

The New Planning

A paradigm shift in the spatial development of The Netherlands

To enlarge our consortia for this new research project we organised a matchmaking event on 1st November 2018. After the event, we have had a lot of meetings and discussions about this project with most of the involved organisations who are directly related with the planning system of the Netherlands. The reactions and feedback was very useful to form a direction for the proposal. Following is a summary of the stakeholder's feedback and first draft of the directions for the proposal.

De Nationale Omgevingsvisie (NOVI), Ministry of Infrastructure and Watermanagement, Interprovinciaal Overleg (IPO), Staatsbosbeheer, Provincie Gelderland, Provincie Noord Holland, Provincie Groningen, Provincie Noord Brabant, Gemeente Den Haag, Gemeente Rotterdam, Gemeente Amsterdam, Gemeente Utrecht, Gemeente Leiden, University of Groningen, University of Amsterdam, Rijkswaterstaat, PBL and Arcadis are a part of this discussion already. Now we are trying to reach out to the private companies and investors to strengthen the consortia with stakeholders from various sectors.

Reactions (Summary)

General Remarks

1. What is "New" in the New Planning? The project should be able to satisfy the title. Is it about new methods/ new innovation/ new challenges to deal with?
2. Lack of focus in the proposal. The proposal is very generic and too broad to be able to deal with actual realistic urgencies.
3. Rather than choosing 4 NWO routes, it should be 2 important ones that can be dealt with during the project span.
4. The output expected from the project is not clear yet. More detailed program is expected before the co-financers sign the actual amount to be paid.

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5. Energy Transition is the main issue in and around the Netherlands. The framework of the project should be more solution oriented approach/ focus.
6. During the meetings, a lot of weightage has been given on the rethinking of organisational structure/ integration of the different institutions in all the scales. Solutions/ process that would develop co-working attitude from both public and private sector is expected.

7. Attention to be drawn to the process of dealing with challenges like energy/ circular economy/ mobility in time. This is the most urgent issue at present Netherlands is facing.

Innovative international examples

8. Eurodeltametropool region/ ABC region (Amsterdam, Brussels, Cologne) should be developed more in depth, rather only focussing on the Netherland as an island. More cross border development ideas should be explored.
9. One-to-one international comparatives will be one of the most useful products/ process for the municipalities and provinces of Netherlands. For example, one brainstorming session of how Copenhagen is dealing with the energy challenges? These should be more direct and to the point solutions.
10. Examples other than European context should be only used for inspiration/ innovation purpose. The context of Netherlands cannot be compared with examples of Japan/ Australia etc.

Process and products

11. The co-financers expects results every 6 months (twice a year). It can be in a form of open discussions/ peer-reviews/ reports/ comparative analysis/ interviews/ evaluation and reflection etc.
12. All the stakeholders expects that there would be international/ national experts who would be reflecting on their current agendas and instruments.
13. Detailed program on yearly basis outputs, putting more emphasis how the actual issues can be solved with time and how the organisations can actually benefit from the project.

Conclusion (Focus or Directions)

General Remarks

1. In this project, we would like to come up with a new working method/ structure of the planning system through:
 - New Working Practices (New Economic model/ new regulations)
 - New Working Projects
2. Draft of the final proposal will be shared with all the stakeholders to react on. With the feedbacks, the final write-up will be completed.

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3. Challenges in sectors of transitions: How to deal with them in aspects of economic models/ investments / regulatory practices.

4. Method of working among the scales to deal with the challenges
5. Comprehending NOVI and applying its principles on various projects/ policies/ proposals in all the scales throughout all kind of organisations.
6. The spatial planning of the Netherlands needs to be relooked at with the current urgencies. Short- term and long-term planning is required at the same time.

Innovative international examples

7. We believe that including other countries in the research proposal will create a comprehensive and inclusive database of the innovative planning systems. This would not only create a knowledge based proactive relation with the selected countries but a continuous collaboration in future.
8. The main research question will be based on the Netherlands, but the cross border regions (for eg, ABC and Eurodeltametropool) will be taken into account for studying or analysis or testing solutions.
9. These regions will be dealt more closely within the research and reflection scope.
10. After this ring, the first ideas/ examples would be focused on the European context with similar governance/ challenges / working method.
11. Finally the set of examples will be constructed based on the exact needs after research from all over the world. These examples will not be selected and applied on the whole context rather picking up particular principles and strategic solutions, from where Netherlands can learn something.

Process and products

12. Process: During the whole duration of the project, there would be approximately 8 interaction points (it can be a workshop/ conference/ masterclass/ excursion etc.)
13. Results / Products/ Deliverables:
 - a. The New Working Practices: Decentralisation exempted a lot of pressure and control from the central government, but at the same time, it lead to a fragmented network of functioning organisations lacking speed and effectiveness. It appears that the component of strategic implementation is getting more detached and sectoral rather than the opposite. By building on successful examples in other parts of the world and translating them to the Netherlands and across sectoral boundaries the 'new planning' will formulate new possibilities for ways of working.
 - b. The New Planning projects: Formulation and simulation of prototype components of the new planning model with government, market and civil society partners. A large part of the research proposal will deal with testing of pilot projects, both in real and hypothetical conditions. Later

stages will include pilot projects from various parts of the Netherlands to address these issues and experiment the established toolbox from the international inspirations and solutions.

Working Method

14. We visualise this project as a long term commitment (approximately 4-6 years) to create outcomes that feed into new planning practice.
15. There will be several activities in continuous intervals. The activities can be classified into:

Research Activities	Practitioner Activities
Interviews Reflective/ Conclusive Reports with comparative studies/ detailed analysis/ reflection on current systems Brainstorming Workshops Publication	Community of Practice International and National Conferences Masterclasses Peer-Review with Excursion Application of solutions (Case studies/ ongoing projects)

16. The stakeholders are invited in all of them. The best way to work with this plan will be if we have at least one participant from each organisation during all the interactions. Although depending on the availability, we would prefer that all of you at least participate in the practitioners activities.