# A look into private-led participation.

Navigating **shifting responsibilities** between private developers and municipalities in urban development projects.



Thif Tahtah P5 presentation 8th of November, 2024









#### **Problem statement.**

Shift towards private-sector led participation

Limited academic research on changing roles in private-led participation

Publications regarding participation are about state-led participation

#### Methods.

Theoretical research.

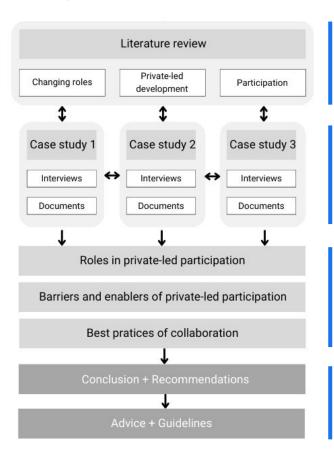
**Empirical research.** 

Discussion.

Conclusion.

Recommendations.

#### Methods.



#### Theoretical research

#### **Empirical research**

#### **Discussion**

**Conclusion Recommendations** 

# Main question.

What are the **changing roles** of private developers and municipalities, and how can they **collaborate** to enable private-led citizen participation processes in urban development projects?

# **Sub questions.**

- What are the roles that private developers and municipalities play in private-led citizen participation processes?
- What are the barriers and enablers of private-led citizen participation processes?
- What practices facilitate collaboration between private developers and municipal authorities in private-led citizen participation processes?

# **Sub questions.**

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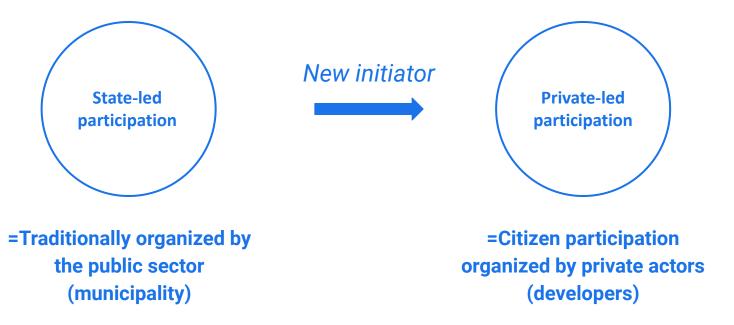
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The process of citizens being involved in urban development projects.









Budget and capacity	Diversity in participation techniques
Information deficit and knowledge asymmetry	Timing of participation at an early stage of the process
Unclear rules, conditions and intended goals	Alignment of goals, expectations and project definition
Mistrust and conflicting interests between actors	Establishing a dialogue between various actors during the process
Dominance and influence of vocal and organized groups	Preliminary analysis of actors

#### **Private-led participation.**

'Led' by private actors

'facilitated' by public actors

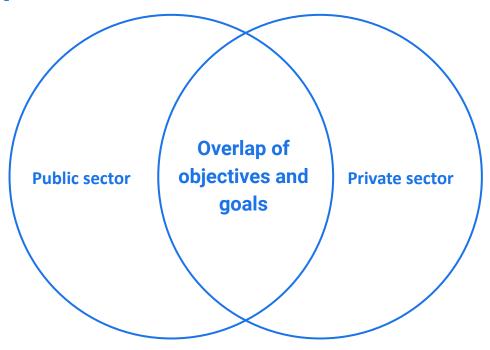


Clear roles and informal collaboration

Role characterized through management measures

## **Private-led participation. Roles.**

Managerial roles aspects	Variables			
Project Management	Initiating	Designing	Planning	Operating
Process Management	Negotiating	Decision-making	Communicating	
Management tools public	Shaping	Regulating	Stimulating	Capacity building
Management tools private	Enterprising	Investing	Collaborating	Initiating
Management resources	Land	Capital	Knowledge	

