



"Regions, Cities, Neighbourhoods - strong Partners"

# RegGov

Regional Governance of Sustainable Integrated  
Development of Deprived Urban Areas

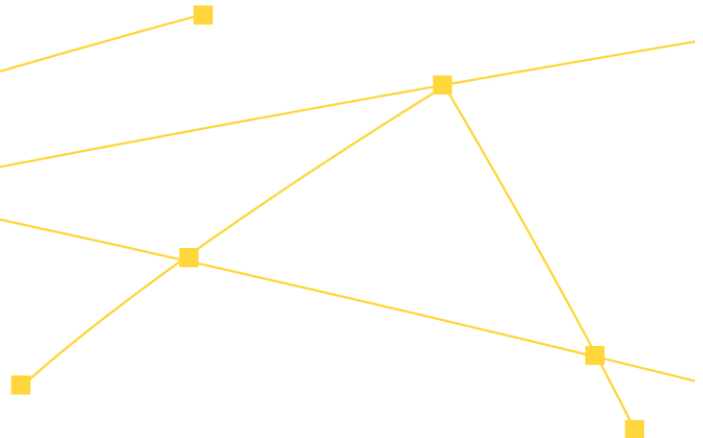
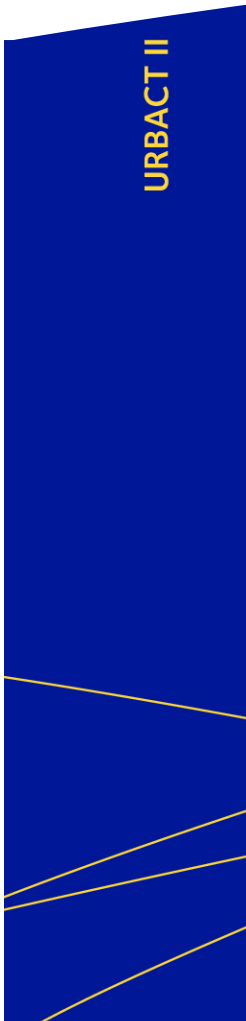
## Local Action Plan

English abstract



### City of Nijmegen, The Netherlands

April 2011



Connecting cities  
Building successes





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## I. Description of the RegGov target area

The neighbourhood is called: *Waterkwartier*. It has all the traditional and familiar problems of a working-class quarter, but in this case combined with the situation that in the next 15 years there will be large-scale physical developments at two edges of the neighbourhood: the number of houses - and also the number of inhabitants - will double! The big challenge is to turn this situation into a change for the current Waterkwartier!

The neighbourhood is situated along the river "Waal", in between the city centre and the biggest industrial area of the city. So: on one hand a good location near the river and the city centre, on the other hand a bad location in terms of environmental problems.

*Size:* 131 hectares

*Number of inhabitants:* 7000

*Ethnic composition:* Non-western: 11% (in Nijmegen total: 12%)

*Age structure:* The same as the structure for the city as a whole

*Social situation* [unemployment, income levels, etc.]:

- unemployment: higher in comparison to the percentage in total Nijmegen
- low income: 51% (Nijmegen: 43%)

*Economic situation:* Waterkwartier is a mainly residential area; the economic functions are situated at the borders or outside the area

*Housing* [number and ownership structure]: number: 3122, of which rental housing: 68% (Nijmegen: 56%)

*Infrastructural facilities:* Most important: 1 primary school, two community centres and a small shopping centre

*Other data* relevant for the topic of your LAP:

- feels healthy: 76% (Nijmegen: 81%)
- the flow through from primary school to the secondary school and higher education: 35% (Nijmegen: 52%)
- Average mark from the inhabitants about their neighbourhood: 6.8 ( Nijmegen: 7.3)

## II. Problems & challenges

Strengths & Opportunities	Weaknesses & Deficits
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Located near the river and near the city centre</li> <li>2. new developments at the edges ("Make it a change, not a problem!")</li> <li>3. Private owner wants to renew and extend the current shopping centre (Marialaan/Koekoekstraat)</li> <li>4. Inhabitants are generally proud of their neighbourhood (a lot of Roman history!)</li> <li>5. In this traditional working-class district ("born and die"), there is a high standard of social control</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Located near large industrial areas (environmental problems)</li> <li>2. In general, low social profile of the inhabitants (domestic problems , low education, poor chances for jobs etc.)</li> <li>3. Near the city centre: increasing drug-related problems coming from the city centre, and problems for the shopping centre because of the attractiveness of the city centre</li> <li>4. Danger of further social segregation because of the low housing-differentiation</li> </ol>



### III. Potentials

In 2006 the municipality drew up – with the full involvement of the inhabitants and the stakeholders in het Waterkwartier – a midterm district-vision (2005-2020), followed by an action plan containing 9 spearhead initiatives. The main motive of this vision was the situation outlined above (traditional problems of a working-class quarter combined with the upcoming important developments at its borders).

