

WE ARE THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



Mellany van Bommel, Marthe Derkzen, Caro-Lynn Verbaan
Health and Society Chair Group, Department of Social Sciences, Wageningen University & Research

Background and research aim

People with a lower socioeconomic status continue to face persistent health disadvantages. Instead of solely focusing on diminishing health disparities in policy, we see a shift towards unlocking health potential. Here, the importance of a healthy living environment is increasingly being recognized as vital. Research has shown that citizen initiatives are capable of nurturing a healthy living environment. However, lack of a vision on these initiatives, structural embedding and funding hinders these initiatives as well as the municipality, and thereby stands a healthy living environment in the way.

By gaining insights into what works and doesn't work in the neighbourhood, this project aims to properly support and facilitate citizen initiatives which contribute to a healthy living environment through municipal cross-domain policy.

Project plan

This project spans four years – 2021 until 2025 – and has been divided into five work packages:

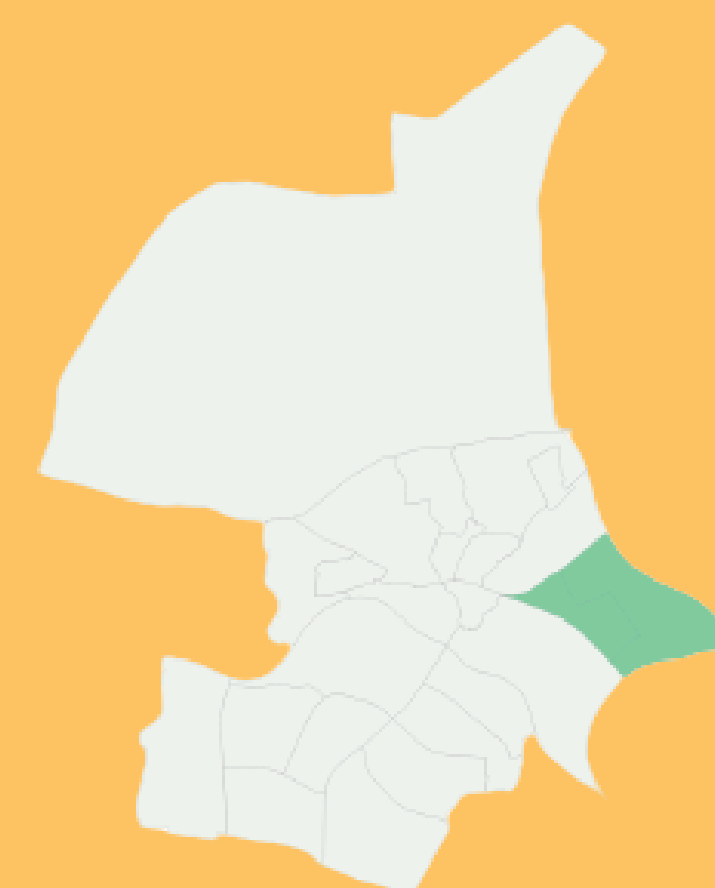
- 1** A) Inventory of **health-related municipal policy** to find out how health potential is operationalized, how interdisciplinary collaboration takes place, and finally how policies are supposed to be implemented at neighbourhood level.
B) Inventory of **citizen initiatives** that contribute to a healthy living environment.
- 2** Gaining insights into the **actual implementation** of health-related policy in the neighbourhood.
- 3** Identifying neighbourhood **assets** and opportunities for a healthy living environment.
- 4** Integrating prior results to extract **good practices**: identifying opportunities and obstacles which citizens and municipalities experience in respectively the daily affairs of citizen initiatives or the implementation of policy.
- 5** Discussing good practices together with citizens, municipalities and other partners to learn from each other, form ideas and **translate findings into resourceful ways to properly support and facilitate citizen initiatives** through cross-domain policy.

Setting

This project takes place in collaboration with the three municipalities of Arnhem, Ede and Wageningen, professionals and citizen organisations. Within the three municipalities, one neighbourhood respectively has been selected as specific study area.

