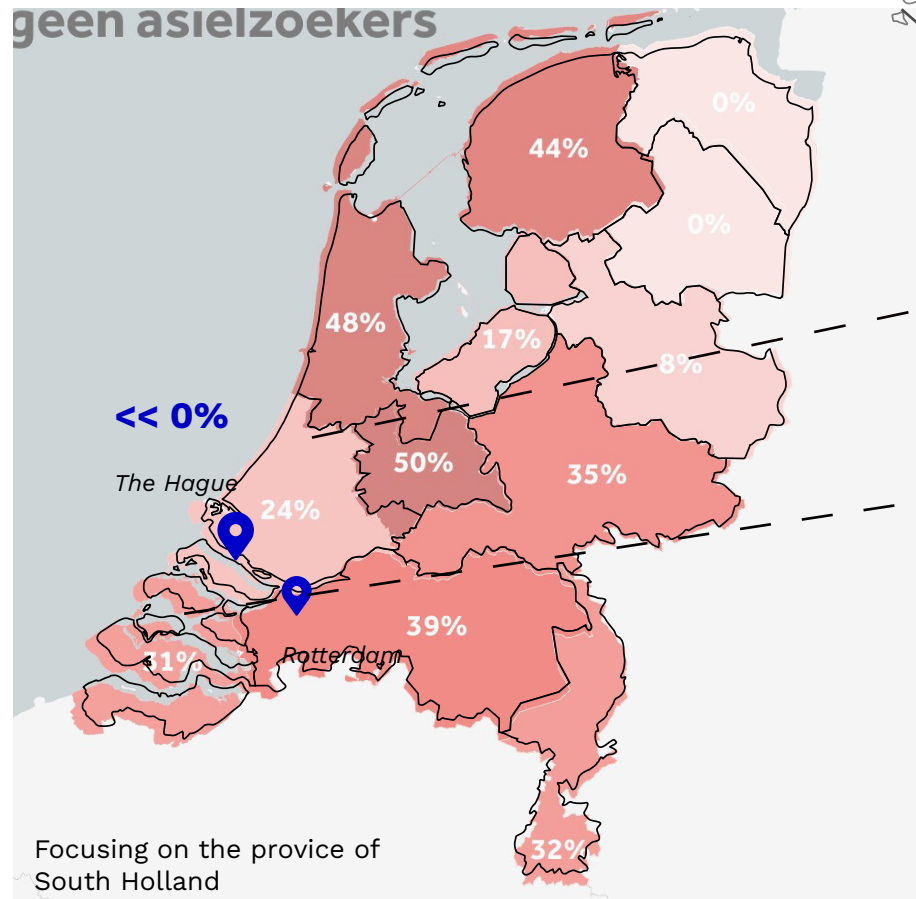
● temporary shelter location ● regular reception location

Temporary- not fixed, can be removed/shifted

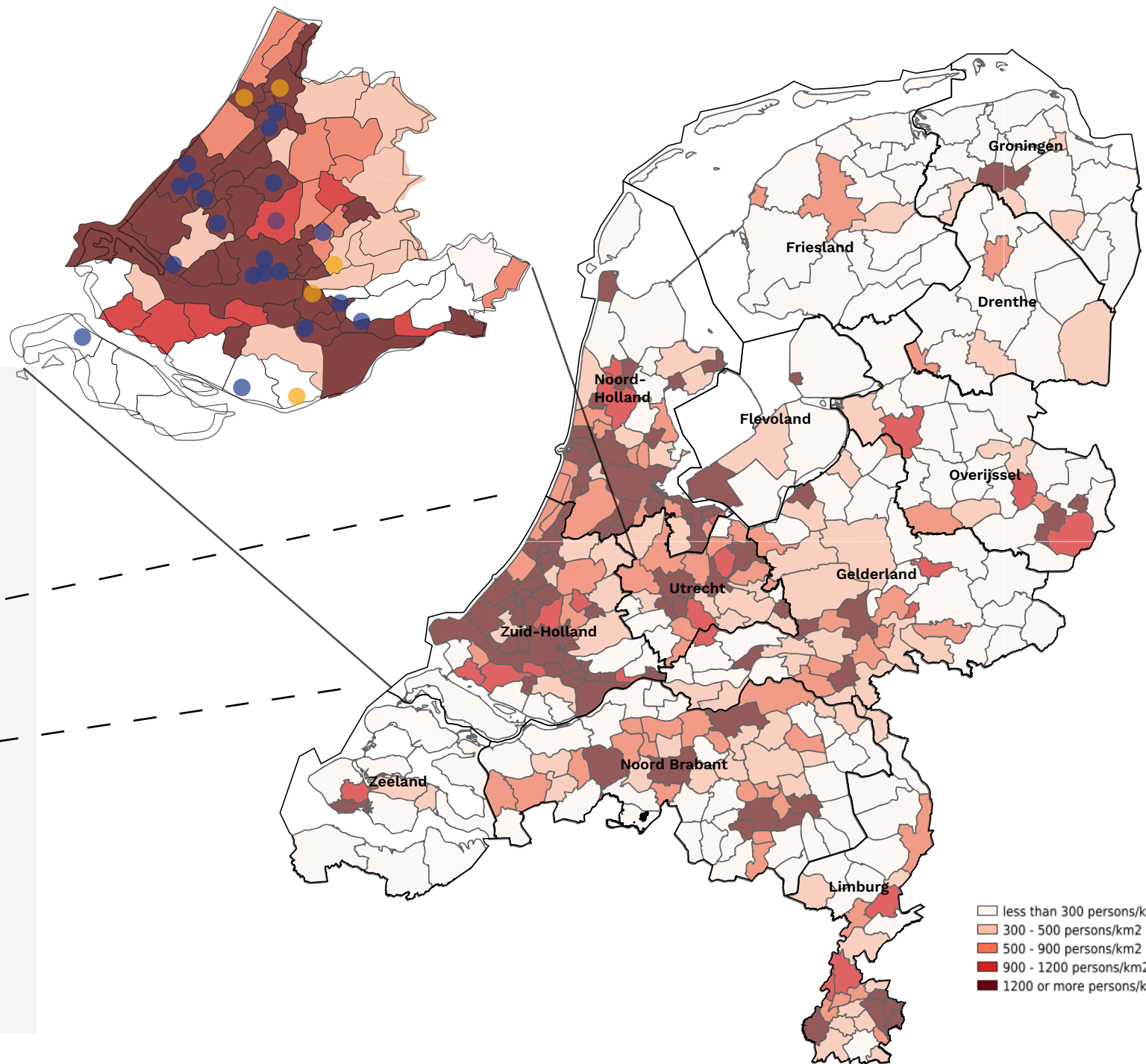
Regular- fixed

source: COA (Central Organisation for Asylum Seekers)


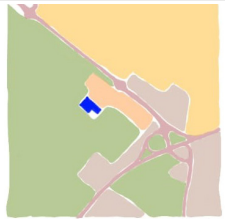
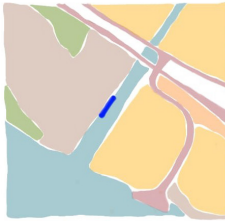



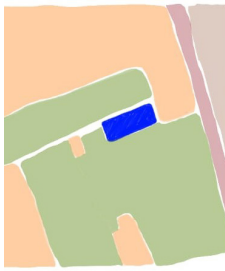
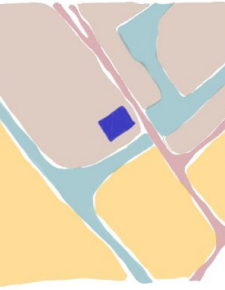
geen asielzoekers



Focusing on the province of South Holland

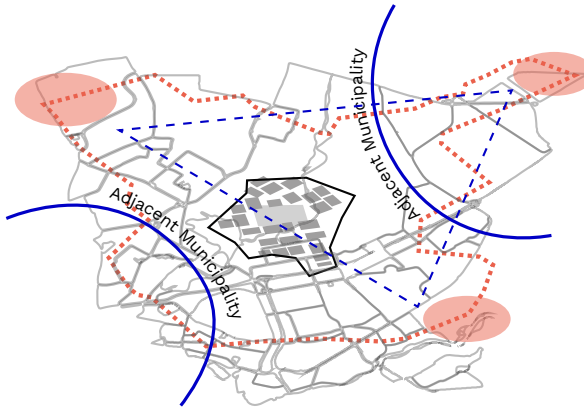


Isolated temporary asylum shelters in South Holland

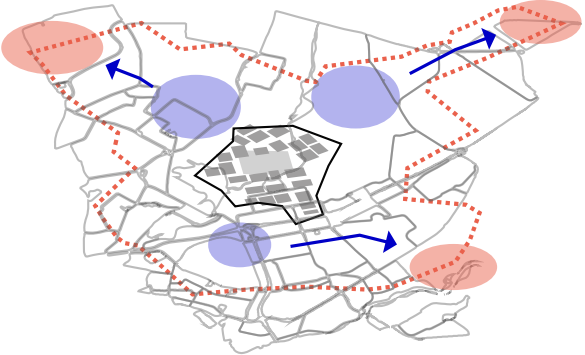
LOCATION	NO. OF INHABITANTS	VIEW	TYPE	USER GROUP	TYPE OF SHELTER	POPULATION DENSITY (CITY)	SURROUNDING FUNCTIONS	ACCESSIBILITY	CONCLUSIONS
Bergschenhoek, Tobias Asserlaan	50		shipping containers	families with children	Temporary shelter location Surveillance: Low to Medium	18,750		Transport: Appx. 250m away from bus stop. Nearest communal space: Semi-private play area within the shelter	- Isolated from residential area by empty open lands, infrastructure lines - No nearby access to shopping for basic needs
Maassluis, Govert van Wijnkade	70		hotel boat	22-26 years = 6 people 26+ years = 64 people staus holders	Temporary shelter location Surveillance: Low to Medium	32,768	 industrial areas, warehouses	Transport: Appx. 500m away from bus and train stop Nearest communal space: Appx. 300m away from a park	- Isolated from residential area by infrastructure lines, warehouses - No nearby access to shopping for basic needs
Zoetermeer, Rokkeveenseweg	630		former prison	315 (status holders) 315 (chance of obtaining a residence permit)	Temporary shelter location Surveillance: Medium to High	126.998	 Commercial /Educational area Agriculture land, empty open green Main road/rail infrastructure	Transport: Appx. 1km away from the bus stop Nearest communal space: Semi-private play area within the shelter	- Isolated from residential area by industrial buildings, infrastructure lines - No nearby access to shopping for basic needs
Delft, Manderspark	220		shipping containers	50 unaccompanied minors (AMV) 170 families, individual men and women)	Temporary shelter location Surveillance: Medium to High	101,030	 Residential Temporary Asylum Shelter (AZC)	Transport: Appx. 100m away from bus stop. Nearest communal space: Appx. 800m away from a park.	- Isolated from residential area by commercial buildings, empty open land - No nearby access to shopping for basic needs
The Hague, Jupiterkade (there are 3 more locations in The Hague)	54		individual houses	unaccompanied minors (AMV)	Temporary shelter location Surveillance: Low to Medium	514,861		Transport: Appx. 500m away from bus stop. Nearest communal space: Appx. 250m away from a park.	- Isolated from residential area by industrial buildings, warehouses - No nearby access to shopping for basic needs

Local interventions

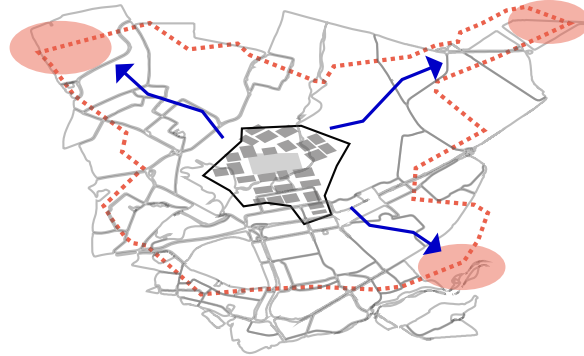
**General characteristics -
Isolated temporary shelter lo-
cations**



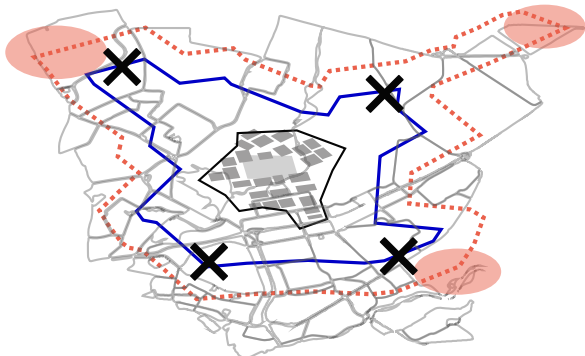
Proximity to another municipality



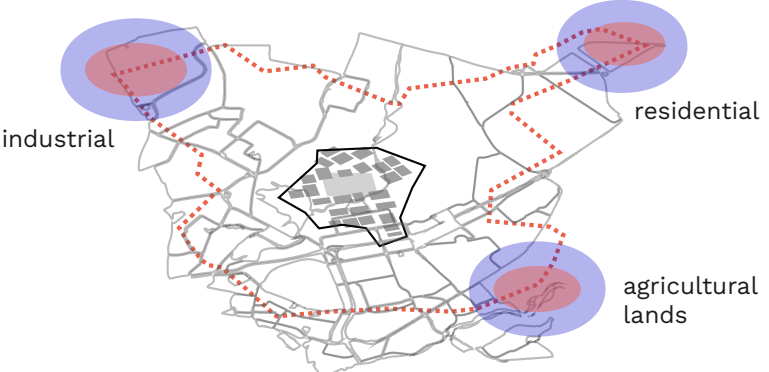
Accessibility to basic services



Distance from city centre/
residential areas



Obstructed by infrastructure



Surrounding building/land use

3.

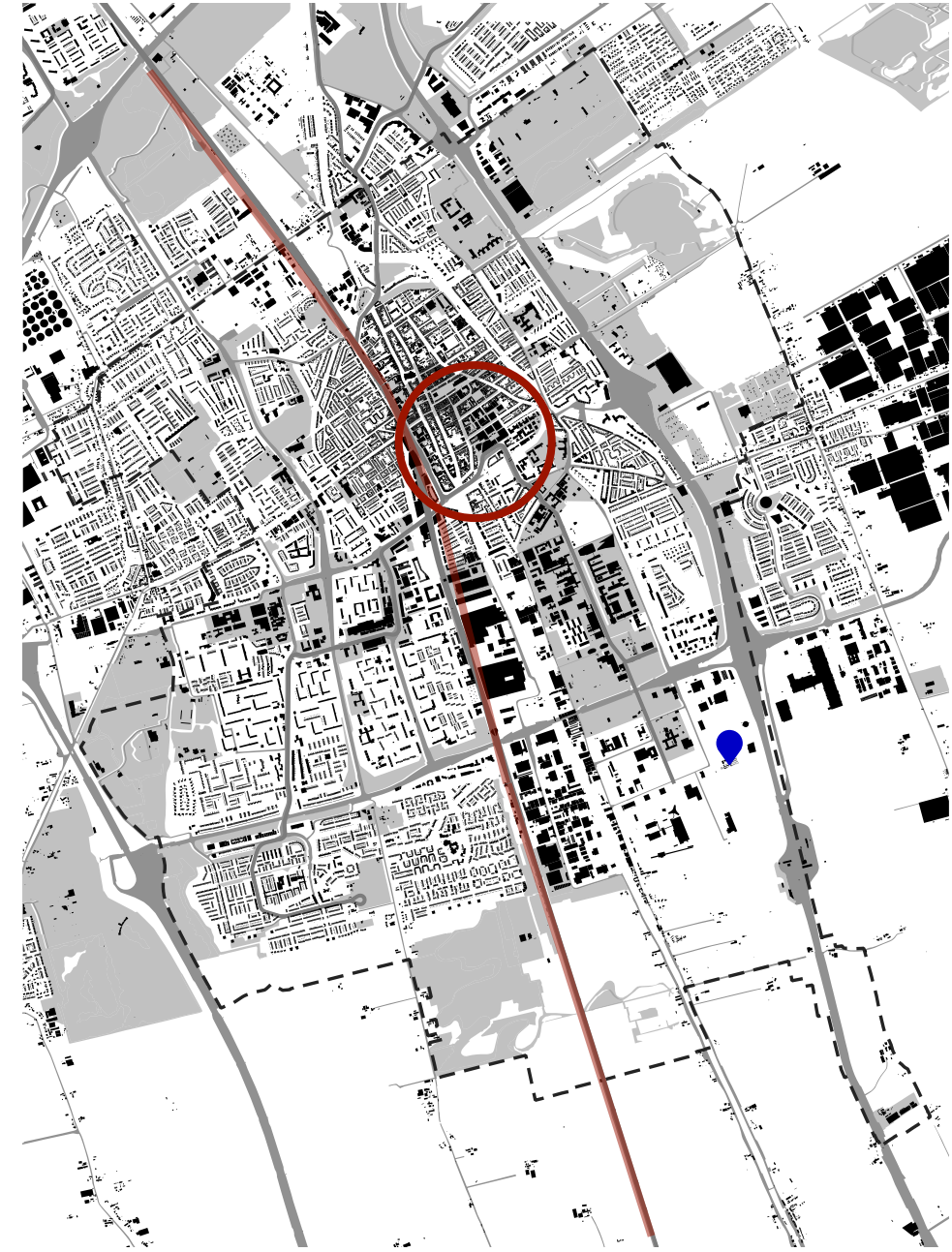
*CASE STUDIES +
INTERVIEWS*

Case studies



Maassluis

- obstructed by infrastructure
- surrounded by industrial area



Delft

- isolated from city centre
- surrounded by empty land
- not accessible to basic services



Surroundings of AZC at Maassluis, picture by author



Surroundings of AZC at Delft, Google Photos



Inside the AZC at Maassluis, picture by author



Impromptu grocery shop at AZC Delft, picture by author



Advertisements for construction near the AZC at Delft, picture by author

**Conclusion
(INSIDE 'HOME')**

IDLENESS CONFINED CASUAL CONVERSATIONS


SURVEILLANCE BOREDOM LIMITED ACTIVITIES

ALONE FEAR INACCESSIBILITY MONOTONOUS



And more..

