

House of Recovery Twente - The Netherlands

Introduction

House of Recovery Twente (in Dutch: Huis van Herstel Twente) is an open detention facility in Almelo, the Netherlands. The facility was established in 2021 and is currently in a pilot phase that will last until 2026. It operates under the jurisdiction of the Custodial Institutions Agency of The Netherlands. Within the House of Recovery, there is a strong emphasis on cross-domain cooperation with various network partners. The partners are the prison of Almelo, the three probation organizations and the fourteen municipalities of the Twente region. These partners extend beyond traditional law enforcement agencies and include organizations capable of providing care and other contributions to support the rehabilitation of individuals, their social networks, victims, and society as a whole.



Scale

House of Recovery Twente has 29 beds of which the average occupancy rate is around 12 at the moment. The facility can thus be seen as small-scale.

RESCALED-principles in practice:

- ☐ Small-scale
- ☒ Differentiated
- ☐ Community-integrated

Differentiation

Target group:

The target group of House of Recovery Twente are adult men in detention for any categories of offenses. However, the facility has a procedure for placement that includes specific criteria. Firstly, individuals must be nearing the end of their prison sentence, because placement is only possible during the last 18 months of detention. Over 80% of the individuals in the target group have sentences that are shorter than four months. Additionally, applicants must either currently reside in or express a desire to live in the Twente region. Furthermore, applicants must demonstrate motivation to actively engage in reintegration and personal development. A final crucial requirement is the willingness to take responsibility for one's own actions.

Individuals sentenced to life imprisonment or subjected to a TBS measure (Dutch psychiatric treatment order) are not within the target group of House of Recovery Twente. This is due to the long-term and severe nature of their sentences. or because they are not yet working on their reintegration but must first fulfill their TBS sentence. Severe psychiatric issues, severe addiction problems, or such profound intellectual disabilities that prevent alignment with the approach of the restorative house also serve as contraindications due to the intensive care and treatment these individuals require.

Forms of security:



In House of Recovery Twente, security is limited and participants can go outside for scheduled activities, like work, education, sports etc. The security is described as relational. This manifests itself in several ways. House of Recovery Twente tries to create a safe environment by using open forms of communication and teaching the staff to view the participants as “regular” people with their own unique stories who deserve respect. Most of the staff do not wear a uniform to maintain a dynamic with the participants that is as equal as possible. In addition, the staff is easily accessible for participants, they talk with them a lot, share their hobbies or co-organize activities together. In House of Recovery Twente they encourage participants to prioritize positive relationships and effective communication. In cases where disagreements arise, whether between participants or between participants and staff, participants are given the opportunity to engage in dialogue or take personal space as needed.

The relational security in House of Recovery Twente is complemented by different forms of static security. First of all, it is surrounded by fences, but the actual entrance is open for anyone to pass through from the in- or outside. Secondly, the facility utilizes static measures like urine tests, room checks, locks or containment and time-outs as well. However, House of Recovery Twente relies more on relational security than several other prisons and detention facilities in the Netherlands at the moment. They do not use pipets and alarms compared to other detention facilities in the Netherlands.



The procedural security consists of a variety of rules that participants must follow, such as the prohibition of alcohol, drugs, weapons, knives etc., and the requirement to return home directly after work. Participants are allowed to use two technological devices of their own in the facility. They can choose between a phone, gaming consoles, laptop or iPad. The use of these two devices is not regulated, unless that is part of the personal trajectory. Lastly, participants have their own room with their own key but when they leave the facility, they have to leave the key in the facility.

Activities:

The daily schedule in House of Recovery Twente is based on a tailor-made program for each resident. They will have the opportunity to set their own goals and work to achieve them during their stay. If participants prefer limited interaction while working on their goals, it is acceptable for them to keep to themselves. The daily schedule usually involves getting up early, having breakfast together and then their day starts according to their personal plan. One goes to work, the other does daytime activities and another does a combination. Participants who work during the day outside the facility, receive a wage which depends on whether they work for the prison or an external employer. If working for the prison, the wage is minimal, 3.12 euros per hour. If employed by an external company, they receive the pay as specified in their contract.

Most participants follow intensive outpatient treatment that is also scheduled, as well as training sessions and conversations with care providers, etc. Participants are actively encouraged to shape their free time and organize activities. House of Recovery Twente offers multiple communal and individual activities such as gardening, sports activities, educational opportunities and other manual activities.

