

De Wissel



De Wissel, established in 1981, is a Special Youth Care organisation that accompanies youngsters with a high risk of dropping out of welfare. The objective is to accompany youngsters as much as possible in their natural surroundings. An active participation with their family is important to heal fractures or to prevent them. We aim at out of the box solutions and improvements. We distinguish ourselves from other relief centres by our involvement into difficult and complex problems and by insistently and patiently looking for solutions that could make the difference, e.g. by means of our project work. From this year onwards, De Wissel is divided into four departments, each with their own target group and offer:

- **De Rotonda** (1981) in Leuven takes care of 25 girls between 14 and 21 years old. They offer individual support and contextual support, the latter aiming at (re)activating family ties, always adapted to the unique situation.
- **De Switch** (2009) is situated in Betekom and takes care of 10 girls between 14 and 18 years old, from Limburg, Antwerpen or Vlaams-Brabant, that also suffer from a difficult situation. The guidance is limited in time (on average six months), compact and intensive. De Switch offers an in-house day programme from a therapeutic perspective.
- **Centrum Molenmoes** (2010) in Wezenmaal accompanies boys and girls from 12 years old that have lost all connection with the regular school system. The centre works with the Rizsas programme that offers youngsters an alternative occupation during the day, instead of going to school.
- **De Shelter** (2013) is an alliance with different partners that focuses on teenage parents and their children. They accompany about 12 young families.

De Wissel has won the 2011 award for Youth Care and was nominated again in 2013 for the same award. In January 2013, minister Vandeurzen visited the organisation. The news paper headline stated: *'Organisation De Wissel inspiration for new Youth Care Law'*.

De Wissel is not a stand-alone organisation, but closely connected with other social welfare partners, just as our youngsters are connected with their network. With the same philosophy, De Wissel is leading a couple of

alliances, such as the alliance between all care centres for Special Youth Care in Leuven and the alliance between nine organisations in Flanders that share a same vision and work with an identical target group, called CANO (www.canovlaanderen.be). De Wissel also works together with mental health care, adolescent psychiatry and welfare for drug addicts in the LINK project. The collaborations of De Wissel do not stop at the border. There always are many different international volunteers present in De Wissel and De Wissel hosts the JUVEN project, a collaboration between the Flemish Youth Care and Youth Care in Uruguay.
