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**Teenagers' views on quality of life in two villages in
province of Groningen -The Netherlands**

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Potentials in the Northern region

- Beautiful wide landscapes, Drentsche Aa National Landscape takes in a varied 10,000 hectares of ancient farms, deep woods and straggly heath that bursts into purple bloom in late summer.
- Rich diversity in green areas, lakes, ponds and canals
- Lovely villages and hamlets
- Rich history
- Environmental Vision 2021



Challenges

- Not densely populated
- Demographic changes
- Faster ageing population
- Lack of facilities/amenities
- Less accessible
- Threats to social cohesion

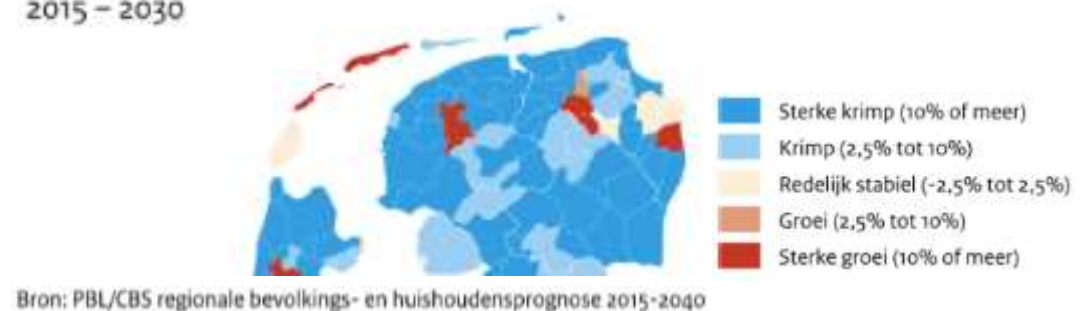


Population density per km² per municipality, 2016



Number of residents 4-12 years old per municipality

2015 – 2030



Ageing per municipality, 2018

Bron: CBS



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GO! NOORD NEDERLAND

The main goal of the project :

In this project, together with residents and local authorities, we are exploring the impacts of demographic changes on the quality of life in rural areas in the northern parts of the Netherlands.