Participants



GENERAL

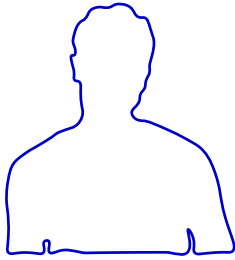
Age: late 40s

Past occupation: Teacher and researcher

Length of stay in AZC: 5months

Did you know anyone living in Netherlands already: No

Overall experience: A lot of challenges since moving here such as, not being able to work and just waiting to get a house.



GENERAL

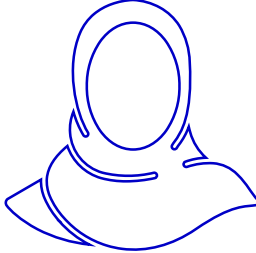
Age: 21years

Past occupation: High school

Length of stay in AZC: 1 year

Did you know anyone living in Netherlands already: No, but I came here along with my friends

Overall experience: Boring



GENERAL


Age: 27 years

Past occupation: Teacher for kids

Length of stay in AZC: 2months

Did you know anyone living in Netherlands already: Yes, my siblings are here

Overall experience: its difficult and there is lack of privacy



GENERAL

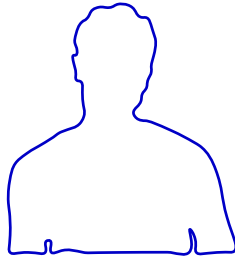
Age: 58 years old

Past occupation: Farmer

Length of stay in AZC: 10months

Did you know anyone living in Netherlands already: Family friends in Netherlands and daughter in Belgium

Overall experience: Feels okay living on the boat. 'There is nothing much to do here'



GENERAL

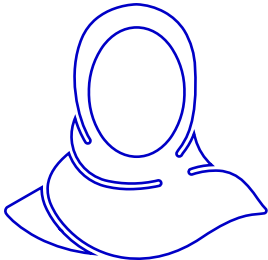
Age: 24 years

Past occupation: Bachelors in university

Length of stay in AZC: 11months

Did you know anyone living in Netherlands already: Only one friend

Overall experience: It is nice, but it is quiet



GENERAL

Age: 28 years

Past occupation: Bachelors in university

Length of stay in AZC: 4months

Did you know anyone living in Netherlands already: No

Overall experience: Its depressing and feels lonely

Challenges

POLITICAL

- Limited support from municipality
- Lack of planning around shelters to support interaction
- Long waiting process to receive housing
- Accommodated in shelters away from family/friends living in other shelters/ social housing
- Strict regulations in the shelters
- No enough support from the municipalities
- Lack of adequate temporary shelters
- Lack of long term planning
- Lack of social housing
- Controlled activities in shelters by municipality and COA
- Rise in right wing ideals
- Uneven distribution of asylum seekers
- Problems with E. U.policies, Dublin and Schengen agreement
- Increase in unaccompanied minor refugees
- Overcrowding of border reception centres
- Accommodated in isolated temporary asylum shelters
- Shifted multiple times among shelters or deported
- Long waiting to receive permanent social housing
- Lack of knowledge and accessibility of their rights
- Rules on 'integration' targeted only towards refugees

SOCIO-CULTURAL

middle-old age men

- Sense of detachment
- Lack of sense of belonging and identity
- Inactive lifestyle
- Lack of freedom of expression
- Regualted environment in the shelter
- Fear of repercussions to voice opinions
- Fear of negative perceptions
- Limitation to express personal values and culture
- Inability to use skills/knowledge
- Lack of guidance for the future
- Lack of trust among natives
- Feeling of demotivation
- Lack of shared activities with natives
- Feel of homesickness
- Age and language barrier
- No long term connections with natives
- Difficulty in adapting to native culture
- Lack of social networks
- Boring lifestyle at the shelter
- Overall limited and short lived interaction with natives
- Miss playing sports
- Limited enagement with own community

young men

- Limited visibility of our culture
- Feel of inequality
- Lack of common interests and activities with native youth
- Lack of activities in the shelter and the city
- Characteristics of the city are not suitable for youth
- Feels inappropriate/awkward to talk about own culture
- Lack of understanding from the natives
- Lack of trust
- Inability to form social connections with natives
- Lack of social gathering
- Individualistic society
- Language barrier
- Negative portrayal in media
- Limited interaction with natives outside work
- Lack of skill development
- Lack of sense of identity
- Misinformation about refugees among natives

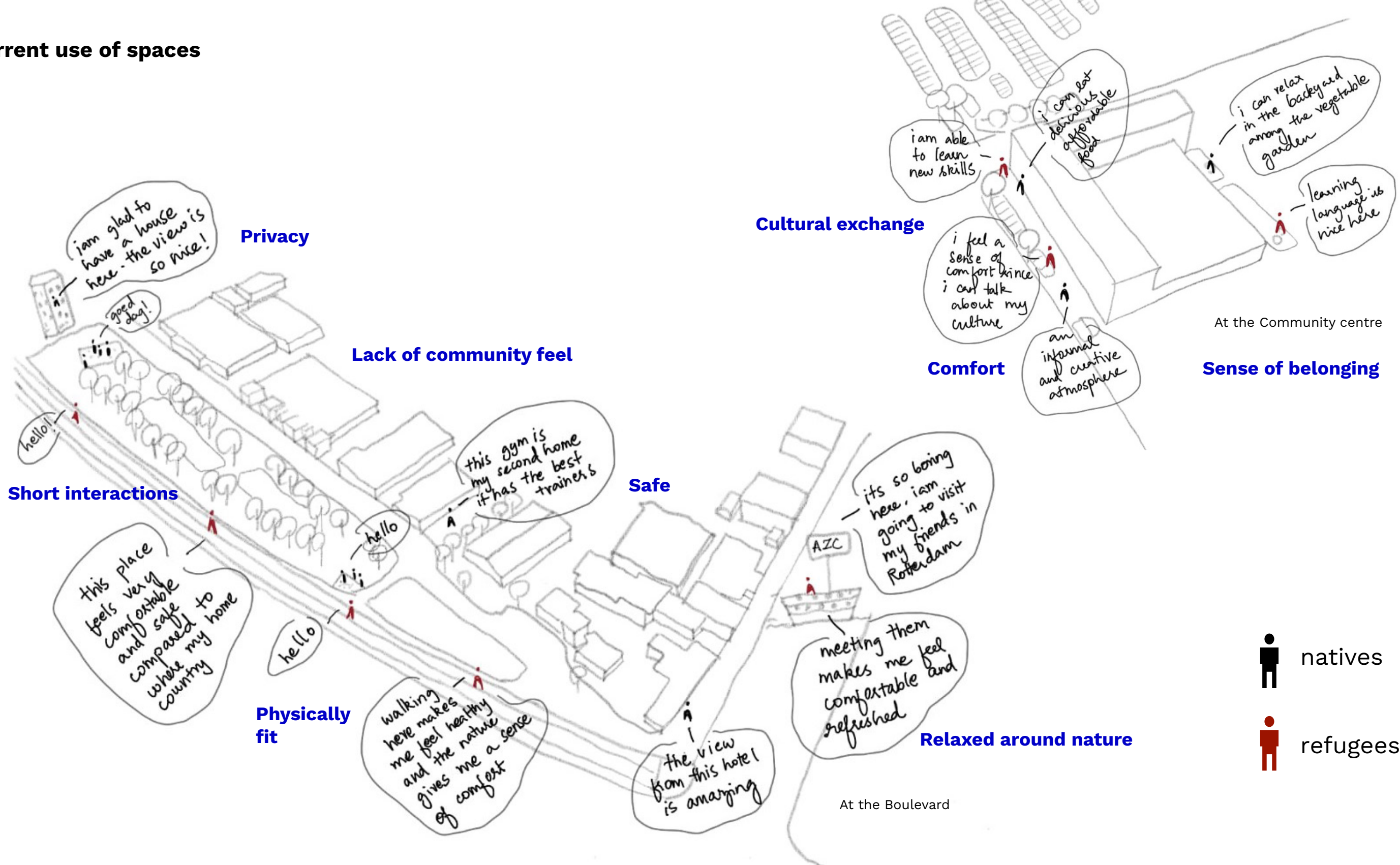
young women

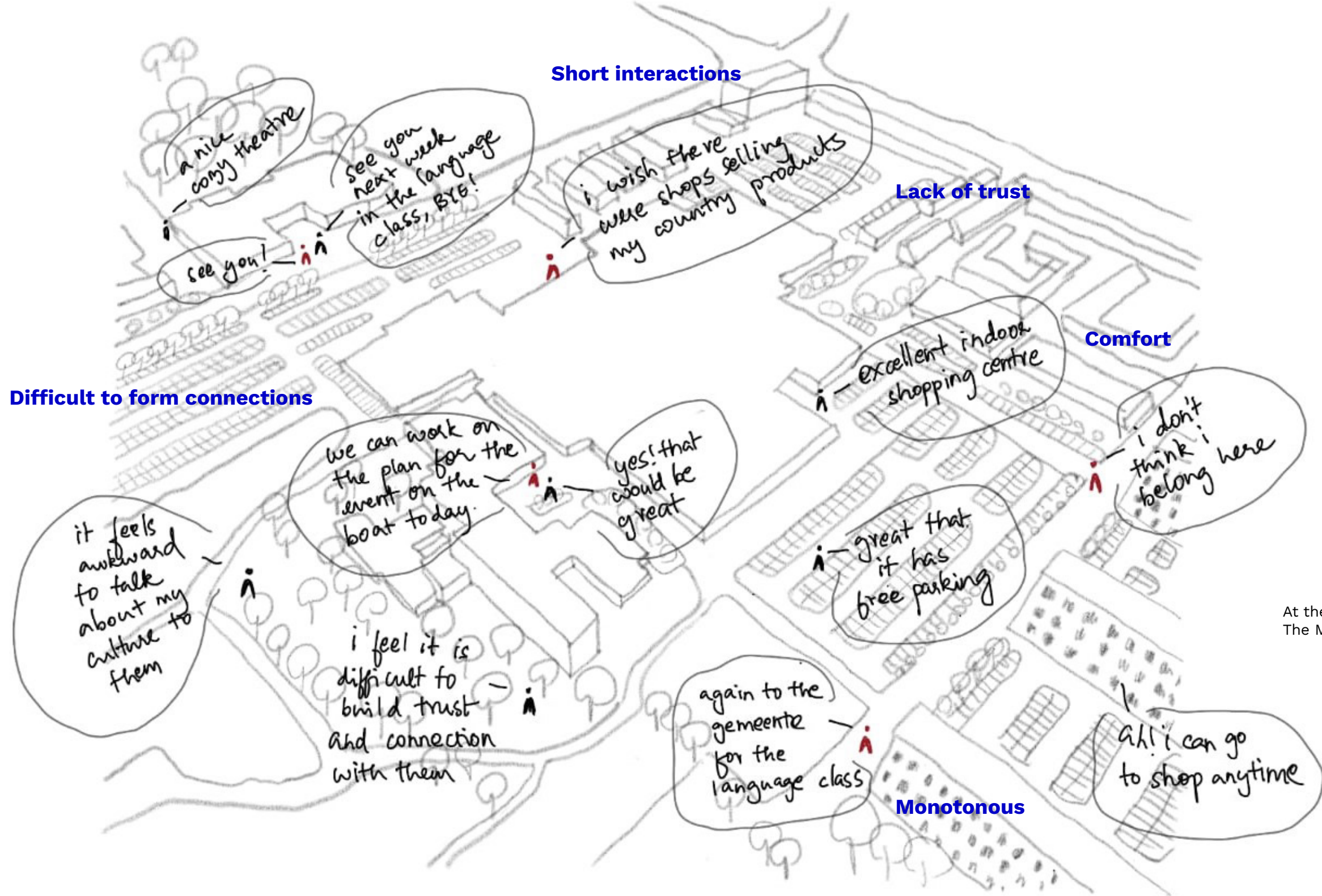
- Lack of privacy and comfort in the shelter
- Unpleasant experience within the shelter
- Disruption in going out due to weather
- Language barrier
- Lack of community feel
- Missing the presence of own community and culture
- Unable to express culture
- Lack of gathering and community feel
- Stared due to difference in looks
- No discrimination
- Cultural values as barrier for interaction
- Experience of boredom
- Unmotivated and lack of sense of purpose
- No frequent contact with the natives in or outside the shelter
- Social isolation and depression
- Lack of social networks
- Minimal interactions with natives
- Missing of home during special occasions
- Difficulty to interact in the shelter due to inter-cultural differences
- Lack of sense of collectivity with natives
- Infrequent and temporary gathering activities/events
- Lack of common interests with natives
- Unequal support for women
- Irregular activities/events in the shelter
- Bad representation in media
- Discrimination,xenophobia
- Racial profiling at the borders
- Bullying , physical attacks due to cultural
- Lack of privacy
- Discrimination,xenophobia, racism
- Poor mental health
- Bad representation in media
- Gradual loss of own cultural values
- Spatially segregated
- Assimilation in the new society
- Uncertainty and idleness
- Lack of sense of belonging
- Inclusion and exclusion

SOCIO-ECONOMIC

- Lack of financial support
- Lack of work opportunities
- Inability to secure employment due to non-recognition of individual skills
- Unequal work opportunities compared to Ukrainian refugees

