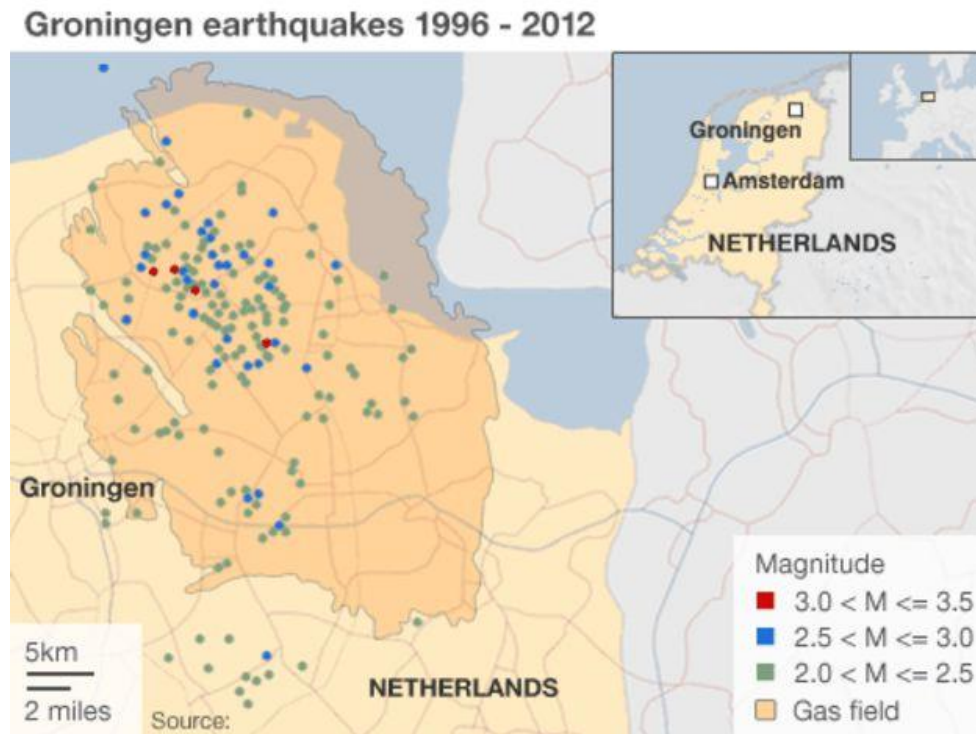


The effect of earthquakes on people's motivation to participate in local projects in Groningen, the Netherlands

Using Q-methodology to determine if the earthquake problems in Groningen play a major role for participant's motivation to participate in local projects, compared with other motivations to engage.



“So basically it is your aim to find out why in the world we started a project this big? Basically: what possessed you to participate?”

Rianne Doller

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Preface

The idea for his thesis stems from a personal concern regarding the earthquakes and relating issues. I grew up in the province and am very fond of the people and the scenery. The earthquakes have an effect on both, however which shape that effect exactly takes is still unclear. Therefore I decided to take this lack of knowledge, and to look at it from the perspective of another personal interest, namely local projects and the things people organize with minimal government influence to improve the quality of the place they live in. This topic is in line with the trend of the Dutch' government towards participation and the encouragement of local initiatives organized by people themselves. Self-organization has a lot of potential, but there is knowledge needed to enable such projects to become a success. This thesis looks at what motivates people to participate in local projects, and especially asks the question whether the earthquake problems in Groningen have an effect on motivation to participate or not.

Having chosen a thesis with a topic that is close to my heart, I discovered the danger of doing that. Continuously I had to struggle with a confirmation bias and subjectivity questions. Therefore I want to thank my supervisors for telling me when I became subjective, every time, and especially for the times they told me I lost the focus of the research, because everything seemed important. Furthermore I want to thank the people of the Carrousel project in Bedum for participating, it is a very interesting project. Lastly, I want to thank my friends who tested the method for me and who told me everything was going to be fine. The things they said helped me to move forward with this thesis.

Rianne Doller, 03 October 2017, Wageningen

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Abstract

There are earthquake problems in the province of Groningen which are directly related to gas exploitation. These cause damage to houses, health issues and frustration. This thesis researches the effect of these problems on people's motivation to participate in local projects. A local project is initiated and executed by people in a village or neighbourhood with minimal government influence. Local projects are relevant to study, because collaborative planning, self-organization and participation are important forces in current planning practices. The method used is Q-methodology, which identifies people's motivation to participate by revealing their subjectivities through their personal sort of statements. Q-methodology is a suitable method, because it is very accessible. The statements are based on four drivers of participation: external threats, social aspects, organizational aspects and personal aspects. Analysis of the sorts led to two factors, each representing a different motivation to participate. Factor 1, facilities in the neighbourhood, tells that people are motivated because of a missing facility. Factor 2, social cohesion and acceptance neighbourhood, indicated motivation to increase social connections and to become accepted. Earthquake problem were seen as a separate issue from local projects by the participants.

Q-methodology, local projects, participation, earthquakes Groningen, motivation to participate

Summary

There are earthquakes, caused by gas extraction, in the province of Groningen. This has an impact on the lives of the people living there: houses are damaged; it has negative health effects caused by stress or fear for personal safety; decline of attractiveness of the area and feeling distrust and anger towards the national government and the gas exploiting bodies, because it is felt the problems are not addressed sufficiently. This thesis looks if those problems have an influence on people's motivation to participate in local projects. Local projects in this thesis are defined as projects organized at a neighbourhood or village level, by the people living there, with minimal government influence, aimed at improving quality of life with a spatial character. The proposition is that because of the problems people feel more motivation to participate in local projects. This is assumed because people might feel they can have an impact on the problems on a local level. The social relevance of this subject is to gain more insight how the earthquakes affect people's lives. The broader scientific objective is to gain insight into the general motivations of people to participate in local projects. This is relevant, because there is a trend in planning research and policy towards collaborative planning, self-organization and participation, with an emphasis on local projects.

The theoretical framework is based on four drivers, each representing a different motivation to participate. Driver 1, external threats, regards the impact of the earthquakes on people affected by them. Driver 2, social aspects, regards effect of social connections in the neighbourhood. Driver 3, organizational aspects, encapsulates practical aspects necessary for a project. Driver 4, personal aspects, considers individual reasons. The method used in this study is Q-methodology, which looks at people's subjectivities, in this study motivations to participate. This is done by asking participants, the P-sort, to sort statements, the Q-set, according to their personal motivation to participate. Individual sorts are analysed and correlations between sorts are identified. These correlations lead to 'factors', which are shared motivations to participate among the P-sort. The initial plan was to compare motivation of participants from two case studies: one from the affected area, and one from the non-affected area. However, the non-affected case did not want to participate. It was therefore decided to focus the fieldwork on one case instead. To accommodate that change, the research questions were re-written.

Two factors came out of the analysis: factor 1, facilities in the neighbourhood and factor 2, social cohesion and acceptance in the neighbourhood. These factors are interpreted with sort and interview results. For factor 1 most important motivations to participate was to increase quality of life in the neighbourhood by organizing a missing facility. For factor 2 most important motivation was to become accepted in the neighbourhood. Another interesting conclusion is that between the participants there was a different perspective of who had a valuable contribution. This can signify a lack of internal communication within the project.

During the fieldwork it turned out that the design of driver 1 was not functional to study the effect of earthquake problems. Interviews are used to reflect on that, and on the effect of earthquakes on participation. The participants indicated there was no connection. For now it has to be concluded that there is no connection between earthquake problems and motivation to participate. People allocate more importance to quality of life in the neighbourhood through facilities or social cohesion. It is possible to study if the connection is visible with other projects, and an altered methodological framework, but it is not sure if that will yield different results. For now it is concluded that Q-methodology is suitable to study motivation to participate. People enjoyed the sorting and the method is accessible.

1: Introduction

Onderdendam is a village in the north of Groningen. The village suffers from earthquakes causing damage to the houses and other buildings in the village. The villagers did not want to focus on their personal problems only, but decided to look at what the earthquakes meant for the village as a whole, beyond the focus on the damage to buildings it had caused (Broekema, 2016). This resulted in cooperation's of residents in several projects within the village to improve life in the village and to counter negative effects of the earthquakes. Examples of these projects are a new village meeting centre, an energy cooperation and increased tourism by exploiting the architectural importance of the village (Broekema, 2016). Projects like these form the focus of this thesis and are defined as 'local projects'. Local projects are defined as projects initiated and predominantly executed by inhabitants of the location where the project is situated. This location is usually a village or a neighbourhood. Projects relevant for this thesis also have spatial characteristics. In this thesis people's individual motivation to participate in local projects is studied, with a focus on the effect of earthquakes on that motivation. Local projects are showing an increasing popularity, not only when there are problems in the village but also in villages that aren't affected by earthquakes. Eight out of ten people of a panel survey in Groningen expect inhabitants and the municipality to work together for the 'quality of life' in their villages (de Haan, Janssens, & Elshof, 2016), which can be achieved with local projects. From the government's point of view there is also a growing emphasis on encouraging villagers to participate in local projects in their own village where the villagers take the leading role in organizing the projects. (Vermeij & Gieling, 2016). This study looks how earthquakes influence inhabitants in their motivation for local projects.

The History of gas exploitation in the province

The situation in Groningen is an interesting case, because earthquakes are not a natural phenomenon in the province and only started to have an impact in the last twenty or thirty years, with an increasing impact in the last ten – fifteen years. This allows to study if the earthquakes changed motivation to participate, because they were not always a factor in people's lives. The earthquakes are caused by natural gas exploitation in the province (Breunese & van Thienen-Visser, 2015). The gas field in Groningen was discovered in 1959 (Kielich, 1988, p. 15). Upon discovering the natural gas, the Dutch households were all connected with a gas connection to heat houses with gas and to use it for cooking (Gales, 2013). Another use of the natural gas is industries and export to other countries. Gas exploitation yields large economic benefits for the Dutch state, who has stakes in the gas exploitation, and for the NAM, which is the company executing the gas exploitation, but there are no direct benefits for the province of Groningen and its inhabitants (Voort & Vanclay, 2015). NAM stands for 'Nederlandse Aardolie Maatschappij' (*Dutch Petroleum Company*) and is the executing body of the gas exploitation. Initially the connection between gas exploitation and earthquakes was denied by the NAM and worries of the local people of its consequences ignored. Only in 2012, when an earthquake

Weer aardschok in Groningen

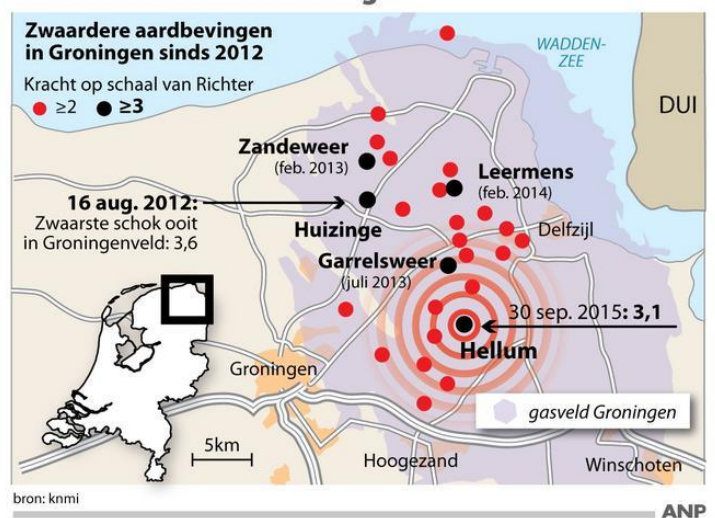


Figure 1: Severest earthquakes Groningen (ANP, 2015)

of 3.6 on the Richter scale hit Huizinge (figure 1¹), national recognition was given to the situation. In 2015 de ‘Onderzoeksraad voor Veiligheid’ (the Dutch safety board²) published an report of the investigation into the earthquakes, safety of the inhabitants of Groningen and decision making regarding the gas exploitation in the province (Maters & Hermesen, 2015). Their most relevant findings were that the safety of the people had no roll in decision making regarding exploitation before 2013, that the opinion of the Groningen people played no role in decision making and discourse about the gas exploitation was in a technocratic, top-down way excluding the Groningen people (Maters & Hermesen, 2015). With the report the extent of the frustration and distrust of the Groningen people became clear and it increased frustration because it became apparent their concerns and safety was ignored (Maters & Hermesen, 2015; Schouwman, Aart Kleef van, 2014). In general there is a lack of trust towards the NAM and the government among the Groningen people (Voort & Vanclay, 2015). Another reason for their frustration is that they feel problems caused by the earthquakes are not addressed sufficiently by the NAM or the national government, especially because it is felt damage done is not compensated sufficiently. Those things together may have caused an increased motivation for the people to participate in local projects in order to take the quality of life of their villages into their own hands. The proposition of this thesis is that for the people in Groningen the earthquakes are an important motivation to participate in local projects. This is studied with the following research question:

To which extent are the earthquakes in Groningen an important motivation for people to participate in local projects in the affected area, compared to the motivation of people from the non-affected area?

The effect of earthquakes on motivation to participate is studied by comparing individual motivation of participants from two local projects, one from the affected area and one from the non-affected area. Generally, earthquakes have an effect in the northeast and east of the province, as is visible on the map (map 1). However, it has to be noted the division is not so clear-cut in reality. The following sub-questions are designed to answer the main research question:

1. What are, according to literature, motivations of inhabitants to participate in local projects?
2. What is the impact of the earthquakes on people in the affected area, which could affect motivation to participate in local projects?
3. What are motivations of inhabitants of affected areas to participate in local projects?
4. What are motivations of inhabitants in the not-affected areas to participate in the local projects?
5. Are the earthquake problems the most important motivation to participate in local projects for people from the affected area, compared to other reasons to participate?

Together, sub-questions one and two form the theoretical framework, which forms the basis for the methodology. The theoretical framework includes the planning background of this thesis, together with the four drivers which conceptualize motivation to participate in local projects. One of those drivers assesses the effect of earthquakes on motivation and the other three assess other reasons to participate

¹ Translation text picture: ‘Weer aardshok in Groningen’: Another earthquake in Groningen; ‘Zwaardere aardbevingen in Groningen sinds 2012’: Severest earthquakes in Groningen since 2012; ‘Kracht op schaal van Richter’: severity on the scale of Richter; Gasveld Groningen’: gasfield Groningen; ‘16 aug. 2012: Zwaarste schok ooit in Groningenveld: 3.6’: 16 augustus 2012: severest quake ever in the Groningen gas field: 3.6

² The Dutch Safety Board is an independent research body with as mission to investigate the cases where Dutch inhabitants are dependent on the government, companies or organisations for their safety.

based on literature (Ahmed, Seedat, Van Niekerk, & Bulbulia, 2004; Foster-Fishman, Berkowitz, Lounsbury, Jacobson, & Allen, 2001). During the fieldwork, it is assessed which of those drivers is most important for participants in local projects and in that way sub-question three and four are answered. In sub-question five, importance of the external threat driver is compared to the other three drivers by comparing result of sub-question three and four. After that the main research question can be answered. The fieldwork is carried out through Q-methodology, a method which identifies people's subjectivities. In this study the subjectivities are people's motivation to participate in a local project. These are identified through the sorting of statements by the participants in the fieldwork, regarding motivation to participate in a local project. The benefit of the method is that eloquently written statements make the method accessible for every participant. The fieldwork is executed with participants from two local projects, one from the affected area and one from the not affected area.

Social and scientific relevance

The connection between earthquakes and the problems, such as damage to houses, is acknowledged. However there is not much knowledge about how those problems affect people's living there. This is an interesting question to ask, because local people are increasingly frustrated with the national government, and their solutions to the earthquake problems. This makes it important to assess what people do for themselves to maintain quality of live in their village, in the form of local projects. This is a novel angle to add to already existing studies into the social impact of the earthquakes, because it focuses on the effect the earthquake problems have on actions people take to improve their living conditions. Previous research mainly focuses on their experiences, which does not contribute to a solution. It is clear that the current practices to mitigate earthquake effects do not resonate with the people. Focussing on what the affected people do themselves may lead to better suggestions how to deal with the problems.

The broader scientific relevance of this thesis is to get more insight into the potential effect of external threats, such as the earthquakes in Groningen, on the action people undertake. Another use is to assess whether Q-methodology is a suitable method to study local projects and participation. The method is not yet used extensively to investigate people's individual motivation to participate in local projects. It has potential in this direction because it allows participants to voice their opinion in an accessible way through the sorting of the statements. This is useful in light of the growing emphasis the government puts on self-organization and people's participation in local projects in their own villages. Knowledge helps to facilitate and form local projects more effectively.

In chapter 2, the planning background of this thesis is discussed, with the theory of collaborative planning and self-organization. After that, the theoretical framework with the four drivers is laid down. This is followed by the conceptual framework, explaining the proposition of the thesis and the connection between the research questions. In chapter 3, the method is explained and how it is used during the fieldwork. In chapter four, the results of the fieldwork are analysed and interpreted. This is followed by a conclusion and discussion of the results together with recommendations for further research. The thesis closes with a small reflection on the research in chapter 6.

2: Theory

2.1: Planning background

In her theory of collaborative planning, Healey mentions five points that inspired her to develop the theory (Healey, 2003):

- 1: Planning is an interactive process.
2. Involving some kind of governance.
3. Shaped, but not steered, by economic, social and environmental forces.
4. Planning has as goal to enhance the quality of places and territories.
5. Planning aims for greater social justice in the planning process.

