

Transition starts with people

Rosalie van Dam, Jasper Eshuis, Noelle Aarts



In this paper, we explore **the transition of societal organization from heavy reliance on the state towards self-organization by citizens (in communities).**

We explore how this transition manifests itself by analyzing two cases of self-organizing communities in the Netherlands: **The ADM squatter community in Amsterdam and Golf Residence in Dronten.**

The 'Amsterdamse Doe-het-zelf Maatschappij' [Amsterdam Do-it-yourself Company], is located in the western dock area of Amsterdam Harbour. The ADM property, which used to be a large dry dock. At a more rural site in the Netherlands, another self-organizing community can be found: the privately managed residential development called 'Golf Residence Dronten'. Through self-organization, the community has created its own residential environment, characterised by a high quality golf facility in a well groomed park with a lot of greenery.

These very different communities of self-organizing citizens created their own residential arrangements and took the initiative in developing a unique spatial environment. These communities reflect a transition in the relationship between citizens and government.

Transitions are often related to interventions. These examples show us that changes might also originate from the general public.

By looking closely at these two forms of self-organizing communities, we can enhance our knowledge about transitions and public management.

