



Surf PopUp meeting  
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# Samen Wonen, Samen Onderzoeken

**Prof. Vincent Gruis, Dr Darinka Czischke, Carla Huisman & Stephanie Zeulevoet**

Department of Management in the Built Environment (MBE)

Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, TU Delft



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# Outline

1. The SWSO project
  - background
  - aims
  - method
2. Findings
  - Case 1: Startblok Riekerhaven
  - Case 2: De Groene Gemeenschap
  - Between cases
3. Past and upcoming publications



# The SWSO project: Background

Self-managed, collaborative housing has come to the fore in the Netherlands

Main questions:

- What are good ways for residents to organise themselves?
- How can professionals from housing associations support such groups most efficiently and effectively, in line with their institutional goals?



# The SWSO project: Aims

Action research: stakeholders are "co-researchers"

- Which form of governance offers the best chance of achieving the objectives of the different actors in the short and long term?
- Sub-questions:
  - mapping the actors involved and their goals with the project
  - success factors
  - stumbling blocks



# The SWSO project: Method

2 case studies with tenants of social housing corporation:

- Startblok Riekerhaven
  - 565 young adults
  - 50% recent refugees
  - self-management by residents in form of self-management team



# The SWSO project: Method

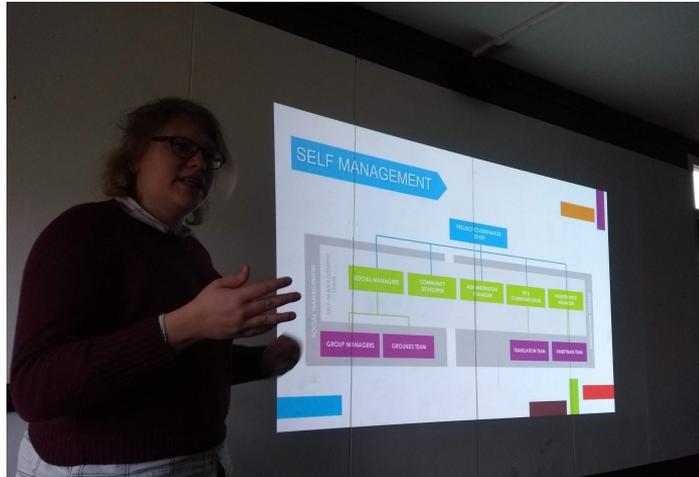
2 case studies with tenants of social housing corporation:

- De Groene Gemeenschap
  - cohousing group of 6 people
  - want to form a “wooncoöperatie”
  - self-management and ownership of the building



# The SWSO project: Method

Participative observation, interviews, and workshops with residents and professionals



# The SWSO project: Method

International seminar in November 2018



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# Findings: Startblok Riekerhaven

- Startblok works well on integration, self-management and community building
- Professionals and the self-management team share the goals of the project
- Less clarity about best ways to achieve goals
- Structure of the cooperation could be clearer in terms of communication and decision-making



# Findings: Startblok Riekerhaven

- Managing self-management is a balancing act between autonomy and engagement
- Sustained cooperation and communication could expand mutual trust
- Define what are the most suitable ways to reach the project goals



# Findings: De Groene Gemeenschap

- Despite the positive disposition of some housing associations, overall the wooncoöperatie model has been slow to take up
- Due to a number of societal, cultural and political factors:
  - inadequate regulatory framework for 'wooncoöperaties'
  - low degree of trust of institutional actors in the capacity of citizens to self-organise



# Findings: De Groene Gemeenschap

- Similar motivation of housing associations and tenant groups to form a 'wooncoöperatie'
- Certain aspects of the wooncoöperatie-model clash with objectives and responsibilities of housing corporations
- Conflict with Housing Law and other regulations

These factors cause tension and hinder the process of successfully forming a 'wooncoöperatie'.



# Findings between cases

- Self-management by residents/wooncoöperatie is new for housing corporations
  - requires intensive communication, transparency and building of trust
- Both groups are pioneers
  - many ideas and goals
  - ambitious
  - pressure to become example for future cases



# Past and upcoming publications

- Czischke, D., & Huisman, C. J. (2018). Integration through collaborative housing? Dutch starters and refugees forming self-managing communities in Amsterdam. *Urban Planning*, 3(4), 156-165.

## Upcoming:

- Huisman, C. J. & Czischke, D. (2019). How to manage self-management? On the cooperation between self-organised tenants and housing association professionals in a mixed Dutch-refugee housing project
- Czischke, D., Zeulevoet, S. & Huisman, C. J. (2019). The new Dutch 'wooncoöperatie' housing model: A tale of collective self-organisation of social tenants in Amsterdam

