



GRANULAR

LIVING LAB THE NETHERLANDS

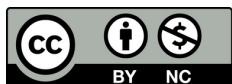
**Better knowledge for better
rural policies**

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www.ruralgranular.eu





P10 (The Netherlands)

ABOUT THE TERRITORY



Characteristics and trends

The P10 is a partnership of the 31 biggest rural municipalities in the Netherlands. The municipalities are spread out all over the Netherlands. There are more than 1 million inhabitants and 693 villages in the P10. By working together as rural municipalities we share our knowledge, we work together for our rural interests and we create preconditions to keep our municipalities livable and attractive in the future.

The most important topics which we are working on together are demographic changes, housing affordability, accessibility of public services, employment opportunities, community resilience, agricultural sector and spatial justice in the distribution and allocation of public funding. Most of these topics are somehow also part of the wider well-being monitor, the main thematic focus of our living lab.

THEMATIC FOCUS

The thematic focus of this Living is rural well-being. The Netherlands knows a rather rapidly growing policy interest in well-being assessments motivated by shared beliefs that society needs more comprehensive indicator frameworks to assess and compare spatial differences and trends.

The P10 is not fully convinced about the coverage of particular rural well-being aspects, both in terms of well-being concerns and well-being contributions. Therefore, how to improve the representation of 'the rural voice' in the ongoing elaboration of more sophisticated well-being assessment methods will be the principal purpose of the Dutch Living Lab. In doing so, the aim is to support the development of rural/regional development policies as well as the position of rural municipalities in multi-level governance setting, particularly those in more peripheral regions.



P10 (The Netherlands)



Priorities



Well-being



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Challenges

A national study showed that rural areas in the Netherlands are decreasing in rural wider well-being because of choices the government has made. Wider well-being assessment methods in the Netherlands make a distinction between three dimensions of well-being: well-being here and now, well-being elsewhere and well-being later. In addition these methods distinguish 8 thematic indicator fields: Subjective Wellbeing, Public Health, Consumption and Income, Education and Training, Spatial Coherence and Quality, Economic Capital, Natural Capital and Social Capital.

As said there is a decrease in rural wider wellbeing. For example, most Dutch rural villages are increasingly dependent on larger city centres in the region for public health services or other basic services, while public transport is deteriorating. With respect to employment, people in rural areas depend more often on commuting and/or lower-skilled employment opportunities. In rural areas we observe a strong community resilience, but this is also under threat, mostly because of the ageing population and a decline in facilities. It is a big challenge to stop these spiral-down effects.

ABOUT THE LIVING LAB



Objectives

The main objectives of the Dutch Living Labs are the following:

The rural voice in well-being assessment methods is improved, especially:

- More data on the relevance of nature and green environment in the wider wellbeing monitor.
- A better understanding of the social aspects of wider well-being, also at the collective/community level.
- A better understanding of how wider well-being is produced differently in rural compared to urban areas, specifically the relevance of basic services.
- Overcome the lack of insight into the production of wider well-being in border regions.

Rural, regional and national policies have been developed to guarantee the well-being in and of rural communities, in particular in the more peripheral regions, with an emphasis on:

More in-depth Insights into the (accessibility) of basic services in rural areas, also cross-border.

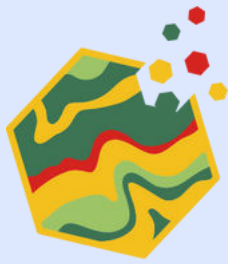
- A better insight into what is needed to keep villages in rural areas livable.
- A 'policy' guide for municipalities on basic services in rural areas.
- A learning community (and maybe guide) for municipalities on how to implement wider well-being in policies.



Composition

The main actors are for now the 31 municipalities of the P10 and research institutes, including the Wageningen University & Research and the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL).





GRANULAR

GRANULAR is a four-year multi-disciplinary and transnational project. It aims at generating new datasets, tools and methods to better understand rural diversity and to promote place-based rural policies.



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