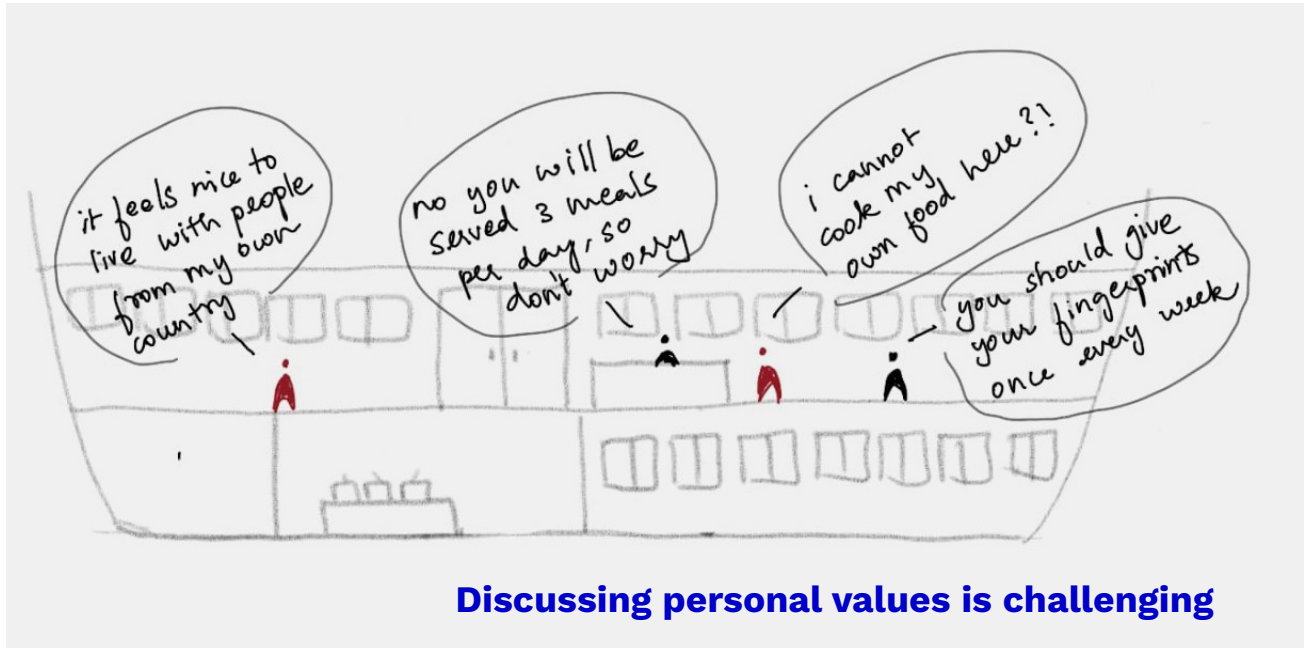
Current use of spaces





At the Municipality and The Mall

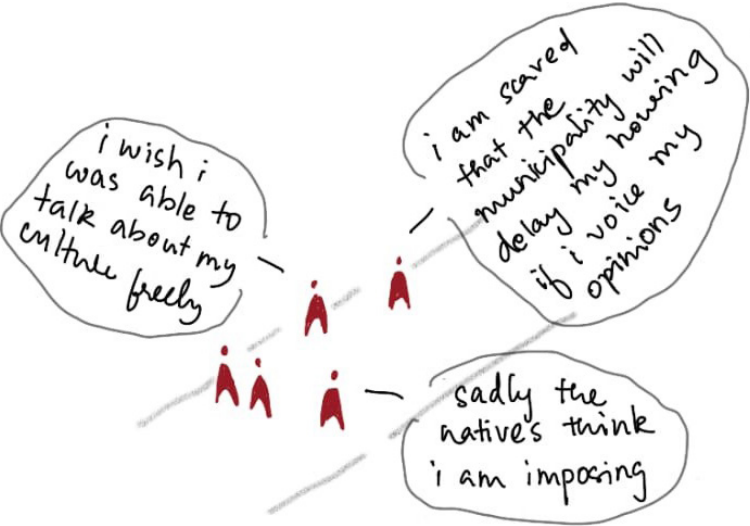
Cultural needs



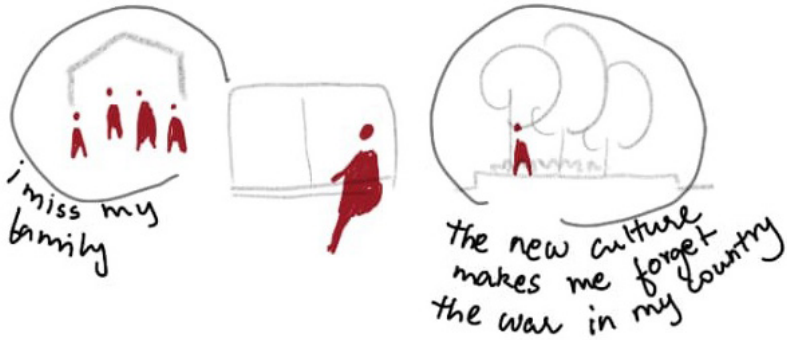
Discussing personal values is challenging



Feel of community



Lack of visibility of culture



Language barrier



Experiences with native community

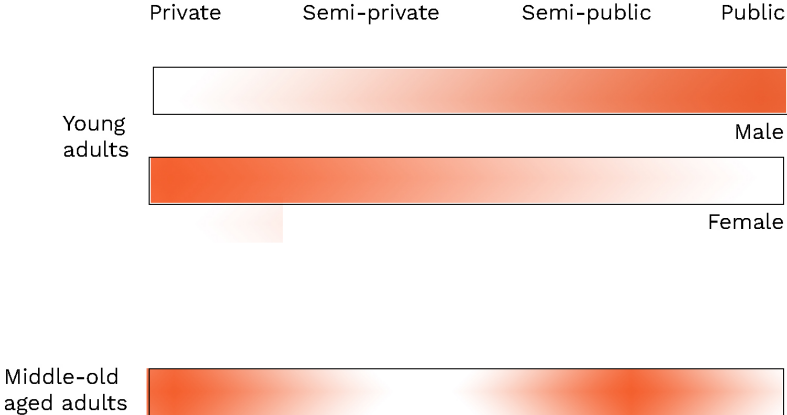


Ideas for the future



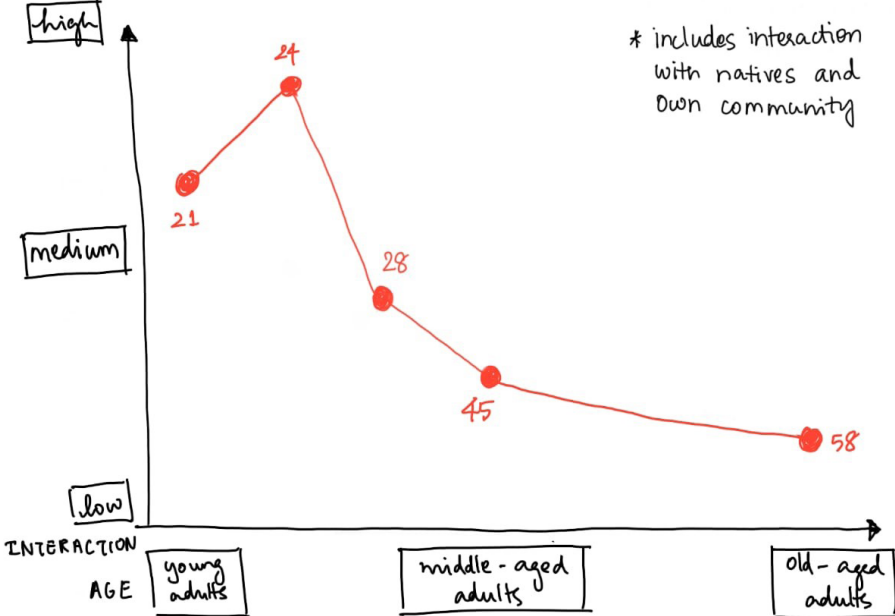
Conclusions

Age & cultural habits



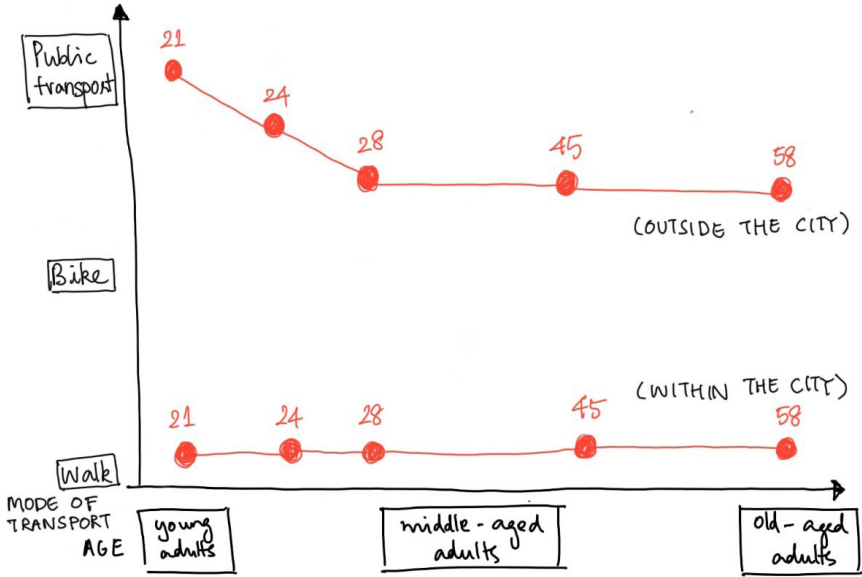
Spaces of interaction

Language barrier



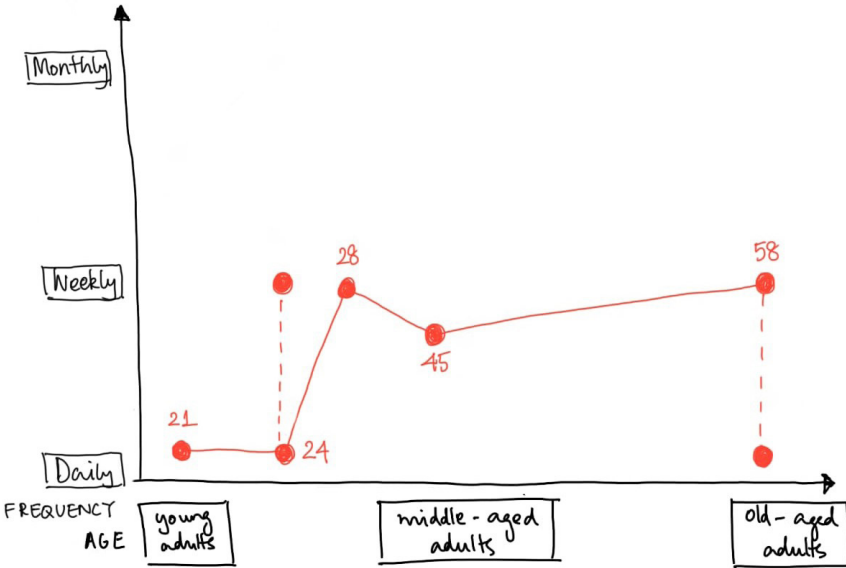
Interaction levels

Financial means



Mode of transportation

Age & Motivation



Frequency of going out

'The higher authorities are not aware of what is happening on the ground. There are rules and policies on where and how the centres have to look, websites talking about how to get help, jobs as refugees/asylum seekers etc. However, the shelter locations do not consider the **existing contexts**, the websites **cannot be translated** into their languages, and they **cannot choose to locate near their family or friends** who are already in the Netherlands.'

It is difficult to reach out to people in AZCs since the people **do not know about the activities we do, our location and have a fear to approach us**

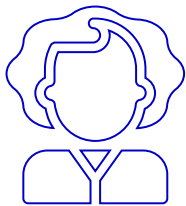
We try to reach out personally in their living space to **create a safe bond with them**

People come here to **not feel lonely and meet other people from similar origin/ cultural backgrounds**. It is as a way of forming **social networks**

We also **guide them to the sources to find jobs** or any to any problems they face

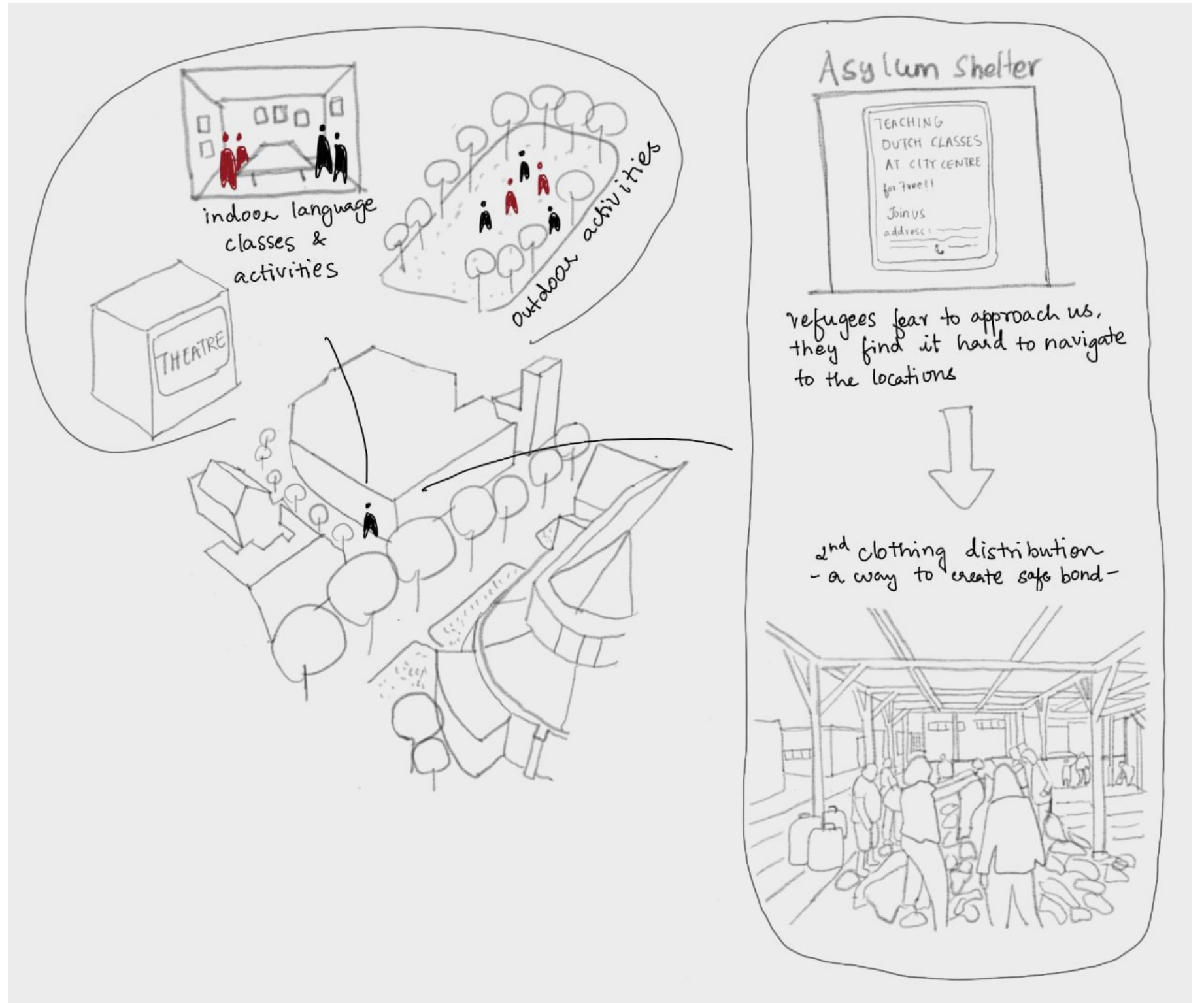
We receive most of our funding through **private organisations and word of mouth**

As volunteers we give **temporary support** to the refugees by giving **language lessons** and **organising activities** throughout the year



They need to be understood as individuals and not as a group that just needs to integrate by putting in all their effort.

Local NGO in Delft



Church community and natives (mostly older) are open to helping in conducting activities. We have conducted cooking workshops, exhibitions, football matches. We see this as a **nudge to provide them form long term connections with natives. We aim to create opportunities for communication to occur naturally.**

We realised that natives have **assumptions and judgments**. They come with complaints that they get harassed by asylum seekers in the AZC. But we know that it is not true.

People in the Netherlands have the right to talk what they want, but when it comes to their country problems they **find it easier to blame the refugees**. They do not think deeply about the situation.

We notice that people with the permit are confident and easy going, however **COA and IND are too busy to fasten the process** and this affects people who do not receive the permit negatively.

