

# Profile and track record Augeo Foundation



## **Augeo Foundation**

Augeo Foundation believes that every child should grow up safely and with love. This is why we work together with professionals, policymakers and volunteers to tackle domestic violence and child abuse as quickly and effectively as possible. If more people understand what they can do for a child, we can make more of a difference to a child's future! Augeo Foundation is a non-profit foundation that is funded by donations from family assets. We use this independent position to actively implement pioneering improvements and address bottlenecks.

According to the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, parents and government authorities must act jointly to protect their children against violence. Augeo Foundation is eager to contribute from a position of independence. Rather than offering assistance to children and parents directly, we focus primarily on the professionals who are close to them, such as teachers, nurses, general practitioners (GP's), medical specialists and childcare workers. They are the first to notice when parents and children experience difficulties at home, which is exactly when children need their support.

## **Our programs:**

### **1. Augeo Foundation trains professionals via Augeo Academy, Augeo Magazine and other innovative ways (Challenges, APPs)**

Teachers, GPs, dentists, nurses, and childcare workers have often learned little about dealing with concerns about a child. To address this, in 2009, Augeo Foundation started to develop online teaching materials about growing up (un) safely, in cooperation with 23 professional groups. In total more than 100 online courses and dozens of short follow-up modules have now been developed by our Augeo Academy.

We distribute these online learning courses to tens of thousands of professionals every year. To date, 300,000 professionals (including students and vocational teachers) have followed one of Augeo's online courses.

Besides online courses, Augeo offers other learning methods to keep knowledge up-to-date. Augeo magazine offers articles about the latest developments, studies, dilemmas and decisions regarding child safety.

Various apps provide daily tips, questions and information, and we regularly organise thematic webinars. We also reach many students and professionals through presentations and workshops given by our Augeo Youth Taskforce.

#### **Augeo Academy Figures 2019:**

- 9,000 professionals actively learn at Augeo Academy monthly, 130.000 in total
- 8,500 professionals read Augeo magazine monthly
- 1,700 students followed Augeo Youth Taskforce workshops
- 5,100 students and vocational teachers used online teaching materials

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Augeo Academy is effective. Three scientific studies and numerous course evaluations show positive learning effects: the professionals who follow Augeo Academy's online courses feel better equipped to identify worrisome childhood situations, to discuss these openly with parents, and to organise appropriate support.

## **2. Augeo supports policy-makers with advice, research and publications.**

Augeo encourages governments and organisations to implement effective measures to tackle violence against children.

### **Research in families where domestic violence takes place**

Most municipalities do not yet know whether their approach to domestic violence is effective. This is why Augeo (together with the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport) facilitated an impact study, carried out by the Verwey-Jonker Institute, among 100 Dutch municipalities. More than 1,200 parents and 1,500 children from families where violence has been reported to Safe at Home have been monitored for a number of years. Questions raised from the research are: What help is needed to create a safer environment? What problems exist in families? Which care should municipalities purchase and organise? Augeo supports municipalities that participated in the research. We are committed to the implementation of the results and encourage and support regional implementation plans. Results were published November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Based on an additional analysis of the research data, we have developed a policy tool for municipalities. The national government program *Geweld Hoort Nergens Thuis* uses our research results in the impact monitors that are published twice a year in its report to the House of Representatives.

### **Collaboration in government programs**

In addition to the research, we also actively contributed to the content and elaboration of the National Action Plan for Tackling Domestic Violence and Child Abuse on other themes, including trauma screening and education for children. We are also a member of the Divorce Without Damage Platform and the national program Promising Start. This resulted in, among other things, a government funded sub-project for social support for children of divorced parents. Another result is a guideline and project program developed with Augeo to provide information to children.

## **3. Augeo strengthens the resilience of children who experience violence and neglect through pilot projects, research, advice and training**

Research indicates that children who experience violence or neglect benefit greatly from support provided by their teacher, neighbours or family members. Social support strengthens their resilience and prevents (further) damage to their health. In recent years, Augeo has built up extensive expertise in offering social support and working towards recovery.

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Augeo has brought the United Kingdom's "Handle With Care" concept to the Netherlands. When the police respond to an incident of domestic violence, they send a "Handle With Care" notification to the child's school so the other day the child's teachers can offer support. In 2019 the Handle with Care notification was used in four pilot municipalities to support 184 children after a violent incident at home. In March 2020 Augeo published an evaluation report on the results of the pilot phase. After these successful pilots, Handle with Care has developed into an established concept that many more municipalities and regions can implement. Augeo supports these municipalities with advice and materials. For example, a toolkit has been created with descriptions of the work processes for all regional parties involved. At this moment 84 schools, with a total of 21,000 students are part of the Handle with Care network. This number will likely grow rapidly.

## **Child participation, Augeo Youth Taskforce**

The opinions of children as hands-on experts are still not adequately reflected in initiatives set up by governments or professional organisations in order to address violence against children. Augeo Foundation gives children/youngsters who experience violence a platform to tell their story via the Augeo Jongerentaskforce (Augeo Youth Taskforce). They know what it is like to grow up with violence, neglect or abuse. They share their experiential expertise with professionals and policymakers, and give workshops. Young people who give workshops follow a special training program.

