

Language for Life in the Netherlands

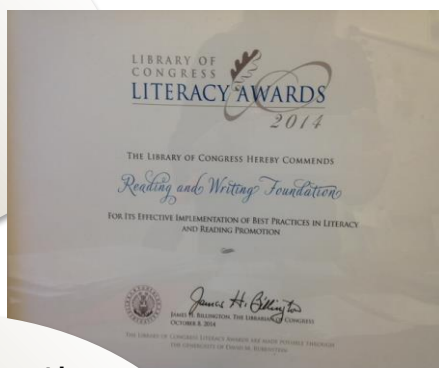
step by step
creating together
an effective approach



Arjan Beune | program manager
24th November 2014

Reading & Writing Foundation internationally

Library of Congress Literacy Award 2014, best practice on recommendation of former EU-commissioner Vassiliou



Teamleader Awareness Raising in Elinet, with partners like NRDC from UK

Princess Laurentien (founder RWF) is UNESCO Special Envoy on Literacy for Development and chair of the former EU high level group of experts on Literacy

Mr Schulz visited as chairman of the European Parliament the Library of Cologne, organised by Brussels team of RWF

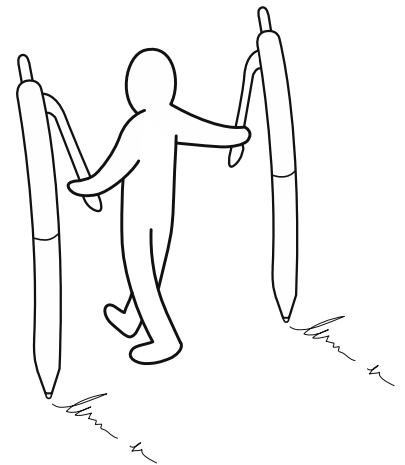


Why start a new program on literacy?

- Increasing number of low literates (*PIAAC: 10% (1994) to 11.9% (2012)*)
 - Budget does not grow accordingly (*approx. 50 million euros a year*)
 - Decentralisation results in shifting roles (*bigger role for municipalities*)
-
- New approach is necessary.
 - Department of Education asked RWF to find out a more effective method (*budget 5 million Euros a year*)

'Language for Life' approach (1)

1. Bottom up: creating a local more effective infrastructure
2. Combination top down and bottom up:
 - development of new tools
 - Knowledge exchange
3. Top down: Monitoring results and feed back loop

