



Amsterdam, May 11, 2020

To whom it may concern,

It has been almost two months since the Dutch government announced far-reaching corona-related measures. These measures are now gradually being relaxed, and we speak of a "one and a half meter society" as well as the "new normal". Without a doubt, this will have an impact on the integration of newcomers for some time to come.

That is why NewBees remains closely involved with its participants: based on their feedback and government guidelines, we continuously adjust our services and offer our employees and participants practical tips and tools:

- Physical professional meetings between newcomers and local entrepreneurs are still on-hold, with a few exceptions. NewBees is cautiously working on a plan for "matches that matter at a meter and a half", because we naturally want everyone to be able to continue with his or her talent. Newcomers are keen to make a contribution, especially now.
- Meanwhile, we are working hard on the things we can do now. We have expanded our workshop offering, and it is available online. This is how we allow for participants to continue to work with their talent and their professional development, in a practical way. Many employers are open to share their experiences in online sessions as well.
- In the coming period, we will experiment with an online version of our workshop for employers "Welcome" (about building an inclusive workplace) in collaboration with OpenEmbassy. We also offer an online workshop on evidence-based policy making, together with impact partner Impact Institute. You can read more about this online: new-bees.org/workshops.
- These special times also offer the opportunity to think about new opportunities. That is why we are pleased to share with you that NewBees and language provider NLtraining have jointly developed a dual program for the future Z-route and the B1-route. When it is possible again, we will test this program in a number of pilots. This program can offer solutions for municipalities who will become responsible for integration in July 2021.

As you know, the theater tour of "How I got talent for life" has been canceled, much to the disappointment of all the makers. Nevertheless, we were able to finish this fantastic project during "Insight into Impact" on April 17th. Together with fifty audience members we enjoyed an online performance of the cast and we discussed the important impact this project has had on all people involved. You can watch a recording at new-bees.org/talent-voor-het-leven.

Despite the fact that the current situation has a major impact on our colleagues, the teams are doing well. Their health, and that of our participants, is always paramount. Fortunately, we stay close to each other within NewBees, and we find each other increasingly better online.

If you have any questions or would like to hear more about how we are organizing our activities, you can visit our website or get in touch with your usual contact person. We look forward to hearing from you. Also in case you have tips for us!

I hope everyone stays safe and healthy. And inside, for now.
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Annemiek Dresen".

Annemiek Dresen
Director NewBees
Maintaining Matches that Matter