Governance, in this case, is defined by Healey as ‘the process in which societies and social groups manage their collective affairs (Healey, 2003, p. 104). The new planning theory was developed as a reaction to the growing recognition of bottom-up, local interest and influence in governmental or business oriented planning and development. This fits with the four points that inspired her (Healey, 2003). In that way collaborative planning aimed to ‘modernize’ traditional planning processes by including inhabitants into the planning process. However, for some scholars that did not go far enough, because the government still has a large amount of control over the planning process. Therefore it is argued to focus planning research more on the motivation and action of inhabitants and businesses themselves to participate in spatial planning processes independently from the government (Boonstra & Boelens, 2011). When looking at current local projects, it is often the case that the project is initiated and executed with minimal government involvement. One reason why these kind of projects emerge is that the government does not have enough insight into the interest of inhabitants or know how to work together with inhabitants. This can cause potentially successful projects to fail. Therefore Boonstra and Boelens conclude that community-based self-organization may be the next step in spatial planning (2011, p. 20). Self-organization is defined here as local projects, which originated from of an autonomous, non-governmental, network of people, based in the village or neighbourhood, aimed to develop the quality of life in the village or neighbourhood.

In the Netherlands, there is also a trend visible towards more local projects initiated by inhabitants, without the government (Vermeij & Gieling, 2016). Those projects are both aimed at a larger self-reliance and to maintain the quality of life of the place they live in (Vermeij & Gieling, 2016). This trend can be seen as a movement towards self-organization. The four drivers, which are conceptualized below, are used to look at what motivates individual people to participate in those local projects.

2.2: The four drivers

The first driver is based on an article by Voort & Vanclay identifying the social impacts of the earthquakes on the people in Groningen (2015). The other three drivers are based on four core principles of successful collaboration: member capacity; relational capacity; organizational capacity and programmatic capacity (Foster-Fishman et al., 2001). Use of those core principles is useful because all three are equally important when people work together according to literature, and can therefore also play an equally important role in motivation. This allows to see the effect of earthquakes, compared to factors of motivation already recognized. The core principles are combined with five kind of resources for community resilience, which are material, physical, socio-political, socio-cultural and psychological

resources (Ahmed et al., 2004). Those resources are used because those are what inhabitants use when they try to achieve something in the place they live, and therefore play a role in the motivation to participate. By combining the core principles and resources three drivers are created: social aspects; organizational aspects and personal aspects. Adding the external threat driver to that bring the total to four (figure 2).

Driver	Capacities	Resources
Driver 1: external threats →		material
Driver 2: social aspects →	relational capacities →	socio-cultural
Driver 3: organizational aspects →	organizational + programmatic capacities →	socio-political
Driver 4: personal aspects →	member capacities →	psychological

Figure 2: Origin drivers (source: author)

The first driver, external threats, encompasses the material and physical aspects. This is because the earthquakes are a physical occurrence and effects are for a large part in the form of damage to houses and such. The second driver, social aspects, encompasses the socio-cultural resources. In this thesis those are the influence of social cohesion. The core principle associated with this driver are the relational capacities, meaning the social relations (social cohesion) needed to achieve the desired goal (Foster-Fishman et al., 2001, p. 251). Driver three are the organizational aspects and encompasses the socio-political resources. Those are the support local projects need from government bodies and support from within the village where the project takes place. This is associated with the core principle of organizational capacity, meaning the ability to organize members in a productive manner (Foster-Fishman et al., 2001, p. 253), combined with programmatic capacity which encompasses the ability to have a meaningful impact with the project (Foster-Fishman et al., 2001, p. 256). The fourth driver are the personal aspects. These are linked with psychological resources, which are interpreted as the internal motives people have. These are associated with the member capacity core principle and are associated with the skills and attitude participants believe to be able to contribute to the project (Foster-Fishman et al., 2001, p. 243). Figure 3 visualizes how the four drivers relate to each other. The figure makes clear that each driver encompasses a different dimension of motivation to participate.



Orange	Driver 1: external threats
Green	Driver 2: social aspects
Blue	Driver 3: organizational aspects
Red	Driver 4: personal aspects

Figure 3: Relation between drivers (source: author)

2.2.1: Driver 1: external threats

This driver focuses on the effect of the earthquakes, conceptualized as external threats. Voort & Vanclay identified six social impacts of the earthquakes in Groningen based on news sources, document analysis and a survey: damage to property; decline house prices; concern about chance of dykes breaking; feelings of insecurity; health issues; increased distrust and anger (Voort & Vanclay, 2015). Those social impacts are narrowed down to five by combining ‘feelings of insecurity’ with ‘health issues’, because those are very similar. The impact ‘fear of dykes breaking’ is removed because it is not relevant for this study. The remaining four impacts are put down in figure 4. Three other survey studies are used to further define this driver: the survey ‘Groningens perspectief’, which is a quarterly province-wide questionnaire about health, safety concerns and future perspective of the Groningen people³. This study is executed by the University of Groningen, commissioned by the national coordinator of Groningen, a government body appointed to deal with the earthquake problems in the province. The second study is from the ‘Sociaal Planbureau Groningen’ (Groningen institute for social research) under the heading of the ‘leefbaarheidsmonitor’ (monitor for quality of life), about willingness of the Groningen people to participate for quality of life in their villages (de Haan et al., 2016). Also findings by the ‘Regionoord panel’ (panel of northern region) are used (Regionoordpanel, 2016). The panel is a cooperation between several northern-based newspapers: Leeuwarder courant (Leeuwarden gazette), the ‘FrieschDagblad’ (Frysian newspaper) and ‘het Dagblad van het Noorden’ (Newspaper of the North).

Driver 1: External threats

1. Damage to property

2. Decline house prices

3. Distrust & anger

4. Feelings of insecurity and health issues

Figure 4: social impacts external threats driver (source: author)

The first social impact, damage to property, is related to the importance of possessing a house to the wellbeing of people from Groningen (Postmes, Stroebe, Richardson, Lekander, & Oldersma, 2016). Damage to those houses, caused by the external threats, consequently impacts enjoyment of living, because people cannot live in their house unhindered. Sometimes they have to move temporarily because of repairs, and sometimes the damage is so severe the house has to be demolished. The damage, however, does not only affect private houses, but also schools and other public facilities, such as a neighbourhood centre or sport canteen. An additional effect of the damage is the difficulty to qualify for damage claims by the AM and to have the damage repaired. This takes time both to be available for appointments and waiting for answers regarding compensation funds (Voort & Vanclay, 2015). Both the physical damage and the difficulty of fixing damage via the official route can motivate people to take matters into their own hands and to participate more in local projects in their village.

³ <https://www.groningsperspectief.nl/>⁴ <http://www.nam.nl/nam-en-de-samenleving/groningen-gasveld-specifieke-regelingen/leefbaarheid-en-duurzaamheidsprogramma.html>⁵

<http://www.ideeenbankgroningen.nl/projecten>⁶ <http://groningerdorpen.nl/inspiratiekaart>⁷ Oa in de beleidsnotie: Volkstuinen en buurt(moes)tuinen op 9 juni 2015.

The second social impact, decline in house prices, is not focused on individual houses but on the effect of the decline on the whole village. Besides the physical effect, the earthquakes also cause a decrease of the attractiveness of the area. One of the worries when a compensation fund for homeowners was started, was that people would be unduly encouraged to sell their house and leave their village permanently (Voort & Vanclay, 2015). Also, a survey concluded that 22% of the people in the earthquake area wants to leave (Regionoordpanel, 2016). Instead of seeking to leave the village because of the external threats, people might find motivation to work for the attractiveness of the village by participating in local projects. Also, it can affect motivation if people feel they can preserve the attractiveness of their village or neighbourhood with their own actions instead of remaining defenceless. When places that are central to a person's identity are threatened, people are willing to fight (Convery, Corsane, & Davis, 2012, p. 3).

The third social impact is the distrust and anger people feel towards the NAM and the government. This has four reasons: firstly the previous denial of the connection between gas exploitation and earthquakes, secondly the feeling of local people that their interests have been neglected by the national government in the gas extraction situation, thirdly people feel the compensation funds are not sufficient and not organized in a trustworthy, independent way and fourthly people feel too little benefits of the gas exploitation came back as benefits for the local people (Voort & Vanclay, 2015). This situation of anger and distrust might lead to an attitude of independence from the NAM or national government and to 'counter' their actions by searching for local solutions in the form of local projects. This can even spread to a general distrust of any big organization not from the village. People start to organize themselves more in times of threat (Graham, Debucquoy, & Anguelovski, 2016). Also people might feel their interests are neglected for profit, and therefore start to focus on local projects on a small scale, which are often not profit-oriented.

The identified social impacts 'feelings of insecurity' and health' issues' are combined, because they are related. People get negative health effects because of the stress of dealing with threats and the fear for their safety (Voort & Vanclay, 2015). Feelings of stress can be mitigated by creating trust, and people can look for that in a strong community. That might affect motivation, because local projects can help to feel pro-active and to work towards a safer neighbourhood, because local projects are something people can have an impact in. A survey indicated that social cohesion can serve as a buffer for mental problems as well (Tomale, 2016). Lastly, in times of stress people with limited personal resources tend to fall back on community -neighbourhood or village- ties (Piff, Stancato, Martinez, Kraus, & Keltner, 2012).

2.2.2: Driver 2: social aspects

There are four aspects identified in the social aspect driver. Those four aspects are inspired by (Foster-Fishman et al., 2001; Gaymer et al., 2014; Imperiale & Vanclay, 2016) and put down in figure 5.

Driver 2: Social aspects

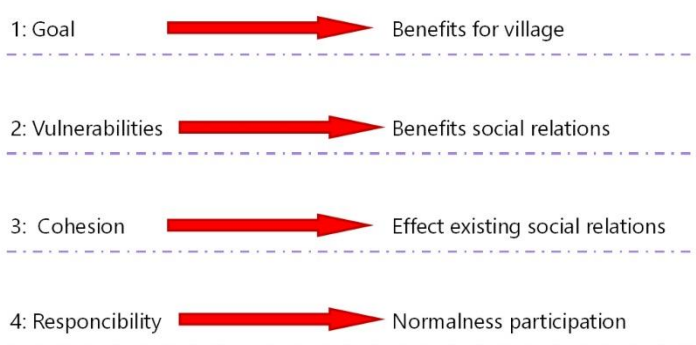


Figure 5: Social aspects driver (source: author)

The first aspect, the Goal, is to increase improvement of quality of life this project is believed to bring to the village. Examples are more places to meet or public services such as a school, a supermarket or a children's playground. Consequently, the disappearance or lack of those facilities can influence motivation for people to participate in local projects as well. Therefore, the goal are the practical, visible, positive results the project is believed to have in the village.

The second aspect, the vulnerabilities, are the social problems in the village, such as poverty, lack of social cohesion and safety or distrust issues among the population. These existing problems can be an important motivation to participate, because often societal needs are placed personal needs when people consider to participate (Hoffman & High-Pippert, 2010). Therefore, local projects can bring a village closer together or can contribute a solution for social or physical problems. In that way, the vulnerabilities consider the effect the project has on group dynamics within the village.

Aspect three, social cohesion, is the effect of the already existing relations in the village. For example, it enhances self-organization when people in a village see each other and talk to each other (Hoffman & High-Pippert, 2010). On a more personal level, being asked by a neighbour to participate in a project can be a motivation for participation as well (Verba et al. 1995 in Hoffman & High-Pippert, 2010). When there are already existing social relations, it can be a motivation to participate that people like to work on a project as a village. Also, when a village has experience working together as a group, they are likely better prepared and there is knowledge in the village of who can do what (Graham et al., 2016). The fourth aspect, responsibility, is associated with the willingness of people to do something due to feelings of empathy, solidarity (Davoudi 2012 in Imperiale & Vanclay, 2016, p. 214) or responsibility. Historical feelings of independence and self-reliance play a role because people feel they have to be independent as a village and participate in local projects because that 'has always been the way' and neighbours participate as well.

2.2.3: Driver 3: organizational aspects

This driver talks contains all aspects related to the organization and execution of the project necessary in local projects. These are based on the 'organizational infrastructure' (2001, p. 253) and the 'programmatic capacity' (2001, p. 257) necessary for participation in communities (Foster-Fishman et al., 2001) as visible in figure 6. These aspects can influence participation because it can give people confidence in the feasibility of the project when practical aspects are arranged.

Organizational aspects is defined as everything necessary to start a project or to keep a project running (Foster-Fishman et al., 2001, p. 253). Organizational aspects is split into the plan and a good working

climate. The plan consist of a pre-set list of actions to take to finish the project, a role distribution and a clear end goal of the project. It can make the project seem less daunting when there is an idea of the proceedings beforehand, what is expected of the participants and the duration participation is required. The other part of organizational aspects is the working climate. It is important for participation that all participants trust each other and are able to work together constructively (Foster-Fishman et al., 2001). Also it is important whether everybody feels respected and valued and therefore can contribute to the project in their own way. Lastly the presence of an enthusiastic organization from the village itself, which acts as driving force of the project can influence motivation. Such an organization is key to access and controls the capacities of the people who participate (DeFilippis, 2001 in Graham, Debucquoy, & Anguelovski, 2016, p. 10). Also initiatives often come from existing organizations (Hoffman & High-Pippert, 2010).

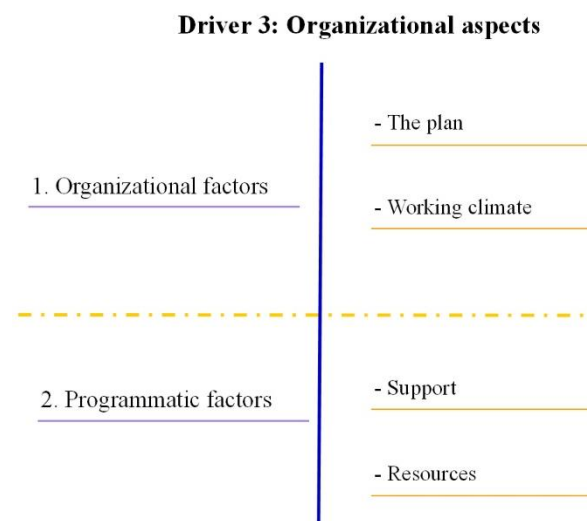


Figure 6: driver 3: organizational aspects (source: author)

Programmatic capacity means everything that is necessary for a successful execution and implementation of the project (Foster-Fishman et al., 2001, p. 257). This means support from the municipality or other organizations in the form of assistance to facilitate the project, assistance to implement the rules within the projects, funding and subsidies and access to resources needed. Local projects tend to work best when inhabitants and the government cooperate (de Haan et al., 2016), which involves among things permission from the municipality for the project and participation during the proceedings. Also it is important to have support from people from organizations who are not based in the village. Support from the municipality or other organizations plays a role because they can assist with funds or ideas how to start or organize a project (de Haan et al., 2016). Another important aspect of programmatic capacity is access to resources. This is a sufficient amount of people participating, funds or knowledge from previous projects (Foster-Fishman et al., 2001). Previous experience is considered because in that case it is more likely a group of people will organize another project, whereby communities without prior experience tend to rely more on the government, or other bodies, to organize projects for them (Graham et al., 2016).

2.2.4: Driver 4: personal aspect

As visible in the figure, this driver is divided in two parts: skills and attitude (Foster-Fishman et al., 2001). Those two parts are the two ways in which personal aspects play a role in motivation for people to participate in local projects.

Skills are the attributes, visible in figure 7, a person is able to contribute. On a practical level these are the knowledge, experience or organization skills a person has. All three are important for local projects (Foster-Fishman et al., 2001, pp. 243–248). However, having those attributes does not necessarily mean that a person wants to contribute those skills to a local project. Therefore, the other side of skills is ‘the wish to contribute’, which is defined as wanting to have a positive effect on the neighbourhood, an interest in local projects and to feel the need to contribute.

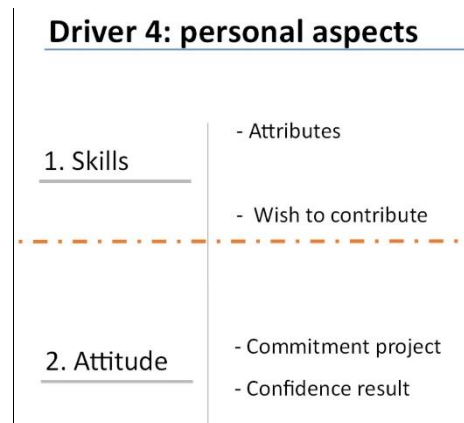


Figure 7: Personal aspects (source: author)

Attitude is the demeanour a person has towards the project. One part of this is the commitment to the goal, which is the personal belief in the project and that the end result will have positive outcomes for the person itself. This is related to a person’s value system and individual background, because people who have little personal resources tend to fall back on the social function of the village in time of need, whereas people with many personal resources fall back on those (Piff et al., 2012). Aspects of this which influence motivation to participate are: to gain experience in organizing, personal belief in the project, and the idea that participating is good for personal development. The other part of attitude is confidence in success, which is defined as the effect of the project on a person’s position in the village, such as acceptance by neighbours, appreciation in the village and increased living comfort. The success is personal, and not for the whole village.

2.3: Conceptual framework

The conceptual framework (figure 8) is a visualization of the research question:

To which extent are the earthquakes in Groningen an important motivation for people to participate in local projects in the affected area, compared to the motivation of people from the non-affected area?

