

**Interreg
North Sea**



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May 20th - 2025
15:00-16:00 CET

Speak Up



**Your Neighbourhood
Your Voice**

*Participatory budgeting in
Hoogkerk (Netherlands)*

#CitizenEngagement
#Participatorybudgeting



North Sea

Webinar – “Sterk Hoogkerk: Your neighbourhood your voice”

Welcome!

BETTER
GOVERNANCE



Why Speak Up?

Governments face similar challenges in the great transitions:

- Green transition
 - Digitalisation
 - Background of decreasing trust in government and increasing citizen disengagement
- **We have to develop better ways to strengthen the dialogue between citizen and government, and really give citizens a voice.**



What is Sterk Hoogkerk?

- Hoogkerk is a village next to Groningen
- First Participatory Budget in Groningen
- First edition in 2022
- The municipality guaranteed Hoogkerk that it could organize it at least 10 years



Introducing our speakers

Marian Hegeman

Project leader Sterk Hoogkerk (NED)



Peter Wijnsma

Civil servant at Municipality of Groningen (NED)



Overview of Sterk Hoogkerk projects



Toilet facilities near the swimming lake

Ceciel Nieuwenhout

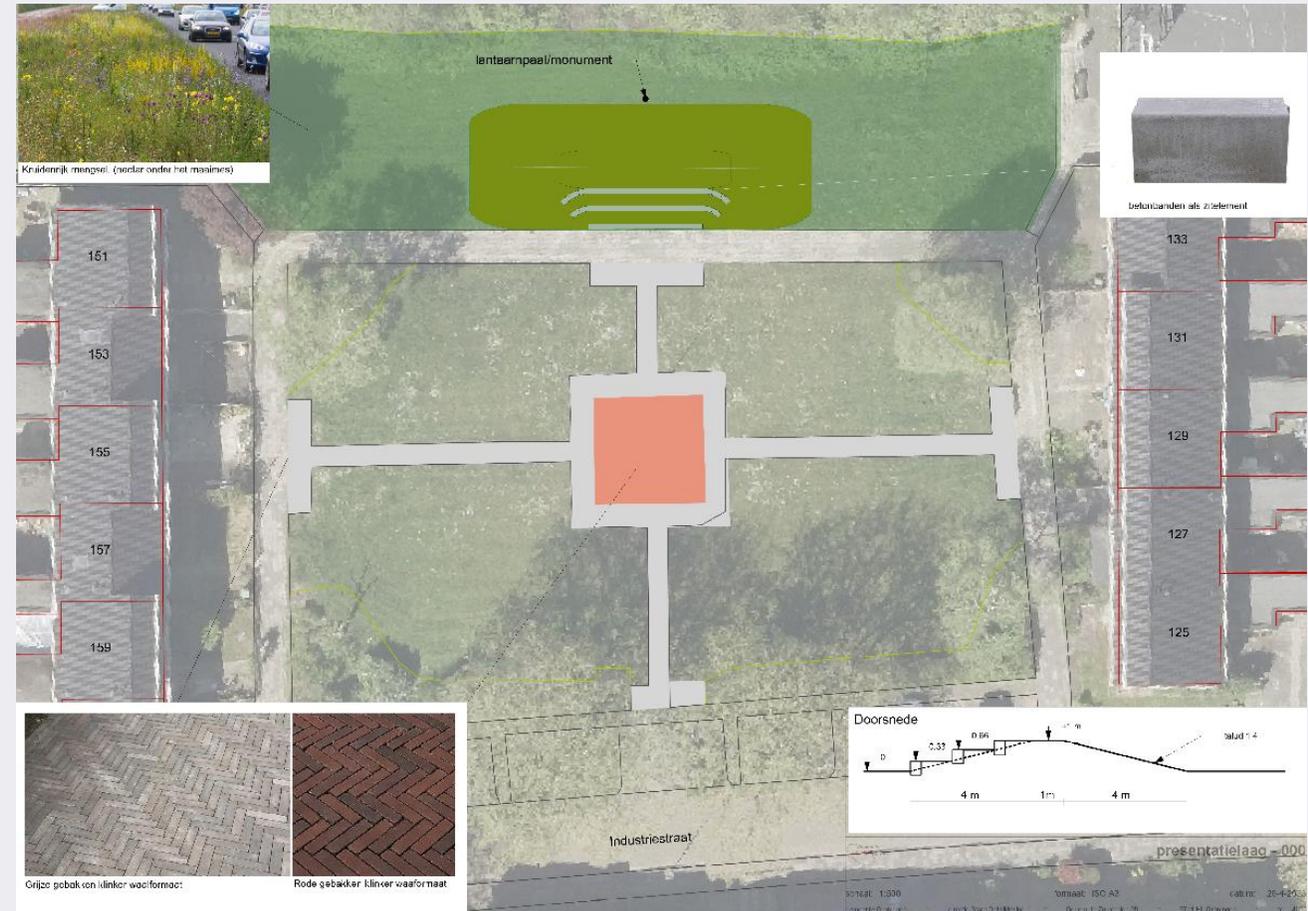
Initiator of a project &
resident Hoogkerk



