

BORDERS TO CROSS

Title:	A new role for government citizens collaborations
Name workshop:	Community and the Living Environment
Projects presented:	1.Makkie: Edgar Kampers 2.Transformed by you: Noel Hatch 3.Tenever Consensus Princip: Joachim Baloschky, Eberhard Roettgers 4. The Work Shop: Laura Billings (also community lovers guide)
Workshop director(s):	Imrat Verhoeven
Name rapporteur(s):	Irene Kruijssen
Date and time of workshop:	30-10-2013 9:30 – 11:00 uur

What are citizens and government doing differently in different sectors? This is the broader topic that is being discussed in this workshop. Two large and two smaller cases are used to take the participants on a journey of the possibilities of the interaction between citizens and government.

What triggered me was the fact that there was a discussion about the municipality getting more empathic, and less bureaucratic. How achieve such a goal under the circumstances and the frames the government has set out decades ago? People are done with the robot 'street level bureaucrat' and want something of the municipality that is more personal and approachable.

In this workshop we talked about the community and the living environment. We've discussed four cases, two more extensive cases and as example for how an initiative could look like. The first case discussed was about a community currency campaign, the Makkies. This local currency is being used to reward volunteers, who can spend it on other volunteers, think of people who can paint a house or cook a meal. Finally, people can spend the Makkies at selected places in the cultural sector like the Concertgebouw.

The second case was about the local government in Kent, who tried to find a solution for problem areas. They stimulated young people to get involved en learn about the problems en get together with different youngsters of their neighborhood. The local government can so lay a foundation for groups to work together and collaborate to understand what is important. In this process the role of artist and designers was indispensable, because they gave a new perspective on old problems and solutions. In the end, the municipality concluded that their role in de collaboration with citizens is changed. We have to find new ways to define this collaboration.

In this session Imrat Verhoeven showed the participants some cases of how democratic innovations could work. We've seen de Makkies, which is also a top-down initiative, not an initiative formed by local citizens. And then the municipality of Kent, also a very successful case, but also not a typical bottom-up initiative. Now does this mean that we always need the government in our local participation? And how can we describe the role of this government-citizen interaction? Do we need to have a set of new rules, or does the government simply have to 'let go'?