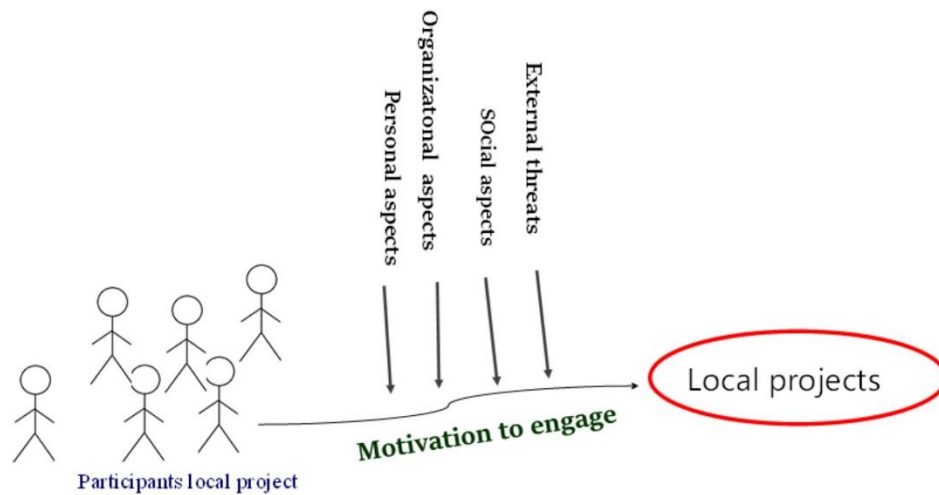


Figure 8: Conceptual framework (source: author)

The stick figures are the participants in the fieldwork. The four motivations are the drivers identified above. The conceptual framework shows the proposition that the earthquakes, as external threats, play a role in the motivation of people to participate in local projects in the affected area. The proposition of this thesis is that the external threats are the main motivation to participate for people affected by earthquakes. This will be assessed with the fieldwork. The four drivers are of equal weight, to be able to assess what plays the biggest role in motivation to participate. The connection between all the research questions is visualized in figure 9. Question one and two form the foundation of this research, and are answered in this chapter. Sub-question three and four is the fieldwork carried out with the two case local projects. The findings of the fieldwork are brought together, and analysed to answer the fifth sub-research question. All the questions together lead to the answer of the main research question.

1. What are, according to literature, motivations of inhabitants to participate in local projects?
2. What is the impact of the earthquakes on people in the affected area, which could affect motivation to participate in local projects?
3. What are motivations of inhabitants of affected areas to participate in local projects?
4. What are motivations of inhabitants in the not-affected areas to participate in the local projects?
5. Are the earthquake problems the most important motivation to participate in local projects for people from the affected area, compared to other reasons to participate?

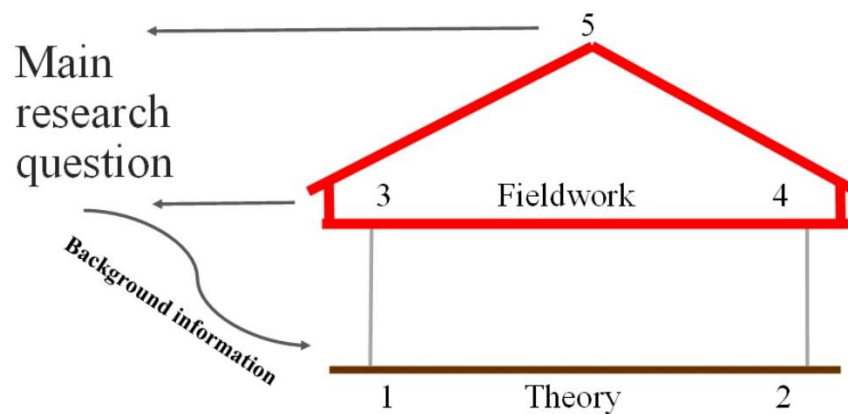


Figure 9: Connection research questions (source: author)

3: Methodological design

The research design of this study is Q-methodology with two cases, one which is affected by earthquakes, and one which is not. This chapter explains the methodological design of the thesis. Q-methodology is a suitable method because it allows to look at the subjective reasons of participants in the cases to participate in the local projects. The methodology is set-up in such a way that the study can be extended to other cases as well. In this chapter the reasoning behind the methodological choices is explained, and how the fieldwork is executed in the field. First the selection of the cases is explained and some basic information regarding the cases is given. After that an explanation of Q-methodology is given, together with the steps to follow to carry out Q-methodology. The chapter ends with a reflection on possible problems of the method and solutions.

3.1: The cases

Two cases are selected for the fieldwork. In this way the participants in the study are all people who have been engaged in a local project. This is chosen because the aim is to identify the most important motivations for people to participate during the fieldwork, so it makes sense to only select people who have participated before, because they are certain to bring a relevant perspective to the study. To ensure the earthquakes could have been a main motivation to participate in the case projects only projects which are started after 2012 are chosen, because in that year, with the earthquake in Huizinge, awareness of the earthquake problems can be assumed to be common among all people in the province. Despite the fact that the research is done with two cases, the research is not focused on the particulars of the cases, but on general motivation of people to participate. The ‘most similar system design’ strategy to select the cases is used, which means to select cases which are similar except for the particular factor or variable of which the effect is studied (Lor, 2011, p. 15), the earthquake in this case. Figure 11 shows that division in the province. Factors that should be as similar as possible are put down in figure 10. These are factors that can all influence on local projects. Maintaining similarity of those factors ensures that the three other drivers are not unduly influenced by factors not researched.

What	Spatial projects
Start project	Post-2012
By whom	People from the village Minimal involvement organizations outside neighbourhood
Where	Village of neighbourhood population size between 5.000 and 10.000
How	By inhabitants from the village

Figure 10: parameters case selection (source: author)

Spatiality is an important characteristic because this thesis is about a land use planning question. The focus is on local projects because when people take initiative it is often in their own village or neighbourhood on a small scale (Vermeij & Gieling, 2016), however this study does not exclude inhabitants who live outside the village, because often neighbourhood projects like this transcend neighbourhood boundaries. The cases are selected looking at size of the village because size matters looking at how, and how much, inhabitants work together.

The initiatives were selected with help of several data bases of local initiatives in Groningen and the parameters set in figure 8. The project in the affected area is selected via the information website of the ‘NAM leefbaarheids fonds’ (NAM Quality of life fund)⁴, which gives subsidies for projects in the earthquake area aimed to improve the ‘quality of life. It was decided the NAM would subsidy quality of life projects to compensate for the negative effect on the lives of the Groningen people of the gas exploitation. Their website displays example projects which are already executed with help of the fund. Using this website to select a project also ensured the earthquake problems played a role in the village the project is set in, because that is one of the requirements for the subsidy. Also only non-profit public organisations can apply for the subsidy. The project for the non-affected area is selected with help of the database the ‘Ideeenbank Groningen’ (Ideas centre Groningen)⁵ and the inspiration map of the non-profit organization ‘Groninger Dorpen (Groningen villages)’⁶. To make sure the non-affected case is not affected by earthquakes the map below is used (figure 11). The yellow line is the division between affected area or not. However, it has to be noted that the line is drawn for research purposes, because there is no consensus where the affected area stops. The line is drawn based on the fact that the area to the right of the line is most affected with the severest earthquakes and the highest intensity. The selected projects are a play- and meeting garden ‘De Carrousel’ in Bedum and a neighbourhood garden in Zuidhorn, which are further explained below.

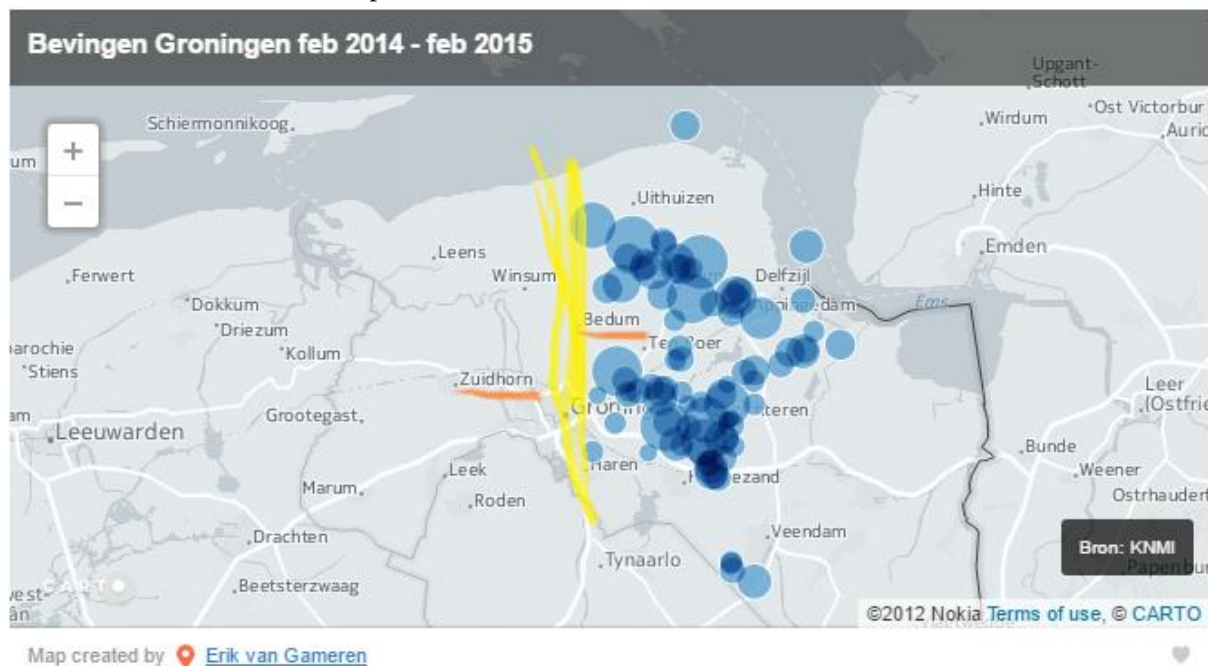


Figure 11: Division earthquake area and map cases (van Gameren, 2015, edited by author)

3.1.1: Zuidhorn

Zuidhorn is a village of 7.005 inhabitants (1 January 2016) 18.923 in the whole municipality (CBS May 2017). In 2014 two people started with the initiative of neighbourhood gardens. The first step was a

⁴ <http://www.nam.nl/nam-en-de-samenleving/groningen-gasveld-specifieke-regelingen/leefbaarheid-en-duurzaamheidsprogramma.html>⁵ <http://www.ideeenbankgroningen.nl/projecten>⁶

<http://groningerdorpen.nl/inspiratiekaart>⁷ Oa in de beleidsnotie: Volkstuinen en buurt(moes)tuinen op 9 juni 2015.

⁵ <http://www.ideeenbankgroningen.nl/projecten>⁶ <http://groningerdorpen.nl/inspiratiekaart>⁷ Oa in de beleidsnotie: Volkstuinen en buurt(moes)tuinen op 9 juni 2015.

⁶ <http://groningerdorpen.nl/inspiratiekaart>⁷ Oa in de beleidsnotie: Volkstuinen en buurt(moes)tuinen op 9 juni 2015.

survey to see how many people would be interested in a project like that, after which the project was started (Geersing, 2015). The goal of the project was to do something with neglected pieces of greenery which are officially under municipalities' care. Another reason was to find a way to bring the people of the village together in a healthy way. ("Duo werkt aan goed voorstel buurtmoestuinen in Zuidhorn," 2014).

With the neighbourhood garden the municipality lends the pieces of greenery to the neighbourhood people (Ideeënbank, n.d.). The benefit the municipality has with this arrangement is less maintenance costs and a more active neighbourhood. The benefit for the neighbourhoods is a greener neighbourhood, fresh fruits and vegetables and a place to meet ("Duo werkt aan goed voorstel buurtmoestuinen in Zuidhorn," 2014). The project was started by two people from Zuidhorn, but soon other inhabitants joined in (Geersing, 2015). In the meantime the project is extended to other neighbourhoods in Zuidhorn as well ("Meer verzoeken om moestuin in te richten op gemeentegroen," 2015). Because of the success of the first project, and requests from other people in Zuidhorn to also have a neighbourhood garden, the municipality is prepared to give more pieces of greenery to other neighbourhood inhabitants ("Meer verzoeken om moestuin in te richten op gemeentegroen," 2015)⁷. The common gardens are also a good example of civilians taking the quality of life in their own hands ("Duo werkt aan goed voorstel buurtmoestuinen in Zuidhorn," 2014).). The first garden is finished in 2015, and started in 2014.

3.1.2: Bedum

Bedum is a village of 8.565 inhabitants (2013), 10471 in the whole municipality (CBS, May 2017). The local project in Bedum is a playground- and meeting centre for the neighbourhood. The initiative of the meeting garden started in 2013 when neighbourhood inhabitants finally had enough that the location was laying fallow. They sent out a questionnaire to see if the neighbourhood would support the project on the fallow laying land. The result of the questionnaire was a project group of 15 people. (Kansrijk Groningen, n.d.). The goal of the project was to make the playground accessible for everyone living in the neighbourhood, the old and the young, so it could bring the neighbourhood together. The neighbourhood is mixed in terms of income level and age, because there is rental, houses for sale, apartments for older people and houses for people with disabilities. Because of this heterogeneous composition of the neighbourhood the project had an extra focus on brining the people together.

The plan is executed with a NAM subsidy, as mentioned before (NAM leefbaarheid-en-duurzaamheidsprogramma). This meant a large organizational effort from the board, and especially from the initiator, because a playground is not cheap. Because of the size of the project it took about 4 - 6 year from the initial idea to the realization of the project (6BedumVB). This meant that realization of the playground asked for a large effort to be made from the people involved, and might explain the enthusiasm and emotions involved with the project the participants showed. The garden is opened in September 2016 (Noordhuis, 2016). With the plans of the garden the wishes of the neighbourhood people are taken into account as much as possible. For example the garden is accessible for wheelchairs, there is playground equipment and benches to rest (Kansrijk Groningen, n.d.). Considering all these wishes makes this a project for the whole neighbourhood. The board of the play – and meeting place has responsibility for maintenance and such from the municipality (Kansrijk Groningen, n.d.).

3.2: The method: Q-methodology

⁷ Oa in de beleidsnotie: Volkstuinen en buurt(moes)tuinen op 9 juni 2015.

This chapter starts with a general explanation of Q-methodology and the positive and negative aspects of its use. After that, the method is elaborated by the steps taken to prepare, execute and analyse results of the fieldwork. Q-methodology is a combination of qualitative and quantitative research (Eden, Donaldson, & Walker, 2005). By sorting a list of statements sorted by the participant in order of their personal importance the participant's subjectivities are identified. Subjectivities are the reasons, motivations or opinions people have on a subject. This can be either conscious or subconscious, and is formed by sociocultural context (Stephenson, 1978 in Eden et al., 2005). This makes Q-methodology a suitable method to identify reasons behind actions of people they might not even be aware of themselves. Also this makes Q-methodology suitable to investigate sensitive subjects, because it investigates factors without imposing 'predefined categories' which allows for probing problem areas (Cuppen, Bosch-Rekvelde, Pikaar, & Mehos, 2015). This means that opinions regarding sensitive situations can be identified without directly asking about them. This is suitable in the Groningen case because the earthquakes and its effects are a sensitive issue, and not directly asking whether the earthquakes had an effect on motivation to participate might get a more positive answer. Also people might not always be aware of all the reasons they participate in local projects themselves. Another useful aspect of Q-methodology is that it enables to identify opinions shared among the participants, called factors. This means that the method identifies correlation between people's motivation to participate (Liu, Li, Lu, & Han, 2013). The last important aspect of Q-methodology that makes it a fitting method is the emphasis it puts on the participants. The method gives a lot of authority to the participants, because they sort the statements as they see fit. Also people generally like to participate, because it gives the participant new insights into the topic as well (Eden et al., 2005, p. p.17). For this thesis it is assumed people like to participate as well because people are proud of the local projects they achieved in general. Because of this the participants also get the opportunity to see the results and to give feedback on the results.

The big difference between Q-methodology, and more traditional research tools such as interviews or questionnaire's is that the point of view, subjectivities, between participants is compared instead of rated (Paige & Morin, 2016). That is done by comparing overlap between individual's sorts and finding correlations. In that way Q-methodology gives insight into the variety of motivations present in a representative group of participants, and not into the extent to which those motivations are present in the group (Cuppen et al., 2015). This allows the research to look into the question whether the earthquake problems are one of the emerging motivations. Because in Q-methodology only a small number of participants is used, around 20 in this study, the results are not representative for the larger population, but indicative (Lor, 2011).

3.3: Steps Q-methodology

Q-methodology consists of several steps to follow. The steps in this thesis are based on a combination of (Cuppen et al., 2015; Eden et al., 2005; Uittenbroek, Janssen-Jansen, Spit, & Runhaar, 2014). The place of every step in the thesis is laid down in figure 12. Step one, the literature study, is already discussed in chapter 2; step two talks about the selection of the statements for the research, called the Q-set, in chapter 3.3.1; step three regards the selection of participants from the cases, the P-sort, in chapter 3.3.2; step four is preparation of the fieldwork with the participants, named the Q-sort, in chapter 3.3.3; step five is the data analysis which is explained in chapter 3.3.4 and executed in chapter 5, the data analysis chapter. Step six, the interpretation of data and drafting of the factors is chapter 4, the analysis and result chapter.

	Steps Q-methodology	actions	chapter
Step 1	literature study	Formulate the drivers	2
step 2	Q-set	Write the statements	3.3.1
step 3	P-sort	Select participants	3.3.2
step 4	Q-sort	Execute the fieldwork	3.3.3
step 5	data analysis	Formulate factors	4
step 6	factor interpretation	Analyse factors	4

Figure 12: Steps Q-methodology (source: author)

3.3.1: Step 2: Writing the Q-set, the statements

From driver, to motivation, to statement.