One of the most important (interesting but very difficult to realise!!) spearhead initiatives is the realisation of a *Central Integrated Community-centre* (CIC), including the idea of the open (“broad”) school.

With this CIC we want to achieve a lot of things:

- to improve social cohesion within “het Waterkwartier”
- to improve the integration of the coming new inhabitants with the current inhabitants
- to offer a good school for new inhabitants
- to better the relations between school and parents
- to improve childcare
- to extend the opportunities for school-children by offering them a variety of activities such as art, culture, sports, etc.

### IV. Expected impact and effects on the image

In the 2006 Districtvision Waterkwartier, ‘connection’ is the main ambition for further developments of the entire neighbourhood. There are major changes at hand, and the big challenge is to conserve the existing social cohesion while at the same time connecting the new residents with the original inhabitants.

There are major changes at hand, and the big challenge is to conserve the existing social cohesion while at the same time connecting the new residents with the original inhabitants.

It was this motto of ‘connection’ that led to the idea to create a *vibrant heart* right in the middle of the district: a meeting point for young and old, a centre of social services, from community school to day packages and from childcare to neighbourhood activities.

It now looks as if the new developments fit together in terms of time: both the CIC in the heart of the Waterkwartier and the first new housing-estates in the ‘Waalfront’ will be ready in the year 2013.

### V. LSG: composition, important stakeholders, etc.

1. Municipality: District manager Nijmegen-West (Jan Bannink)
2. Municipality: Project leader CIC
3. Existing civic community centre (chairman)
4. Existing school on location (Director Aquamarijn)
5. School organisation (city-wide)
6. Crèche (KION)
7. Welfare organisation (Tandem)
8. Recent under discussion: library
9. Also under discussion: gym
10. Incidental: RegGov-contact (H.J. ter Schegget)
11. Incidental: MA (Province of Gelderland)

### VI. Monitoring (on the selection of the target area) & evaluation (on the implementation of the LAP)

Every two years we conduct a city survey with statistics, questionnaires and interviews: in this monitor we can follow the developments in all 44 districts of Nijmegen, based on many indicators; het Waterkwartier is one of those districts.

### VII. LAP timetable

1. Town counsel decided on the district vision of the Waterkwartier: 2006
2. Initial talks about the realisation of a heart devices in the centre of the neighbourhood: 2007
3. Start of the Local Support Group and the meetings with the residents: 2008
4. LSG in full action and feasibility study: 2009
5. Decisions about the LAP in the boards of directors of participating partners in the



7. future central integrated community centre: 2010
8. Finally: the town council decided favourably on 17 Nov. 2010 on our LAP-proposal
9. Finish the design of the building and final overview of the total costs
10. Finish the application at the MA and get the formal approval (end of 2011)
11. Start of project implementation (beginning of 2012)
12. Opening of the brand new integrated community centre: 2013

### VIII. LAP financing

- financial contribution Conexus (school): 738,000 €
- financial contribution MA (ERDF): 2,785,000 €
- financial contribution province of Gelderland: 300,000 €
- financial contribution Nijmegen municipality : 3,398,000 €

Total investment CIC: 7,221,000 €

### IX. Impact of the transnational exchange for the LAP production

The impact of the transnational exchange for the LAP-production was more indirect than direct: the exchange of knowledge is a real source of inspiration to work on projects of urban renewal in our common deprived neighbourhoods. In addition, for our design of the CIC in het Waterkwartier, we are inspired by the "Kulturhus" in the country of our Swedish colleagues from Södertälje.

*[Note: Especially for this CIC-project there is a special website in progress for use by all partners, future users and inhabitants in the Waterkwartier: [www.voorzieningenhart.nl](http://www.voorzieningenhart.nl)]*



## Imprint

**Regional Governance** of Sustainable Integrated Neighbourhood Development – RegGov  
**RegGov** is a Fast Track Thematic Network in the URBACT II Programme.

Further information is available under: [urbact.eu/reg\\_gov](http://urbact.eu/reg_gov)

## Local Action Plan

English abstract

**RegGov partner city:**

City of Nijmegen, The Netherlands

**RegGov target area:**

Waterkwartier

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URBACT is a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development.

It enables cities to work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges, reaffirming the key role they play in facing increasingly complex societal changes. URBACT helps cities to develop pragmatic solutions that are new and sustainable, and that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions. It enables cities to share good practices and lessons learned with all professionals involved in urban policy throughout Europe. URBACT is 300 cities, 29 countries, and 5,000 active participants. URBACT is part-financed by the European Union (European Regional Development Fund).

Integrated approaches to the development of deprived urban neighbourhoods have proved to be successful in many old EU member states over the last decades. Crucial factors for success are efficient co-operation and a high level of trust between cities and their managing authorities. The challenge is how to develop, implement and fund such policies at a broad European level. The REGGOV Network focused on making practical experiences accessible and supporting partners to develop and implement new integrated strategies for sustainable neighbourhood and urban development.

[www.urbact.eu/reg\\_gov](http://www.urbact.eu/reg_gov)



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