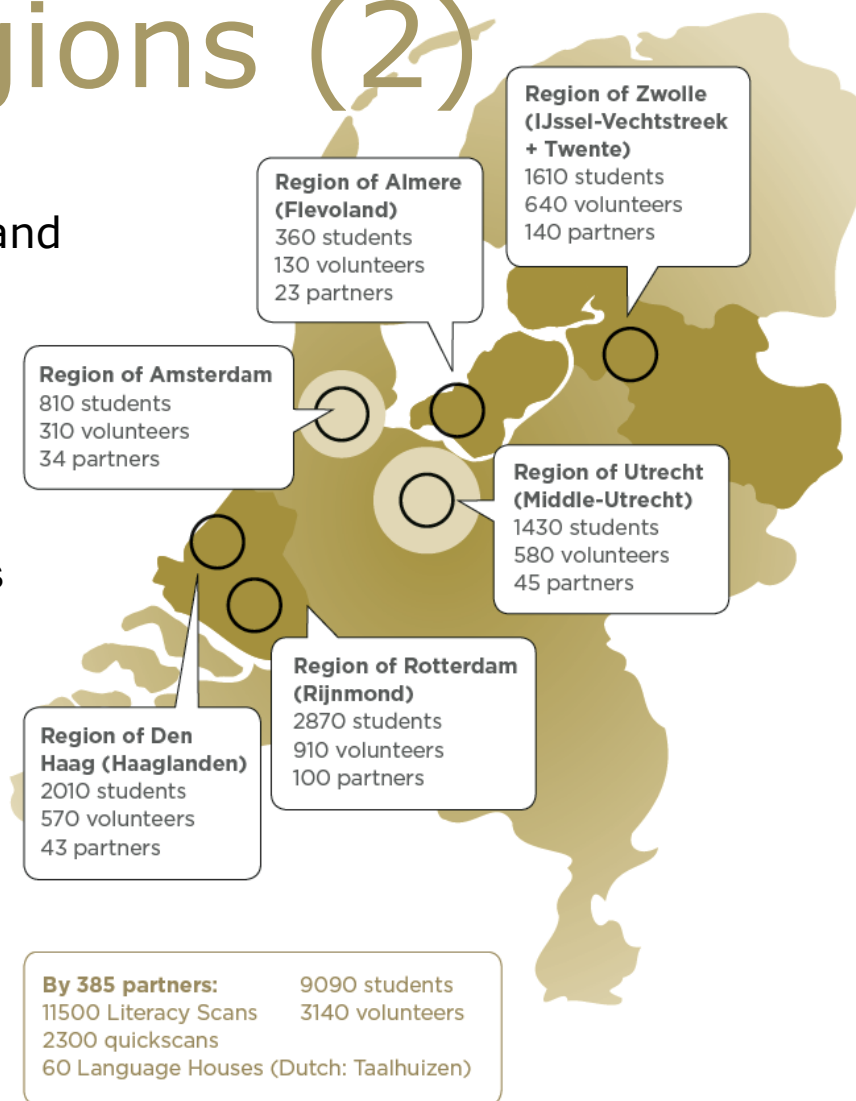


The start: 6 regions (2)

Outcome national expert meeting (May and June 2012):

1. Use local infrastructure
2. Never forget the importance of teachers
3. Go out and built alliances
4. Create different methods for

Different target groups



Dilemma's in the beginning (2,3)

1. A focus on big cities, means
 - *More complicated local public management*
 - *More focus on migrants*
2. Focus on re using local infrastructure
 - *Means more time in convincing your relevance*
 - *Does not improve innovation immediately*
3. Relevant pressure groups often wait and see

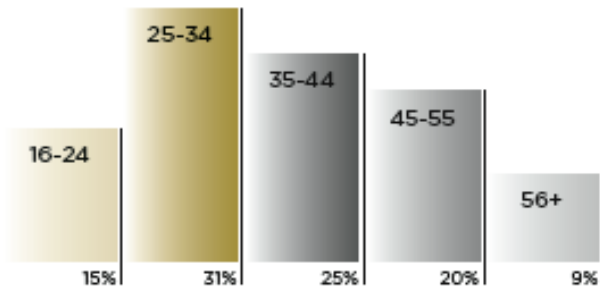


→ Summary: Safe resources (money and people) for this innovation

Break through: Literacy Scan (3-6) in finding illiterate & other policy areas

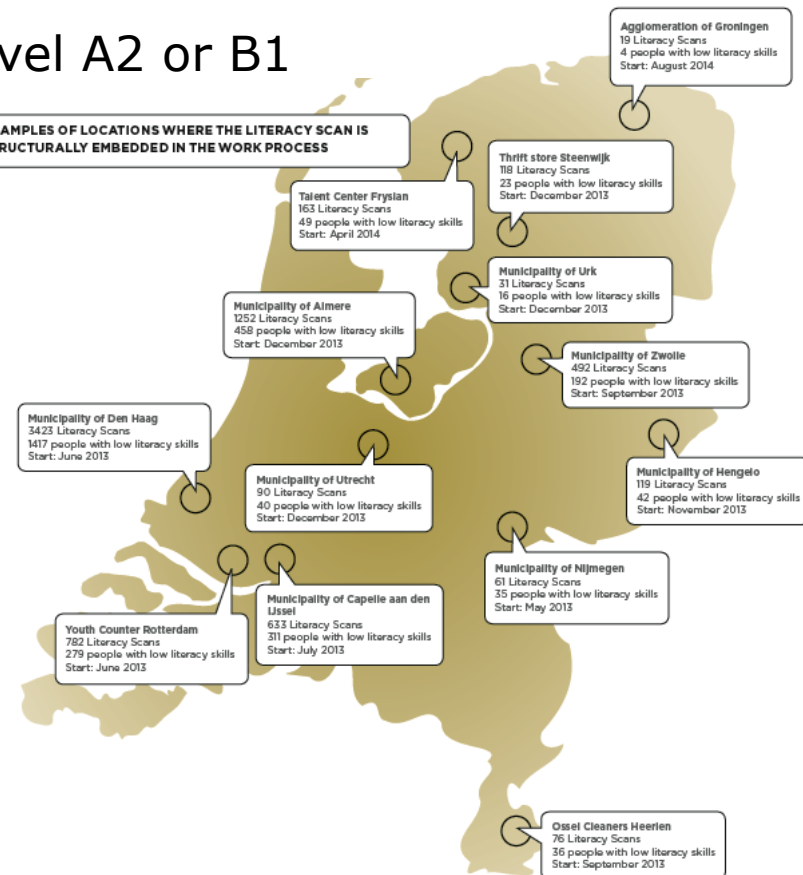
12 min. Reading test online below level A2 or B1
12.000 test in the first year
approx. 40% indication illiterate

DIVISION AGE COHORT
of people with low literacy skills indicated by the
Literacy Scan
June 2013 – October 2014