Q-methodology identifies those motivations with a set of statements displaying a wide range of opinions. This set of statements is called the Q-set. The statements are based on the ‘concourse’, which is the flow of communicability surrounding the topic (Brown, 1993). In his thesis the concourse consists of the different motivations people have to participate in local projects, visualized in the conceptual framework (chapter 2.4), and defined in the theory as the four drivers (chapter 2.3). Each of the four drivers is subdivided in four topic, based on literature of the core principles (Foster-Fishman et al., 2001) and various other driver dependent sources which are used to draft the statements. It is useful to sort the data in categories to make sure a wide range of topics of interest to the research are covered in the statements (Herrington & Coogan, 2011), therefore the figures used in the theoretical framework were used when the statements were drafted. There is still some overlap between the drivers and topics, but according to Stephenson is content of the drivers more important than the categorization (Stephenson, 1953 in McKeown & Thomas, 2013). Overlap is prevented as much as possible when the statements were drafted. Categorization is also a ‘logical construct’ used by the researched to guide the process of formulating a representative Q-set (Exel & Graaf, 2005, p. 5). Finally meaning is given to the Q-set by the participants by sorting them, and not by the researcher with constructing the Q-set (Brown, 1993).

The Q-set consists of 48 statements: a Q-set consisting of between 40 and 80 statements is considered sufficient (Watts & Stenner, 2005). This means that each driver corresponds with 12 statements and each topic with 3. It is good to have several statements to ask about a topic because that allows to ask about a topic in several way, installing a control for diverse interpretation of statements. Also a Q-set should not consist of too many subjects to gather clear results. An interview after the sort will identify any missing important topics.

Formulating the statements can be done inductively, based on opinions, or deductively, based on theory (Paige & Morin, 2016, p. 101). In this thesis a start is made with the deductive method by reading about the topic and simultaneously making a long list of potential statements. This approach simultaneously helped to define the drivers, because the statements and theoretical framework had input into each other: drafting statements improved the theory, and the theory improved the statements. When the theoretical framework was finished the visualizations of the drivers were the guide to refine and discard statements until the final set of 48. The use of diagrams is suggested by Paige and Morris (2016) to ensure completeness and structure of the statements. Guidelines collected from several articles by Paige & Morin are used to re-write the statements to make them concise and fit for the fieldwork (Paige & Morin, 2016, p. 103):

1. Avoid statements that are too difficult to understand, opposites from others, or prevent one statement from standing out visually (Stephenson, 1953, p. 76).
2. Avoid statements with two components (Watts & Stenner, 2012), such as 'a grand opening of the project motivates me to participate, but only when someone famous attends'.
3. Avoid double negative statements, such as I do not feel demotivated because...
4. Avoid statements with two opinions, because those are confusing (Watts & Stenner, 2012).
5. Include statements with a wide range of emotions, so participants feel as if they could articulate their opinion to their satisfaction (Watts & Stenner, 2012).
6. Edit statements to be clear and prevent ambiguity in phrasing (Akhtar-Danesh, Bauman, & Cordingley, 2008).
7. Avoid correcting illogical components of a statement (Brown, 1980).

The researcher adds the requirement that all statements should be written in the present tense. Also it is chosen to use a pre-set sentence which the statements will complete to limit text on the cards, and to allow consistent formulation of the statements easily. The pre-set sentence is: 'I participated in a local project because ...'⁸. The test rounds and the fieldwork itself are executed in Dutch, because the case projects are Dutch. The final Q-set is translated for this report. Before finalizing the statements several test rounds were held with peers and non-peers to test for clarity and comprehensiveness of the statements.

First version Q-set

The first draft is compiled together with the theoretical framework whenever inspiration for a statement struck. When the theoretical framework was finished those statements were ordered into the drivers. After that gaps in the discourse of the statements were immediately visible and statements were added to topics which missed statements to ensure an even spread of topics in the final Q-set. This led to more than 48 statements to be able to test different phrasings of topics with the test group. The peer-reviewers were asked to look at the following points when reviewing the statements: clarity, one idea per statement, grammatically correctness, ease to understand and whether the statements were not multiple interpretable (Paige & Morin, 2016, p. 103).

1st test with scientific peers, with no knowledge of the topic or cases

The statements were tested with a group of friends who are scientifically educated, but not in the field of this study. This helped to assess scientific merit of the statements, but also to check the use of excessive terminology. The subject was asked to read the instructions to check if those are clear. After that the tester is asked to shift through the statements, which are in a randomized order, to assess if the statements seem clear and if there are any they immediately feel they would be unable to sort and why. After that they were asked to sort the statements in the four drivers to check if they are distinctive and clear enough. This had very interesting results, because statements from each driver were grouped

⁸ Dutch: Ik doe mee aan een lokaal project omdat...⁹ <http://schmolck.userweb.mwn.de/qmethod/>¹⁰ <http://schmolck.userweb.mwn.de/qmethod/> ¹¹ It is considered to use factor 3, with an Eigenvalue of 0.88, and factor 4, with an eigenvalue of 0.82, in this study to have more factors. However, when using the following equation to determine the explanatory powers of the factors for variance in the study, their merits were not significant: $V = 100 (EV/n)$. For factor 3: $V = 100 * (0.88 / 10) = 8.8 \%$; for factor 4: $V = 100 * (0.82/10) = 8.2\%$, where V = variance accounted for with the Eigenvalue. However, when looking at the sorts, each explains on its own 10% of the variance of the study, because there are 10 sorts in total. Concluding a single sort has more explanatory merit than the two eigenvalues, which are therefore not relevant for further analysis. As an illustration factor 1 explains, with eigenvalue 4.54, explains 45,4 % of the data ($V = 100 * (4.54 / 10)$), and factor 2 explains 13.1 % ($V = 100 * (1.31/10)$). (Watts & Stenner, 2005, p. 87)

together. Sometimes up to 7 statements were deemed similar. There were also statements which fitted with no other statements. This information was used to re-write the statements and to define the topics and the drivers more precise. After these comments the theory was concretized and re-written to contain less sub-topics, because it turned out to be better to have fewer sub-topics, each represented by multiple statements. In this way factors of motivation are easier to distinguish. The terminology pointed out as dubious was changed.

2n test with another scientific peer, without knowledge of the topic or cases

The second test with the altered Q-set was with a different peer who is scientifically educated, but not in this field of study. This test also had more than 48 statements. An interesting component of this test was his negative position against the government and the effect local projects can have. This attitude towards local projects made clear that it is a good decision to only select participants who have an affinity with local projects. The other conclusion of this test was more overlapping statements and inaccuracy of phrasing. This is also altered after the test.

Final Q-set

To finalize the Q-set the list of 48 statements was sent to another scientific peer and to someone without an academic background. With their suggestion the final alterations were made and grammar mistakes corrected. Below the final statements are sorted by driver. The numbering is random, and the same which is used during the fieldwork and the analysis. See for the final Dutch Q-set appendix A.

I participated in a local project because ...

Driver 1: external threats

- 4. ... actions of big companies make it necessary to take care of the facilities in my neighbourhood ourselves
- 5. ... in that way my neighbourhood remains an attractive place to live, despite problems caused by big companies
- 12. ... I want to work against big companies' only interested in profit
- 20. ... through the actions of big companies I lost faith in organizations outside my neighbourhood
- 25. ... it is a way to feel at home in my neighbourhood, despite the influence of big companies
- 30. ... it is better to search for a local solution, for problems caused by big companies
- 34. ... we can not watch defensively as neighbourhood towards actions of big companies.
- 42. ... I wanted to do something because of damage to my house
- 43. ... projects like this give me a sense of security, despite the influence of big companies
- 44. ... we as neighbourhood should cope independent with problems caused by big companies
- 45. ... of damage caused by big companies, it is necessary to do work in the neighbourhood
- 47. ... of the actions of big companies I want to do something in the neighbourhood

Driver 2: social aspects

- 1. ... in my neighbourhood everybody participates to make the project a success
- 8. ... I feel it as my responsibility to do something for my neighbourhood
- 18. ... it solves existing social problems in the neighbourhood
- 19. ... in our neighbourhood we know each other's capacities
- 23. ... I was asked to participate by a neighbour
- 26. ... it yields a facility we need in our neighbourhood
- 28. ... it brings me and my neighbours closer to each other
- 29. ... the project makes the neighbourhood a more attractive place to live
- 37. ... it is normal in my neighbourhood to participate
- 38. ... the project increases quality of life in the neighbourhood
- 41. ... I enjoy working with my neighbours
- 48. ... the project contributes to a solution for existing problems in the neighbourhood

Driver 3: organizational aspects

- 2. ... the plan was supported by organisations from outside the village
- 3. ... there is already experience in the neighbourhood through previous projects
- 10. ... there are already a lot of people participating to make the project a success
- 13. ... the plan is supported by the municipality
- 21. ... there was already an enthusiastic organisation in the neighbourhood working on the project
- 22. ... there is subsidy for the project
- 27. ... there are already good ideas how to make the project a success.
- 31. ... there is a clear end goal for the project
- 32. ... I have confidence in the other participants
- 33. ... the municipality has given permission for the execution of the project
- 36. ... there is already a role for me within the project
- 40. ... all participants are valued equally

Driver 4: personal aspects

- 6. ... it is good for my personal development
- 7. ... I attach personal value to the purpose of the project
- 9. ... I want to have a positive contribution to my neighbourhood
- 11. ... I felt the need to contribute to my neighbourhood
- 14. ... I have experience needed for projects like this
- 15. ... participating helps me to become accepted in my neighbourhood
- 16. ... I believe the project improves my living comfort in the neighbourhood
- 17. ... I have knowledge needed to execute the project
- 24. ... I am interested in local projects
- 35. ... I gain experience about the organisation of local projects
- 39. ... it gives me appreciation from my neighbours
- 46. ... I am good at organizing

3.3.2: Step 3: Selection of the P-sort, the participants

The participants of Q-methodology are called the P-sort. The P-sort is chosen on the ground of contributing a different opinion to the study (Cuppen et al., 2015; Liu et al., 2013; Tuler, Webler, & Finson, 2005). Also likeness of having an opinion about the researched topic is a reason to select participants, therefore for this study participants are selected from the two case study initiatives. Another reason to select participants from local projects is ease of finding them. Instead of finding twenty people, finding two cases was sufficient. Most local projects have between 10 – 15 participants, which is the amount of participants I am looking for per case, especially because there are always some people unwilling to participate. To ensure an even spread of characteristics between participants a ‘participation matrix’ is put in the fieldwork protocol below. This is to prevent, for example, that all participants of one project are female, and all male in the other project. Initially, no distinction will be made between characteristics of the participants when selecting participants, but if after several Q-sorts it turns out characteristics are becoming too different, stricter selection criteria will be implemented. To enable this the fieldwork is alternated between the two cases. Additionally no distinction is made of where the people live, because neighbourhood often have no clear boundaries, and the influence transcends neighbourhood or village boundaries.

For the question how to contact participants from the cases, four questions regarding sampling are considered: how easily can access be gained to the sampling frame; what is the sampling strategy; is the sampling strategy justifiable and what are ethical considerations when contacting people (Bryman, 2004, p. 527). Access to the sampling frame is gained through key individuals in the form of the board or prime initiators of the initiatives. Those people will function as gatekeeper to the other participants. Through the gatekeepers other people are contacted with the snowballing technique. Snowballing does

not provide a random sample (Bryman, 2004), but that is also not a requirement in Q-methodology. Using snowballing as sampling strategy allows to select participants based on whether they contribute a different view to the study or not, which ensures a comprehensive and diverse P-sort (Eden et al., 2005). For the ethical considerations it is important to be upfront about the probable impact and goal of the thesis, without revealing the research question. Also the participants are anonymized and are given the option to view the end results.

Finding the final participants

It turned out to be difficult to gain participation for the Zuidhorn case. One reason for this is that initially few, and mostly outdated contact details of the case and the people involved with it were found. Also it turned out that the original initiators were not involved anymore. However, through the outdated contact details, the current board was reached. The person I reached first was a shop owner and he was unable to participate because he was too busy. He directed me to another man he would call for me first, but he forgot. I called him myself and I could not gain the trust of the man, and he did not want to meet before he talked with his fellow board members. He requested an explanation e-mail about the research, the aims, and what I wanted from the potential participants, which was sent. Willingness to explain the research to the board in person was also indicated by the researcher. He did not react enthusiastic to that. There was the added difficulty of the upcoming holidays, which meant that board members were away and therefore could not discuss whether they wanted to participate or not among themselves. When we had contact via e-mail again he told me he talked with the board and he had asked two to three families who participate with the projects to send me a brief explanation of why they participate with the project. I answered with my thanks, but also told him I needed to do the sorts to be able to draw conclusions from my research. In that e-mail Zuidhorn's potential benefits of the research was also explained. After this I have not heard from anyone of the Zuidhorn case again. This could be because they were all on holiday, something they had warned me about before. It was decided to not further pursue the Zuidhorn case because the time allocated for the fieldwork had passed, and there were sufficient results from the Bedum case for analysis. It is considered to find an alternative case for Zuidhorn, but it turned out there were none available with the current case parameters.

For the Bedum case, contact was gained through the chair person and initiator of the project. She acted as the gatekeeper for the other participants during the research and gave me contact details of the other participants. Upon my directions the gatekeeper paid attention to select a diverse mix of people. In this way snowballing was done through her. Via her approval a board meeting was attended where the research could be explained and what I wanted from the participants. This was a good move, because that made the whole board interested in the project, especially because I made clear the benefits they could have from the research. Knowing what people motivates to participate can help to focus on those things when addressing potential volunteers. Communication can be key to improve the chances of a local project when all people involved agree on the importance of the goal and the path to take to implement it (Tuler et al., 2005). Therefore it was important in this research to share results with the participants. In this case it helped that one person had been involved from the start of the project, because she was invested in the project and passionate about it and happy to talk to someone about it. The other participants of the research also seemed very proud of the project and seemed to see it as an achievement for Bedum as a whole, and not only for their neighbourhood.

Of all the contacted participants 10 out of 15 were willing to participate. Most participants were between 30 and 60 years old. It was attempted to contact more people of 60+, but they were not willing to participate. Seven out of ten participants are female. This can be explained because a large part of the

project was aimed towards children, which almost all of the females had. Also all the children were around the same age, which can mean that the mothers already knew each other, and therefore it is logical they also worked together on this project. Because there are many different elements to the realization of a project as the one executed in Bedum, many different people contributed. This is visible in the different functions participants in the fieldwork had: there were board members, representatives of different organizations and volunteers. This is a nice cross section of the motivation to participate of different people in a project. Other, less relevant, characteristics of the participants can be found in appendix F. Looking back at the case selection parameters for the cases, as laid down in chapter 3.1, it is relevant to note that the involved participants all lived in the neighbourhood when they started working on the project. The NAM played as outside organization a big role in the funding of the project, but had no other contribution. The role of the government was minimal. There was some funding and they gave permission for the project.

3.3.3: Step 4: executing the Q-sort, the sorting

The sorting of the statements by the participants is called the Q-sort. The statements are given to the participants shuffled to allow the statements to be randomized in a different order every Q-sort. This is done, because it turns out that statements more at the back of the sort are more likely to be sorted in the middle or in a less varied ordering (Serfass & Sherman, 2013). Effects of this on the analyses are mitigated by presenting the statements in a different order each sort. There is also the potential for order variance, which means that participants are most likely to sort the places with least options first (Serfass & Sherman, 2013). To deal with that it is suggested to the participants to first read through all the statements and maybe pre-sort them. Also they are allowed to change the place of statements until they are satisfied. The sort will take on average 30 to 60 minutes for 48 statements (Akhtar-Danest et al., 2008 in Paige & Morin, 2016, p. 104).

Participants sort the statements into a nominal distribution (Figure 13). This is done to ‘force’ respondents to make a choice between the statements valuing the importance of one statement comparing to the others (Uittenbroek et al., 2014).. The nominal distribution is altered depending on the kind of research (Serfass & Sherman, 2013). In this thesis it is chosen to have two spaces in the externalities because it is expected people have strong emotions regarding the topic and are therefore likely to have more statements they find most or least important. Having two open spaces in the externalities can also help to prevent order variance (Serfass & Sherman, 2013).

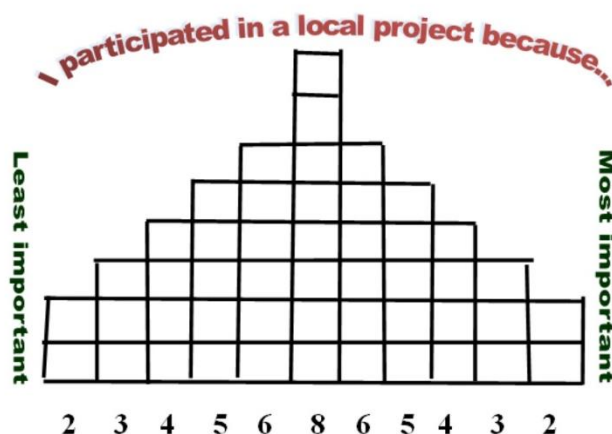


Figure 13: Nominal distribution (source: author)

To ensure good scientific method and that every Q-sort is executed similar a protocol is made. This is important because the results of Q-methodology are most trustworthy when there is little variance within the several performances. Another reason for a protocol is that it allows for replicability of the method in other local project cases. Lastly a protocol allows to reflect on the results. There is also an instruction letter for the participant explaining the research and the method and their role in the research. The instruction letter is in Dutch and can be found in Appendix B.

