



GRANULAR

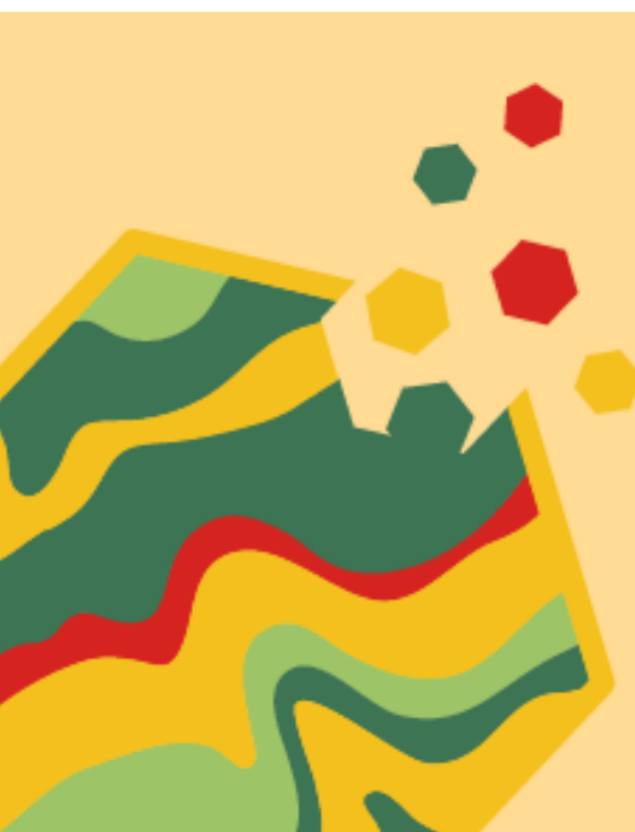
PRACTICE ABSTRACT

P10 (Network of 32 municipalities)



Author: Huiskamp, Heleen (P10)

Editors: Iglesias, Maite (AEIDL); Ntabuhashe, Merveille (AEIDL)



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The **Living Lab in the Netherlands** has focused on **research on the accessibility of basic services** in rural areas.

So far, both quantitative data and interviews with municipal officials and village representatives from three municipalities have been collected. One key observation is that the **quantitative data on service accessibility often does not align** with the views of village representatives and municipal staff. This highlights the value of qualitative research in gaining a **broader understanding of service availability and the role of villages in rural communities**.

Another important finding is that **community spaces**, such as local meeting halls or pubs, are crucial for the vibrancy of rural villages. The research has also explored the intricate relationship between **basic services and the resilience, quality of life, and self-sufficiency of small rural settlements**. To deepen these insights, it's necessary to combine data from various sectors, policy areas, and governance levels. Municipal policies on basic services tend to rely more on direct interaction with local community leaders, in addition to using official statistical data. Furthermore, there are significant variations in service accessibility across the P10 municipalities, influenced by factors such as municipal size, the number of small centres, residents' dependence on larger towns, and the proximity of services in neighbouring municipalities.

P10 | The Netherlands

Contact person:

Heleen Huiskamp

h.huiskamp@gemeenteberkelland.nl

Thematic Priority:

- Rural wellbeing

More info:

https://www.ruralgranular.eu/living_lab/living-lab-netherlands-p10/

ABOUT THE LIVING LAB

The P10 is an established alliance, formed in 2009, consisting of **32 rural municipalities** across the Netherlands. Through this collaboration, these municipalities exchange knowledge and jointly address national rural concerns. They focus on creating conditions that support the maintenance, development, and enhancement of rural areas, emphasizing **livability, appeal, resilience, and sustainability in sectors such as agriculture, nature, and energy**. The partnership also acknowledges the unique wellbeing needs of rural communities today and the potential contributions that rural areas can offer to overall wellbeing.