In the evenings, there is a communal dinner, and the remaining time is free for participants to use as they wish. While cooking is predominantly a group activity, participants are allowed to cook for themselves and occasionally forego the group dinner, depending on their reason. During daytime within the facility, they have freedom of movement, but such freedom is restricted when outside in the community.

In House of Recovery Twente, participants have the autonomy to schedule appointments with their probation officer, who is available on-site. They can also arrange visits and, where possible, reverse visits. With the resident's consent, their partner, family, and possibly others, actively participate in trajectory conversations. This involvement ensures that they are well-informed



about the resident's actions, progress, and areas where they can offer support. Ultimately, this collaborative approach aims to provide enhanced assistance following the completion of detention.

Community-integration

Location and architecture:

First impression of a visitor: "Despite the fact House of Recovery is separated from the city, the facility itself gave me a good feeling. It is surrounded by a lot nature and inside there is a homely atmosphere. The fence surrounding the property also didn't necessarily felt like one because it felt like part of nature".

House of Recovery Twente is located in the municipality of Almelo. Almelo has about 73 972 inhabitants (2023)¹ and is situated in the middle of the countryside of the Twente region. The facility is located slightly apart from the city of Almelo, on the edge of an industrial estate. Despite that it is

surrounded by a green environment, it stands as the only building on the road, with some other houses on the other side of the road. To get there, you have to pass the prison of Almelo and some other larger company buildings.

The architecture of House of Recovery Twente feels homely and the way it is located among some trees and a large garden, creates a peaceful atmosphere. The facility is surrounded by fences or moats. However, this is not for the purpose of not allowing participants to leave the facility because the fences or "natural fences" are not high enough for that.

The building itself has been in existence for 60 years and was previously owned by the Custodial Institutions Agency (DJI). Although it remained unused for several years, the manager and DJI agreed to repurpose it for this initiative. Because of this repurpose and due to restrictions and regulations, the management had some difficulties with creating a homely atmosphere. Recently, they have found a way to obtain more furnishings, making it their current objective to enhance the homeliness of the facility. Each resident has their own bedroom, while all the other rooms in the facility are common. House of Recovery Twente also has several outdoor facilities, for example, a small gym, a tennis court, a work area and still plenty of green space for other outdoor activities.



¹CBS Statline. (April 20th, 2023). Retrieved 31 May, 2023 from <https://opendata.cbs.nl/statline/#/CBS/nl/dataset/70072ned/table?ts=1685546694659>

Interaction with the community:

Despite the fact that House of Recovery Twente originated as a regional network organization from a partnership between the PI Almelo, the 3RO and all the Twente municipalities, there is little community-integration. The facility does offer job opportunities within the community but community-integration in the form of structural and regular mutual exchanges with the community is not present yet. House of Recovery Twente does organize an annual event with the neighbourhood where participants and neighbours can talk to each other and have a drink together.

House of Recovery Twente

Founded: 2021

Capacity: 29

Security level: Low

Nearest city/town: Almelo
(The Netherlands)

Nature of interaction: Visited
by RJN, VZW De Huizen and
FARAPEJ (03/11/2022)

Publicity/ read more

- About House of Recovery Twente at the official website of the facility itself:

Over — Huis van Herstel. (n.d.). *Huis van Herstel*. Retrieved may 31, 2023 from <https://www.huisvanhersteltwente.nl/over>

- About House of Recovery Twente at the official website of the Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security:

Ministerie van Justitie en Veiligheid. (2022, 16 augustus). *Huis van Herstel (Almelo)*. Retrieved may 31, 2023 from <https://www.sanctieuitvoering.nl/projectenlab/varieteit-en-flexibiliteit-van-detentievoorzieningen/huis-van-herstel>

- A progress report on house of recovery Twente at the website of the national government (in Dutch):

Ministerie van Justitie en Veiligheid. (2023, July 6). *Huis van Herstel Voortgangsrapportage Actieonderzoek April 2023*. Rapport. Retrieved November 2nd, 2023, from <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/rapporten/2023/07/05/tk-bijlage-2-voortgangsrapportage-2023-actieonderzoek-pilot-huis-van-herstel>