The protocol:

Who: Participants in either the local initiative in Zuidhorn or Bedum. Use appropriate instruction letter for the case in question.

Where: The participant's home because they have to feel at easy and to feel comfortable to take time sorting. The process will take in total about 30-60 minutes and it is important that the participant can concentrate without being distracted or feeling rushed. When not in their home the researcher provides refreshments to settle a good mood.

When: In June. If possible multiple sorts in one day to save traveling time and cost, but not more than two.

How: The q-sort and interview are recorded and transcribed word for word, without noting the pauses and hesitations. The transcripts are coded for analysis purposes. The researcher makes a note of any noteworthy physical reactions to questions or statements.

Goal: Execute Q-sort with the participant to gain insight into their personal motivation to participate in local projects. A short interview after the Q-sort to identify problems in the Q-sort and to assess what the participant's own view is of the influence of the earthquake problems or other major motivations to participate.

Materials needed: Nominal distribution; statements cards; recording device; laptop or notepad to take notes during the sort and interview.

Introduction statement towards the participant

The participants are selected because they have been involved in a local project, however make clear that this research is not about that project specifically, but also about their motivation to participate in possible future projects. This research aims to identify people's general motivation to get participated in a local project. Before the Q-sort starts fill in the participation matrix together with the participant. This is only meant to check diversity between participants and will not endanger anonymity. Use separate matrices for participants from separate cases.

	Age	Prior experience	Gender	Education	Work	Time Residency	Function project
participant 1							
participant 2							
participant 3							
etc.							

Figure 14: Participation matrix (source: author)

Participants get a number for analysis purposes and their identity will only be known to the researcher. It might be necessary to ask some participant's additional question when the results are analysed to better interpret the results. If any of the participants are open to that their contact details are noted. Results of the additional questioning are also processed anonymous. If any of the participants wants the results of the study that is possible.

Start Q-sort

Hand out the instruction letter and introduce yourself and the research as explained above. Also put down the nominal distribution. Ask if the participant has questions about the method before handing out the statements. Questions regarding content of the research itself should only be answered after the fieldwork is finished, however, note down which questions were asked about which statement. Questions clarifying what the participant is supposed to do are allowed. Especially the main research question of the thesis should not be revealed prior to the research. The focus of the research will become clear in the interview phase for the earthquake group because of the specific questions. At the end of the sort the participants is asked whether they are sure of the distribution before a picture is made of the sort. After the interview the numbers of the statements are also written down as an extra precaution.

Interview after the sort

An interview is taken after the Q-sort where the participant is asked to answer some additional questions. Some of those questions are about the Q-sort and help to interpret the result. Some questions will be about other important motivations for local project people could have according to the participant. In the earthquake area group it will be asked how they interpret the effect of earthquake problems. This interview is held in a semi-structured way. In that way the interview has the feel of a conversation and participants can talk about sensitive issues more freely, such as the earthquakes.

Interview questions

The Dutch versions of the questions, used for the fieldwork, can be found in Appendix C.

General questions:

- How did you experience sorting the statements?
- Did you miss subjects? If yes, which ones?
- How would you personally explain your motivation to participate in local projects?
- How would you explain the motivation of the other participants?

External threat related questions:

- Are there new reasons to participate in local projects the last years?
 - >Personal
 - > General
- To which extent influence the earthquake your personal motivation to participate in local projects?

3.3.4: Step 5: Analysis Q-sort and interviews

Q-methodology is a combination between quantitative and qualitative research (Eden et al., 2005). The analysis of the results is the quantitative part where the results of the individual Q-sorts are analysed with statistics. This is done with the PQmethod software by Schmolck, using factor analyses⁹. From the analysis often 4 to 5 factors of motivation to participate will emerge. Those factors represent correlating reasons to motivate of participants (Exel & Graaf, 2005). These factors are not necessarily the same as the initial drivers. That is because the drivers were the researchers interpretation of reasons to motivate and the factors are the participants interpretation, because the subject gives meaning to the statements by sorting them (Brown, 1993). In Q-methodology meaning is not only derived from the sorting of persons, but also from the participant's interpretation of the sort (Brown, 1993). Especially in this thesis, where the influence of earthquakes on motivation is researched without mentioning them, it is important to use the additional interviews to interpret the results. The factors that emerge from the analysis give answer to the main research question.

During the analysis factors of the study are rotated. This can either be done in an objective, based on statistical principles, or in a theoretical manner, based on preconceived ideas of the study or prior knowledge (Exel & Graaf, 2005, p. 9). In this thesis the objective way is used because this allows to see if the assumed connection in the proposition of this thesis materializes with the data gathered.

3.4: Validity, reliability, objectivity and ethics

In qualitative research, the main validity is depended on the interpretation of the data by the researcher (Boeije, 2009, p. 276). In this study this is partly changed by using Q-methodology, which allows the participants to interpret the data (Brown, 1993). However, because the Q-sort is limited, results of the Q-sort are only indicative for a populations, because it is difficult to extrapolate the result to the whole province. With such a small sample it is difficult to say if results are because of the variable under investigation, the earthquakes, or whether some other factors influences the results (Bryman, 2004, p. 54). The potential of this is decreased with the use of case parameters to allow cases to be as similar as possible, and with the interviews after the sort to interpret the results. Another way to validate the interpretation is keeping a journal reflecting on the research and theoretical and methodological choices made during the fieldwork (Silverman, 2015). Journaling allows the researcher to look back on the research, and to assess certain choices made, and the effect of those choices on the results. This is especially important in the fieldwork phase, because often methods are changed on the spot to fit with the field, which is a common part of the unexpectedness of qualitative social research. Another research heuristic that is used is diagramming to identify connections between the topics and results (Silverman, 2015). The biggest obstacle of this thesis is to ensure objectivity. This because the researcher has a personal connection to the topic and the province of Groningen. To prevent subjectivity the researcher is open about her background and discusses the effect of her own background on the results in the discussion and reflection together with the benefits and limitations this gave to the research.

⁹ <http://schmolck.userweb.mwn.de/qmethod/>¹⁰ <http://schmolck.userweb.mwn.de/qmethod/>¹¹ It is considered to use factor 3, with an Eigenvalue of 0.88, and factor 4, with an eigenvalue of 0.82, in this study to have more factors. However, when using the following equation to determine the explanatory powers of the factors for variance in the study, their merits were not significant: $V = 100 (EV/n)$. For factor 3: $V = 100 * (0.88 / 10) = 8.8 \%$; for factor 4: $V = 100 * (0.82/10) = 8.2\%$, where V = variance accounted for with the Eigenvalue. However, when looking at the sorts, each explains on its own 10% of the variance of the study, because there are 10 sorts in total. Concluding a single sort has more explanatory merit than the two eigenvalues, which are therefore not relevant for further analysis. As an illustration factor 1 explains, with eigenvalue 4.54, explains 45,4 % of the data ($V = 100 * (4.54 / 10)$), and factor 2 explains 13.1 % ($V = 100 * (1.31/10)$). (Watts & Stenner, 2005, p. 87)

4. Analysis and results

Because the amount of sorts gathered for analysis is lower than anticipated, the number of factors emerging from the analysis will be lower than the average of four or five. In total there are 10 sorts from the affected case to analyse. Ten sorts is a relative low N for analysis, but not uncommon. Q-methodology is possible with very few participants, even one (Eden et al., 2005). The research questions are altered to reflect the change in available data. Sub-questions three and four and compiled in one question:

To which extent are the earthquakes in Groningen an important motivation for people to participate in local projects, compared to other motivations to participate?

For this research question the external threat driver is compared with the other three drivers. Sub-question five is replaced, because there is no comparison of two cases anymore:

What is the influence of the earthquakes on motivation to participate in local projects?

This question focuses on the interview questions were participants were asked how they experience the influence of the earthquakes. Also the comparison is taken out of the main research question:

To which extent are the earthquakes in Groningen an important motivation for people to participate in local projects in the affected area?

In this chapter first the Q-sorts are analysed with the PQ program by Schmolck¹⁰. This is free software designed for Q analysis. After that the results are interpreted with the interview and sort transcriptions.

4.1: From Q-sorts to factors

The function of the PQ program is to find correlations between the individual sorts. Correlations are matching points of view between the individual sorts, which are uncorrelated with the other sorts (Exel & Graaf, 2005, p. 9). The program expresses those correlations in factors signifying shared motivations to participate among the participants. Correlation is based on statements which are sorted in a similar place by multiple participants. This leads to an 'ideal sort', which shows the 'average' place of each statement every factor has, when all the significant sorts of that factor are put together. The ideal sort is used after the analysis to assess shared motivations to participate between all participants of the fieldwork. To get to the ideal sort analysis of the individual sorts is done.

The analysis is done objectively, based on statistical principles instead of theoretical principles, based on a pre-conceived idea (Exel & Graaf, 2005, p. 9). Therefore the distributions of the statements in the

¹⁰ <http://schmolck.userweb.mwn.de/qmethod/> ¹¹ It is considered to use factor 3, with an Eigenvalue of 0.88, and factor 4, with an eigenvalue of 0.82, in this study to have more factors. However, when using the following equation to determine the explanatory powers of the factors for variance in the study, their merits were not significant: $V = 100 (EV/n)$. For factor 3: $V = 100 * (0.88 / 10) = 8.8 \%$; for factor 4: $V = 100 * (0.82/10) = 8.2\%$, where V = variance accounted for with the Eigenvalue. However, when looking at the sorts, each explains on its own 10% of the variance of the study, because there are 10 sorts in total. Concluding a single sort has more explanatory merit than the two eigenvalues, which are therefore not relevant for further analysis. As an illustration factor 1 explains, with eigenvalue 4.54, explains 45,4 % of the data ($V = 100 * (4.54 / 10)$), and factor 2 explains 13.1 % ($V = 100 * (1.31/10)$). (Watts & Stenner, 2005, p. 87)

drivers plays no role in the analysis. This is decided to be able to compare the important motivations as outcome of the sorts in the form of the factors, with the motivation based on theory in the form of the drivers. The question whether the factors will match with the drivers, will help to answer the research question. In Q-methodology the drivers do not have to match with the factors, because the drivers are the researcher's assumption of what happens in the field, and the factors the participants' interpretation of what happens. (Exel & Graaf, 2005).

To determine the significant factors the eigenvalues is determined with a principal factor analysis (PCA). PCA is used because it formulates a mathematically correct solution (Watts & Stenner, 2005), and is relatively straight forward and gives good results. As is visible in the table (figure 15) there are two factors with a value above 1. The convention is that factors with eigenvalues >1 are significant (Raje, 2007)¹¹. This means that there will be two factors emerging from the analysis. The table also shows that in total 58% of the sorts can be explained with the factors. This means that between the remaining 42% of the statements there is no significant correlation between the individual sorts. The analysis is continued with the two factors which are highlighted in the table (figure 15).

factor	Eigenvalues	percentage	Cumulative percentage
1	4,53	45.35	45.35
2	1,31	13.12	58.47
3	0,88	8.85	67.32
4	0,83	8.30	75.61
5	0,65	6.49	82.10
6	0,55	5.51	87.61
7	0,44	4.40	92.01
8	0,33	3.28	95.29
9	0,28	2.82	98.11
10	0,19	1.89	100.00

Figure 15: Eigenvalues of the sort.

After this varimax rotation is used to determine which sorts loaded significantly with the two factors. Varimax is used because it identifies correlations based on mathematical considerations, which allows the sorts to speak for itself without input of the researcher (Watts & Stenner, 2005). In this way Q-methodology allows the participants to influence the interpretation of the data, because they performed the sorts used. Further on varimax rotation allows to look for factors without preconceived ideas, whereby manual rotation is suitable when there is a pre-conceived theory or idea of factors (Exel & Graaf, 2005). In this thesis the proposition is likely not to pan out because the earthquake statements were misunderstood, so it was decided to see which factors the analysis came up with in itself. In that way the results of the analysis allow to re-interpret the proposition. Lastly, varimax is simple and reliable (Watts & Stenner, 2005, p. 81).

¹¹ It is considered to use factor 3, with an Eigenvalue of 0.88, and factor 4, with an eigenvalue of 0.82, in this study to have more factors. However, when using the following equation to determine the explanatory powers of the factors for variance in the study, their merits were not significant: $V = 100 (EV/n)$. For factor 3: $V = 100 * (0.88 / 10) = 8.8 \%$; for factor 4: $V = 100 * (0.82/10) = 8.2\%$, where V = variance accounted for with the Eigenvalue. However, when looking at the sorts, each explains on its own 10% of the variance of the study, because there are 10 sorts in total. Concluding a single sort has more explanatory merit than the two eigenvalues, which are therefore not relevant for further analysis. As an illustration factor 1 explains, with eigenvalue 4.54, explains 45,4 % of the data ($V = 100 * (4.54 / 10)$), and factor 2 explains 13.1 % ($V = 100 * (1.31/10)$). (Watts & Stenner, 2005, p. 87)

Participant	Factor 1	Factor 2
1BedumVB	0,53	-0,36
2BedumVB	0,49	0,7
3BedumVo	0,84	0,21
4BedumVB	0,64	0,2
5BedumMV	0	0,81
6BedumVB	0,82	0,05
7BedumMB	0,68	-0,18
8BedumMA	0,66	0,09
9BedumVM	0,72	0,22
0BedumVM	0,76	0,3

Figure 16 factor loadings sorts with significant sorts highlighted per factor.

The table (figure 16) gives the factor loadings per sort. A factor loading indicated how similar an individuals' sort is to the ideal sort of a factor. To determine which score is high enough to say a participant 'loaded significantly' on a factor, which means that the factor explains the participants motivation to participate, an equation is used. The equation is $2.58 * (1/\sqrt{n})$, with a significance of $P < 0,01$ and N meaning number of statements (Watts & Stenner, 2005, p. 88). For this study a significant factor loading is equal, or higher than $2.58 * (1/\sqrt{45}) = 0.38$. Those sorts are highlighted in the table (figure 16). If more than two sorts are loaded significantly per factor, the factor is useful for interpretation (Raje, 2007). If only one participate loads significantly on a factor, it means the factor only explains motivation of one person, and thus does not indicates correlation between individual motivations. Also no participant loads significantly on both factors, which would mean a confounded sort and the need to discard that participant with current significance levels (Raje, 2007, p. 471). One participant, 1BedumVB, loaded significantly negative on factor 2. This indicated that her sort was opposed to the sort of the participants who scored positively significant, which is called a bipolar factor (Watts & Stenner, 2005, p. 88). This is also examined, because an opposing opinions about motivation can indicate an interesting disagreement.

With the analysis of the sorts finished, the next step in the analysis is to determine which statements belong to the factors. The program gives a table for each factor which shows the average distribution of the statements of all the participants who loaded significantly on the factor. This is the ideal sort talked about earlier. This ideal sort is used, together with the interview data to interpret the factors. It is chosen to focus the analysis on the highest and lowest values because those are the characterising statements (Exel & Graaf, 2005, p. 10). The complete tables can be found in appendix D.

4.2: Using the interviews

The interview data is analysed with the help of coding trees based on the sub-research questions. Interview data helps to understand the factors and functions as an illustration of the two factors (Exel & Graaf, 2005, p. 10). Also interviews can identify topics not represented in the statements. There first two coding trees are designed to answer sub-research questions with the fieldwork data. The third coding

tree is meant to reflect on the method and the fieldwork. This first coding tree helps to answer the following sub research question (figure 17):

To which extent are the earthquakes in Groningen an important motivation for people to participate in local projects, compared to other motivations to participate?

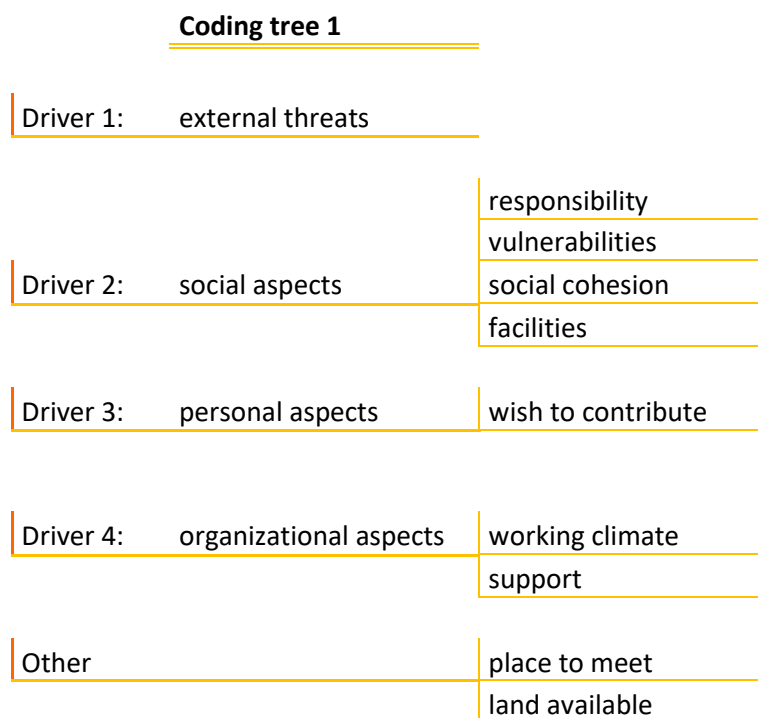
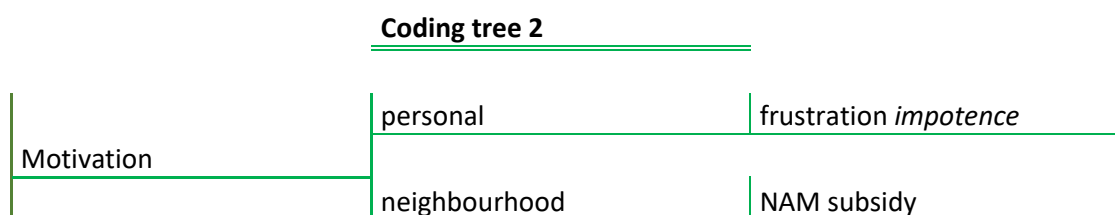


Figure 17: Coding tree 1 (source: author)

This coding trees are based on the drivers and the interview data. Not all aspects of the drivers has a place in the coding tree, because aspects were added while analysis the transcripts, and not all aspects turned out to be relevant. In this way the coding tree shows what were the most relevant ‘topics of motivation’ for the participants. In that way it became clear that the external threat motivation in the form of the earthquakes was not seen as relevant to motivation to participate according to the participants. An ‘other’ item was added for all the new motivations to participate which came up during the fieldwork. This coding tree turned out to be most valuable to explain the two factors. The second coding tree helps to answer the following sub research question (figure 18).