We are planning to have **psychologists** visit the AZC **every week to connect and talk their heart out**

The older refugees here primarily want to **work and earn, have family reunion**. Therefore, we want to introduce them with natives to mutually share their skills and **form long term connections**

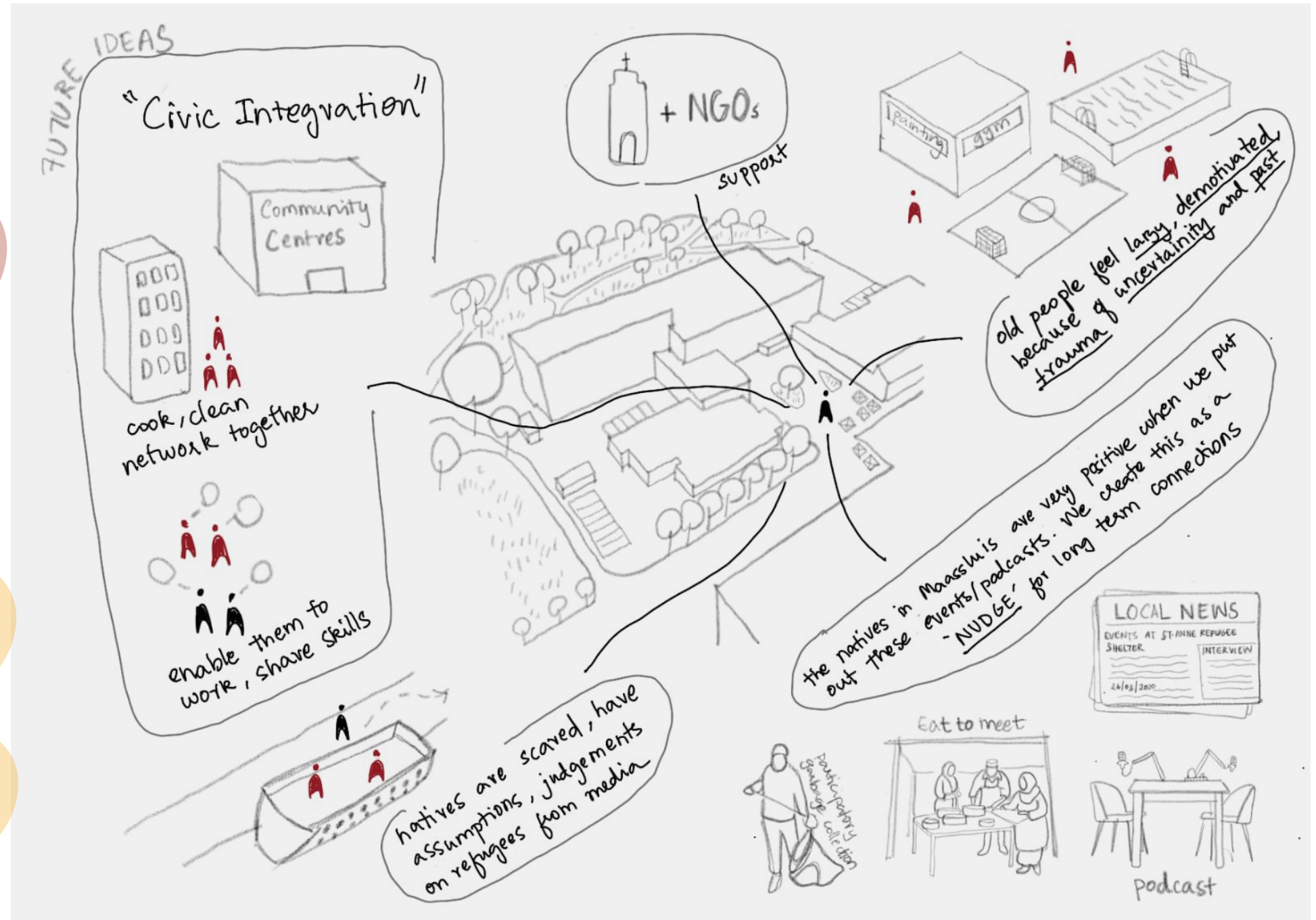
We support them to visit the gym, swimming pool, football, painting activities. However, **the older age group are lazy, demotivated, and have more impact of their past traumas**

Every 2 weeks we interview people in the AZC and **publish in the local newspaper**. We also have a **podcast** where refugees talk and **conduct events in the boat frequently**

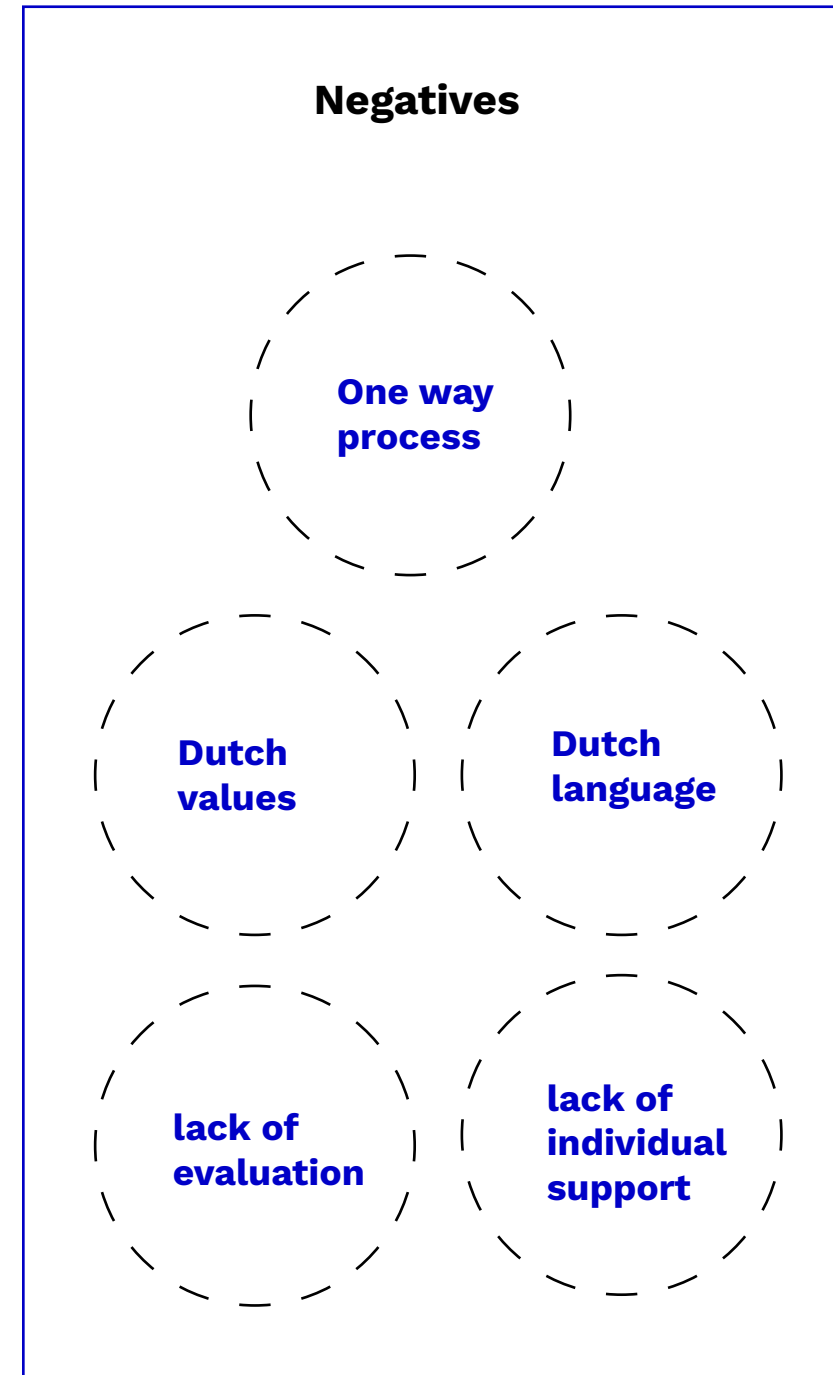
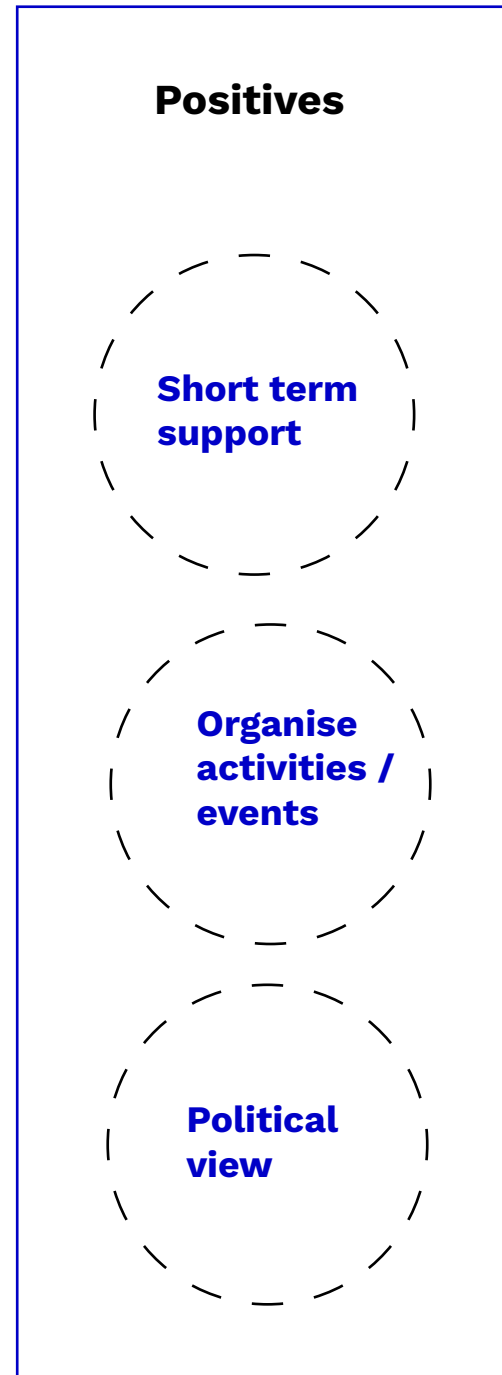


Municipality official

People have to become open-minded and the COA should provide more support for municipalities to experiment with different ideas

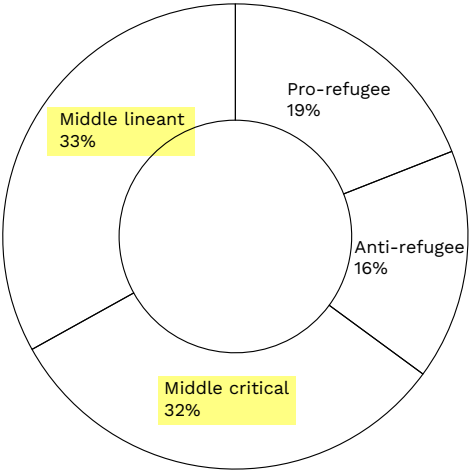


Conclusions

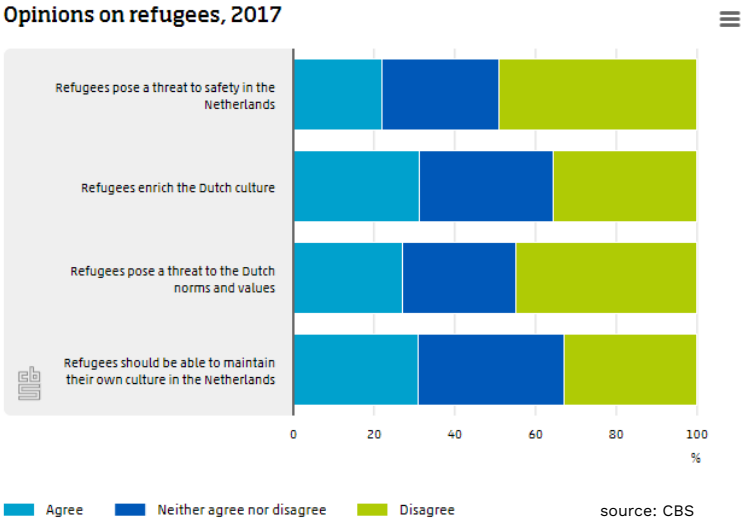


Understanding of natives !

Native attitudes



source: Polarization in attitudes towards refugees and migrants in the Netherlands, Albada, K., Hansen, N., & Otten, S. (2021).



source: CBS



“I’m not against refugees, not at all. But if it gets too much, in times of crisis, we have to think about ourselves,”

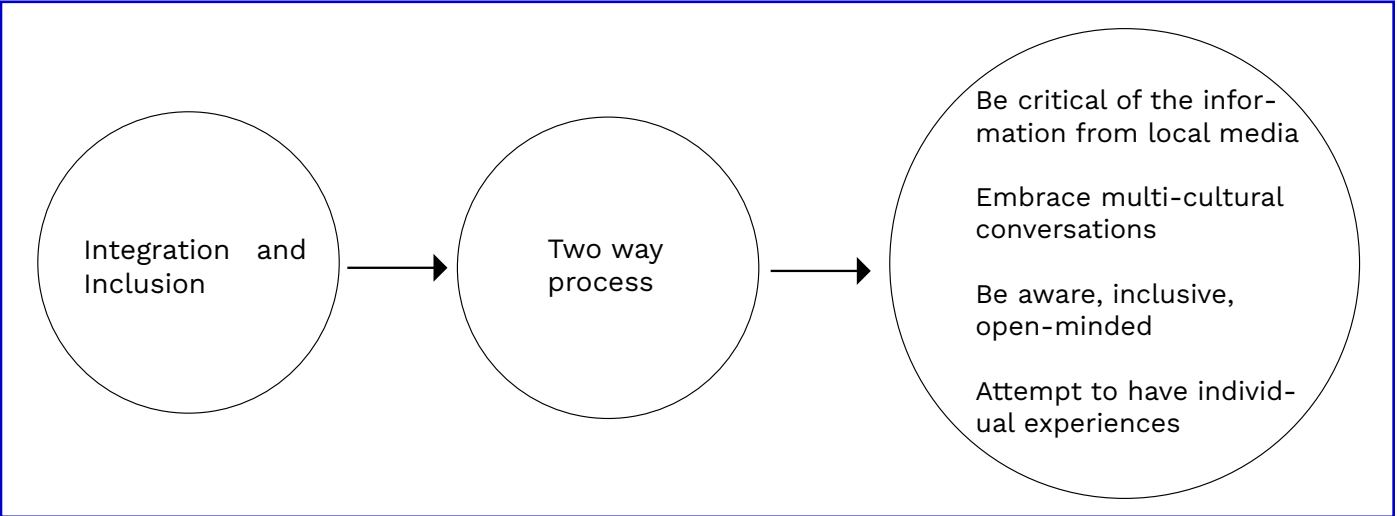
“I’m really not racist, but when it comes to my own country, I think I should get priority access to a house,”

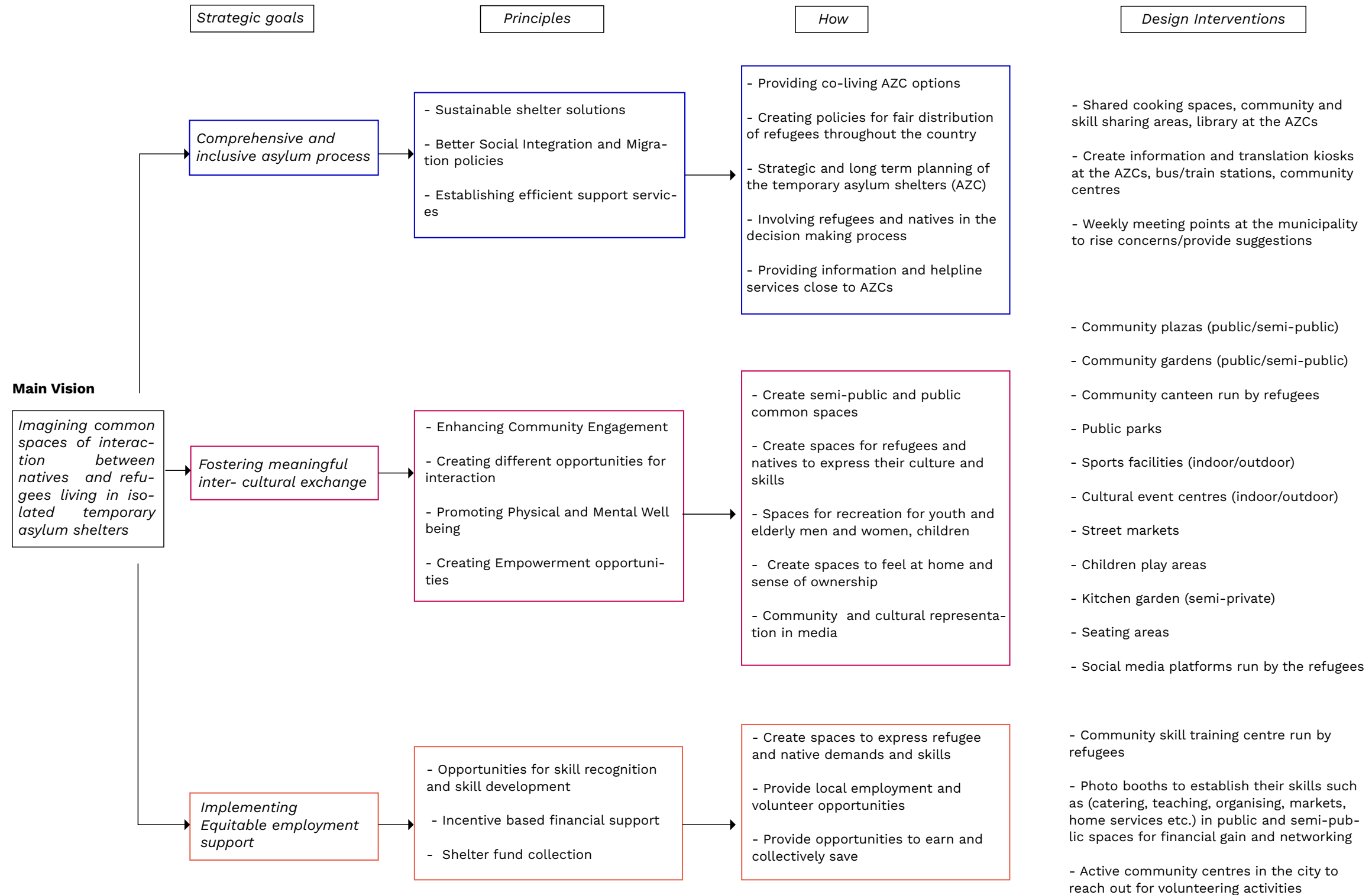
“The Netherlands is simply full. We have housing needs, we have needs for everything, but we’re letting them in, and asylum seekers get their turn [for support] before the people who live here,”

source: How Geert Wilders turned all corners of Dutch society into far right voters. POLITICO, Cokelaere, H., & Hartog, E. (2024, May 16).

