



REDESIGN BELONGING

DLV 9.1

Co-creation solutions in the Netherlands



Co-funded by
the European Union

Project No.: 101146813
Topic: CERV-2023-CITIZENS-CIV
Type of Action: CERV Lump Sum
Grants

Deliverable name

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Organisation	What Design Can Do
Deliverable number	D9.1
Deliverable type	Document report
Dissemination level	Public

Abstract	Work Package 9: Co-Creating Solutions in The Netherlands (WP9) conducted one event that focused on the Co-Creation Phase of the Redesign Belonging project. This activity took place in April 2025. The primary objective of Work Package 9 (WP9) was to validate and improve the ideas and projects together with the target groups guided by experts and mentors. What Design Can Do organised a session with 5 rounds for each of the Creative Collective participants.
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Keywords co-creation, workshop report

Document revision history

Version	Date	Description	Contributors
1.0	25.6.2025	Initial version of report	Rosa Kieft

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1. Objective of the Workshop

The workshop aimed to support members of the Creative Collective in developing and refining their projects by engaging with a variety of stakeholders. What Design Can Do (WDCD) facilitated this by opening up its network of creatives, some of whom are migrants themselves, to share their insights and experiences. The central theme of the workshop was storytelling: how to communicate a project clearly and effectively, and how to create engagement with diverse audiences.

2. Structure of the Workshop

The session began with each Creative Collective member presenting their project and providing a status update. Participants joined small, focused discussion groups—limited to a maximum of five people—to ensure an intimate and conversational atmosphere. This setup encouraged immediate, responsive feedback and open dialogue.

- During each round, Creative Collective members were asked the following guiding questions:
- What stage is your project currently in?
- How do you define success?
- What is the first thing you hope your users will be able to do with your project?
- How will you incorporate design and co-creation? How will you ensure inclusivity across age, language, and background?
- What challenges or obstacles are you currently facing?

Before the feedback sessions, participants were briefed on the Redesign Belonging initiative to provide context. They were then encouraged to respond from the perspective of a potential user, participant, or audience member, followed by sharing their suggestions and insights.

Feedback varied depending on the nature of the individual projects, but common themes included:

- Start small; build from what you already do to take the next step.
- Don't shy away from making your project visually engaging; design can help communicate purpose.
- Use social media and accessible communication methods; these can be more effective than launching a website.
- Incorporate fun and familiar activities to increase participation and engagement.
- Think about designing the overall experience, not just the end product.

3. Attendance

Total number of participants	26
female	19
male	7

4. Conclusions

The workshop provided valuable insights and momentum for project leaders. The discussions often offered a helpful nudge toward the next step or sparked new ideas. Participants reported feeling supported and more confident about moving forward.

One key takeaway was the importance of staying focused on the core mission of a project, resisting the temptation to get lost in details or execution without revisiting the “why.” In some cases, conversations helped clarify strategic next steps, such as preparing to approach funders or partners.

Given that the projects were based in various countries, the feedback was tailored to local contexts and resources, helping ensure that suggestions were practical and relevant to each project owner’s environment.

The co-creation workshop proved to be an effective and intimate session providing the Creative Collective with clear and hand-on directions to further develop their initiatives.