What is the influence of the earthquakes on motivation to participate in local projects?



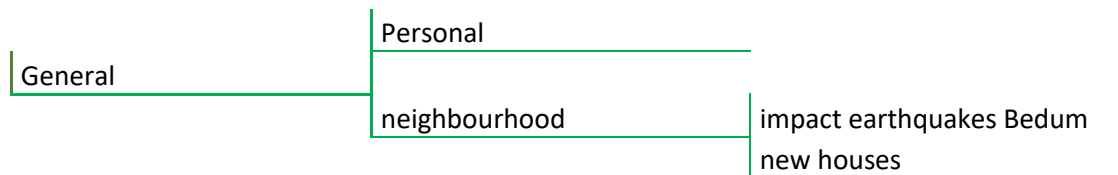


Figure 18: Coding tree 2 (source: author)

The information gained from this tree is discussed in a separate chapter after the factor explanation, because specific questions were asked to answer this research question to compare results with the factor outcomes. The question is answered with the interview data and this coding tree is based on the interview data as well. The third coding tree is designed to reflect on the fieldwork (figure 19). Questions were asked during the interview to get participant's opinion of the sorting. This tree will be used when writing the discussion and reflection.

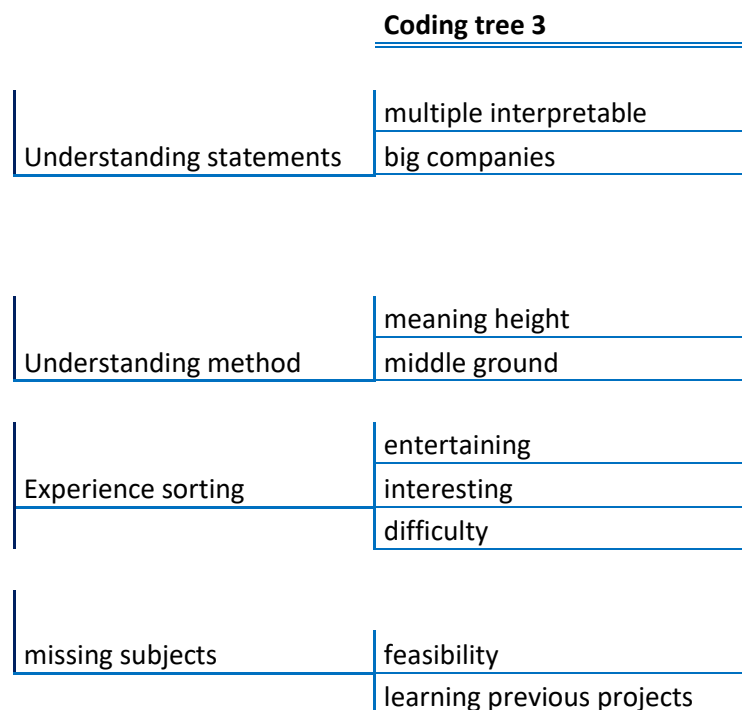


Figure 19: Coding tree 3 (source: author)

As is visible, the reflection goes into understanding of the statements and the method. Also it was asked how the sorting is experienced and whether there were any missing subjects.

4.3 Results: interpreting the factors and the effect of earthquakes

Eight people loaded significantly on factor 1, and two on factor 2. The statements from driver 1, external threats, are in factor 1 all sorted to the right as least important. Also in factor 2 most external threat statements are sorted to the right. It became clear during the sort that the assumption that the participants would immediately think about the NAM and the earthquake problems when they read the words 'problems' and 'big companies' in one sentence did not work. Only two participants (1bedumVB and 4BedumVoB) asked whether the NAM was meant with those statements. Instead most participants indicated they sorted the big company statements in the middle or to the right because big companies

were not really present in Bedum, and thus played no role in local projects. Some people explained the middle as neutral, so a place to sort statements deemed irrelevant, and others sorted the irrelevant statements to the right. In the analysis of the results the main focus is on the statements to the left, most relevant. In this way the dual interpretation of the middle, and the misinterpretation of the external threat statements have a minimal effect on the results. In the remainder of this chapter the two factors are explained and combined with results from the interviews. Also the earthquakes as motivation is assessed more fully.

4.3.1: Factor 1 Facilities in the neighbourhood

FACTOR 1: facilities in the neighbourhood			
No.	Statement	Value	Driver
9	... I want to have a positive contribution to my neighbourhood	5	4 PA
26	... it yields a facility we need in our neighbourhood	5	2 SA
16	... I believe the project improves my living comfort in the neighbourhood	4	4 PA
21	... there was already an enthusiastic organisation in the neighbourhood working on the project	4	3 OA
38	... the project increases quality of life in the neighbourhood	4	2 SA
7	... I attach personal value to the purpose of the project	3	4 PA
8	... I feel it as my responsibility to do something for my neighbourhood	3	2 SA
29	... the project makes the neighbourhood a more attractive place to live	3	2 SA
41	... I enjoy working with my neighbours	3	2 SA
	...		
12	... I want to work against big companies' only interested in profit	-5	1 ET
42	... I wanted to do something because of damage to my house	-5	1 ET
4	... actions of big companies make it necessary to take care of the facilities in my neighbourhood ourselves	-4	1 ET
34	... we can not watch defensively as neighbourhood towards actions of big companies.	-4	1 ET
47	... of the actions of big companies I want to do something in the neighbourhood	-4	1 ET
20	... through the actions of big companies I lost faith in organizations outside my neighbourhood	-3	1 ET
25	... it is a way to feel at home in my neighbourhood, despite the influence of big companies	-3	1 ET
43	... projects like this give me a sense of security, despite the influence of big companies	-3	1 ET
45	... of damage caused by big companies, it is necessary to do work in the neighbourhood	-3	1 ET

Figure 20: Statement values factor 1

The statements sorted most to the left, most important reason to participate, with value 5 (figure 20) for this factor are '... I want to have a positive contribution to my neighbourhood' (personal driver), and '... it yields a facility we need in our neighbourhood (social driver)'. This suggests that the people who loaded significantly on this factor find it important that the project has a positive contribution, and that the end product will be useful for the neighbourhood. Here are some quotes from the interviews to illustrate that point¹²:

"You notice that there are things missing in the neighbourhood: children can not play, elderly people can not sit outside when the weather is nice and they can not go for a walk because the paths are not good. Those were the signs that made me immediately approve when the plan came up, because it solves many problems in the neighbourhood." (3BedumVBo)

¹² All quotes are edited for readability and clarity, and translated from Dutch by the researcher.

“We moved here 10,5 year ago. Back then the field was already there as it is now (the location of the play- and meeting place), but there were only a few pieces of equipment to play on. And it is of course a great waste to let such a nice field go to waste.” (4BedumVBo)

Two of the statements with value four also confirm the important motivation of the project to increase the quality of life in the neighbourhood: ‘... I believe the project improves my living comfort in the neighbourhood’ (personal driver) and ‘... the project increases quality of life in the neighbourhood’ (social driver). It is interesting to see that a lot of the statements important to this factor make the same points, but they are not from the same driver. This presence of this quality of life motivation to participate in multiple driver was a hitherto unspotted thread underlying the drivers. Three statements with value three confirm that underlying thread: ‘... I attach personal value to the purpose of the project’ (personal driver) and ‘... I feel it as my responsibility to do something for my neighbourhood’ (social driver) and ‘... the project makes the whole neighbourhood a more attractive place to live’ (social driver).

As for specific facilities people wanted in their neighbourhood, many participants talked about their children, and that they wanted a place for them to play.

“Well, that was because we were thinking about children, and if you saw how the field looked in front of our house... It was one big mud pool where children were playing football, if they were playing football at all. When I heard about the project, I thought: why not?” (7BedumMB)

“I have young children myself, well younger children. They are not that young anymore, but they do use the playground. And I think that if you use something, you have to get involved with it.” (4BedumVBo)

So feeling the motivation to participate often came directly from the fact that they, or their family, wanted to use the finished project. This makes one wonder if the motivation would also have been there with a less direct personal use. When designing the playground, functionality was also considered. They deliberately put larger playground equipment into the playground, because such equipment was not yet available in Bedum. Small playgrounds were already scattered in Bedum and they wanted to make something special that was not there yet.

It is interesting to see that the statement which mentions feeling responsible to participate only has value three. This can indicate that people want to contribute more, than that they not necessarily feel they are obliged to.

The other statement with value four regards whether there is already a group of people busy organizing the project: ‘... there already was an enthusiastic organization out of the neighbourhood behind the project’ (organizational driver). The other statement with value three ‘... I enjoy working with my neighbours’ (social driver) is similar. Both indicate that the people who loaded significantly on this factor were also motivated to participate, because the project was a neighbourhood based project, and they also were not the first, or only ones, organizing. The initiator mentioned during the interview that the aim of the project was partly to motivate people to get participated more:

I would want to bring people more positivity. There is the tendency to lean back and to expect the municipality to arrange things. I want to oppose that position.” (1BedumVB)

However another interviewee said that the tendency to do nothing is getting less:

Especially in this period now the citizen participation is gaining popularity, we in Bedum, in my opinion, did make a turn towards more civilian participation with certain projects.”(7BedumMA)

Perspective of other people’s motivation to participate differs per person and is probably explainable with the function of that person within the project. The first quote is from a board member of the project group, and the second from an overseer who was not involved with the execution of the project itself therefore a different ‘need’ to find motivated people. The first was involved with finding people for the project, and the second watched the proceedings from a distance.

The statements sorted to the right, least important, were all from the external threat driver. During the interview it was indicated by participants that big companies were not really present in Bedum, and therefore did not play a role in their motivation to participate in a local project. This shows that the statements did not work to look at motivation coming from the earthquake problems, but also says that there is in Bedum no presence of big companies.

Taking all there points together the factor can be summarized with the picture below (figure 21):

Facilities in the neighbourhood

Factor 1	Quality of life neighbourhood
	Positive contribution
	Neighbourhood organization

Figure 21: Characteristics factor 1 (source: author)

This factor is called ‘facilities in the neighbourhood ‘, because it strongly focuses on the function of the playground and the fact that the neighbourhood did not have a place to meet. Having such a place would increase the quality of life. Therefore participants saw their involvement also as a positive contribution in the neighbourhood. It also helped that somebody had already started with the project. The picture shows these three key points of this factor: quality of life in the neighbourhood, to have a positive contribution and to work together with an organization from the neighbourhood. This together has the strong feeling that when you want improvement in your neighbourhood, you need to go out and get it. It is not the responsibility of other parties such as the government or big companies, to arrange those facilities. One participant indicated during the interview that it is not the NAM’s responsibility to do something in the neighbourhood because of the earthquakes, but that it is nice of them to support projects like the Carrousel through subsidies (7BedumMB). In that way this factor is more facilities oriented, and factor two more people-oriented as will become visible.

4.3.2: Factor 2: Social cohesion and acceptance neighbourhood

FACTOR 2: social cohesion and acceptance			
No.	Statement	Value	Driver
40	... all participants are valued equally	5	3 OA
48	... the project contributes to a solution for existing problems in the neighbourhood	5	2 SA
9	... I want to have a positive contribution to my neighbourhood	4	4 PA
15	... participating helps me to become accepted in my neighbourhood	4	4 PA
39	... it gives me appreciation from my neighbours	4	4 PA
8	... I feel it as my responsibility to do something for my neighbourhood	3	2 SA
11	... I felt the need to contribute to my neighbourhood	3	4 PA
22	... there is subsidy for the project	3	3 OA
43	... projects like this give me a sense of security, despite the influence of big companies	3	1 ET
...			
3	... there is already experience in the neighbourhood through previous projects	-5	3 OA
45	... of damage caused by big companies, it is necessary to do work in the neighbourhood	-5	1 ET
25	... it is a way to feel at home in my neighbourhood, despite the influence of big companies	-4	1 ET
34	... we can not watch defensively as neighbourhood towards actions of big companies.	-4	1 ET
42	... I wanted to do something because of damage to my house	-4	1 ET
14	... I have experience needed for projects like this	-3	4 PA
18	... it solves existing social problems in the neighbourhood	-3	2 SA
30	... it is better to search for a local solution, for problems caused by big companies	-3	1 ET
31	... there is a clear end goal for the project	-3	3 OA

Figure 22: Statement values factor 2

The statements sorted most to the left with value five (most important) for this factor are ‘... all participants are valued equally (organizational driver)’ and ‘... the project contributes to a solution for existing problems in the neighbourhood (social driver)’ (figure 22). Statements with value four are ‘... I want to have a positive contribution in my neighbourhood’ (personal driver) and ‘... participating helps me to become accepted in my neighbourhood’ (personal driver) and ‘... it gives me appreciation from my neighbours’ (personal driver). The three statements with value four, and the first with value five indicates a motivation to participate to feel more accepted in the neighbourhood. Three statements with value three underline that need of acceptance with the feeling of obligation to contribute to the neighbourhood: ‘... I feel it as my responsibility to contribute to my neighbourhood’ (social driver) and ‘... I feel the need to contribute to my neighbourhood’ (personal driver) and ‘... projects like this give me a sense of security, despite the influence of big companies’ (external threats driver). However, it is difficult to say how the last statement was interpreted, because it is a statement from the external threats driver. In the interviews a participant said that one motivation to participate with the project was the opportunity to work with a lot of different people, and to be active in the neighbourhood and to create greater solidarity within the neighbourhood. This illustrates for a part the importance given to statements

talking about acceptance and to have a positive contribution, because when wishing to work with a lot of different people it is important everybody is accepted.

The other statement with value five, ‘... the project contributes to a solution for existing problems in the neighbourhood (social driver)’ can also be interpreted together with the statement ‘... I feel the need to contribute to my neighbourhood’ in the sense that if there are problems in the neighbourhood, people feel obligated to contribute to a solution. A participant said during the interview:

Well, I haven't seen anyone else yet. It is only me and Jannie who keep an eye on everything. There is no-one I know who comes here to keep an eye on everything and who sweeps the playground, they don't do that. So it is just me and Jannie, and that is a shame. (5BedumMV)

This quote makes clear that contributing is crucial for success of the project, but also communication. The participant clearly sees the need to contribute to the neighbourhood, but does not see the contribution of other people. The other statements with value three ‘... there is subsidy for the project’ (organisational driver) seems not connected with the other statements in this factor. The statements sorted to the right, least important are partly external threat statements, or statements based on having experienced executing local projects. This can mean that the participants who loaded on this factor do not feel they have experience with local projects.

Social cohesion and acceptance neighbourhood

	Acceptance neighbourhood
Factor 2	Responsibility
	Necessary to contribute

Figure 23: Characteristics factor 2 (source: author)

Concluding, this factor is visualized in figure 23 and given the name ‘social cohesion and acceptance. Most important aspects of this motivation are acceptance in the neighbourhood, responsibility, and feeling obligated when action is needed. This factor has the double motivation of increasing social cohesion in the whole neighbourhood, and becoming more accepted personally. That makes this factor more people-oriented, and less oriented on the facilities project build. A side note has to be made that there were only two participants who loaded significantly on this factor. This makes it difficult to draw definite conclusions from the data.

It is interesting to note that there was also a participant who loaded significantly negative on this statement. This can indicate a viewpoint opposed to the one shared by the positively loaded participants (Watts & Stenner, 2005). When looking at the interview results this is confirmed. There seems to be a division between the people involved with the project between those doing involved with the organization of the project, and those doing volunteer work for the maintenance. These two groups seem to have a gap in understanding and do not see what the other does. For example, this is visible in the quote above by 5BedumMV. Also during the interviews it became clear that, although the project aimed for greater solidarity within the neighbourhood, some participants indicated there were also negative effects on solidarity caused by the project:

“ (...) I want to have a positive contribution, I also wanted that for this project, but that should not affect my personal living comfort. That is a predicament I have trouble with.” (1BedumVB)

There is a difference in positive effects of a project for the whole group, and effects a project has on a person’s personal lives. Other participants also mentioned some negative social aspects they had from the project. All participants who mentioned negative effects are, or have been, part of the board. Also they do not necessarily communicate the negative aspects of the project with the other people in the

neighbourhood. This might suggest that some negative experiences are seen as unavoidable, and are seen as less important as the aspects of the project which do motivate people to participate. This seems to confirm that people put societal needs above personal needs as suggested by Hoffman & High-Pippert in driver 2, social aspects (2010).