Main aim of this study

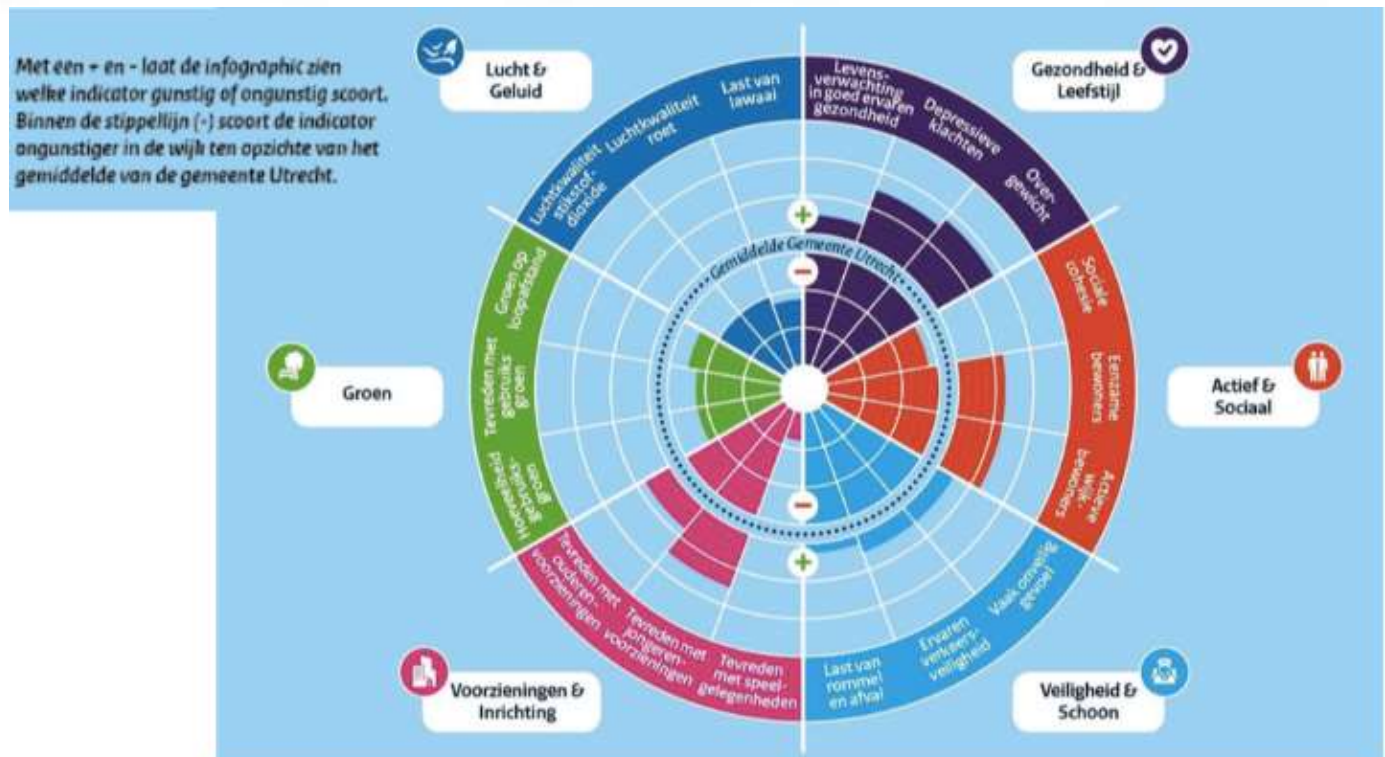


- To present about teenagers' perceptions of their living environments in two villages.
- To provide a detailed insight into why certain perceptions occur and what the associated physical and social qualities are, using a framework based on the GO! Method.



GO! Method

(Developed by RIVM based on positive health concept and tested in urban areas)