3. Temporary integration - Halfway favourable (average score: 57/100). These countries provide immigrants with basic rights and equal opportunities, but not a secure future in the country. Policies in these countries encourage the public to see immigrants as their equals and neighbours, but also as foreigners rather than as potential citizens.

- France (56)
 - Germany (58)
 - Italy (58)
 - Netherlands (57)
 - United Kingdom (56)
- source: MIPEX

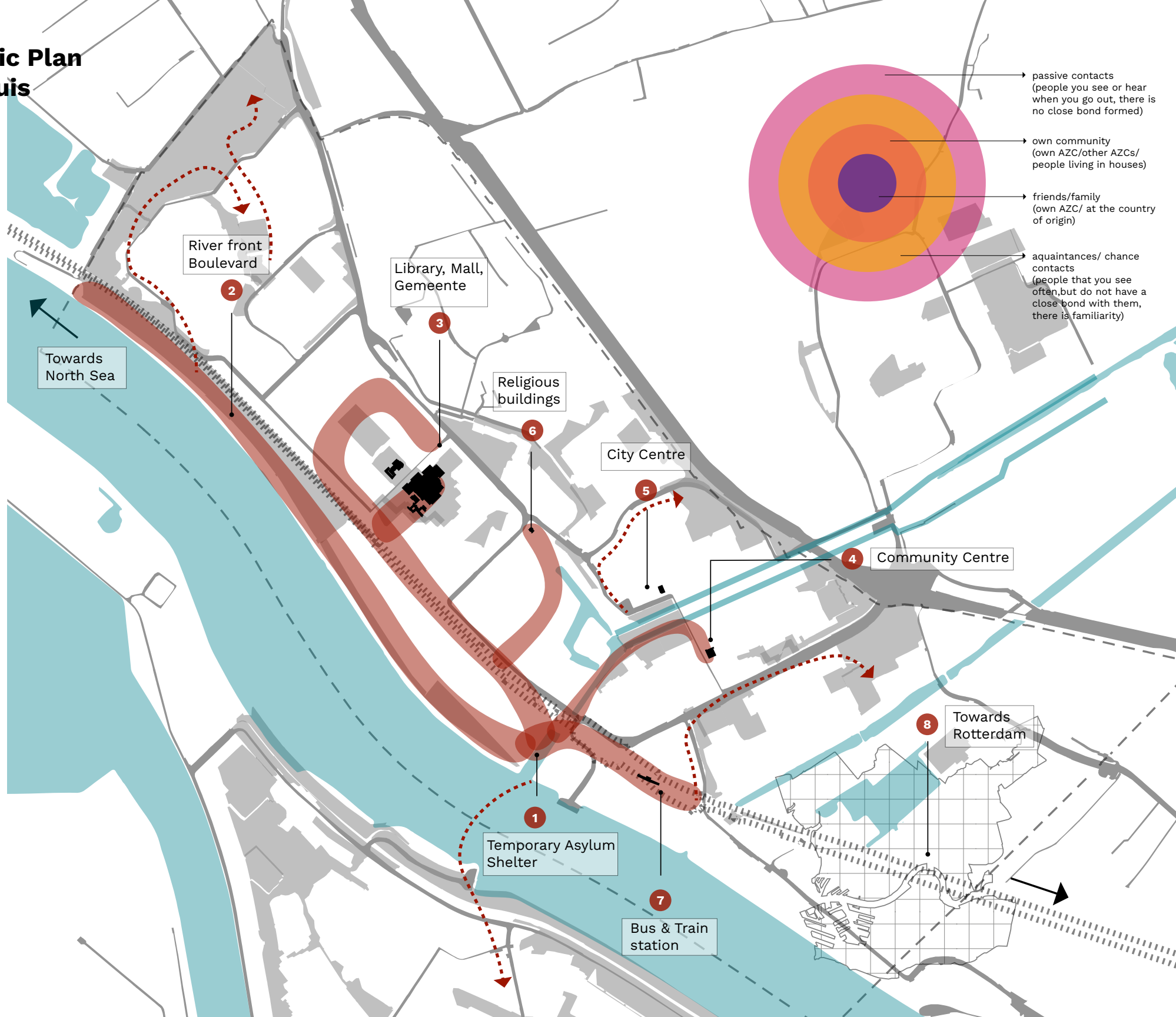




4.

*DESIGN +
POLICY RECOMMENDATION*

Strategic Plan Maassluis



passive contacts
(people you see or hear
when you go out, there is
no close bond formed)

own community
(own AZC/other AZCs/
people living in houses)

friends/family
(own AZC/ at the country
of origin)

acquaintances/ chance
contacts
(people that you see
often, but do not have a
close bond with them,
there is familiarity)

- 1 Asylum shelter surrounded by warehouses

Pedestrian paths and semi-private spaces along the asylum shelter
- 2 Inactive River front Boulevard

Boulevard as a vibrant public space
- 3 Library, shops, neighbourhoods surrounded with parking spaces

Active neighbourhood parks & semi-public spaces
- 4 Small enclosed Community centre

Public & semi-public spaces around the Community centre
- 5 City centre with expensive shops

Public spaces as pause points for encounters
- 6 Religious place at the junction of main roads

Active semi-public spaces around religious buildings
- 7 Inactive bus and train station

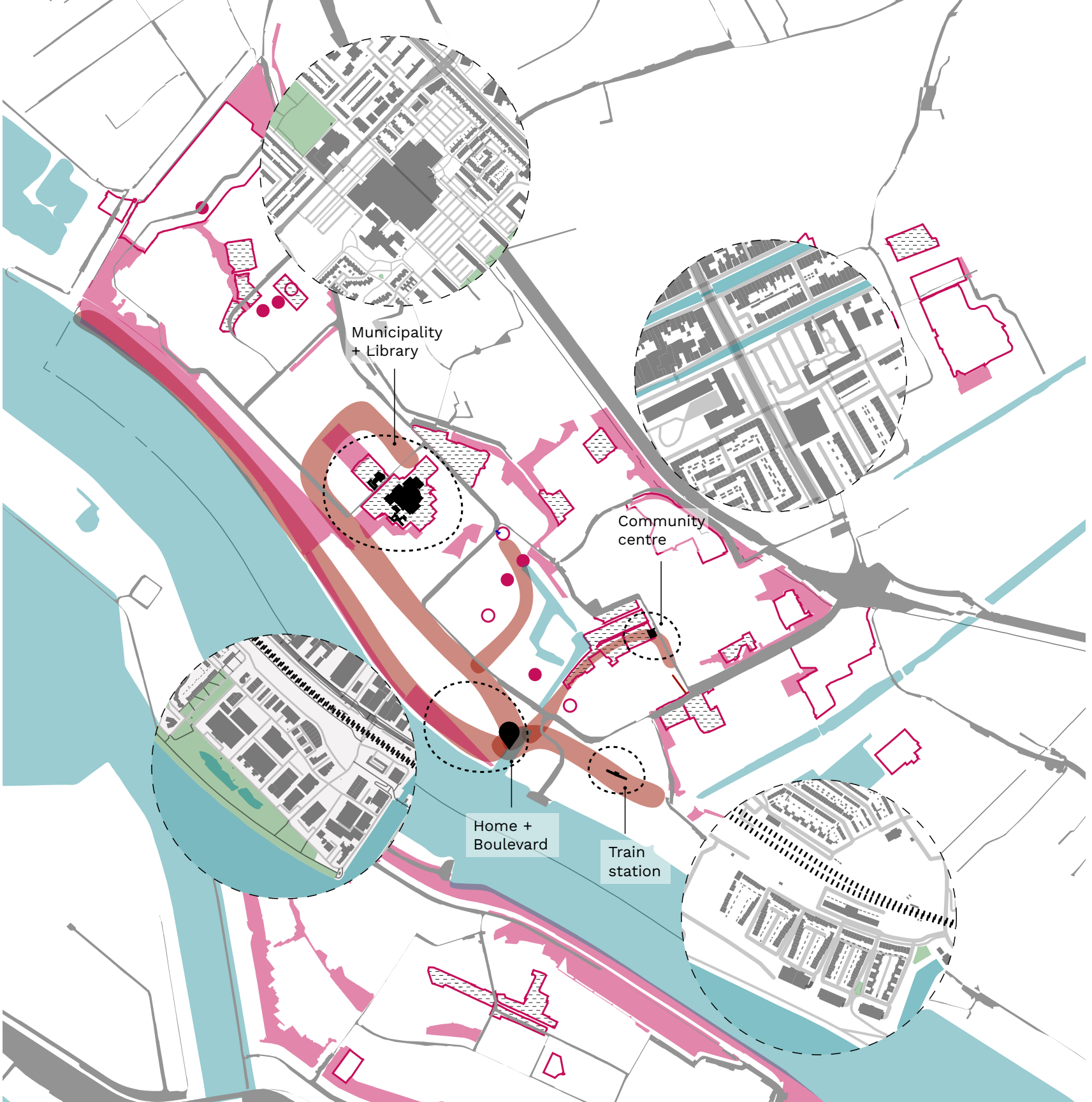
Gathering spaces as new meeting points
- 8 Difficult to connect with AZCs in nearby cities

Collaborate with AZCs in nearby cities to form social networks

Introducing different interaction along the routes

- Early arrival infrastructures
- Possible Public & Semi-Public spaces of intervention
- Routes of intervention
- Future development of the routes

Selection of test locations



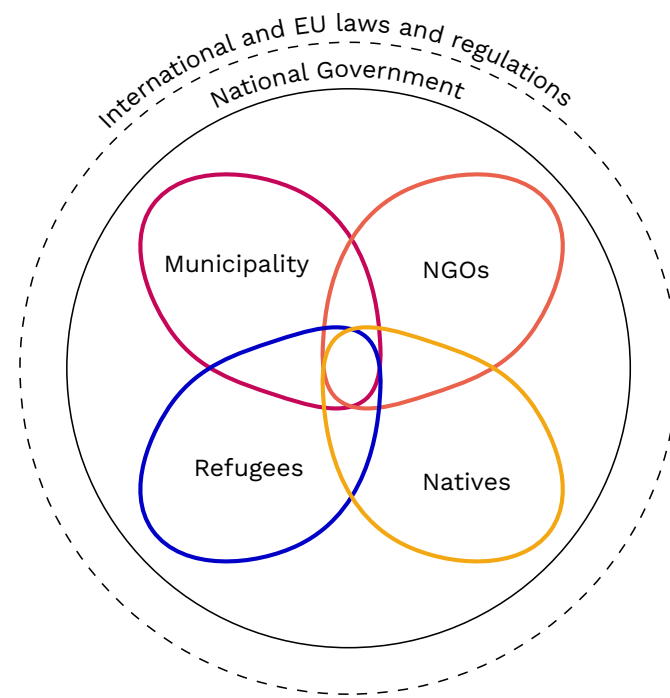
- religious places
- gyms
- ▨ socio-cultural facilities(library, community centres etc.) , retail, restaurants
- parks
- sports ground

Strategic Urban Solutions For Dutch Municipalities with Isolated Temporary Asylum Shelters (AZC)

Guidelines for creating quality common spaces between refugees living in isolated temporary asylum shelters and natives



Implemented by



Phasing

Mega scale	Meso scale	Micro scale
<p>- Establish better accessibility and connectivity to arrival infrastructures such as public, semi-public spaces, services, education, employment etc.</p> <p>- Change and create land use, zoning plans based on the population growth, age groups in the particular city, location etc. in such a way that it creates economic opportunities for refugees.</p>	<p>- Establish design principles for neighbourhoods that create spatial changes and encourages activities that support community interaction.</p>	<p>- Identify suitable locations as starting points for developing the quality of public and semi-public spaces in the city.</p> <p>- Create visions for these locations aiming at different types of interaction between refugees and natives.</p> <p>- Propose and implement suitable programmatic and spatial interventions.</p>

Evaluation

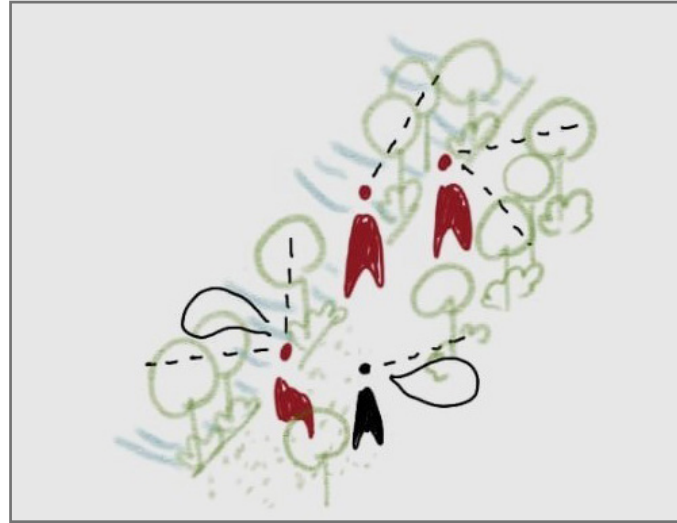
An evaluation framework should be established with the help of the results from the **participatory approach, observations on site, case studies and literature** to help with tracking the progress and impact of the project as per the vision.