4.3.3: The effect of earthquakes

During the executing and analysis of the sorts and interviews it became clear that the connection between 'big companies' and the NAM, and earthquakes was not understood. Many participants asked what was meant with 'big companies', or sorted those statements to the right, least relevant, because there were no big companies in Bedum. During the interview after the sort it was asked whether people thought the earthquakes influenced their personal motivation to participate, or the motivation of others. Answers were negative. Because it was the proposition of this research that the two were linked the sort data regarding this topic and interview data is compared. This can give some insight if the 'external threat' driver was really misunderstood, or whether the people's view in the sort differs from their view in the interviews. A conflicting viewpoint in the interview and the sort can happen, and is one of the reasons that makes Q-methodology a valuable research tool. Q-methodology is able to identify subconscious reasoning of participants they are not always aware of prior to the study themselves.-As visible in the factor array tables (figure 20 & 22), in factor 1 all statements to the right, least relevant, are from the external threats driver. In factor 2 five of the nine statements are external threats. Because factor 1 has eight people loaded significantly on it can be assumed that the majority of the participants sorted the majority of the earthquake statements to the right. Looking at the transcription of the sorts the majority of the people did that, because they thought big companies did not play a role in Bedum. Two participants asked whether the NAM was meant with those statements, but that assumption could not be confirmed because of the validity of the research. Therefore it can be assumed that those statements are not usable to assess effect of the earthquake problems.

During the interviews it was literally asked what people thought of the connection between earthquakes and motivation to participate. Most participant indicated that the earthquakes and related problems are separated from the projects in the neighbourhood. The project is seen as something from the neighbourhood, and not the NAM or other organizational bodies (0BedumVM). The NAM supported the project with a subsidy, but that is all the input they had. It is not the responsibility of the NAM to support local projects (7BedumMB). Also as far as is known to the researcher there is not much damage in the neighbourhood. In Bedum people do talk among each other about the problems, and there is a lot of frustration, because people feel there is little they can do. However the problems do not motivate them to participate in projects not directly related to the earthquake problem according to the interviews. For some participants, when asked about the NAM, and related earthquake problems, it became clear that it is an awkward topic for some participants. They feel as if there is nothing to do about it, and that it is not always accepted in the neighbourhood to talk about it (4BedumVoB). However, to which extent this plays a role for all participants is not researched.

Concluding the sort data does not tell anything about the (subconscious) effect of the earthquake problems on people's motivation to participate. The interviews indicate that the participants do not feel that there is a connection, because local projects and the earthquake problems are two separate things. Whether that is true or not on a subconscious level is not possible to say with this research.

5: Discussion and conclusion

In this chapter the new research questions formulated in chapter 4 are answered. The first sub-question:

What are, according to literature, motivations of inhabitants to participate in local projects?

The fieldwork of this thesis is based on four drivers: external threats, social aspects, organizational aspects and personal aspects, which together formed the theoretical framework. The last three drivers are the answer to the first sub-question. Those three drivers are based on general literature regarding participation and community engagement, where community engagement is involvement in local projects. These drivers were chosen to reflect the possible motivations people could have to get involved. There is not much research into the personal motivation of individuals to participate in local projects. Also the literature regarding local projects that does exist has an emphasis on projects which are initiated with a strong governance influence. However literature about projects initiated without governance initiative or strong presence is an emerging field of study. This is especially visible in the theories of self-organization from Boonstra & Boelens (2011). This fits with a switch in policy thinking in the Netherlands towards more self-organization and initiative from the people themselves for projects in their own villages or neighbourhoods (Vermeij & Gieling, 2016). The fieldwork is a useful way to reflect on the theoretical framework. During the interviews it was asked if the participants missed reasons to motivate. Two things came from this: knowledge of the feasibility of the project, and the effect of experiences of participation in a previous project. These two can be added to the theoretical framework in future research.

When using the methodological design of this thesis for research into motivation it is suggested to alter driver 1. There were not a lot of topics missing according to the interviewees, so that would give the opportunity to expand on the existing drivers. To have 36 instead of 48 statements is also a possibility, however it is recommended to have more around 50 statements in total for better results. It is also recommended to base the statements on interviews with people who participate in local projects, together with a literature study. In this way it is prevented to have misunderstandings with the phrasing of the statements as happened in this study. Also interviewing is a way to make sure all topics are included. Only using interviews is not advisable, because this will lead to the same problem as only basing them on literature. If the goal of the research is to find reasons of motivations participants had not thought about themselves, basing the Q-set only on interviews will naturally not include those topics. It is valuable to carry out more trials with Q-methodology to further assess the possibilities of the method for analysing motivation to participate. This will lead to both valuable information for planning research, but will also be valuable information for people involved in local projects. During the fieldwork it became clear that for projects it is difficult to find enough participants to accomplish the project. Knowing what drives people to participate can help to find the most successful way to motivate people to participate. Concluding, the theoretical framework as it is now can be used for future research. It is valuable to periodically re-evaluate the content of the drivers for every research, to apply the drivers to the research in question. For this driver 1 can be used. In that way driver 1 becomes the flexible part of the methodology which makes it useable for each research into participation, not necessarily with an emphasis on external threats. The first driver, external treats, is the answer to sub-question two:

What is the impact of the earthquakes on people in the affected area, which could affect motivation to participate in local projects?

This sub-question was meant to gain Groningen-specific information about the earthquake problems. The information was gained with the help of several reports and an article, summarized in driver 1. Together sub-question one and two form the theoretical framework which is used as a basis for the statements used in Q-methodology. The fieldwork results allow to reflect on the theoretical framework. For this thesis it was a good decision to have drivers beside the external threat one. In that way misinterpretation of the external threat driver was taken into account. Driver 1 was misunderstood, and the focus of the research was re-written in finding out which of the three drivers was most important with a new sub-question:

To which extent are the earthquakes in Groningen an important motivation for people to participate in local projects, compared to other motivations to participate?

Analysis of the fieldwork led to two factors of motivation to participants. Factor 1, 'facilities in the neighbourhood' and factor 2, 'social cohesion and acceptance neighbourhood'. Both of these factors do not consists of statements from a single driver. This is normal in Q-methodology. Each factor is mostly compiled of a different mix of statements from the second, third and fourth driver. Looking at the two factors (Figure 21 & 23) most important were quality of life in the neighbourhood, to have a positive contribution, to work with the neighbourhood, getting accepted in the neighbourhood and to feel the responsibility or need to contribute. Those aspect mostly derive from the personal and social aspect drivers. Statements deriving from the organizational driver are sorted less in a significant position. This leads to the conclusion that the organizational aspects, such as having enough participants and permission from the municipality, are found less important. To say to which extent this is true for local projects in general, or for this particular case of this project, is difficult to say without more cases.

An interesting thing that became apparent in the factors is the difference of looking at the project within the group. People with a different function within the project had a different view of what the other people did, and sometimes even felt they were the only one contributing. This underlines the importance of internal communication, to ensure the role distribution and contribution of every participant of the project is valued. This can potentially decrease negative personal experience some people had through the project.

The statements from driver 1 did not play a role in the factors at all. The majority of the participants sorted the external threat statements to the right, 'least important'. As mentioned in chapter 4, driver 1 did not function to answer sub-question two. It was decided to not literally mention the earthquake problems in the statements, but instead to ask about threats from big companies with the assumption participants would immediately associate that with the earthquake problems and the NAM. That, however, did not happen. If this research would be repeated it is advisable to test the methodology with a case group from the affected area, or to base the statements on interviews to discover the best way to include the earthquake problems within the theoretical framework. In general it is advised to test the methodological design with a relevant trial group (Bryman, 2004, p. 159). However, for this research that would have been difficult with current parameters for case selection, because no alternative local projects were available with current parameters. To be able to do a test study the parameters need to be changed so there are more potential cases available. This is important because otherwise a pilot study can affect representativeness because relevant participants can only participate once (Bryman, 2004, p. 160). Sub-question four is included to look at the interview results to see people's own opinion whether the earthquake problems influence on motivation to participate:

What is the influence of earthquakes problems on motivation to participate in local projects?

During the interviews it became clear that the participants themselves did not see a connection between their project and earthquake problems, so one can wonder if the results would be different if only the driver 1 is altered. Rather it is advisable to alter the case selection parameters, and to pick a local project which is more directly originates because of earthquake problems. For this thesis it was deliberately chosen to select a case which was not originated from the problems, and people did not see the connection between their project and the earthquakes. They got a subsidy from the NAM, but that could have easily been another subsidy if available in this case. The project was not started to 'solve' a direct earthquake problem. There were other, more important, issues in the neighbourhood which motivated people to participate, such as the lack of a place to meet for all the neighbours and a place for children to play. This had an underlying issue of a lack of social cohesion participants in the project wanted to address. The most participants focused on the practical merits the play- and meeting ground brought to the neighbourhood. This is increased because many participants lived in the area for a long time, and thought it a shame the land used for the playground was unused. Also most participants had young children who make use of the playground, which motivated participation. The project was deliberately chosen like that to assess the extent the influence of earthquake problems has in the lives of people beyond the problems. An example of local projects which are a direct reaction to the earthquake problems can be found in Onderdendam (Broekema, 2016).

The altered main research questions can be answered now:

To which extent are the earthquakes in Groningen an important motivation for people to participate in local projects in the affected area?

Looking at the results of this study it is unlikely that the earthquake problems had an effect on motivation to participate in the case. During the interviews it was mentioned several times that the earthquake problems in Bedum are not very big (yet). In that case Bedum might not have been the most suitable place for a case study in hindsight. However, during the interviews it also became clear that the earthquakes are a difficult topic to talk about for the people affected by them. This makes it difficult to assess how big the problems in Bedum are. People feel they can do nothing about the problems, and therefore it is best to not dwell on them. This makes it a difficult topic to talk about, and again underlines the suitability of Q-methodology to investigate. Several possibilities are given to repeat the research with an altered methodological framework. This could potentially gain different results. For the time being the conclusion of this thesis is that people (in this case) were either motivated to participate because they felt the neighbourhood lacked a facility they could help to realize themselves. A smaller part participated to increase social connections in the neighbourhood, and to become more accepted in the neighbourhood.

5.1 Recommendations use Q-methodology

Q-methodology is a good methodology to add to planning research to re-energize the methodological debate and to engage participants in planning research in an interactive and entertaining way (Eden et al., 2005, p. 420). Q-methodology is a valuable tool to gain knowledge of what constitutes good participation processes to facilitate policy making (Liu et al., 2013, p. 870). It is especially useful for research of practical issues directly related to the participant's life, in the form of policy or consultation research (Eden et al., 2005, p. 420).

People generally enjoyed the sorting and thought it an easy and enjoyable way to reflect on their own reasons to participate. They did not necessarily come to new insights, but liked the opportunity to think about the project again. This makes this method very useful as an ice-breaker for interviews or for

research where people need to reflect on the answers they give, because Q-methodology allows the time to think and reflect, which interviews do not necessarily give. This makes the method also suitable for people not used to voicing their opinion, because the statements can be tailored to the target group, which makes it a very accessible research tool. During the analysis of the transcriptions it became clear that the meaning of the middle, neutral area, was not always immediately clear. Also many participants wondered if the height of the statements in the nominal distribution had a meaning. Both things need to be made clear prior to the sorting to prevent confusion.

5.2: Scientific objective

Concluding the specific scientific objective of assessing whether earthquake problems influence motivation to participate is not achieved. The interviews enable to make assumptions, but to fully answer that question the fieldwork has to be done another time with an adjusted Q-set and more cases to enable a comparison. The more general objective of assessing suitability of Q-methodology in participation research is reached. Participants enjoyed the sorting, and especially that they re-thought their own motivations to participate. Also the underlying trends in a group of motivation to participate with the factors is interesting to see. It would be even more interesting to execute this kind of research in different cases and to compare the finding to see if there are some general reason to motivate in a wide arrange of different cases. A research with a wider scope would also be able to say to which extent results of this study resemble projects with different parameters. If the research is carried out again it is suggested to re-write driver 1 based on new interview data. This will enable the researcher to write statements which are not misunderstood. However it is doubtful if that will alter the conclusion much, because during the interviews people indicated that they did not see a connection between earthquakes and participation in the case project. In that case it is more useful to do the fieldwork with a project more earthquake oriented, such as Onderdendam. So if research would be done again, recommended to pick a project started because of the EQ, and then see if everyone who participated did it because of the EQ's.

In light of the growing emphasis on participation and self-organization, it is useful to do more research into local projects, and especially what drives people to participate in such projects. Especially because the government increasingly relies on people to organize their own projects for quality of life in neighbourhood and villages (Vermeij & Gieling, 2016). This confirms the prediction of Boonstra and Boelens that community-based development, local projects, and not government-led participation, might be the next step in spatial planning (2011, p. 117). There is much more to learn about the growth of communities, neighbourhoods in this thesis, and the role they can play in policy making to maintain the quality of life in the neighbourhood or to be prepared for potential external threats (Graham et al., 2016). To learn more about that role it is important to know what 'drives' people to participate in local projects in their own neighbourhood to increase the quality of life in the neighbourhood. Q-methodology can contribute to that understanding.

6: Reflection on the research

This chapter is a reflection on the fieldwork. This is relevant, because it gives insight into the validity of the results and potentiality for further research with Q-methodology. The talks about two topics: the selection of participants and the confirmation bias.

6.1: Fieldwork

A difference between Zuidhorn and Bedum, which could have influenced on willingness to participate, is that it turned out that the project in Bedum is bigger project than the project in Zuidhorn. The project in Bedum took three years of preparation and was dependent on a large subsidy of more than 10.000 euro, which was a lot of effort to get. Also most of the people in the board were involved from the beginning, or very early on, off the project, which made them invested in the project. In Zuidhorn the original initiators were not involved anymore. This difference in duration of involvement could have influenced willingness to participate. The researcher was not aware of this difference prior to contacting the two groups. It also made a big difference that the researcher was able to explain the methodology in person in the Bedum case. In further research it is advised to try that wherever possible.

The technique used in this thesis to get participants from existing, finished, local projects had benefits and disadvantages. It did allow to find multiple participants at once, as with Bedum, when the participants from the project decide to cooperate. On the other hand it can be more difficult to convince a whole project, because it automatically becomes about the project itself, even when the research does not focus on the specific project. If a large part of the group is involved, the research becomes part of the project and might affect how outsiders look at the project, but also how people involved with the project look at the board. That is because the board are the persons who decide to participate or not so for research into local projects it is advisable to make an appointment with the board to explain the aims and goals of the research in person. Another difficulty with research into local project is that there is not a database of all the projects and the people who participated with contact details. Many projects are not registered, sometimes by choice, have outdated contact details and for privacy reasons not everyone involved is mentioned. This makes it time consuming to find participants from a broad range of local projects instead from case study projects. For example, for this research some databases were used, but it turned out that information on the website was not necessarily correct. It is useful to start early one to gather case projects and contact details because this can take a lot of time.

6.2: Confirmation bias

During the fieldwork it became clear that the researcher worked under a different confirmation bias as anticipated. I had a personal interest in the research, because I grew up in the province. All these things made the research too value oriented, which led to looking for correlations which are possibly not there (Bryman, 2004, p. 21). Prior to the research the news regarding the earthquake problems was closely followed and I have strong opinions about the subject. This led to the feeling that the earthquakes had a bigger impact on people's life than the people in Bedum felt themselves. To prepare the research the news surrounding the earthquakes and the NAM was followed and this led to overestimating how much people thought about the earthquake problems in the province themselves. Bedum is in the affected area, but for most people I interviewed the earthquakes played not a major role in their lives. That was either because they felt they would not be able to do anything (4BedumVob), or that they feel safe because they lived in a new house (6BedumVB), or they said it was not the responsibility of the NAM to keep

their neighbourhood a good place to live (7BedumMB). One participant said that the earthquake problems do not really play a big role in Bedum yet. The earthquake problems undeniable are a big problem for the province that deserves more attention, however perception of the problems is not present everywhere. It is advisable to first study the perception people from the affected area have of the earthquake, prior to study which areas of their lives are influenced by the earthquake problems.

Another element to consider in future research is, which could influence perception of the effect of the earthquake problems are the different between scale of the problems and local projects. Earthquakes are a big scale problem with involved the whole province, and in a way the whole of the Netherlands. The Carrousel on the other hand is small scale and focused mainly on the neighbourhood. One explanation of that could be that this makes the later project much more attainable, especially because the participants have a direct visible impact with the local project. It is felt that it is not possible to have an impact on the earthquake problems, so people focus on what they can do. However, this is guesswork. To prevent a confirmation bias like this in the future it is good to not only rely on news sources to device a topic of research. Also it might help to study subjects less close to me personally.