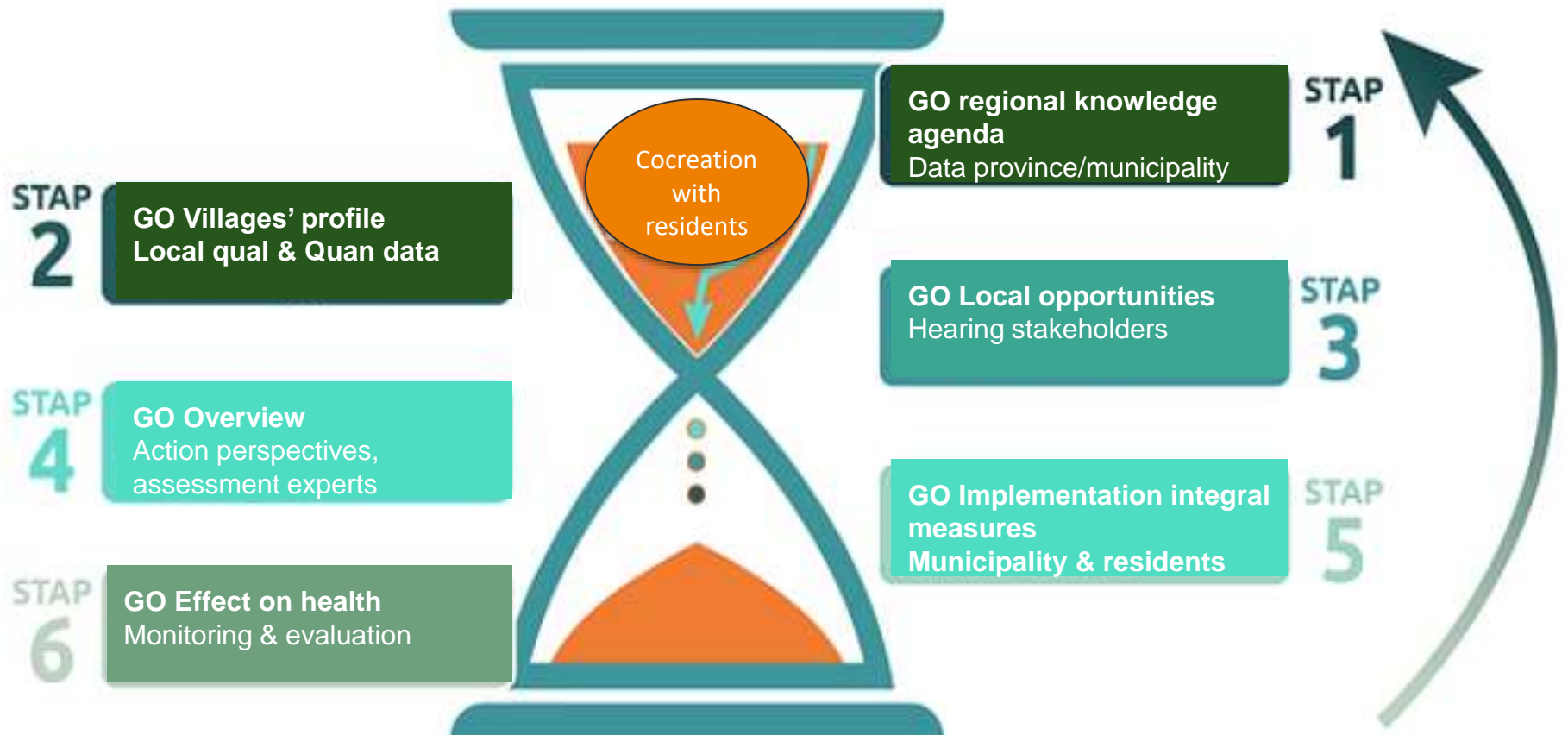
The Framework

The method allows us to identify opportunities and needs in a systematic way and combine local knowledge with results of research by involving residents and local authorities for a sustainable move towards a healthier environment.



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GO ! METHOD



About Healthy Living Environment (GO)

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Participants & topics of discussion



- 38 teenagers (11-16 years old) from 2 villages participated in our research
- One village 8 km from the city, with no highschool, the other one 25 km from the city with a highschool (both has around 2400 inhabitants)
- Quality of cycling pathways
- Perceptions about the public spaces in the villages,
- Which infrastructure or public spaces need to be improved
- Which facilities are absent



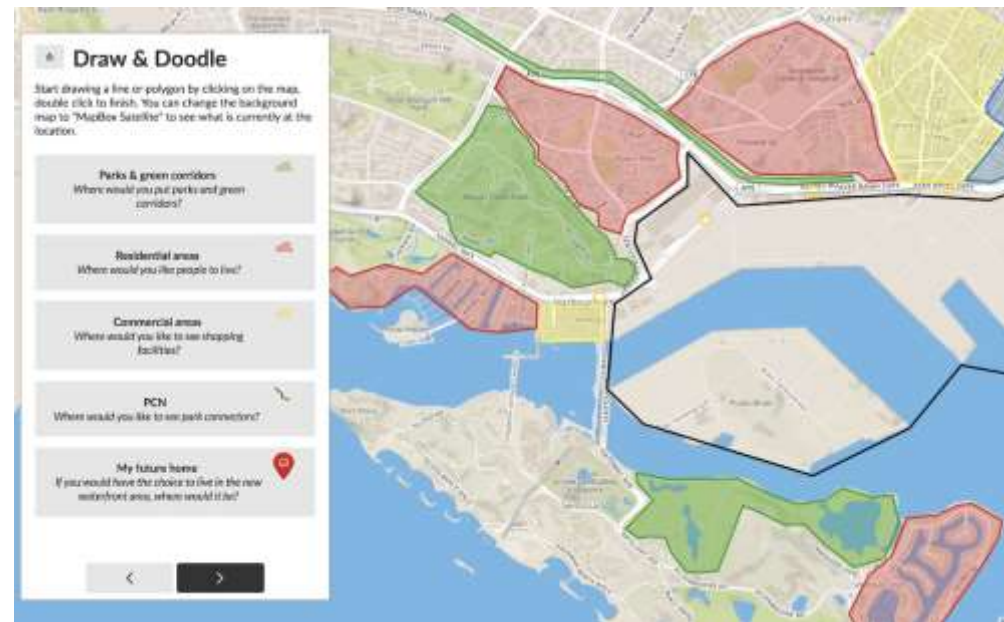
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Methods for data collection

- **MAPTIONNAIRE**

A map-based survey to get ideas and insights from residents (*38 respondents*)

- **FOCUS GROUP**



(8 from one village, 17 from another, in total 12 girls and 13 boys)

Quantitative questions

- Where do you live?
- Where do you go to school?
- How many kms do you travel to and from school?
- How do you go to school?why?
- What activities do you do in your village? And how often? Why?
- What activities do you like to do but it is not possible to do it in your village?
- In future as an adult, if you have a chance, would you rather to live in your village or would you prefer to move to a city?
- What is your age?
- How old are you?