Principles

Enhancing Community Engagement



Promoting Physical and Mental Wellbeing



Creating Empowerment opportunities

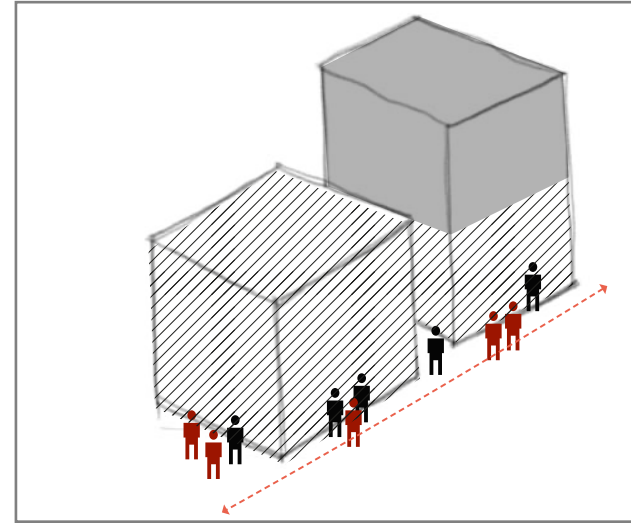


Creating a sense of home, belonging

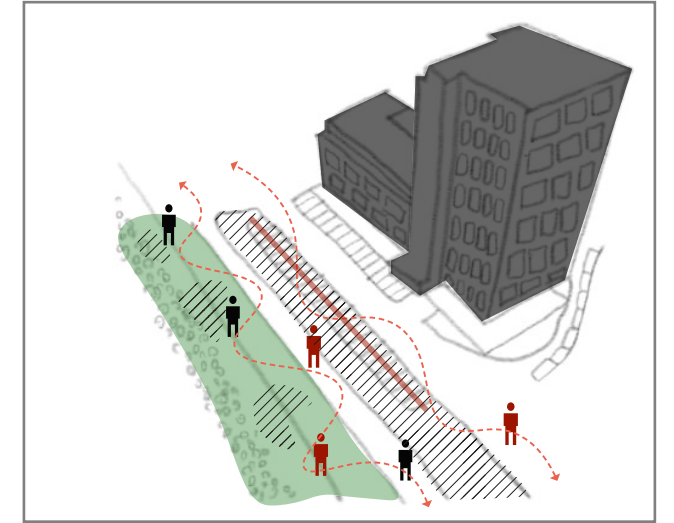


Design guidelines

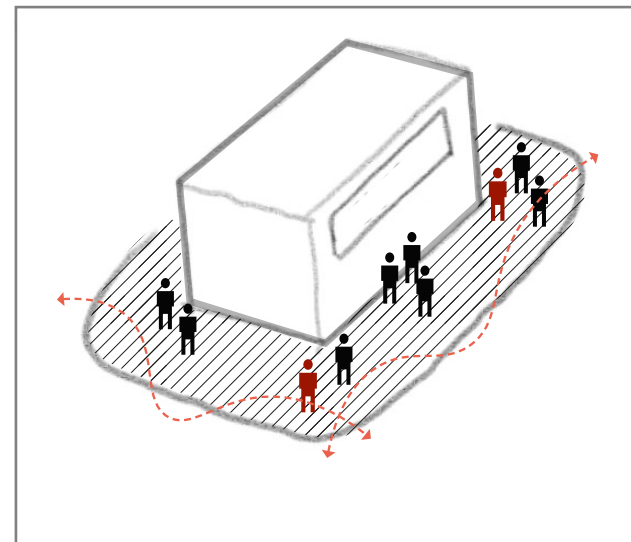
Change in building use



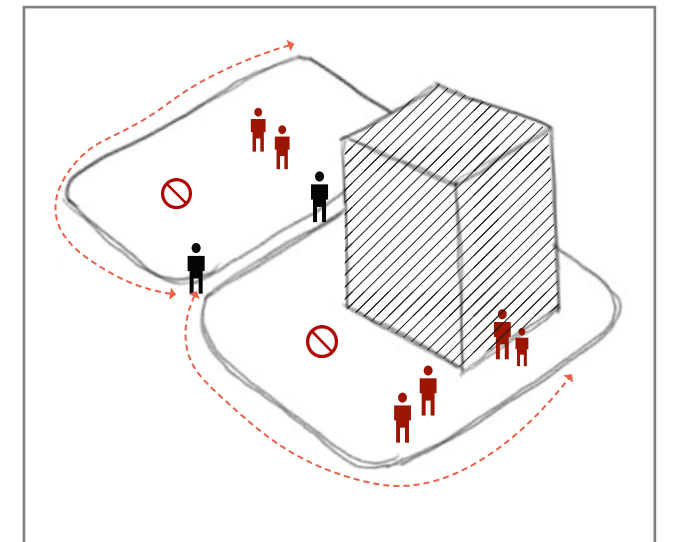
Activate public space



Activate semi- public space

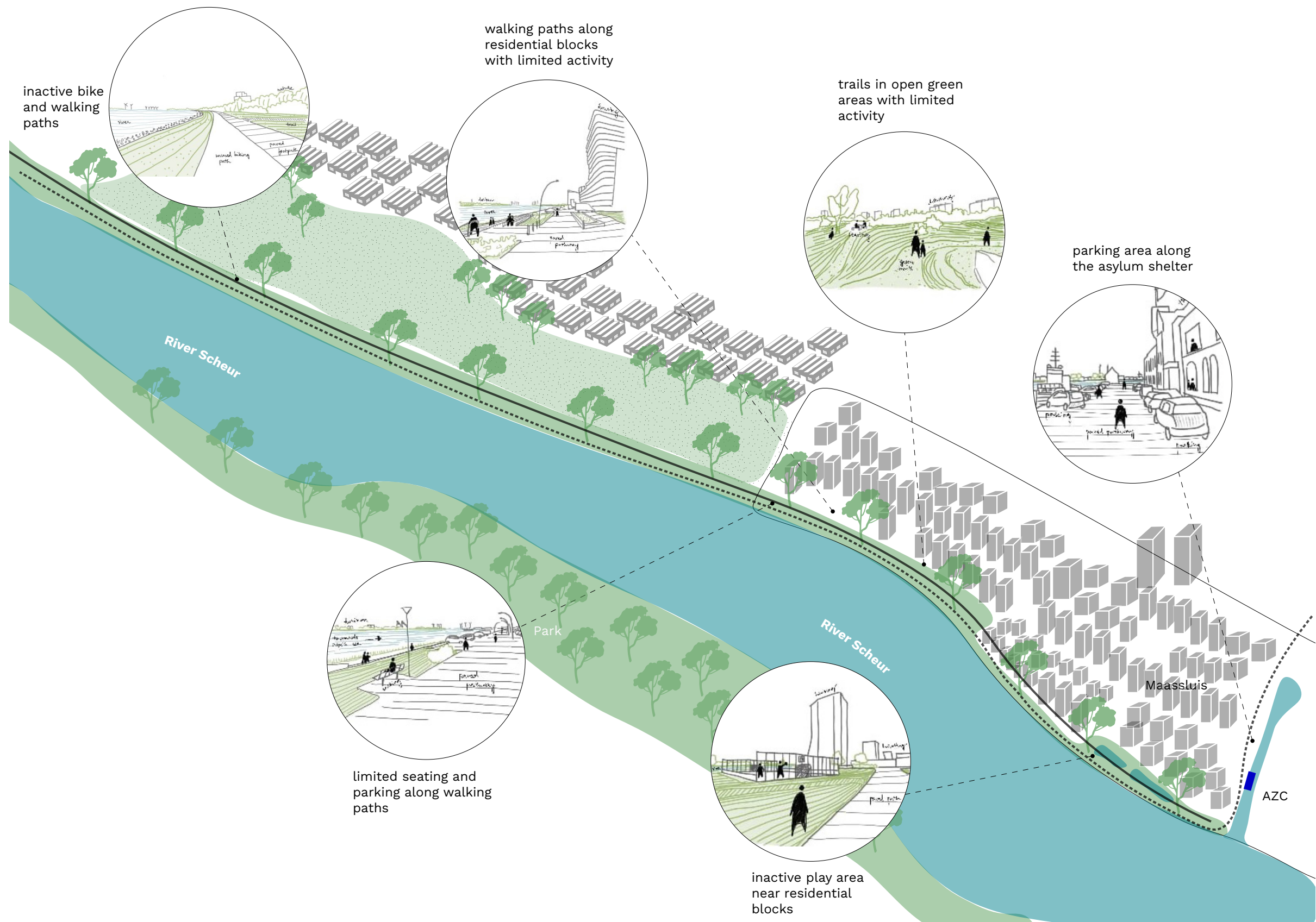


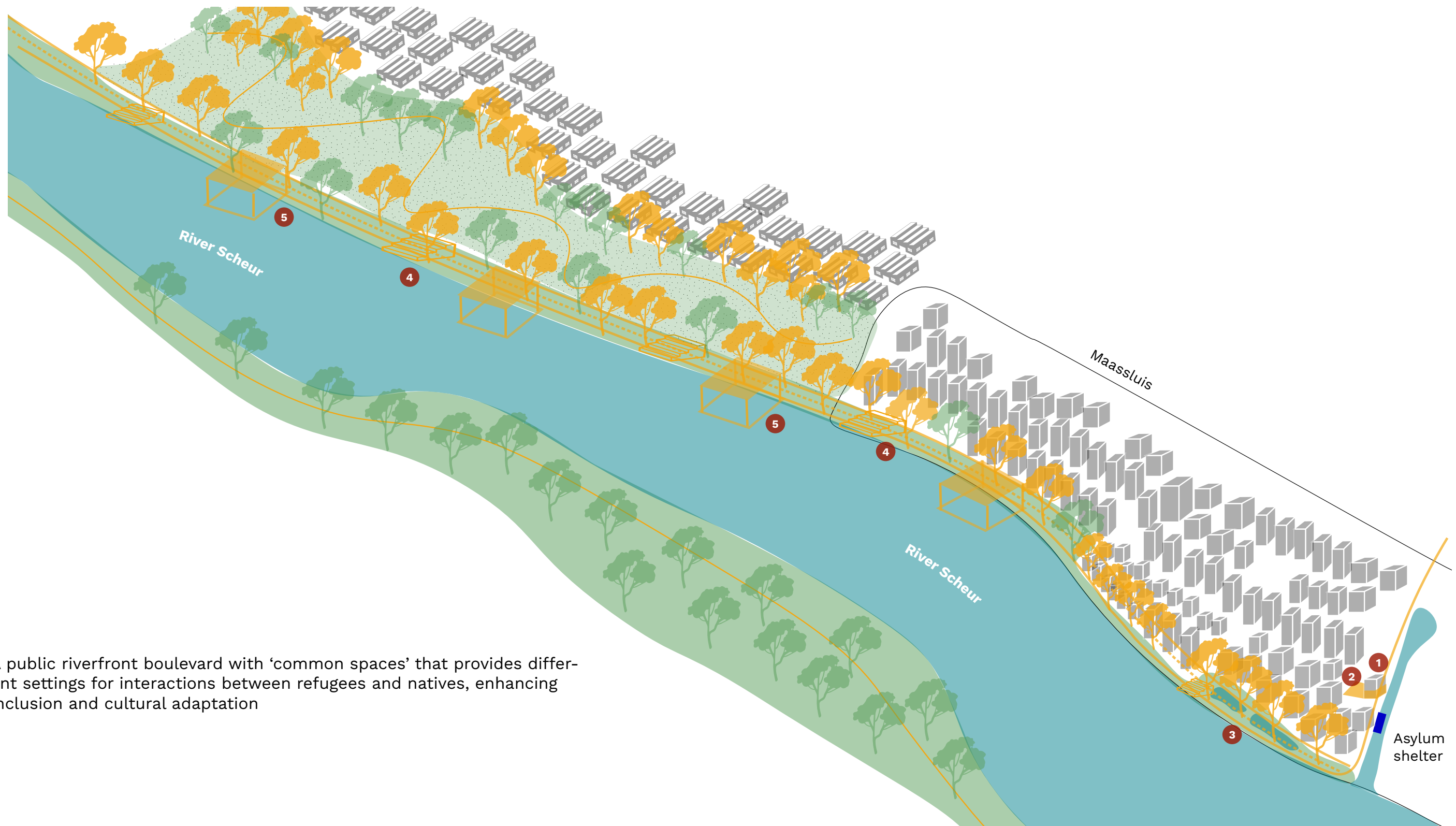
Create semi-private spaces



Location 1

Home and Boulevard





A public riverfront boulevard with 'common spaces' that provides different settings for interactions between refugees and natives, enhancing inclusion and cultural adaptation

Asylum shelter

Changes around the shelter



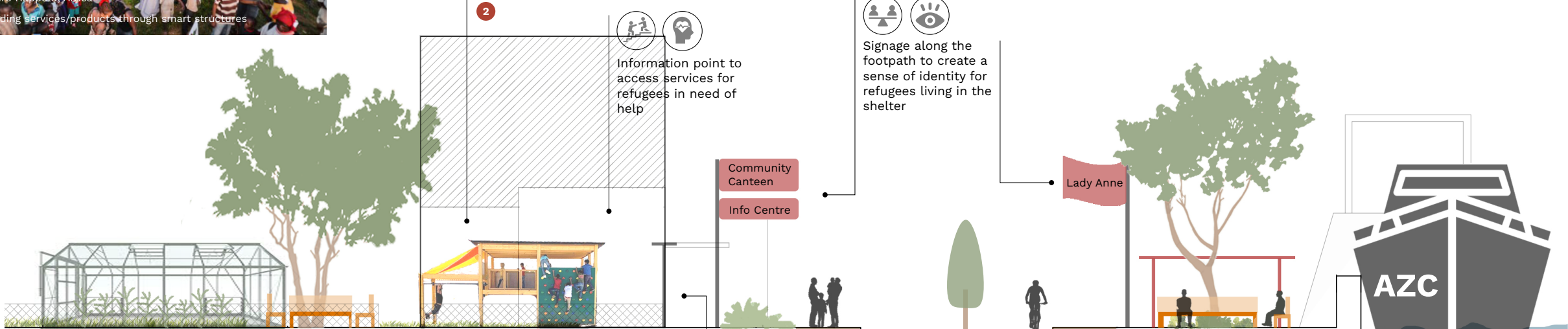
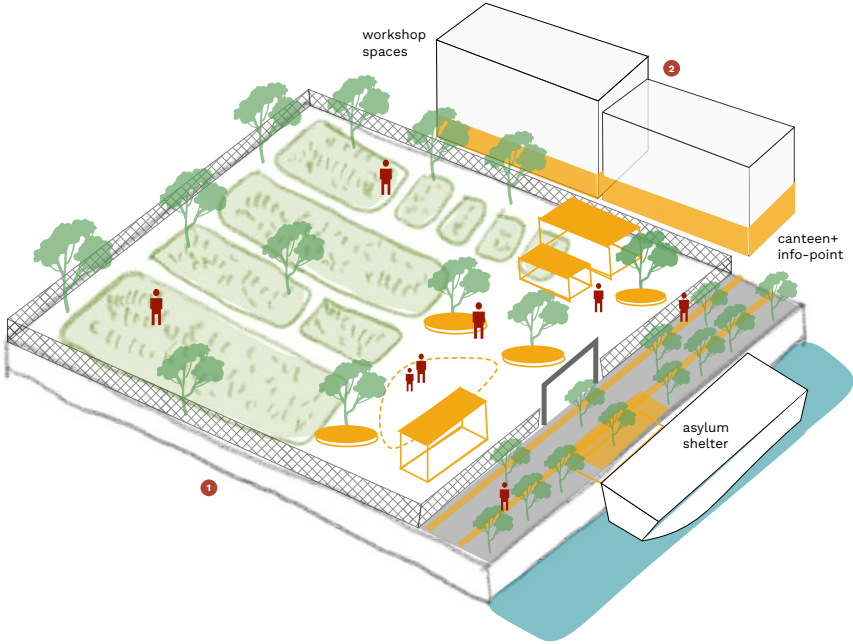
Current use of spaces



Solar Kiosk, Buro Happold, Africa
Refugees providing services/products through smart structures



Refugees building their own structures, Cox Bazaar, Bangladesh



Residents of an asylum seekers' centre work in the vegetable garden, Netherlands

1
Semi-private community plots behind the warehouse to accommodate various community activities



Visible entry and view into the community plots to make natives aware and involved in the activities

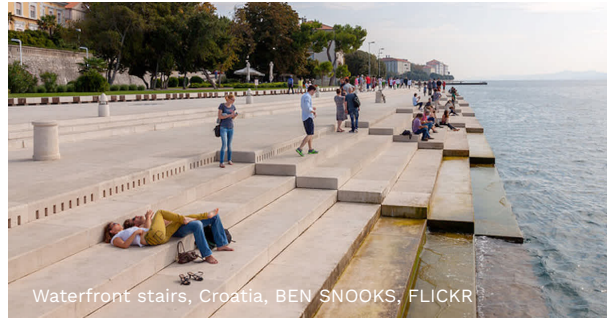


Improved walk and bike paths to make the public space around the shelter active for daily use

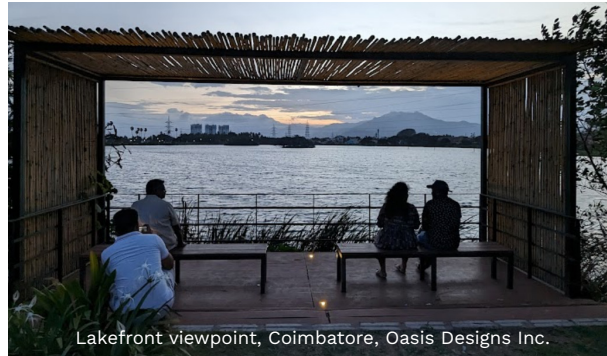


Shaded gathering space in front of the shelter to escape the confines of the shelter





Waterfront stairs, Croatia, BEN SNOOKS, FLICKR



Lakefront viewpoint, Coimbatore, Oasis Designs Inc.



