

Action Democracy in The Hague: Residents in the Driver's Seat

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Best Practice:

“A garden for the Neighbourhood. Residents in the Driver’s Seat to Improve Social Quality in the Urban Space”



Changing Political Landscapes in The Netherlands

1. Sense of Urgency: Crisis/Budget Cuts/Trends in the Society

2. Less Government More Society

- *Dynamism in the Triangle: State-Market-Society:*
- *From Government to Governance*
- *From Big Government to Big Market to Big Society*



New Theoretical Concepts:

1. Participation Ladder: “Trusting and letting Go”
(ROB, 2012)



2. “Social Crafting: Do-it-your-Self-Democracy”
(Hilhorst & V.d Lans, 2013)





“Trusting and Letting Go” (ROB)

Participation ladder: Roles of the Government

1. Letting Go
2. Facilitating
3. Stimulating
4. Directing
5. Regulating

Adagium: “Government Stay Away from this Ladder as much as Possible”

“Social Crafting: Do-it-your-Self-Democracy” (Hilhorst & V.d Lans, 2013):

Model:

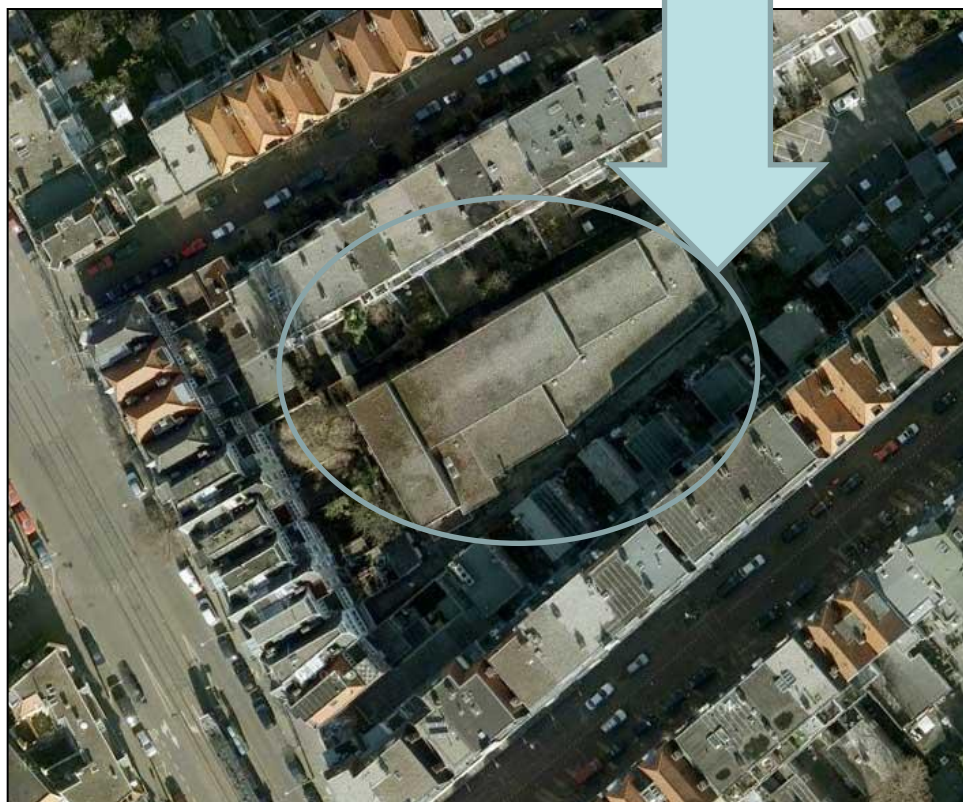
Do-It-Your-Self-Democracy	Direct reciprocity (What's in it for me?)	Generalized reciprocity (No personal gains)
Strong ties	Acquaintances for each other (1)	Acquaintances for others (2)
Weak ties	Non-acquaintances for each other (3)	Non-acquaintances for others (4)

A garden for the Neighbourhood: Emma's Garden

1. Sense of Urgency: process initiation, geographic scope
2. Implementation
3. Tools in the process:
4. Outcomes
5. Challenges
6. Conclusion: theoretical Insight

