



Share & Link – that’s me, Sabine Lutz.

I’m a researcher in the field of innovative cooperation. In addition, I prepare projects aimed at knowledge creation in practice, on regional as well as national and European level.

I’m happy to share the results on my website.



New style cooperatives

During the past few years, traditional cooperatives got a fresh boost. For the most part, it are citizens who took specific matters into their own hands, for instance for organising health care or energy supply. However, this is not the focus of my research. I’m interested in what you might call ‘new style cooperatives, where various stakeholders from diverse branches and domains decide to long term cooperation. Their shared frame may be the region, the village, the district or neighbourhood.

There are just few examples. The Gebiedscoöperatie (regional cooperative) in the Dutch Westerkwartier is one of them. This cooperative’s members share their concern for improving and maintaining the socio-economic standard within their region. The Gebiedscoöperatie is their enterprise. Successful and long term cooperation requires new competences and perspectives of the members – citizens, entrepreneurs, administrators, civil servants, educational institutes and researchers.

Learning process

This is what I’m interested in. My research basis stems from what I learned during the Shared Space programme, developing new ideas on how to design multipurpose public spaces. I’ve been involved in preparing and realising the large scale European cooperation project Shared Space. Step by step we learned that it not just about developing appealing new street designs. What happens once we are going to use our new streets and squares? Is Shared Space finished then? Or just starting? Are we capable for common ‘self-direction’? And do authorities succeed in deregulation and new forms of enforcement?

I want to find out how the stakeholders get the process going. What obstacles and problems do they face and how do they cope? How do they organise their shared learning process? In the Netherlands, national, regional and local authorities expect citizens, entrepreneurs and community organisations to engage for and invest in society. This needs a lot of changes and innovations, which go hand in hand with wicked problems. Purpose of my research is to contribute to solving them.

Do you have comments or just want to know details? Please, send me an email to salut@share-link.eu and I will contact you.



I’m happy to cooperate with:

- Kenniswerkplaats Westerkwartier
- Gebiedscoöperatie Westerkwartier
- Terra MBO
- Hanzehogeschool Groningen