A public green space for solitude, Lisbon



Calm buffer space with seating and walk trails to give a sense of privacy and relaxation

3



Semi-public seating near an indoor theatre, Lisbon

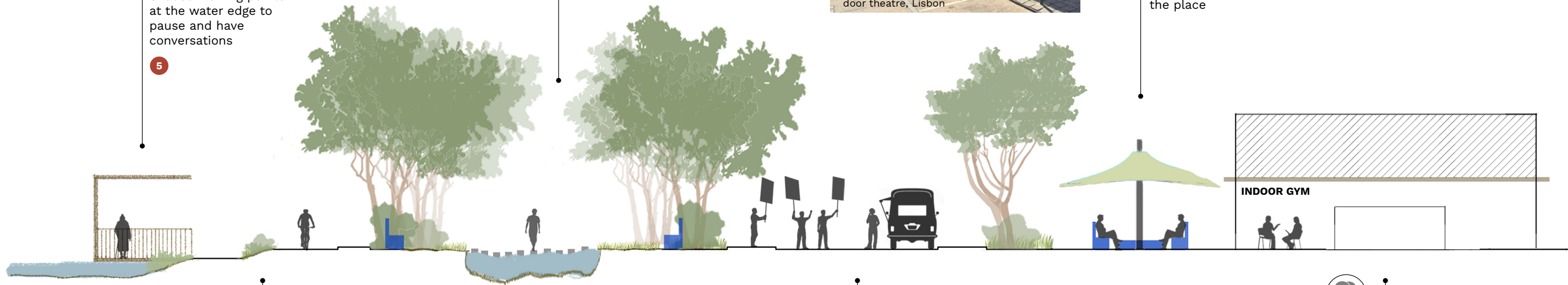


Semi-public shaded seating are provided along the street to be inviting to use and give identity to the place



Shaded viewing points at the water edge to pause and have conversations

5



Walk and bike paths at levels for different activities



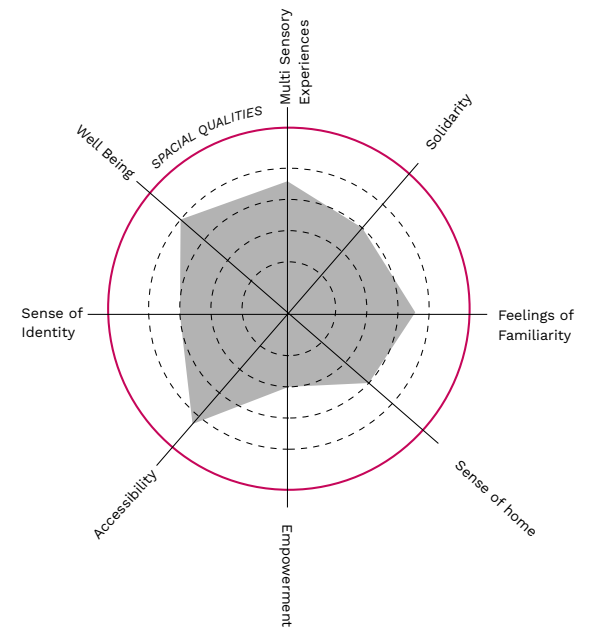
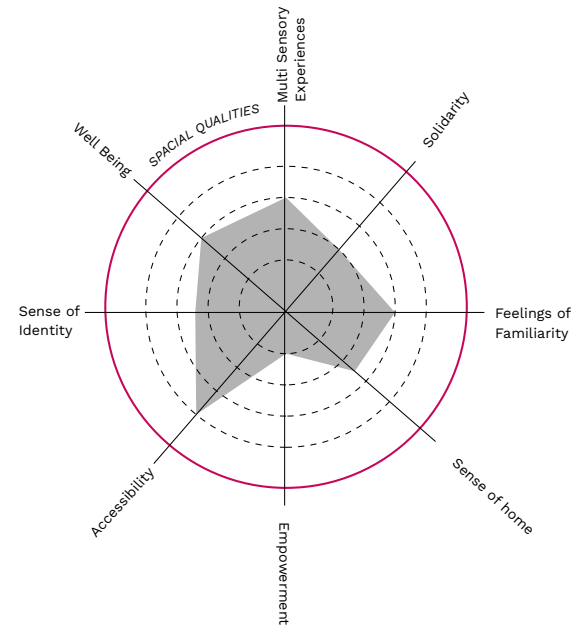
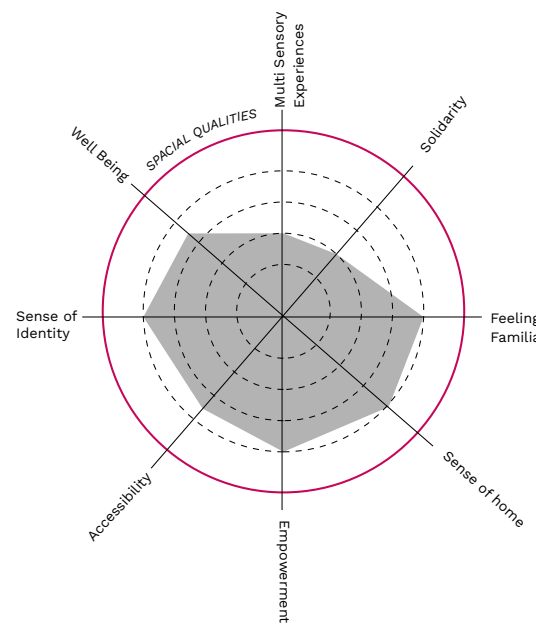
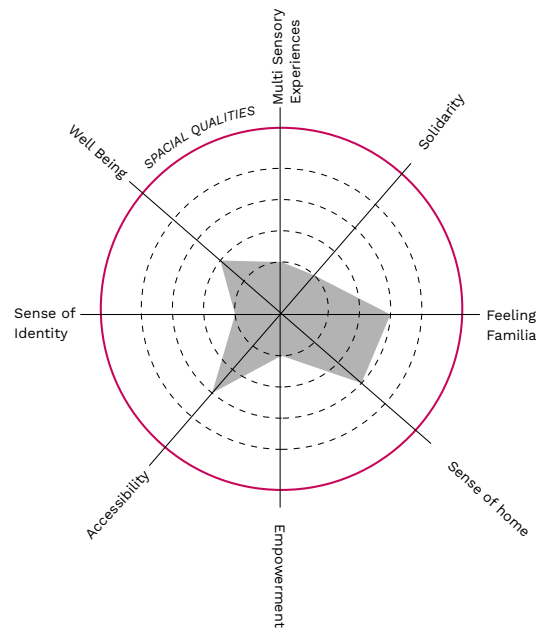
Pedestrian paths that are flexible to transform into spaces for informal public activities



Functions in ground floor of the buildings along the street are accentuated to make the spaces around more active

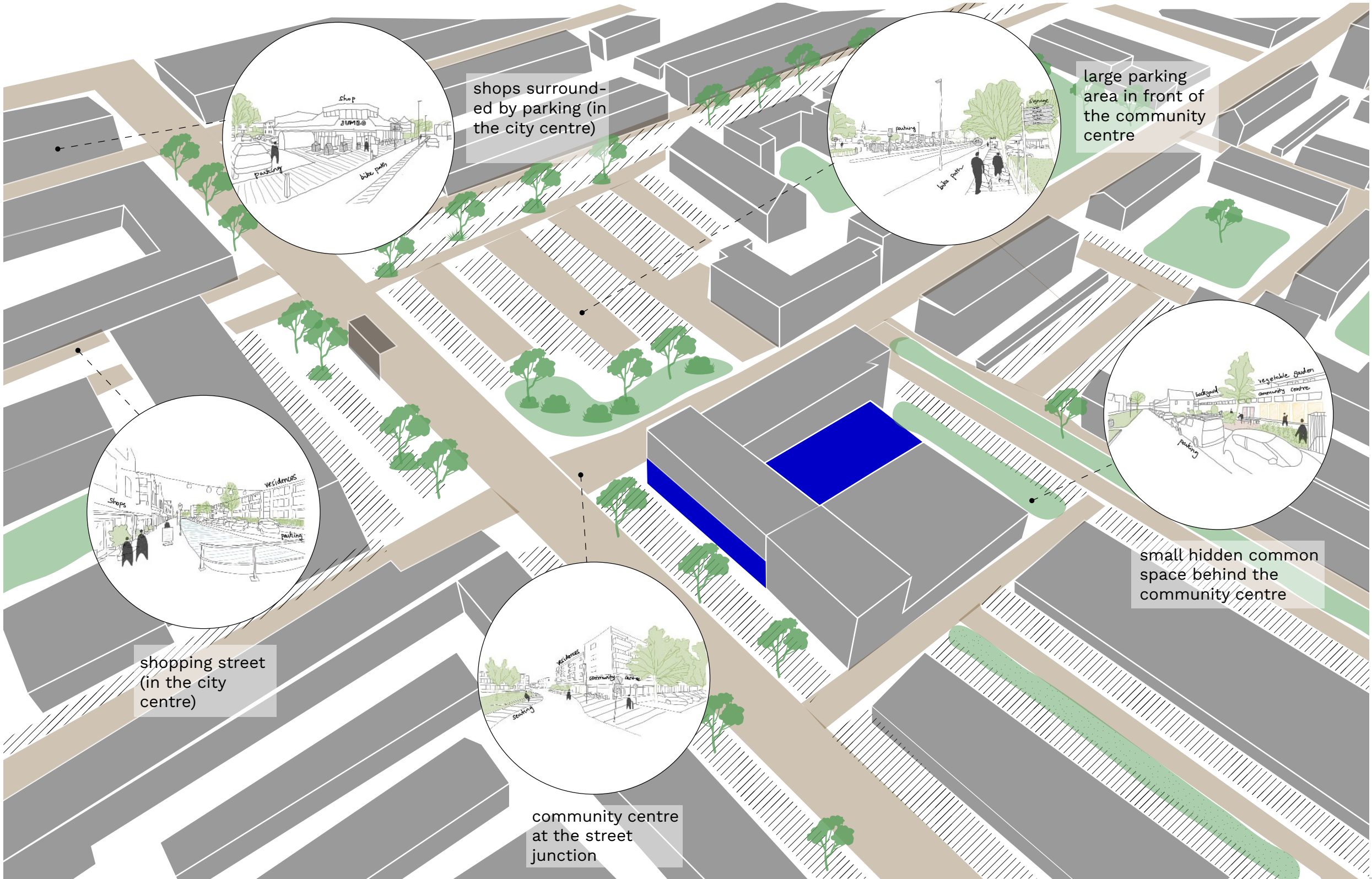


Evaluation



Location 2

Community Centre



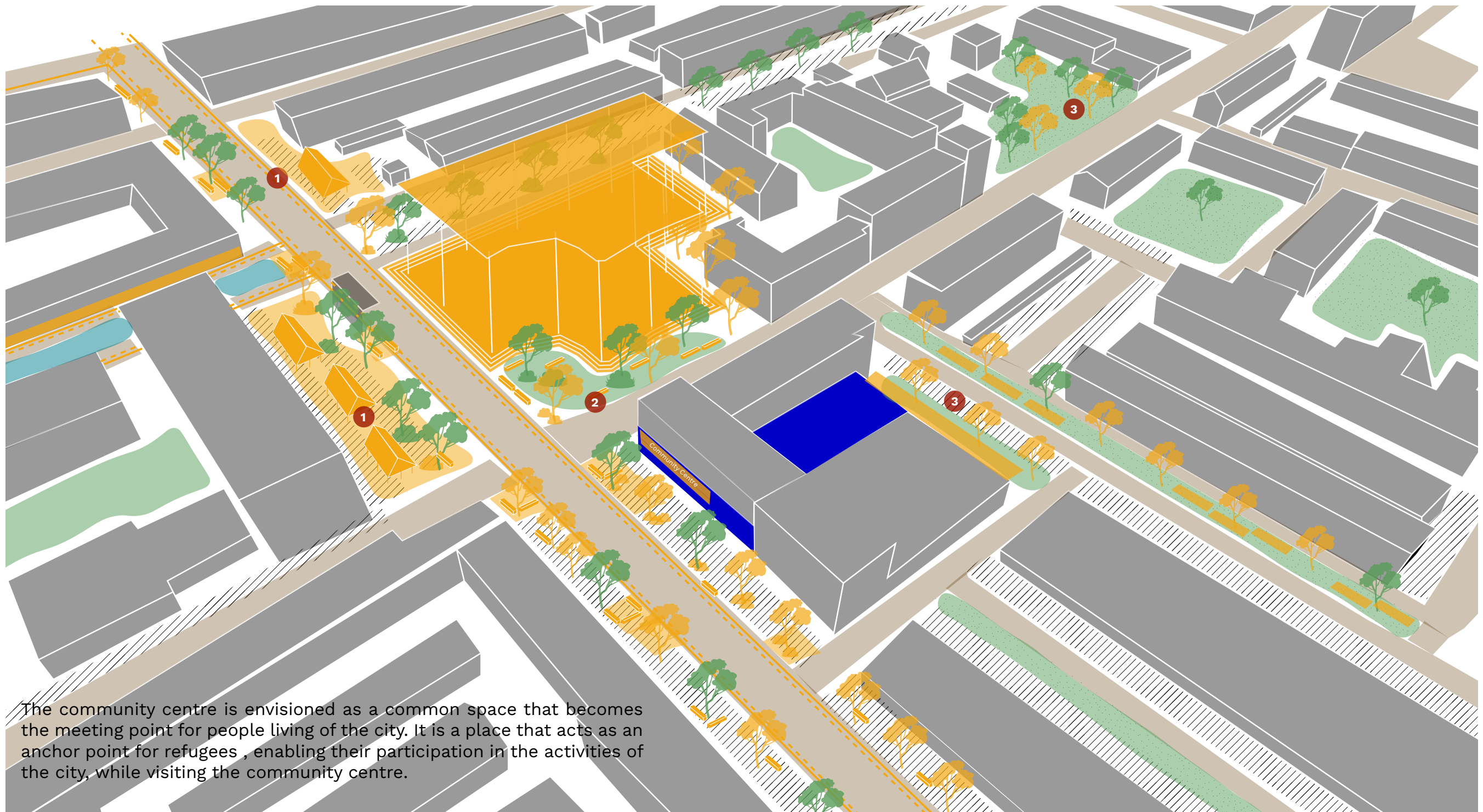
shops surrounded by parking (in the city centre)

large parking area in front of the community centre

shopping street (in the city centre)

community centre at the street junction

small hidden common space behind the community centre



The community centre is envisioned as a common space that becomes the meeting point for people living of the city. It is a place that acts as an anchor point for refugees , enabling their participation in the activities of the city, while visiting the community centre.



Piazza dell'Immaginario, Italy, ECOL

Flexible parking spaces that can be converted into weekly informal markets

Shaded public city square with basement parking facility

Existing performance Arts theatre surrounded by active public space



Pionierskwartier, Delft, Facebook



TheaterPlein, Antwerp, BERNARDO SECCHI & PAOLA VIGANO



City Centre

Towards the AZC

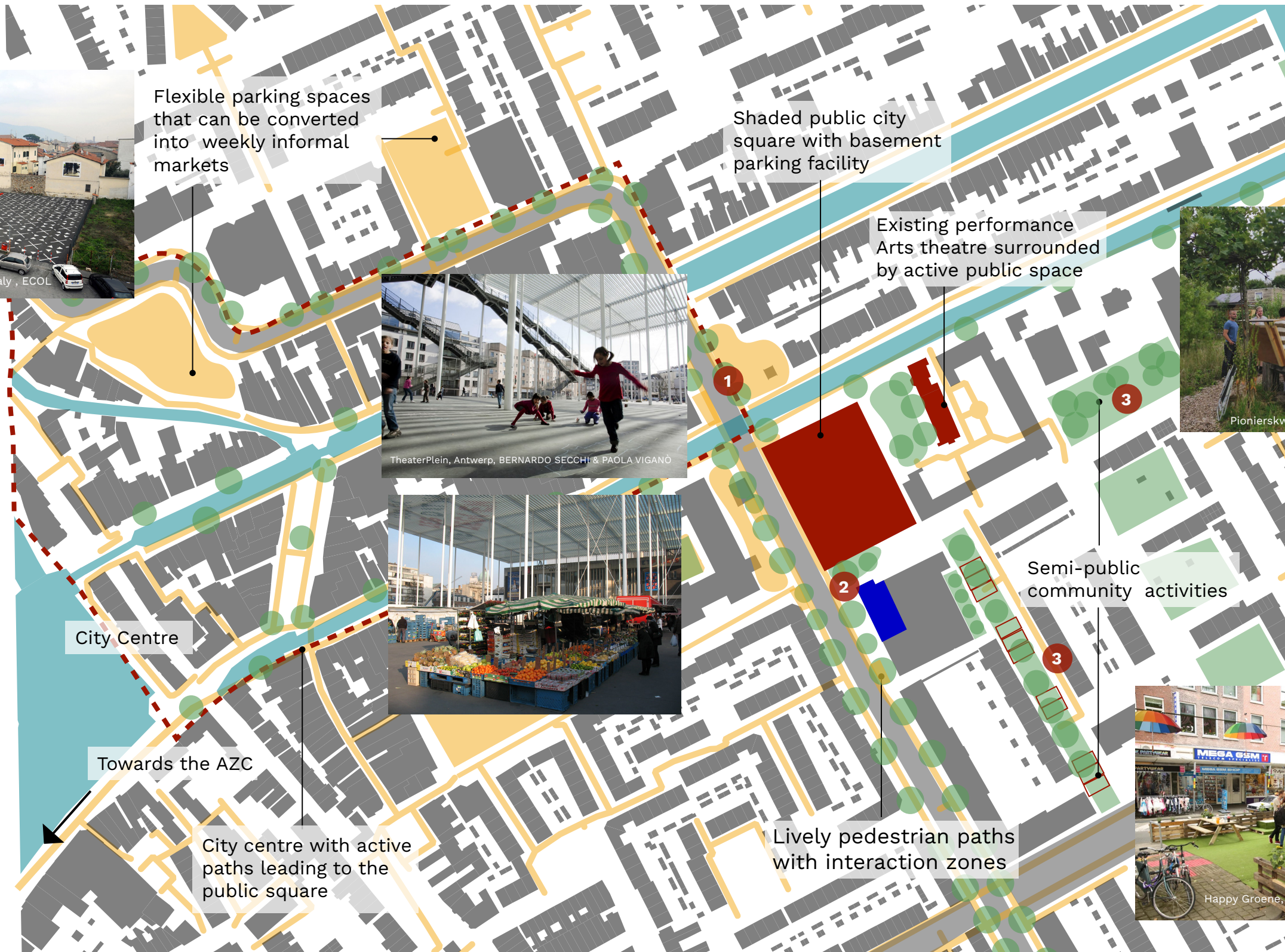
City centre with active paths leading to the public square

