



Dear Reader,

Two years ago I was approached by Joris Benninga with the idea to create sustainable cities for refugees in the regions of origin with the help of refugee talents currently present in Western Europe. I thought the idea excellent and revolutionary. I decided to join him and together we founded GreenfieldCities. One year ago I was at the Future Force Conference chaired by former Chief of Defence Tom Middendorp. In his key-note address he stated that the migration crisis and climate change are the biggest (security) threats for NATO and the EU. And that climate change is fueling the migration crisis. GreenfieldCities addresses both threats. It enormously strengthened my belief we were on the right track. Right now, a team of 10 people from Syria, Eritrea and Sweden are busy elaborating on a sustainable campus in Jordan. A campus to learn, live and work for 1.500 Syrians and Jordanians. Very well received in Jordan and in the Netherlands. That's not revolutionary anymore, at most ground breaking.

This is in a nutshell the history of GreenfieldCities from a personal perspective. In this newsletter we dwell a bit more upon the factual milestones. The next issue will focus on GreenfieldCities news happening right now.

To realise our plans we need support. Public and societal, political, with expert knowledge and expertise, but obviously also financial support. Everyone can contribute: by telling our story in your professional and personal network, by making introductions to influentials, or by supporting us financially. So, we would very much appreciate if you consider to help. We know we cannot do this on our own.

Please enjoy the reading!

Arie van Beek

[Founder & Chief Sustainability Officer GreenfieldCities]

p.s. If you don't want to receive our newsletter anymore, you can unsubscribe at the bottom of this newsletter.



[February 2016: GreenfieldCities Officially Founded](#)

Driven by the conviction that forced migration can and must be approached more effectively, Joris Benninga and Arie van Beek started the GreenfieldCities foundation on February 19th 2016 ... [Read more](#)

[June 2016: Stakeholder Meetings Overwhelmingly Positive](#)

Our first task was to find out how realistic the idea of urban development in migrants regions of origin, with help of those very same migrants, actually was. In the first half year of 2016 we had about 100 meetings with stakeholders of the migration crisis. The results were twofold: (1) the views about our solution were predominantly positive and maybe more importantly even (2) we learned a lot discussing our initiative ... [Read more](#)



[August 2016: New Office Brings Space for Growth, Connectivity and Special Features](#)

From August 1st, GreenfieldCities started renting office space in Park Sonsbeek in Arnhem. Our office is adjacent to the to the Netherlands Water Museum ... [Read more](#)

[September 2016: GreenfieldCities Labeled "Promising Direction" in Dutch Daily Trouw](#)

Prof. Dr. Rob de Wijk of "The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies" thinks it is time for more structural solutions for forced migration and signals growing international support for this idea ... [Read more](#)



[December 2016: Wageningen Ambassadors and University Fund Wageningen Donate €30.000](#)

The Wageningen ambassador fund, Part of University fund Wageningen, has made a donation of €30.000 to GreenfieldCities. The world class Wageningen University community can play an important role for GreenfieldCities ... [Read more](#)

February 2017: GreenfieldCities Recruits First Refugee Talents

Beginning of this year we started recruiting our first refugee talents. In February we had our first team meeting with Syrian and Eritrean refugees. In Sweden 2 partners help spread the word in Scandinavia. Here's a complete overview of [our team](#)



April 2017: GreenfieldCities Pays Successful Visit to Jordan to Promote Pilot Project

Our plan for developing a pilot clean tech campus to boost job opportunities for Syrian and Jordan talent in their own region was very well received. Stakeholders unanimously thought the pilot campus is a good idea and comes at the right time ... [Read more](#)

August 2017: Mafraq Clean Tech Campus Sneak Preview

Based on our market research and discussions with regional, Jordan partners, GreenfieldCities and Gieling Consultancy, have drafted the first sketches for our Clean Tech Campus in Mafraq ... [Read more](#)



October 2017: "Everyone Can Contribute"

"We happily contribute to causes that aim for a fundamental solution of a problem" answer Janneke van Beek and Gerard Sijkema to our question why they gave such a big donation to GreenfieldCities ... [Read more](#)

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