Redevelopment of square in Moluccan neighbourhood

Dewan Hoogkerk representative

Member of the Moluccan community in Hoogkerk & initiator of 4 selected projects

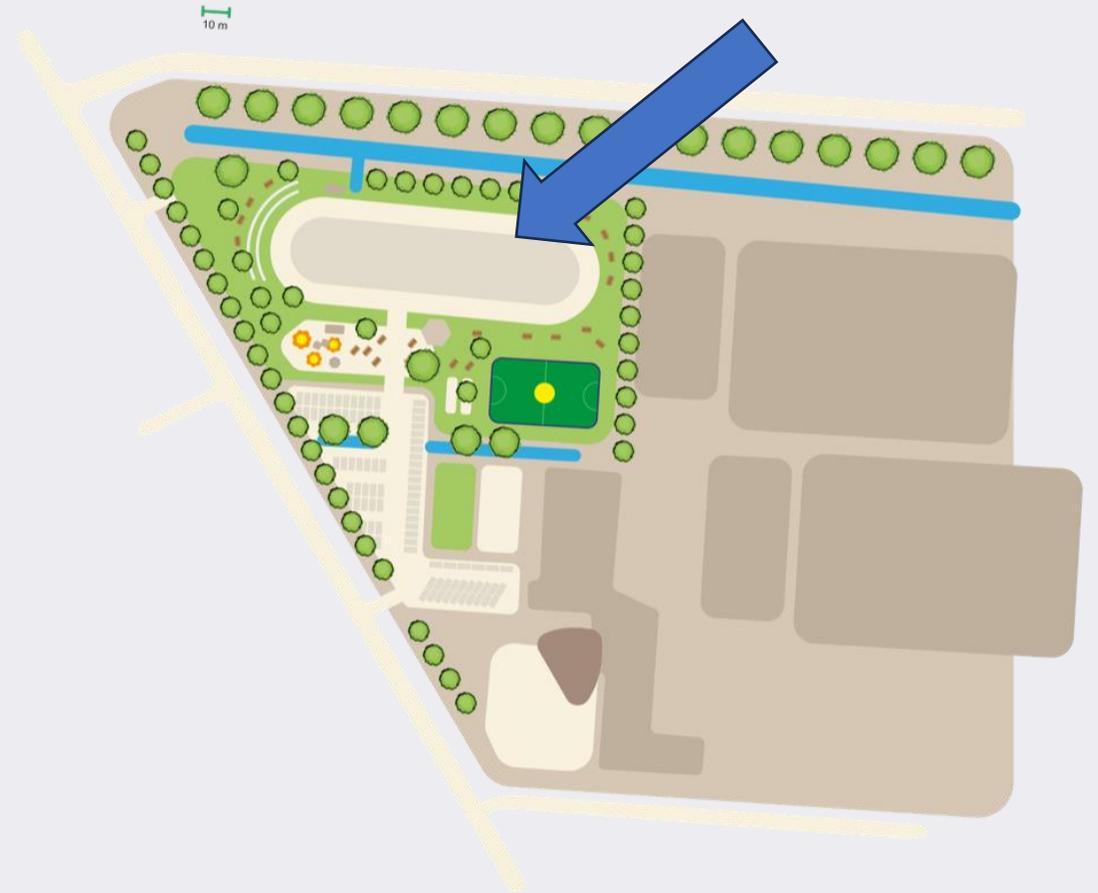


Lessons learned

Big projects can be difficult...

- Big projects can't be constructed in 1 year. Therefore, they have to be split up in smaller projects.
- People have high expectations when they vote on the project, but there is no visible short-term result...
- Big projects can be difficult to manage for citizens as this requires specific skills

Example: ice-skating rink



Lessons learned

How to attract a representative and diverse group?

- Communication is key
- Do something special
- Organize events for youth and elderly people
- Organize events for parts of Hoogkerk with lower engagement
- Ensure visibility in the neighbourhood
- Not everything works... we are still learning!





Cosun Beet
COMPANY

STEP4
Hoogkerk

Q&A

The background features a dark blue field with large, organic white shapes. Scattered throughout are several teal-colored circles of varying sizes. A prominent teal shape with a white outline curves across the lower right portion of the image.

Thank You



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