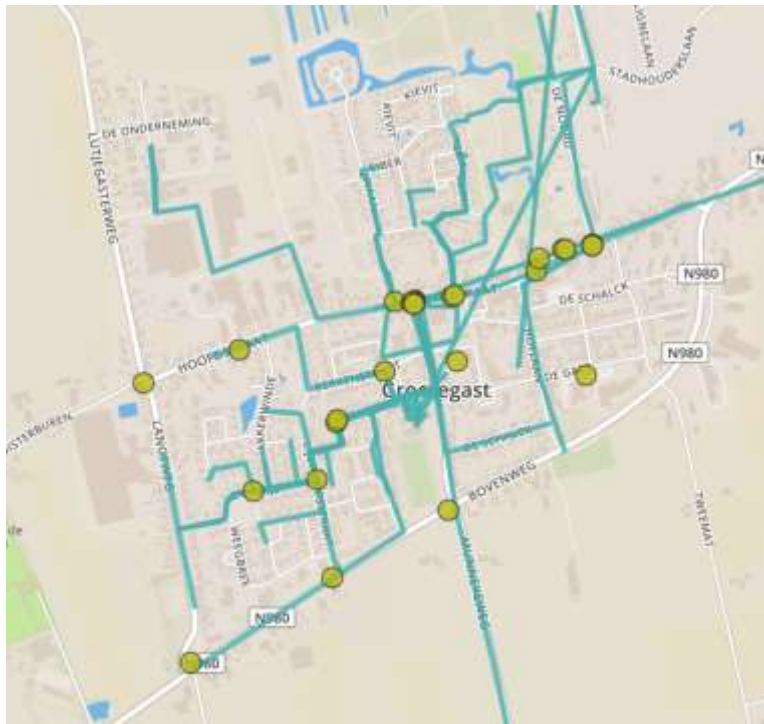
Qualitative questions

- What nice places in your village is important to you and why?
- Which unsafe public spaces in your village needs an immediate attention/improvement and why?
- If we give you 10,000 Euros to spend in your village, how will you spend it? Why?
- Which routes are you usually using to go to school?
- What are the unsafe spaces along your route?
- Have you ever involved in any accident on your way? Or maybe have seen an accident?
- What are the nice places in your village?
- What places in your village do you choose to do any activities with your friends?
- What public places in your village would you like to improve?

Maptionnaire



Important to give good instructions
what/how to draw



Summary of Results



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- They enjoy the greeneries in their village
- They enjoy that they know a lot of people in their village

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- Lack of sport facilities,
- Lack of clothing shops for teenagers,
- No organised activities for teenagers,
- lack of job,
- No high school,
- One or no café
- No gathering places,
- lack of traffic safety in some places

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Did teenagers from the two village respond differently?

Yes!

- In general, teenagers from the village closer to the city were more positive and more likely to live in their village as an adult
- Teenagers from the village closer to the city, did not ask for organized activities within their village, or shops in their village,
- but teenagers from both villages asked for specific sport facilities in their village, and gathering places for teenagers or inclusive places for all ages not only small children
- Surprisingly, teenagers from the village without high school, did not complain about it
- Teenagers from both villages, think the cycling pathways in their villages need to be improved (better lighting, and wider) to decrease accidents

Conclusion

- The results show **both similarity and heterogeneity in perception** (e.g. based on gender and age group), and
- The emergence of paying more attention to **teenagers' activities in rural areas.**
- Provides baseline results for facilitating informed decision making concerning the creation of **more attractive rural environments** for *teenagers, young adults and subsequently for families with young children.*

Thank You!

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