1. Sense of Urgency: Process Initiation, Geographic Scope

- Rundown venue in the backyard of residents
- New spatial plan



2. Implementation

- 300 signatures
- Group of Initiators
- Political lobby
- Marketing & local media
- Funding



3. Tools of the process:

a. The Partnerships



Fonds 1818



Den Haag



b. Activities

- Annual calender



a. Maintenance



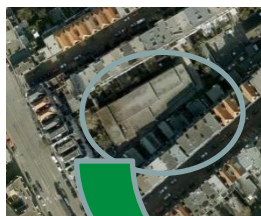
c. The Participation Ladder

Innovation: From Regulation to Letting Go?



4. Outcomes: 1. Key Factors for Success:

1. FUN: connecting people, change from intrinsic values
2. 'Best Persons' (informal leaders)
3. Use democratic rights, collecting signatures
4. Marketing the concept
5. Reaching out to investors; foundation structure with own budget
6. Organise partnerships and volunteers
7. Social entrepreneur (real estate entrepreneur with a social heart)
8. Political support
9. Organize maintenance: residents' responsibility
10. Periodic activities: for all generations



4. Outcomes: 2

1. **Foundation of Residents: Own Property**
2. **Money Reward: Oranje Fonds € 50,000,-**
3. **Transferable to other Neighbourhoods**



> Word vriend

...en ontvang een unieke Koninklijke
verjaardagskalender

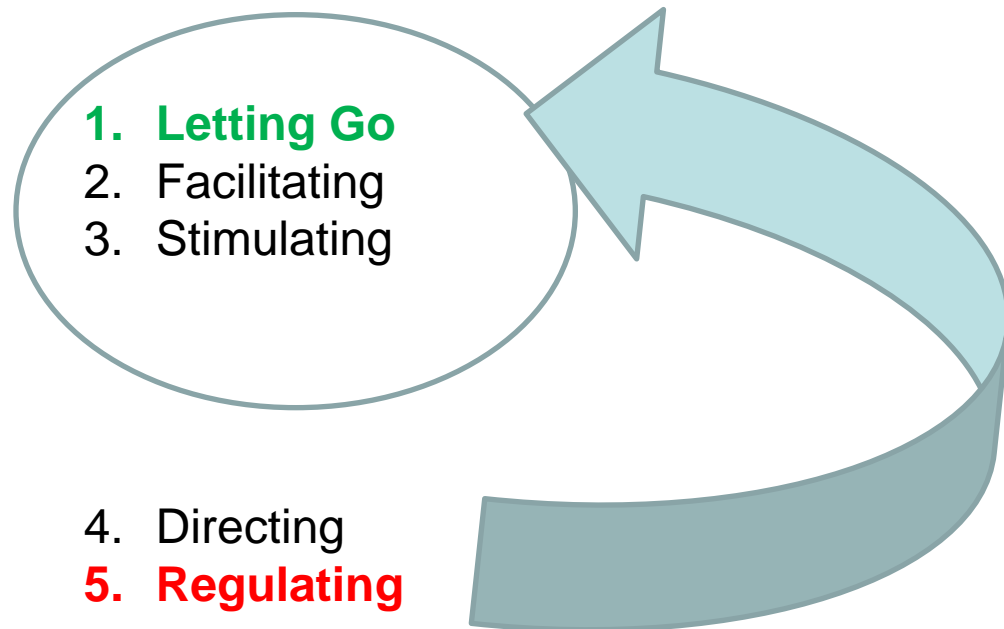
5. Challenges?

- **For the Happy Few: Reaching out to the Average Citizens?**
- **Connecting to Ethnic-Minority Groups?**



6. Theoretical Insights:

Conclusion (1): Where stands the Government?



Conclusion (2): How strong are the ties?

Do-It-Your-Self-Democracy	Direct reciprocity (What's in it for me?)	Generalized reciprocity (No personal gains)
Strong ties	Acquaintances for each other (1)	Acquaintances for others (2)
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Thank You

Dziękuję

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POZnań*

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