Semi-public community activities

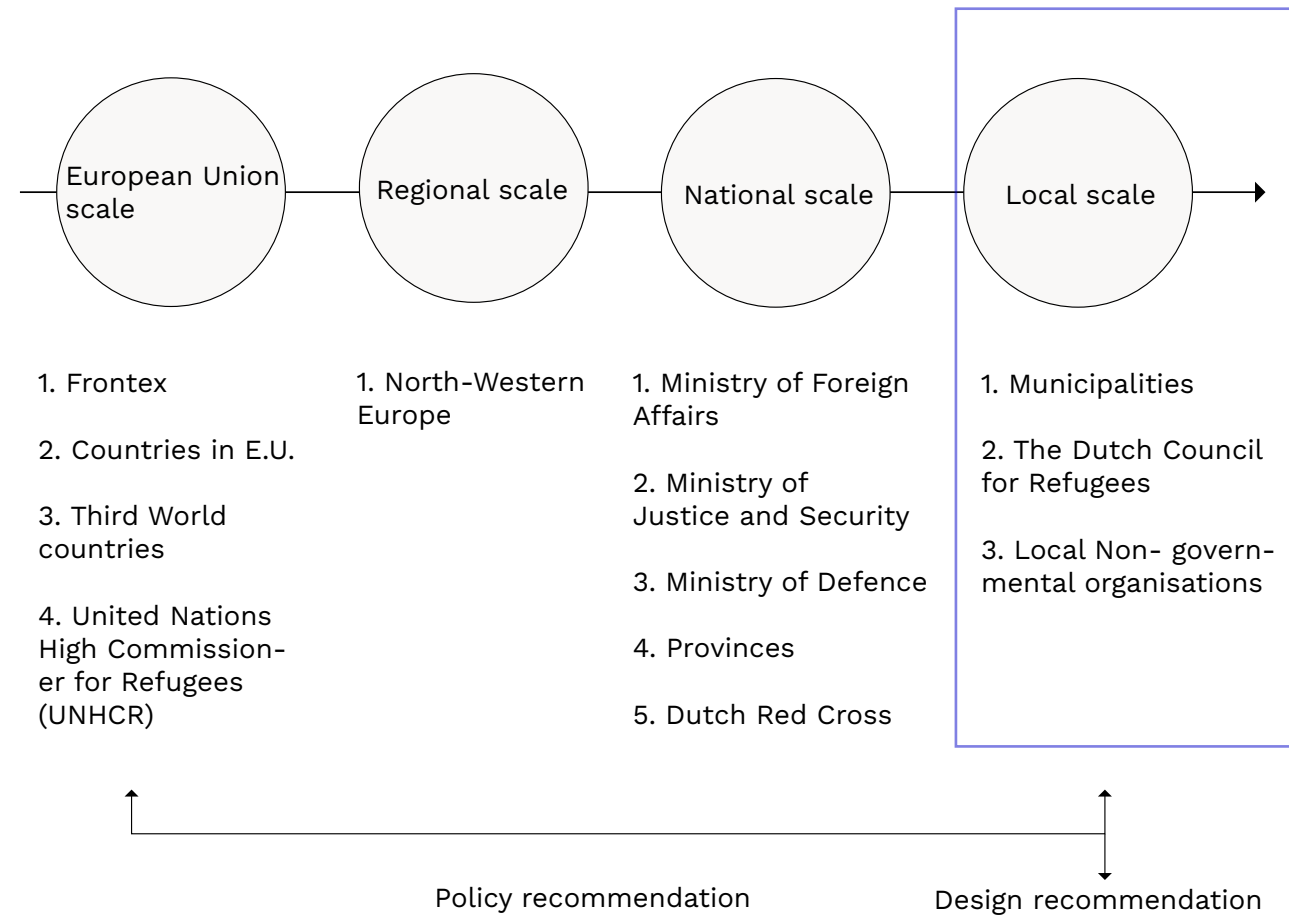
Lively pedestrian paths with interaction zones



Happy Groene, Hittedijk - Humankind

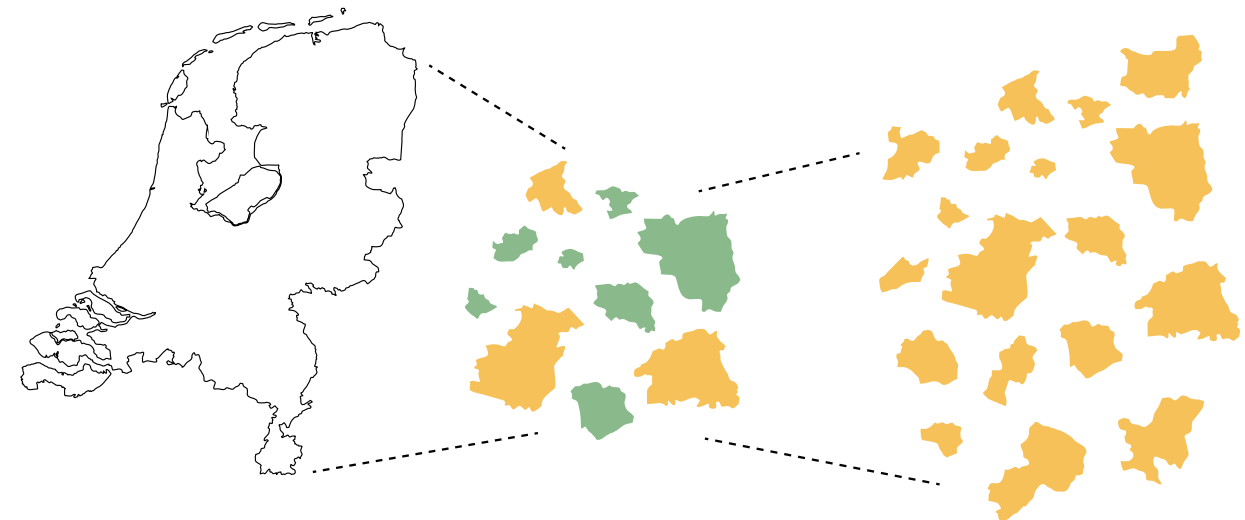


Policy recommendation

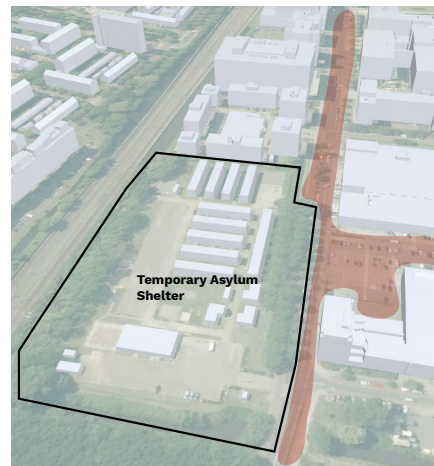
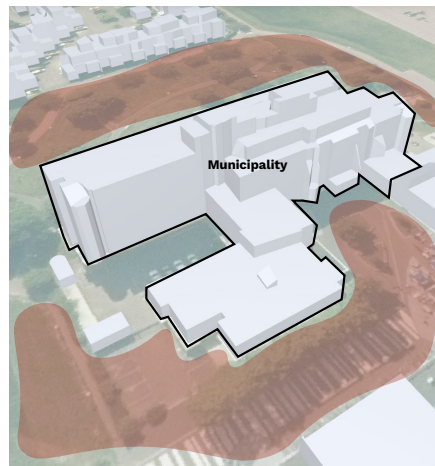
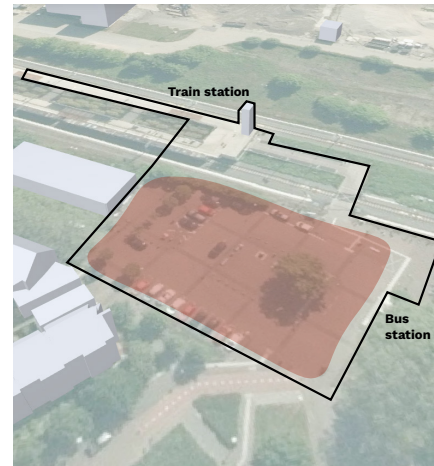
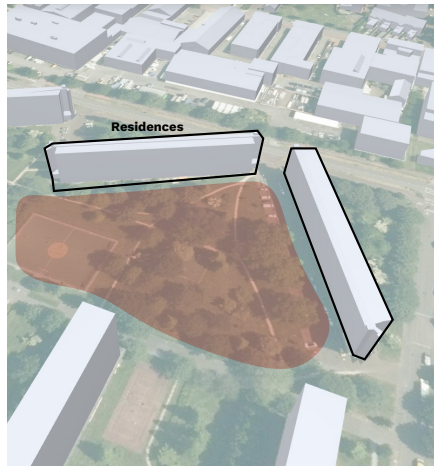


Distribution law

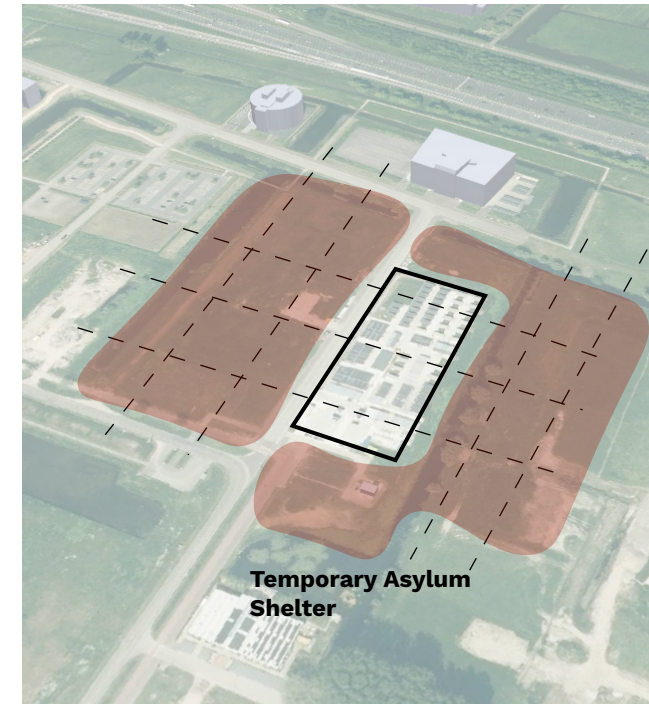
- Every municipality should be obliged to receive asylum seekers
- If municipalities cannot come to an agreement, the new law will allow the State to designate suitable reception locations.
- The municipalities can propose smaller-scale locations if it does not have enough resources, land area, inhabitants.. However they are obliged to plan together with the nearby municipalities to arrange for other alternative solutions
- The law should consider refugees to choose to locate at AZCs closer to their family/friends (if present) in the country



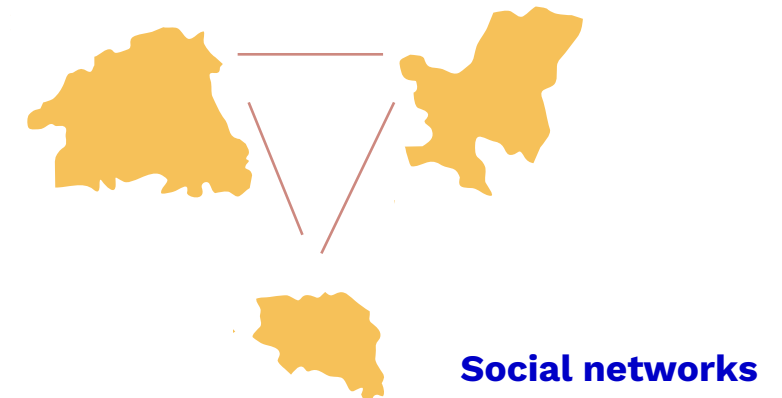
Quality spaces around early arrival infrastructures



Ensuring the presence of semi-private spaces



Ensuring collaboration between municipalities



5.

REFLECTION

- **Seeking for interviews** regarding this topic with the refugees was difficult as an international student due to their vulnerable situation. But at a point I was mistaken as a refugee myself.

- It was challenging to **form conclusions and map their living conditions** and experiences with just literature and online data. The problem can be very **context specific** and interviews were necessary to understand their individual difficulties and form design solutions.

- It was also challenging to **form design solutions** for the project, since it is predominantly seen more as a political problem across media. But, having had interactions with refugees, their problems does **reflect as spaces**, which is not spoken about enough in the society. I see this project as a small step that can make natives and refugees see the spaces around them as the opportunities to learn and embrace each others differences.

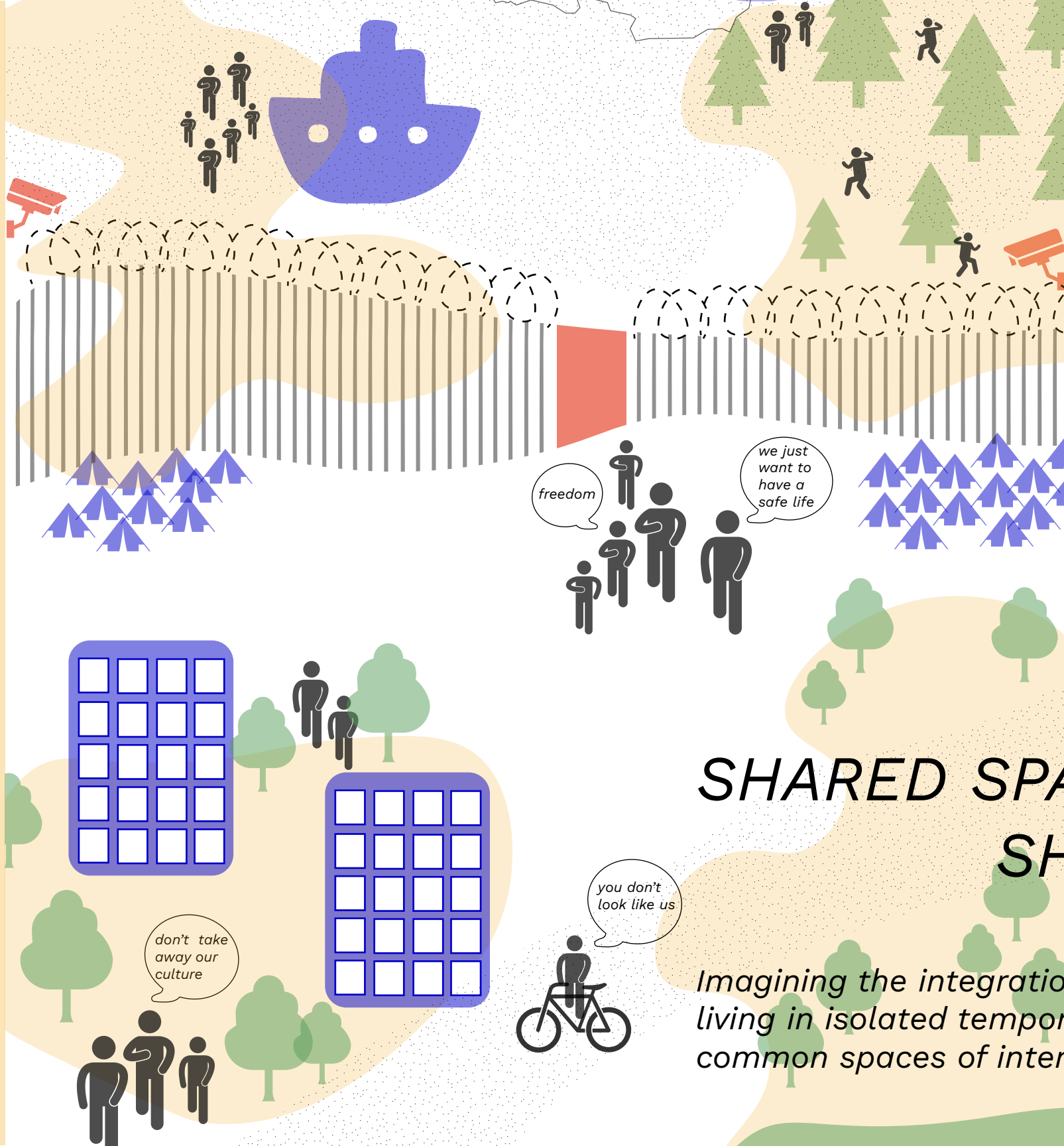
- The project is a work taking into the consideration the current migration situation in the E.U. The refugee crisis is **dynamic** and the project can take different turns with the changing laws and political situation in the Netherlands and E.U.

As a 'migrant' in this country trying to 'fit in' in every way was and is still is challenging. I started this project from being conscious about the fact that I am different because of my skin colour, I get stereotyped of my culture, habits, abilities and values.

And it is hard to be acknowledged and seen and treated as the 'same', in a country where I am the minority. These factors not only influence my motivation and confidence, but also in **the way I interact and move through spaces in my daily life.**

With this project, I tried to act upon these similar differences and struggles experienced by a more vulnerable 'migrant' community and by possibly being a voice for them.

Thank you!



SHARED SPACES SHARED LIVES

Imagining the integration of natives with refugees living in isolated temporary asylum shelters through common spaces of interaction