

## Dear fellow-Droevendalers,

Samenvatting: zoz.

There have been questions about the idea of de-internationalization of Droevendaal. I will try to explain the situation, as far as I can reconstruct it from different sources, more in depth. Sorry for the long text.

So, the idea of Idealis is that from the first of July on, international students cannot have a fixed room on Droevendaal anymore. This does NOT affect the current tenants (as long as they don't move) nor sub renting. But it does ALSO affect German and Belgian students (I made a mistake about that in the previous note – sorry about that).

The basic problem behind this, is the increasing number of both Dutch and non-Dutch students in Wageningen and the lack of cooperation between Idealis and Wageningen University. One of the symptoms of this disagreement is the Idealis-idea to place the international students outside the cooptation system: the problem we face now on Droevendaal. Another symptom is the recent plan of WUR to create extra housing for international students by their own (see for example the article in the latest Resource about that, and note how WUR talks about the problem and the 'lack of initiative from the market' – just to make a statement towards Idealis. Aren't we all like little children..? ☺ ).

The background of the problem is that in The Netherlands, with expensive land and labour prices, social housing (like large scale student housing) can never be profitable. In my personal view, Idealis can sometimes be a bit too commercial but it is certainly not the big moneymaking machine people often think it is. It is a housing cooperation, a foundation ('stichting'). Unlike a commercial company, there are no shareholders nor extreme bonuses for the management; however there is a strong will to expand.

And we have that other organisation: Wageningen UR. Also not aimed at making profit in itself but also eager to expand. WUR owns a lot of building locations on different spots in Wageningen that will bring them large amounts of money if sold to commercial parties; also they have a lot of expensive plans to construct new buildings and facilities at Wageningen Campus.

And both parties are hesitating to invest in long lasting new buildings (outside the already planned ones) that quite probably will be needed to house the increasing number of students. Because I am – of course- not with the negotiations themselves, and don't know the figures, I cannot blame one party for being more unfair or greedy than the other one. I do know however that they cannot come to a good relationship nor to a sustainable initiative that would help solving the future students housing problems: they both don't want to be the paying party.

Back to Droevendaal and cooptation (=the right as corridor to choose the new housemate). By agreement, the University rents a certain, fixed number of rooms from Idealis, meant for international students. All other rooms are meant for Dutch students. Idealis sees the housing of international students as the responsibility of WUR (also because –in theory- WUR can refuse those students). Idealis experiences the housing of Dutch students as their own responsibility.

Note that international students in cooptation rooms (like Droevendaal, but also in some other buildings) are outside this system, outside the fixed number of rooms agreed upon.

With both populations increasing, Idealis has proposed to make all tenants in the cooptation situations Dutch. So the Dutch students can be better served with having a room without waiting too long and the WUR is pressed to think better about the housing of the international students. Idealis keeps up to the agreement and nothing more.

To my humble opinion, I can understand this idea when I think about the Wageningen student housing situation in an overview (apart from the fuzz between Idealis and WUR – I cannot understand why organizations like that act like little children). However, I don't like the result of this idea on Droevendaal-, corridor- and personal level. This whole situation leads to rigid rules, inflexibility and

separation of Dutch and international students, even with those who like to integrate. And not all international students like to live in a furnished room.

To be clear: it is a proposal made by Idealis, not an active policy yet. By law, they have to ask an advice about such a proposal from the tenants representation – that's why we know about it. Often such a proposal -> advice -> policy sequence is just a formality, but maybe this time the advice can stop the proposal from becoming real policy.

In the meeting coming Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>, we can discuss about it: what should be in the advice, are we having actions now, should we start thinking about actions when this idea turns into policy? You are welcome to share your food and your thoughts starting at 18:00 in the Common Barrack.

Luc (37) on behalf of the Droevendaal Daily Living Council

Ps: new developments will be posted on [www.droevendaal.nl](http://www.droevendaal.nl). Comments can be send to [international@droevendaal.nl](mailto:international@droevendaal.nl)

### Droef - Agenda

12 May: Special meeting about international students. 18:00 AB & take food with you!

28 May: "Normal " Droefmeeting. 19:00 AB

### Samenvatting: Droevendaal alleen voor Nederlanders?

Er waren vragen over het plan van Idealis om geen nieuwe internationale studenten meer toe te laten als vaste huurder op Droevendaal (onderhuur blijft wel kunnen). Het achterliggende probleem is de toename van het aantal internationale studenten en Nederlandse studenten, én de stoeve samenwerking tussen Idealis en de Wageningen UR.

Beiden vinden dat de ander moet investeren in goede oplossingen om de groeiende stroom studenten aan te kunnen. Uiteindelijk voelt de WUR zich het meest verantwoordelijk voor de internationale studenten en Idealis voor de Nederlandse.

Er loopt een afspraak voor een bepaald aantal kamers die de WUR bij Idealis huurt. Kamers waar internationale studenten via coöptatie ingekomen zijn, vallen buiten de afspraak. Om de WUR onder druk te zetten en om te zorgen dat er genoeg kamers zijn voor Nederlandse studenten overblijven heeft Idealis het bovenstaande plan bedacht.

Het is nog een idee, Idealis heeft de wettelijke plicht om de bewoners (via hun vertegenwoordiging) om advies over een plan als dit te vragen. Meestal wordt er niets met zo'n advies gedaan maar mogelijk deze keer wel.

Dus: er is komende dinsdag, 12 mei een speciale Droefvergadering over dit onderwerp. We kunnen kijken welke ideeën er zijn voor het advies, of we nu ook al actie moeten voeren en alvast gaan nadenken wat we doen als het plan er toch doorkomt. Deel je gedachten, en deel je eten vanaf 18:00 in de Algemene Barak!

Luc (37), namens het Dagelijks woonbestuur

Ps: nieuwe ontwikkelingen kun je bijhouden op [www.droevendaal.nl](http://www.droevendaal.nl). Opmerkingen kunnen naar [international@droevendaal.nl](mailto:international@droevendaal.nl)

### Bouwlawaai

Sinds een paar dagen wordt er geheid op de bouwplaats van het NIOO, onze toekomstige burens. Dit duurt naar verwachting in totaal drie weken; er is verder weinig aan te doen en we zullen moeten wennen aan het ritme van de vroege vogels bouwvakkers.

Het bouwbedrijf heeft overigens excuses aangeboden omdat ze vergeten waren om ons van tevoren te informeren. De officiële brief komt één dezer dagen.

### Noise from building Activities

Since a few days, a building company is producing a lot of noise by piling. This will take approximately three weeks: there is not so much that can be to stop it or change the times. However, the building company excuses for not having informed us beforehand.