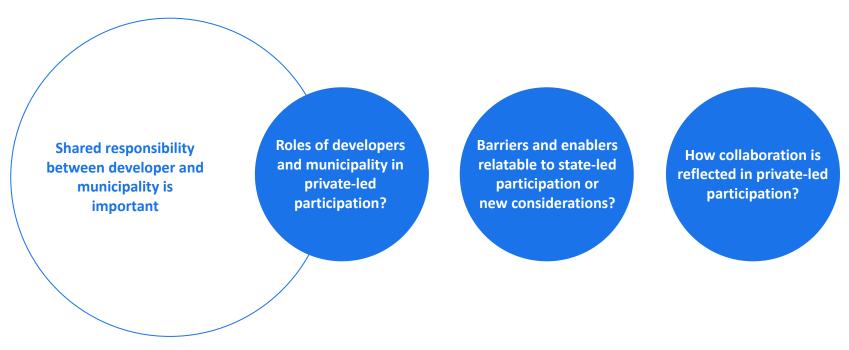


Necessitates greater **collaboration** across organizational boundaries, highlighting a **shared responsibility** 

#### Private-sector led development. Collaboration.

- Trust and mutual understanding
- Communication and transparency
- Flexibility and adaptability
- Shared values and goals
- Conflict resolution

### Private-led citizen participation.



Methods.

Theoretical research.

**Empirical research.** 

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## Multi-case study criteria.

Ongoing or completed development

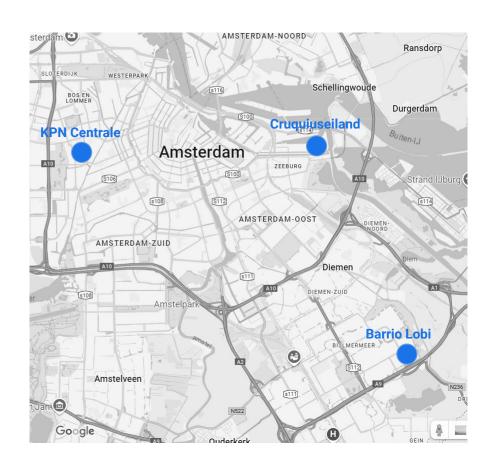
Within the municipality of Amsterdam

Unvolves developer, municipality, and citizens

Developer organizes participation

# Multi-case study.

- Cruquiuseiland
- Barrio Lobi
- KPN Centrale



# (1) Cruquius eiland. Amvest.



## **Cruquius eiland. Amvest.**

- Amvest.
- Industrial area. High-income residents.
- Municipality had no land position.
- Participation was part of initiative document.
- Introduced a rule card (spelregelkaart) to allow flexible, developer-led participation.
- Lots of collaboration and joint problem-solving during participation process.



# **Cruquius eiland. Amvest.**





Amsterdam

Zeraus

Schellingwoulde

Durgerdam

Amsterdam

Zeraus

Amsterdam

Zeraus

Diemen

Ansteigen

Diemen

Impressie van de gesprekken en de inspraakmogelijkheden



Impressie van de gesprekken

# (2) Barrio Lobi. Wonam.



AMSTERDAM-OOST

#### Barrio Lobi. Wonam.

- Wonam
- Low-income and different cultural backgrounds
- Municipality owns the land.
- Tender selection.
- Participation was part of tender selection.
- Little collaboration and separate developer and municipality roles.



## **Barrio Lobi. Wonam.**









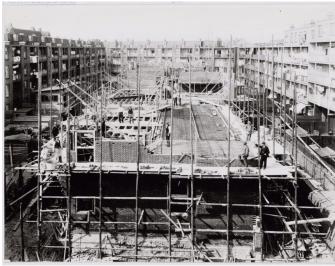


# **KPN Centrale. GPS Vastgoed.**



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### **KPN Centrale. GPS Vastgoed.**