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Quote front page:

7BedumMB, quote from an interview

Appendices

Appendix A: The Dutch Q-set

1. in mijn buurt iedereen meedoet om het project tot een succes te maken
2. het plan door organisaties van buiten het dorp gesteund wordt
3. er al ervaring is in de buurt door de uitvoer van voorgaande projecten
4. het door acties van grote bedrijven nodig is zelf voor de voorzieningen in mijn buurt te zorgen
5. mijn buurt zo een aantrekkelijke plek blijft om te wonen, ondanks problemen veroorzaakt door grote bedrijven
6. het goed is voor mijn persoonlijke ontwikkeling
7. ik persoonlijk waarde hecht aan het doel van het project
8. ik mij verantwoordelijk voel iets voor mijn buurt te doen
9. ik positief wil bijdragen aan mijn buurt
10. er al veel andere mensen meedoen om het project tot een succes te maken
11. ik de behoefte heb om me in te zetten voor de buurt
12. ik tegengewicht wil bieden aan grote bedrijven die vooral uit zijn op winst
13. het plan door de gemeente gesteund wordt
14. ik ervaring heb die nodig is voor dit soort projecten
15. ik door meedoen geaccepteerd word in mijn buurt
16. ik geloof dat het project mijn woongenot in de buurt zal verbeteren
17. ik kennis heb die nodig is voor de uitvoer van het project
18. het bestaande sociale conflicten in de buurt oplost
19. we in onze buurt weten wat we aan elkaar hebben
20. ik door acties van grote bedrijven geen vertrouwen meer heb in organisaties van buiten mijn buurt
21. er al een enthousiaste organisatie vanuit de buurt achter het project zit
22. er subsidie is voor het project
23. ik gevraagd word mee te doen door een andere buurtbewoner
24. ik geïnteresseerd ben in lokale projecten
25. het voor mij een manier is mij weer thuis te voelen in mijn buurt, ondanks de invloed van grote bedrijven
26. het een voorziening oplevert die we nodig hebben in de buurt
27. er al goede ideeën zijn hoe het project tot een succes te maken
28. het mij en mijn mede-dorpsbewoners dichterbij elkaar brengt
29. het project de hele buurt een aantrekkelijker plek om te wonen maakt
30. het beter is lokaal een oplossing te bedenken voor problemen die door grote bedrijven veroorzaakt zijn
31. er een duidelijk einddoel voor het project is
32. ik vertrouwen heb in de andere deelnemers
33. er toestemming van de gemeente is voor de uitvoer van het project
34. we als buurt niet weerloos kunnen toekijken bij acties van grote bedrijven
35. ik hierdoor ervaring opdoe over het organiseren van lokale projecten
36. er voor mij al een rol is weggelegd binnen het project
37. het in mijn buurt gebruikelijk is je in te zetten
38. het project de leefbaarheid van de buurt vergroot
39. ik daardoor waardering krijg van mijn buurtgenoten
40. alle deelnemers in hun waarde worden gelaten
41. ik graag samenwerk met mijn buurtgenoten
42. ik door schade aan mijn huis actie wil ondernemen in mijn buurt
43. zulke projecten mij een gevoel van veiligheid geven ondanks de invloed van grote bedrijven
44. we als buurt zelfstandig met de problemen, veroorzaakt door grote bedrijven in de provincie, om moeten gaan
45. er schade is veroorzaakt door de acties van grote bedrijven waardoor werk in de buurt nodig is
46. ik goed kan organiseren
47. ik door de acties van grote bedrijven actie wil ondernemen in mijn buurt

48. het project bijdraagt aan een oplossing voor een bestaand probleem in de buurt.

Appendix B: Dutch instruction letter participants Q-sort

Beste deelnemer,

Welkom en heel erg bedankt voor het meedoen met het onderzoek. Dit helpt mij heel erg om af te studeren. Dit onderzoek is naar de motivatie van mensen om mee te doen aan projecten in hun eigen dorp of buurt, zoals de <insert case name> waar u aan meegedaan heeft. De resultaten van dit onderzoek helpen om inzicht te krijgen wat dit soort projecten motiveert en tot een succes maakt. Hier kunnen vervolgens aanbevelingen uitgehaald worden om lokale projecten in de toekomst nog meer te motiveren.

In de uitspraken wordt er gesproken over lokale projecten. Daarmee worden projecten bedoelt die, meestal op een kleine schaal, in u eigen buurt uitgevoerd worden en die hoofdzakelijk begonnen en uitgevoerd zijn door mensen uit de buurt of uit het hele dorp. Het gaat dus om wat jullie zelf doen en wat voor jullie belangrijk is, en niet om de overheid, gemeente of andere organisaties.

Alle resultaten van dit onderzoek worden anoniem verwerkt en gepresenteerd. Wel zou ik graag alles opnemen, omdat de resultaten dan betrouwbaarder verwerkt kunnen worden. Het kan zijn dat ik na het verwerken van de resultaten nog wat extra vragen heb. Als u bereidt bent nog een keer (telefonisch) contact te hebben zou ik u erg dankbaar zijn. Ook is het natuurlijk mogelijk de resultaten te zien. Vul voor beide dingen graag het formulier onderaan in.

werkwijze

Eerst is het de bedoeling dat u wat uitspraken sorteert. Daarna zou ik daar graag nog wat vragen stellen ter verdieping. In totaal zal alles ongeveer 1,5 tot 2 uur duren.

Ik geef u een stapel met kaartjes waar de uitspraken op staan. Die sorteert u vervolgens in de piramide vormige verdeling voor u. Uitspraken die het minst op u van toepassing zijn komen links, en die het meest van toepassing zijn rechts. Lees voor het sorteren alle kaartjes even door zodat u een idee heeft wat voor soort uitspraken het zijn. U kunt ze zelfs alvast voorsorteren als u dat prettig vindt.

Alle uitspraken op de kaartjes beantwoorden de onderstaande leus:

Ik doe mee aan een lokaal project omdat...

U mag de kaartjes zo vaak verplaatsen als u maar wilt. Door het sorteren van de uitspraken geeft u aan wat voor u persoonlijk een belangrijke motivatie is om mee te doen aan lokale projecten. Daarbij gaat het er vooral om wat voor u een reden zou zijn mee te doen aan toekomstige projecten in u buurt.

Neem rustig de tijd en als u een vraag heeft hoor ik het wel. Ik kan alleen niet op alles antwoord geven in verband met de betrouwbaarheid van het onderzoek, maar het stellen van de vragen is al belangrijk voor de resultaten omdat ik dan weet waar de moeilijkheden zitten in de methode.

Alvast heel erg bedankt voor het meewerken en succes!

Appendix C: Dutch interview questions

Algemene vragen:

1. Wat vond u van het sorteren van de statements?

2. Heeft u nog nieuwe inzichten gekregen door het sorteren?
3. Mist u nog onderwerpen, en zoja welke?
4. Hoe zou u zelf uw persoonlijke motivatie om mee te doen aan lokale projecten uitleggen?
5. Hoe zou u de motivatie van de andere deelnemers uitleggen?

Aardbeving gerelateerde vragen:

6. Zijn er de laatste Jaren nieuwe redenen bijgekomen om mee te doen aan lokale projecten?
 - 3.a Persoonlijk
 - 3.b algemeen
7. In hoeverre beïnvloeden de aardbevingen u motivatie om mee te doen aan lokale projecten?
8. Heeft u verder nog iets toe te voegen?

Appendix D: complete Q-sort values factor 1 and 2

Factor 1: Facilities in the neighbourhood

No.	Statement	Value
9	... I want to have a positive contribution to my neighbourhood	5
26	... it yields a facility we need in our neighbourhood	5
16	... I believe the project improves my living comfort in the neighbourhood	4
21	... there was already an enthusiastic organisation in the neighbourhood working on the project	4
38	... the project increases quality of life in the neighbourhood	4
7	... I attach personal value to the purpose of the project	3
8	... I feel it as my responsibility to do something for my neighbourhood	3
29	... the project makes the neighbourhood a more attractive place to live	3
41	... I enjoy working with my neighbours	3
27	... there are already good ideas how to make the project a success.	2
28	... it brings me and my neighbours closer to each other	2
31	... there is a clear end goal for the project	2
32	... I have confidence in the other participants	2
40	... all participants are valued equally	2
1	... in my neighbourhood everybody participates to make the project a success	1
11	... I felt the need to contribute to my neighbourhood	1
13	... the plan is supported by the municipality	1
19	... in our neighbourhood we know each other's capacities	1
23	... I was asked to participate by a neighbour	1
35	... I gain experience about the organisation of local projects	1
6	... it is good for my personal development	0
10	... there are already a lot of people participating to make the project a success	0
14	... I have experience needed for projects like this	0
17	... I have knowledge needed to execute the project	0

18	... it solves existing social problems in the neighbourhood	0
24	... I am interested in local projects	0
46	... I am good at organizing	0
48	... the project contributes to a solution for existing problems in the neighbourhood	0
3	... there is already experience in the neighbourhood through previous projects	-1
22	... there is subsidy for the project	-1
33	... the municipality has given permission for the execution of the project	-1
36	... there is already a role for me within the project	-1
37	... it is normal in my neighbourhood to participate	-1
39	... it gives me appreciation from my neighbours	-1
2	... the plan was supported by organisations from outside the village	-2
5	... in that way my neighbourhood remains an attractive place to live, despite problems caused by big companies	-2
15	... participating helps me to become accepted in my neighbourhood	-2
30	... it is better to search for a local solution, for problems caused by big companies	-2
44	... we as neighbourhood should cope independent with problems caused by big companies	-2
20	... through the actions of big companies I lost faith in organizations outside my neighbourhood	-3
25	... it is a way to feel at home in my neighbourhood, despite the influence of big companies	-3
43	... projects like this give me a sense of security, despite the influence of big companies	-3
45	... of damage caused by big companies, it is necessary to do work in the neighbourhood	-3
4	... actions of big companies make it necessary to take care of the facilities in my neighbourhood ourselves	-4
34	... we can not watch defensively as neighbourhood towards actions of big companies.	-4
47	... of the actions of big companies I want to do something in the neighbourhood	-4
12	... I want to work against big companies' only interested in profit	-5
42	... I wanted to do something because of damage to my house	-5

Factor 2: Social cohesion and acceptance neighbourhood

No.	Statement	Value
40	... all participants are valued equally	5
48	... the project contributes to a solution for existing problems in the neighbourhood	5
9	... I want to have a positive contribution to my neighbourhood	4
15	... participating helps me to become accepted in my neighbourhood	4
39	... it gives me appreciation from my neighbours	4
8	... I feel it as my responsibility to do something for my neighbourhood	3
11	... I felt the need to contribute to my neighbourhood	3
22	... there is subsidy for the project	3
43	... projects like this give me a sense of security, despite the influence of big companies	3
2	... the plan was supported by organisations from outside the village	2
24	... I am interested in local projects	2
27	... there are already good ideas how to make the project a success.	2
37	... it is normal in my neighbourhood to participate	2
38	... the project increases quality of life in the neighbourhood	2
6	... it is good for my personal development	1
17	... I have knowledge needed to execute the project	1
19	... in our neighbourhood we know each other's capacities	1

29	... the project makes the neighbourhood a more attractive place to live	1
35	... I gain experience about the organisation of local projects	1
41	... I enjoy working with my neighbours	1
1	... in my neighbourhood everybody participates to make the project a success	0
5	... in that way my neighbourhood remains an attractive place to live, despite problems caused by big companies	0
10	... there are already a lot of people participating to make the project a success	0
16	... I believe the project improves my living comfort in the neighbourhood	0
21	... there was already an enthusiastic organisation in the neighbourhood working on the project	0
23	... I was asked to participate by a neighbour	0
46	... I am good at organizing	0
47	... of the actions of big companies I want to do something in the neighbourhood	0
12	... I want to work against big companies' only interested in profit	-1
20	... through the actions of big companies I lost faith in organizations outside my neighbourhood	-1
26	... it yields a facility we need in our neighbourhood	-1
32	... I have confidence in the other participants	-1
33	... the municipality has given permission for the execution of the project	-1
36	... there is already a role for me within the project	-1
4	... actions of big companies make it necessary to take care of the facilities in my neighbourhood ourselves	-2
7	... I attach personal value to the purpose of the project	-2
13	... the plan is supported by the municipality	-2
28	... it brings me and my neighbours closer to each other	-2
44	... we as neighbourhood should cope independent with problems caused by big companies	-2
14	... I have experience needed for projects like this	-3
18	... it solves existing social problems in the neighbourhood	-3
30	... it is better to search for a local solution, for problems caused by big companies	-3
31	... there is a clear end goal for the project	-3
25	... it is a way to feel at home in my neighbourhood, despite the influence of big companies	-4
34	... we can not watch defensively as neighbourhood towards actions of big companies.	-4
42	... I wanted to do something because of damage to my house	-4
3	... there is already experience in the neighbourhood through previous projects	-5
45	... of damage caused by big companies, it is necessary to do work in the neighbourhood	-5

Appendix E: interim report Bedum for feedback

Dit is de eerste versie van de resultaten, dus ik hoor graag van jullie wat jullie er van vinden en of er nog dingen missen. Ook beantwoord ik graag jullie vragen.

Met de analyse heb ik gekeken hoeveel overeenkomst er is in jullie persoonlijke motivatie om mee te doen. Dat heb ik gedaan door te kijken welke statements door de meeste mensen het vaakst op dezelfde plek zijn gesorteerd (links of rechts). Bijvoorbeeld hoe vaker een statement links is gesorteerd, hoe beter dat statement de mening van de hele groep weergeeft. Uit die analyse zijn twee perspectieven gekomen, wat betekent dat er twee overeenkomende motivaties zijn. De twee perspectieven leg ik hieronder uit.

Perspectief 1: leefbaarheid en voorzieningen van de buurt

- Leefbaarheid & voorzieningen
- praktische behoefte aan een speeltuin en- of ontmoetingsplek
- verantwoordelijkheid

-positief bijdragen

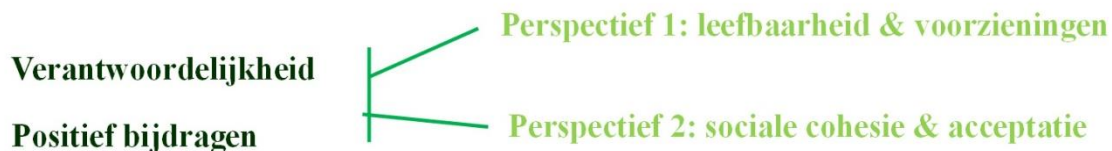
De statements die bij dit perspectief horen waren bijna allemaal sociale aspecten zoals je verantwoordelijk voelen je in te zetten, of om samen de aantrekkelijkheid van de buurt te vergroten. Ook was een persoonlijke wens wat positiefs te doen en geloof in het project een belangrijke reden. In de interviews is bevestigd dat de belang van de speeltuin voor de buurt een erg belangrijke reden was om mee te doen, vooral omdat er niet echt een speeltuin was in de wijk voor het project. Hier komt bij dat men het jammer vond dat er geen speeltuin of ontmoetingsplek in de wijk was, omdat het terrein van de Carrousel er eigenlijk lelijk bij lag.

Perspectief 2: sociale cohesie, en acceptatie van elkaar in de buurt

- sociale cohesie
- acceptatie in de buurt & oplossen sociale conflicten
- wederzijdse vertrouwen en respect
- positief bijdragen

De statements die bij dit perspectief hoorden waren voor het grootste gedeelte persoonlijke aspecten of alle deelnemers in hun waarde worden gelaten, of meedoen acceptatie in de buurt oplevert of waardering van buurtgenoten. Verder speelde mee of het project een probleem in de wijk oplost en of er al subsidie voor is of niet. Ook bij dit perspectief speelde mee dat mensen zich verantwoordelijk voelden voor de wijk en iets positiefs wilden bijdragen. Tijdens de interviews kwam naar voren dat mensen zich graag inzetten voor de buurt en dat het bijzonder is met veel verschillende mensen samen te werken.

De twee perspectieven zijn samengevat in het onderstaande plaatje:



Zoals te zien is brengen het verantwoordelijk voelen en een positieve bijdrage leveren de twee perspectieven samen. Alleen wat mensen daar vervolgens mee willen doen verschilt. Perspectief 1 gaat voor concrete acties zoals de speel- en ontmoetingstuin en perspectief 2 gaat eerder voor het versterken van de sociale relaties in de buurt. Er is dus een onderliggende overeenkomst waarom mensen hebben meegedaan aan de Carrousel, die zich op 2 verschillende manieren uit.

Losse interessante dingen die uit het onderzoek bleken is dat de meeste deelnemers erg blij zijn met de speeltuin en dat het mooi is om te zien dat het zo veel kinderen trekt, zelfs uit andere wijken. Er is nog niet meer contact tussen de jeugd, ouderen en mensen met een verstandelijke beperking, maar de Carrousel is in ieder geval een plek waar iedereen terecht kan. Verder is het onduidelijk wie precies wat doet binnen het project en welke waarde dat heeft.

Om vrijwilligers te werven voor volgende projecten is het waarschijnlijk het best de positieve kanten van het project te blijven benadrukken en de impact dat het project op de wijk kan hebben. Ook is het goed te benadrukken dat als er zelf geen actie wordt ondernomen vanuit de buurt er niets gebeurt. Het is de verantwoordelijkheid van de wijk is om voor de leefbaarheid te zorgen, of zo wordt het in ieder geval gevoelt.

Wat zijn jullie gedachtes over deze conclusies? Verbazen ze, of juist niet. Zijn er nog dingen die toegevoegd kunnen worden of dingen die volgens jullie niet klopt?

Appendix F: table characteristics participants fieldwork

C od e	prio r exp.	Age	S e x	education	Work	Function project group	Time living neigh.	Notes
1	n	41	v	hbo	Councilor	chairpersoon	11	Gatekeeper
2	n	26	v	mbo	logistics green	board	4	no recording
3	n	52	v	mbo	Accountant	previous boardmember	lived for 8-9 in neigh.	does not live in Bedum anymore
4	n	37	v	Beauty practitioner	Stay at home mom	previous boardmember	10,5	old board member
5	n	58	m	nvt	Nursing home	volunteer	20	sweeps the playground
6	y	40	v	mbo v	ambulance	board	4	
7	n	25	m	MBO work shop big vehicles	workshop	board	2 jaar neighbourho od	does not live in the neigh.
8	y	73	m	hbs	Volunteer, former representative	chair APB (algemeen Plaatselijk belang)	whole live in Bedum	does not live in the neigh.
9	y	46	v	hbo	youth worker	representative	Not, 5 year work in Bedum	representative Bedum welfare organization
0	n	36	v	university	behavioral expert	representative	10	representative Bedum welfare organization