91% are educated to some degree
20% primary school

**EXAMPLES OF LOCATIONS WHERE THE LITERACY SCAN IS
STRUCTURALLY EMBEDDED IN THE WORK PROCESS**



Practical example (3-6)

Literacy Scan

National Welfare Agency in The Hague

& small municipality of Midden-Delfland



1. Creating demand



- Random selection of 271 people with vocational education as the highest level of education
- 167 people showed up for an indicative 12-minute screening at level B1
- 28 of these did not start the screening due to a lack of oral Dutch language skills
- 85 people scored the screening below level B1
- 113 people with insufficient language skills (68%)

2. Creating demand



- Municipality of Midden-Delfland (18.225 inhabitants)
- Screening at the department of Social Affairs
- All the people with Dutch primary school background and vocational education as the highest level of education
- 23 people obliged to do an indicative 12-minute screening at level B1
- 17 people with scores below level B1 (74%).

3. Follow-up: next steps

1. Structural use of screening tool at UWV and Midden-Delfland
2. Matching supply by using professionals and trained volunteers
3. Monitoring the learners' progress on language skills and social inclusion
4. Inspiring both other local departments and national policymakers with local cases.

→ Summary: literacy scan is

- An effective way to find (native speaking) illiterate
- And expands budget for basic skills (e.g. Unemployment budgets)



Local hub for literacy (4,5,6)

in:

- Libraries
- Hospitals
- Local counters

→ Re use of local
budget and
infrastructure



Constant monitoring and feed back (7,8)

By - Maastricht University
- some public administration researcher

PERCENTAGE OF PARTICIPANTS REGARDING INCREASE IN SOCIAL INCLUSION

| Learning context | Courses Language for Life 2014 | National Survey 2012 |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| National language skills | 71 | 58 |
| Digital skills | 66 | 51 |
| Assertiveness | 66 | 54 |
| Work and parenting skills | 48 | 42 |
| Meeting & undertaking | 58 | 49 |
| Nature and sports activities | 57 | 49 |
| Decrease in social isolation | 51 | 45 |

Note: 'national language skills' stand for applied linguistic skills

4 vital conditions:

1. High quality teaching materials
2. A teacher nearby
3. good trained volunteer
4. Vast time for tranfer possibilities

Source:
Maastricht University

PERCENTAGE OF PARTICIPANTS REGARDING INCREASE IN HEALTH CARE

| Learning context | Courses Language for Life 2014 | National Survey 2012 |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Physical health | 39 | - |
| Mental health | 53 | - |

Source:
Maastricht University

4 vital conditions:

1. High quality materials
2. A teacher nearby
3. good trained volunteer
4. Time for transfer possibilities

PERCENTAGE OF PARTICIPANTS REGARDING INCREASE IN THE LABOR MARKET

| Learning context | Courses Language for Life 2014 | National Survey 2012 |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Paid job | 21 | 20 |
| Volunteering | 28 | 21 |
| Internship | 26 | 7 |
| Job seekers | 36 | 20 |
| Paid job with supervision | 28 | 14 |



Research Public administration: from best practices, to best principles (7,8)

1. The bigger the local network makes a better combination of demand and supply
 2. Always include local municipality, public and private school, libraries and volunteer organisations in your network.
 3. If they don't want to commit to specific results, stop investing
 4. Create new instruments in cooperation with local organisations
 5. Always monitor the results and discuss it with them
- Its not about language, but about ability to.... *be a better (grand)mom or (grand)dad, neighbour, worker, volunteer, voter etc.*

Thank you so far!
New reserach will come in beginning of 2015
Any Questions?

You can always email, call, skype etc

Arjan Beune

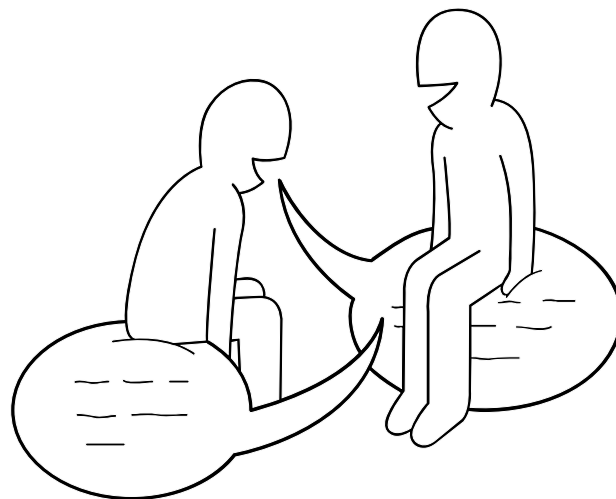
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