



Reflections after 3th ULG in Rabot

On February 4, 2020, the third local meeting of the European Civic Estate project, with pilot case Sint-Jozefkerk, took place.

During this meeting in the Neighbourhood Centre, about 15 people once again came to think along. During the ULG, we wanted to take a number of steps out of the trajectory around the Sint-Jozefkerk, to check with the attendees. But first the general principles within Civic Estate were repeated, and it was shown how they are applied concretely to the Sint-Jozef case. Below you can follow the course of the evening.

1. St-Joseph church as a pilot case withing Civic eState: what does it mean?

Sint-Jozefkerk as a pilot project within Civic Estate: what does this mean concretely?

The principles that are put forward from Civic Estate and that are also applied in the trajectory around St. Joseph's Church were discussed. A few additions were made by the attendees:

- Neighbourhood orientation is not simply important, but essential, and must be clearly defined. It is about creating added value for the neighbourhood, positively influencing the quality

of living together, the liveability and the image of the neighborhood. This in complementarity and cooperation with the existing offer. You do this by involving local residents.

- Importance of measuring social impact. In addition to social return, the economic, social... return must also be mapped out. This should not only be seen in quantitative terms. "Torekes" (= local currency) are a good instrument to measure volunteer efforts, also the qualitative aspects can be deduced from this.

- The Furniture Factory (= [De Meubelfabriek](#)) can be used as a source of inspiration for a democratic management model.



2. Trajectory to manager: how do we bring candidates into contact with the neighbourhood?

All attendees agreed that candidate managers should have a good vision on how the neighbourhood can be involved in the whole process. Some attendees agree that the candidate managers do not necessarily need to know the district, one can also get to know the district and new blood in the district can bring new interesting impulses.

It is agreed that candidate managers should not be helped too hard in their link to the district, as this is part of their assignment and plan of action.

The group does like the idea of a matchmaking event, it is certainly necessary to support and bring people with space questions together.

The idea of pitches also seems to be very appealing. Candidate managers are then given the opportunity to explain their vision and concept to the neighbourhood, and can gather



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reactions from the neighbourhood. What is important is that the pitch is not organized too tightly, should be left open enough. In addition, it is also essential that all target groups are involved in the pitch moment, and certainly also the merchants in Wondelgemstraat.

3. Judging candidate managers: how can the neighbourhood get a voice in this?

The attendees are divided on the question whether the neighbourhood should be represented in the jury. The proposal from the City raises some questions:

- Can one person represent a whole category of residents of the neighbourhood?
- What about conflicts of interest (jury members who have ties with a candidate manager or filler)?

Possibly, a pre-selection by the neighbourhood has to be made, in which the neighbourhood selects 2 or 3 candidates that will be judged by the city jury. For this purpose, a conclave could be organized in the church, inviting the whole neighbourhood to vote. In such a format, one has to be careful that it does not become a popularity test, like the citizens' budget.

We had a very interesting evening, with good discussion among ourselves. Afterwards we realized that this was the last time for a long time, that we could sit together live and discuss... because a month later, Belgium went into lockdown...