

# BORDERS TO CROSS

Title:	Taking Ownership of their Own Future
Name workshop:	<b>Self-governance</b>
Projects presented:	1. Tenever, Bremen 2. Self-governance in Peel en Maas 3.
Workshop director(s):	Jan Drooglever*/ Ymke de Regt
Name rapporteur(s):	Sergej Schellen
Date and time of workshop:	11:30 – 30/10/13

Esteem, rights and action.  
Getting the citizens to take ownership of their future.  
The limits of Self-governance are the law.

Any of the shareholders in the community of around 8,000 have a veto power on how money delegated for the district of Tenever is spent, and that hasn't stopped thousands of projects in more than 20 years.

"I became an active citizen because I wanted to improve the situation for my family and me not because I wanted to save the world".

There are so many volunteers within the villages (of Peel en Maas) that they stopped using the term volunteers a while ago but rather use the term "active citizens".

Self-governance is about residence taking responsibility of the future into their own hands.

"The Government wants people to participate, which is different from self-governance. Both are important".

Some important aspects of self-governance mentioned by the presenters were that inclusion of every member of the community was of great importance, that there is a proper attitude among the community to make sure the esteem of all members is respected and nurtured, and that an effort is made to be actively involved in the plans to improve the reality. Before the presentations of projects began the workshop director asked each person to draw an image of what self-governance means to them, the most creative example highlighted was a drawing of Pippi Longstocking. Throughout the discussions following up on the presentations a lot of questions were asked of where the responsibilities of the government end? What are the limits of self-governance? Opinions varied but it was agreed that the limits of self-governance are the laws. Another point following on that; the Government has to adapt to the situation, they have to take more of a communication-based role, which is a new frontier for them. Self-governance can be great for a community, bring it back to life, have problems actively solved and continuously cared for, and most importantly giving the residence pride in their community. Leading to the concluding question being, in somewhat of a joking manner yet at the same time including a serious point; "Is there

space for a Pippi Longstocking in your own community?”

There is an increasing shift of citizens feeling a need to get involved within their own community, which in turn means that the role of government automatically will have to be limited in some ways. This understanding of active citizenship isn't just about small village communities taking ownership of their village, but can also be formed around a communal feeling within a district or street of a city. Each area has its own pace of self-governance, which should be respected, as long as it is in coordination within the laws of the state.