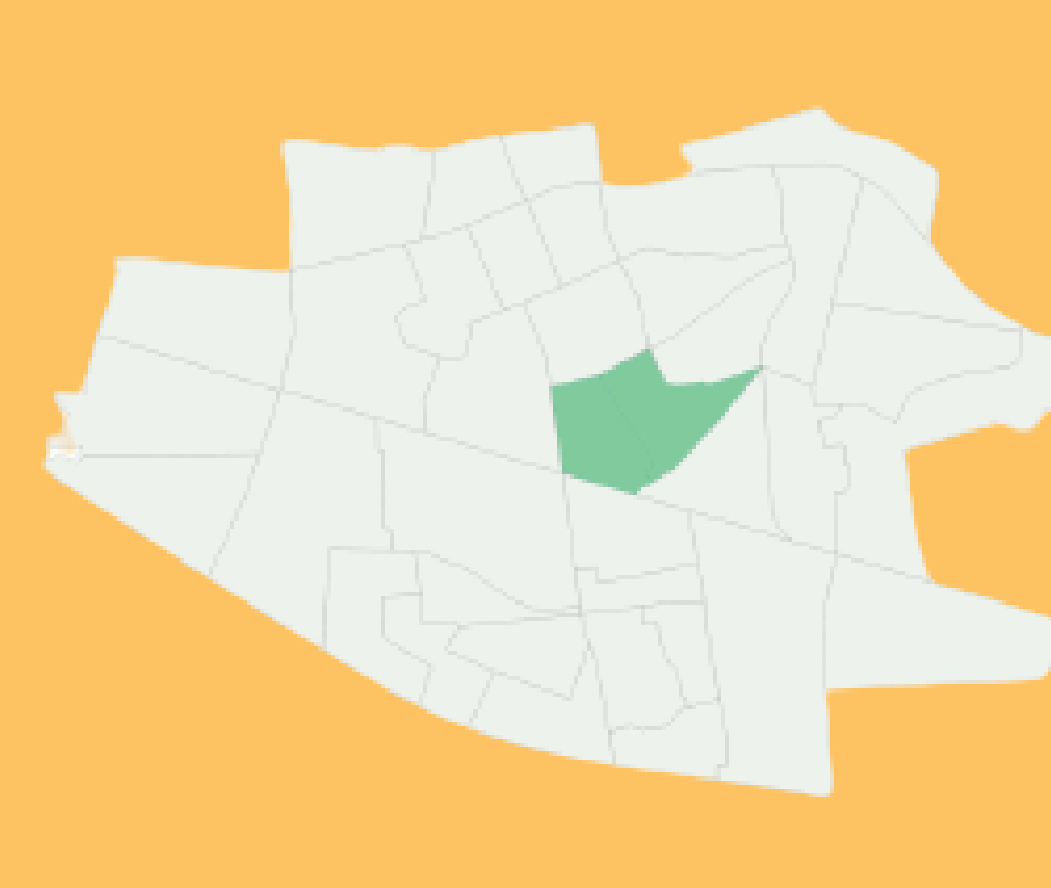
The population in all these three neighbourhoods can generally be characterised by a lower socioeconomic status. This comes with its challenges regarding health and livability in the neighbourhood. At the same time, professionals and citizens are actively putting effort into taking initiatives that contribute to a healthy living environment and people's quality of life.

ARNHEM



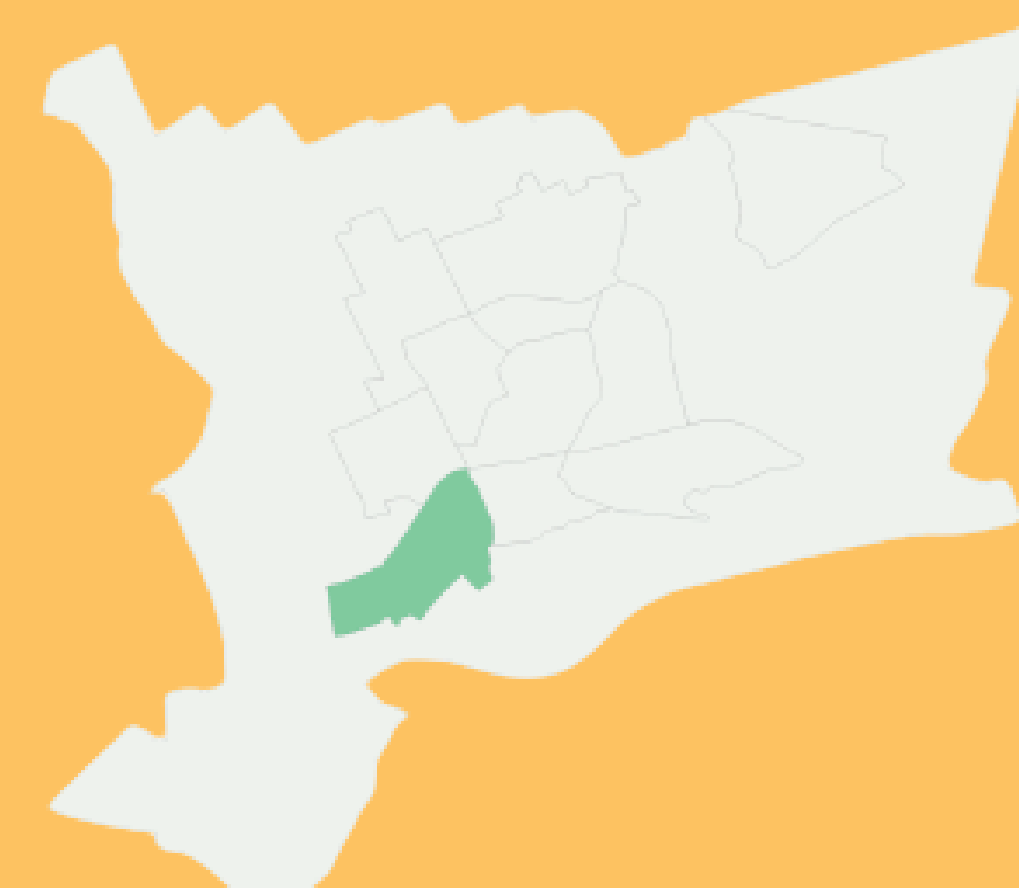
PRESIKHAAF

EDE



BLOEMENBUURT & KLAPHEK

WAGENINGEN



DE NUDE

Methods

In this project, mixed methods research is performed in which we take a Participatory Action Research (PAR) approach. The following methods will be applied:



Document analysis



Asset mapping, using Asset Based Community Development (ABCD)



Interviews & focus groups



Collaborative learning sessions & workshops

MORE INFORMATION?

mellany.vanbommel@wur.nl



SCAN ME