OBJECTIVES

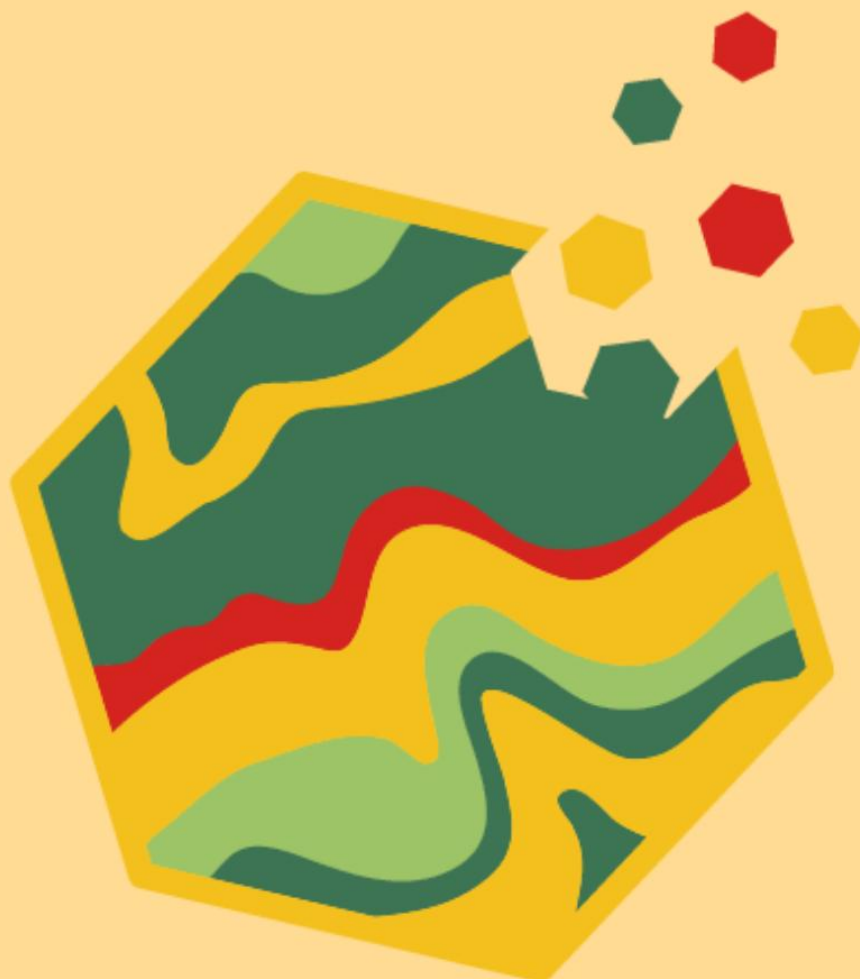
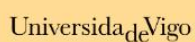
- The Lab's goal is to **gain a deeper understanding of the accessibility of essential services in rural areas and identify what is required to maintain the livability of villages**. It also aims to enhance the representation of rural perspectives in national wellbeing assessment methods. Through this, the Lab seeks to contribute to the development of rural and regional policies.
- The key participants currently include the **32 municipalities of the P10 and research institutions** such as Wageningen University & Research and the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency. Local communities will also be engaged in the research on essential services through interviews.
- The Lab's focus will primarily be on **researching the accessibility of essential services** in rural areas and identifying the needs for sustaining village livability. This will involve interviews with three municipalities and their residents. The data gathered will be incorporated into the national database to guide the interview process. After completing this research, the Living Lab will shift towards addressing broader wellbeing objectives.

DATA TO BE COLLECTED

The goal is to gather data on the relationship between rural wellbeing needs and the accessibility and availability of essential services. This process follows a systematic approach. Initially, an inventory was conducted of existing statistical data related to essential services in three P10 municipalities. Next, interviews were held with municipal representatives based on the themes outlined in the research design. Additional interviews with village representatives were then conducted to verify and supplement the findings. The final step involves a feedback session with the P10, discussing the findings and emphasizing the importance of collecting additional data at the micro (village) level and its implications for policy regarding basic services. To ensure a more accurate representation of rural issues in the broader wellbeing framework in the Netherlands, the Lab will identify gaps and extra indicators, particularly those focused on rural-specific aspects like nature, green spaces, and social elements, as well as how rural areas contribute to the wellbeing of urban areas.



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