



AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands

TechGrounds

Key facts

In 2016, the City of Amsterdam opened the “TechGrounds” training centre in Nieuw-West, a disadvantaged borough in the city, to provide IT training for unemployed people with no or limited IT skills. Since then, more “TechGrounds” training centres have opened in other disadvantaged boroughs in the city.

Timeframe and funding	The programme was started in 2019 and is ongoing.
City population	821,752
Governing body	Amsterdam City Council
Link	Home - TechGrounds

Main objectives

The key objective of the programme is:

- To improve the chances of vulnerable people in the city obtaining well-paid jobs in the technology sector.

Content and mode of delivery



“TechGrounds” are training centres located in vulnerable neighbourhoods, where residents are not equipped with the needed skills to gain employment in technology. These training centres are part of Amsterdam’s TechConnect Action programme, which aims to make technology courses and IT careers more accessible, through various initiatives. Techground is based on the philosophy of “learning to learn” and “peer learning” and is therefore a “school without teachers”.

Learning is provided by “learning coaches” that help students find their own way through the system. During the training, participants are matched with tech entrepreneurs who are project partners, increasing the chances of gaining employment after completion. In addition to training, the training centres also offer co-working places, organise tech events and house start up incubators. Participants who want to establish their own technology companies get assistance to work on their business ideas.

TechGrounds are accessible to everyone (no requirements of preliminary education or diploma) and is free of charge. Participants are selected based on their motivation and potential to learn. In addition, an important part of the training is soft skills as the participants receive training to be prepared for a career in a professional environment, including with what kind of behaviour and skills IT teams desire.

Stakeholders



The “TechGround” project is a collaboration between the Amsterdam Economic Board and a range of other stakeholders, including the CA-ICT training fund and TomTom (a private tech company). The initiative brings together several companies, educational institutions and government organisations in Amsterdam, who are interested in making the city’s tech sector and job market more diverse and inclusive.

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