

Dear members of the University Council,

We, the Program Team Student Wellbeing, hereby send you an empathic request for a switch between office spaces of the Living Room and the University Council and to start a collaboration that can create a win-win situation for both parties. We kindly thank you for taking the time to consider our proposal, which we will explain in this letter.

### *Introduction*

The original idea to set up a Living Room arose from the 2019-2020 University Council (UC) and was included in the Student Welfare vision document (Matthijsse, 2019). Subsequently, the Living Room was included in the Student Wellbeing Program. The mission of the Student Wellbeing Program is to reinforce the transition from the focus on study success to student success at EUR<sup>1</sup>, of which the Living Room is a strong objectivation. With this clearly visible statement on campus, we can promote and support this transition, together with the other projects that you have approved, recently.

The Student Wellbeing monitor (2021) showed that certain subgroups of students are seriously lonely, do not have a broad network, and are searching for affiliation. For this reason, the Living Room started a cooperation with the EUR department Diversity and Inclusion. The Living Room provides an easily accessible place for the diversity of students and for trained students that can offer a listening ear and tips if needed. The Living Room organizes activities that are all aimed at personal development and boosting wellbeing, in collaboration with other (student) organizations. Due to COVID-19, our experience with the physical Living Room is not very extended yet, but we have built broad experience with the online version of the Living Room that we can use to make the physical Living Room a true success. Below, we explain the *what*, *why* and *how* of our request in more detail.

### *What*

We would like the Living Room (H6-02, H6-04) and the UC (HT-108C, HT-108D) to switch office spaces, from the moment Tinbergen reopens (scheduled December 2021) for the duration until the Living Room can move to the new MFO II building (scheduled Q3, 2023).

The Living Room is currently situated on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of Tinbergen and occupies a large open space covering 82 square meters. (For comparison, the UC office space covers 74 square meters.) As you can see from the attached photos, it is a bright space. Please also find attached two maps of the office spaces.

### *Why*

At its current eccentric location, the achievement of all KPIs is at risk. Moving to HT-108 will immediately drastically increase both the reach and awareness of the Living Room, as it will be clearly visible to the many passing students on campus. As a result, the peer support will be appreciated more fully, as the threshold (both literally and figuratively) to enter the Living Room will be removed. The activities will attract more students and, hence, have a potential larger impact on student wellbeing and personal development. Finally, the central location will make it more interesting for (student) associations and organizations to collaborate with the Living Room, which will increase its network.

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<sup>1</sup> Student success includes wellbeing and developing personal skills that enable students to optimally develop their talents, thrive in a complex society, and create impact, on top of academic achievement (study success).

*How to collaborate*

In our opinion, the switch of office spaces would be to the benefit of both the Living Room and the UC. We could promote each other's work and increase each other's visibility in different ways. For instance, by:

- Placing a large banner of the UC in the window and advertising your coffee hours in the Living Room.
- Instructing our students working at the Living Room on how to 1. redirect students and staff towards your new office and 2. relay topics or issues to the Council that they feel are important for you to know.
- Having weekly coffee hours during which students can walk in and share their thoughts and ideas with members of the UC in an informal way. This creates a great opportunity to get direct input from the community.
- The Living Room and UC can organize workshops and events together on e.g., stress relief, performance pressure, and other topics.

In summary, by moving the Living Room to a central location and by structurally collaborating with the Council as described above, we can together reinforce the transition from the focus on study success to student success at EUR.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this proposal. We look forward to hearing the outcome.

Best Regards,

On behalf of the Program Team Student Wellbeing,

Rianne van der Zanden, PhD

Robin Eijlers, PhD

Attachments:

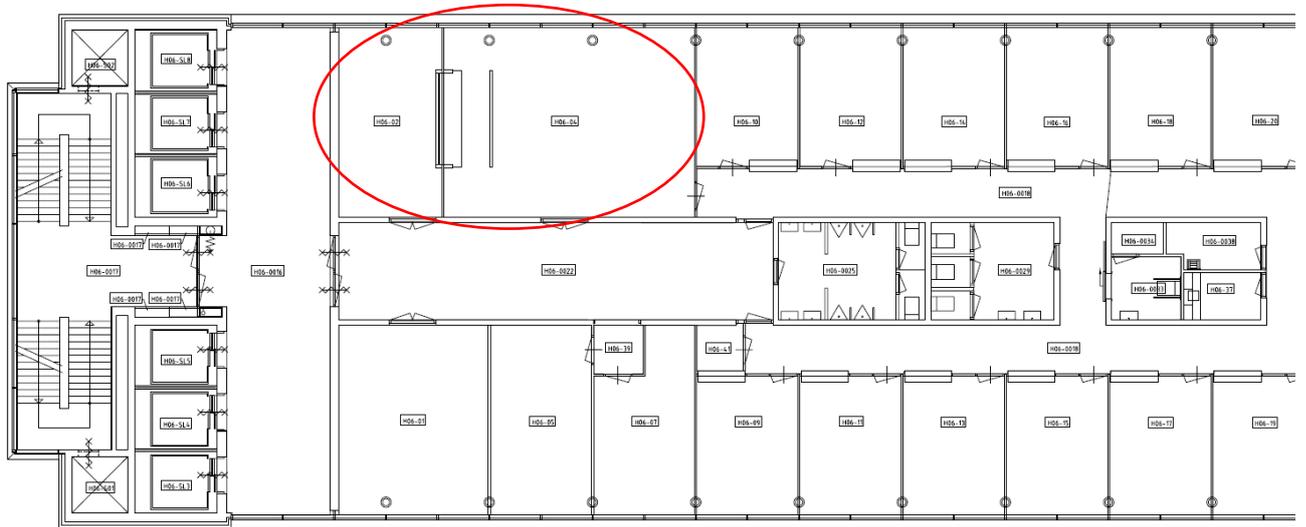
- Pictures of the Living Room (3)
- Maps of the office spaces (2)

Pictures of the Living Room (3)



Maps of the office spaces (2)

Living Room	
H6-02	23,95m <sup>2</sup>
H6-04	58,17m <sup>2</sup>
Total	82,12m <sup>2</sup>



University Council	
HT-108C	26,6 m <sup>2</sup>
HT-108D	47,3 m <sup>2</sup>
Total	73,9 m <sup>2</sup>