Other ways in which Augeo supports child participation is, for example, writing a guideline for the participation of children in the domestic violence and child abuse reporting code. Also, Augeo started an online campaign in September 2020 about child participation where participants can follow a weekly challenge for six weeks on the topic.

## **Augeo International**

Augeo has created an online training package for English and German speaking hospitals. A website page has been set up to share the experiences of tackling child abuse in Dutch hospitals. The Universitätsklinik für Kinder- und Jugendheilkunde in Vienna and the Academic Hospital in Paramaribo, among others, started training doctors and nurses in 2019. In Suriname, the e-learning was combined with a face-to-face course that was given by Dutch doctors. The European Medical school in Germany also uses the combination of Augeo's e-learning with a face-to-face course to train their students. Our courses on trauma-sensitive teaching to refugee children are also implemented internationally. For example, the course has been translated into Finnish, Swedish and Norwegian and is part of a European research program. In Germany, a partnership with the Freudenberg Foundation, two National refugee organisations (BumF and BAfF) and the German Education Union (GEW) has been set up, with which the refugee course has been translated into German and has been brought to the attention of German teachers.

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Together with Erasmus Medical Center and MC Haaglanden, we performed a survey to evaluate the different policies to recognise child maltreatment in Emergency Departments (EDs) in Europe in order to define areas of improvement. It is a cooperation project with EUSEM, EuSEN and REPEM, who distributed the survey. In total 185 completed surveys, representing 148 hospitals from 29 European countries were analysed.

In a partnership with the Government of Sint Maarten and UNICEF The Netherlands, we work together on improving the child protection system on Sint Maarten. In May 2019, UNICEF Netherlands and Augeo Foundation carried out an analysis together of child abuse and neglect on St. Maarten. Thirty professionals working in the field of Child Protection were interviewed. Based on the outcome of the dialogues with these professionals, UNICEF Netherlands, Augeo Foundation and the Child Protection Working Group decided to publish a magazine *Growing Up Safe on Sint Maarten* to share knowledge, experiences and best practices among professionals working with children and the general public. Together with UNICEF The Netherlands we provide assistance to the Government of Aruba and NGO's on Aruba for development and implementation of Child Safety Codes on Violence against children on Aruba.

## **Cooperation and network**

Augeo regularly brings themes such as growing up with violence, neglect or abuse to the attention of social partners, politicians and policymakers. We do this in various partnerships. Augeo has built up a broad (inter-)national network (e.g. ISPCAN, international experts on Adverse Childhood Experiences and long-term effects on health) and works together with experts and parties such as governments, knowledge institutes, professional associations, children's ombudsmen, NGOs, Health Inspectorate, National Rapporteur on Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence against Children and UNICEF Netherlands.

We are committed to improve care for children who have experienced violence. We follow current events and contribute to feasible solutions and we organise or participate in expert meetings. We participate in field organisation initiatives and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that want to make a statement or provide an overview. We develop our materials together with professionals in the field. We regularly present our endeavours on paper in solid background articles, submitted documents or we publish items on our website or in our newsletter.

## **Our team**

Augeo Foundation was founded in 2007 by Gemma Kobessen; her wish is to contribute to children growing up safely in the Netherlands, using family assets.

The board of Augeo Foundation consists of Gemma Kobessen, Pieter de Rijke and Desiree Munnichs. The board is unpaid and does not receive any remuneration for its activities.

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Augeo Foundation works with a team of about 25 people. They provide customer support, relationship management, ICT, project management and implementation support, communication and the secretariat. Online learning specialists develop dozens of online courses every year. The Youth Taskforce is supervised by a coordinator. A team of five content experts supports all of this with expertise in growing up safely. In addition, our experts advise governments, conduct research and carry out innovative projects. Lidy Boone (operations director), Mariëlle Dekker (general director) and Gemma Kobessen (chairman of the board) oversee the daily running of Augeo Foundation.

The Augeo Youth Task Force consists of young people up to the age of 24. A coordinator guides the Youth Taskforce and is supported daily by a substantive expert at Augeo Foundation. An external counsellor is available for the young people.

## **Finance**

Augeo is a non-profit organization. Most of the income comes from private family assets. The management is accountable to the foundation board for the expenditure.

Projects in which participants themselves invest often have more and longer effect. That is why we ask students to make a contribution (non-profit rate) for following a course. Municipalities that participate in the research into tackling child abuse also pay their own contributions. Besides these contributions, income is also acquired from grants or assignments (for example public private partnership with the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and the Child Welfare Stamps Foundation).

Augeo Foundation spends its money through their three programs.

Due to the type of NGO that Augeo Foundation is, and the fact that investment in projects and research is at our own expense, experts and organisations with whom we work offer services at a lower hourly rate.

## **Own contribution Augeo in this project**

In the cooperation project with UNICEF Netherlands on Sint Maarten Augeo will use an hourly rate of 65 euro (VAT included), whereas we normally apply an hourly rate of 108,90 euro. So Augeo will contribute 43,90 euro for every billable hour in this project.

## **Link to annual reports**

- [2018, 2019 in Dutch](#)
- [2017 in English](#)