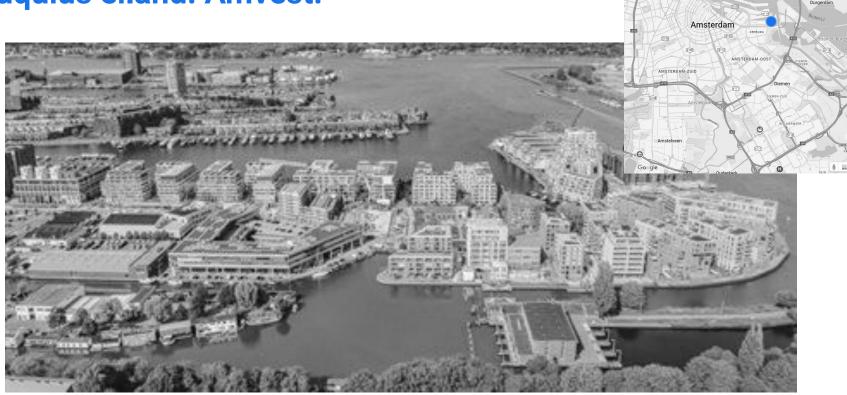
- KPN Vastgoed
- Middle income/high-income surrounding residents.
- Municipality had no land position.
- Participation was required.
- Participation led to policy of the municipality not being implemented.
- A lot of collaboration between developer and municipality.



# **Multi-case study**

Project	(1) Cruquius eiland	(2) Barrio Lobi	(3) KPN Centrale	
Location	Amsterdam-Oost	Amsterdam-Zuidoost	Amsterdam-West	
Neighborhood characteristics	Industrial estate where high-end housing is developed.	Development area within area of lots of social and middle-rent housing.	Industrial building within a densely populated, midto high-end neighborhood.	
Main stakeholders	Amvest, Cruquius-2015, Municipality	Wonam, SABO-advies, Municipality	GPS Vastgoed, Municipality	
Land ownership	Amvest (developer)	Municipality of Amsterdam	GPS Vastgoed (developer)	
Project scope	Large-scale urban development	Urban development of housing and leisure facilities.	Redevelopment of monumental company building	
Projects phase	Partly-finished, construction	Plan development	Construction	

# **Cruquius eiland. Amvest.**

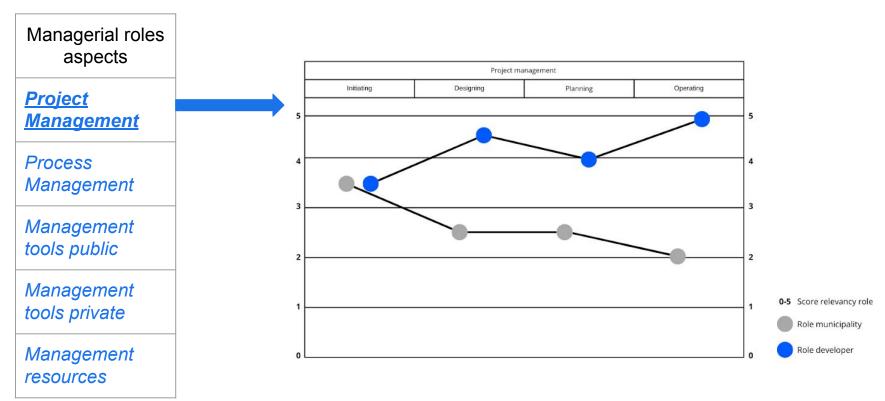


## **Cruquius eiland. Amvest.**

- What are the **roles** that private developers and municipalities play?
- What are the barriers and enablers?

What practices facilitate **collaboration** between private developers and municipal authorities?







"Even when a developer is in the lead of the participation, there will remain some roles for the municipality" – Int11



"Process management was decided on collectively" - Int11

"Especially with communications, the municipality often mediated. We sent out their invitation letters because we knew what the addresses were and who to invite" – Int5



"Instead of playing a regulatory role towards such a project developer, the municipality sat down next to the developer and looked at how we could come up with a common plan with shared benefits" – Int2



"The municipality has knowledge about municipal things, but not about project development. On Cruquius is that precisely because Amvest developed a lot there, their knowledge of the neighborhood is very good" – Int2

## **Cruquius eiland. Amvest. Barriers.**



"It's often unclear to residents—many assume it's a municipal event, and only later realize it's developer-led" – Int5

