

Public Play Spaces

for all children

How can we **stimulate** and invite the children of today and tomorrow **to play** in the public space? That's the mission of SNK "outdoor play & sport places". In achieving this goal in (amongst others) Eindhoven, Helmond and surroundings there are a few **contextual challenges**: many municipalities have no central knowledge available on the topic of play; there is often uncertainty about the responsibility of playing; the subject of play is **not tackled with an integral lens**. All of this, can make it very challenging for municipalities to write suitable policies for play and to realize true improvement or innovations suiting to the **current needs**.

Nowadays playgrounds are most likely only assessed on their technical condition and not on other aspects such as: **accessibility, location, climate vulnerability, overall play and exercise offering**, etc. Often leading to playgrounds that are inappropriate to the environment and needs of their end users. If a swing breaks down, it can easily be replaced by a new swing, but asking the questions whether that swing is **still the right medium** for play on that exact spot and context, is a bit more challenging. This is where you come in, we are looking for a **new perspective on play** and the **fresh ideas** that come with this.

As a starting point it would be very interesting to test and analyse the existing opportunities for play in our surrounding neighbourhoods based on **public data, field research** and small **user studies**. In such an analysis it would be relevant to look at: play offering, age distribution, greenery, traffic, heat, etc. What is available? Who lives in this area? What age groups live nearby? What are their needs in relation to play? And how can the public space accommodate for this in a **creative, innovative** and more **sustainable** way?



SNK
Outdoor speel- & sportplaatsen
Advies - ontwerp



Challenge

How could we analyse and rethink public play spaces for all children? Combine data and field research to support municipalities and policy makers for better decision-making in sustainable resource allocation for the play spaces of the future. Let's think beyond traditional playground equipment to come up with creative ideas for all children of both today and tomorrow and propose contextual and innovative designs for play in the public space.

Criteria

- The solution is **context specific** and suiting to its existing surroundings.
- The solution is tailored to the **age group 0-7, 7-12, 13-18** or a realistic combination of age groups relevant for the chosen location.
- The solution is **inviting and inclusive** to the target population.
- The solution must be sustainable and **climate proof** in terms of design and chosen materials.
- The solution must be **affordable** (by effective use of financial means).