# **Cruquius eiland. Amvest. Barriers.**



"For citizens and companies, the primary point of contact remains the government, regardless of private—led participation. Thus the municipality must carefully consider its role in public debate" – Int5

## **Cruquius eiland. Amvest. Barriers.**



"Bringing stakeholders into the conversation early on to discuss preconditions proved invaluable. This ensured that all voices were heard from the start" – Int11

## **Cruquius eiland. Amvest. Collaboration.**

- Trust and mutual understanding
- Communication and transparency
- Flexibility and adaptability

"Trust and good intentions. The intention to do well and work together to create a good residential area" - Int1

"Sticking to our roles is essential. Each party—municipality and developer—has clear responsibilities, and we try not to blur the lines. This clarity helps us answer questions within our roles effectively" - Int2

## **Cruquius eiland. Amvest. Collaboration.**

- Trust and mutual understanding
- Communication and transparency
- Flexibility and adaptability

"We maintained openness in communication, sharing political priorities and preliminary insights, and occasionally the municipality helped us reach out to specific stakeholders as needed" - Int11

## **Cruquius eiland. Amvest. Collaboration.**

- Trust and mutual understanding
- Communication and transparency
- Flexibility and adaptability

"The project's flexibility, with room for ongoing discussions and adjustments, was possible because of the strong trust and shared interests." - Int2

Methods.

Theoretical research.

**Empirical research.** 

Discussion.

Conclusion.

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#### **Discussion. Roles.**

• What are the **roles** that private developers and municipalities play in private-led citizen participation processes?



- Roles vary and shift.
- Collaboration is key to balancing public and private interests.

## **Discussion. Barriers.**

• What are the **barriers** and enablers of private-led citizen participation processes?



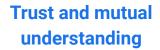
### **Discussion. Enablers.**

• What are the barriers and **enablers** of private-led citizen participation processes?



#### **Discussion.** Collaboration.

• What practices facilitate **collaboration** between private developers and municipal authorities in private-led citizen participation processes?





Clear roles and personal engagement.

Communication and transparency



Open dialogue and clear expectations

# Shared goals and values



Positive attitudes, long-term engagement, and municipal presence. Methods.

Theoretical research.

**Empirical research.** 

Discussion.

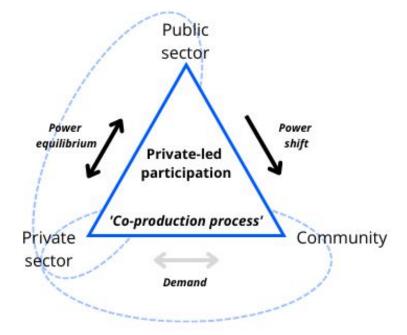
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### Conclusion.

What are the **changing roles** of private developers and municipalities, and how can they **collaborate** to enable private-led citizen participation processes in urban development

projects?



Methods.

Theoretical research.

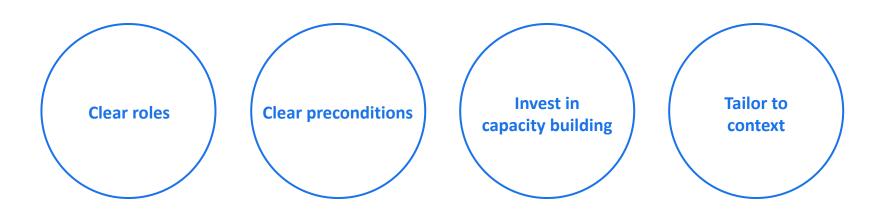
**Empirical research.** 

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## Recommendations.



## Recommendations for further research.

Residents experiences of private-led participation Private-led participation across different municipalities

Impact of political landscape on private-led participation

## Limitations.

- Limited to Dutch context
- Concentration on only the Municipality of Amsterdam.
- Biases and subjectivity due to working experience at private developer.
- Narrow scope of three cases may not fully capture the diverse nature of various participatory processes.
- Environmental and Planning Act relatively new in practice.

# **Questions?**



Thif Tahtah P5 presentation 8th of November, 2024