



*The policy turn towards
voluntary active citizenship
in the neighborhood*



Outline

- Voluntary active citizenship policies in UK and the Netherlands
- Theoretical frame of citizenship
- Welfare state under stress
- Three types of active citizenship in the retrenching welfare state
- Political rationales for involving voluntary active citizens
- Why in the neighborhood
- Opportunities and difficulties
- Conclusions

Voluntary active citizenship policies in UK and Netherlands



Voluntary active citizenship in UK neighborhoods

- Integrated regeneration: New Deal for Communities, Single Regeneration Budgets, Neighborhood Regeneration Funds
- Community social enterprise



Voluntary active citizenship in Dutch neighborhoods

- ‘Wijkaanpak’ (Neighborhood intervention)
- ‘Wijkbudgetten’ (Neighborhood budgets)
- Community enterprise pilot
- Sociale wijkteams (Neighborhood Social Teams)

Critique



Policies- theoretical frame – stress on welfare state – active citizenship – why – where – gains and problems

Theoretical frame of citizenship

- Marshall's 1949 model of civil, political and social citizenship.

Social citizenship yet socially excluded

- From 1970's onward Walzer, Sen, Bourdieu and others show that poverty is only partly a question of material need. Poverty is multidimensional and also entails reduced political participation in society and lack of recognition of (group) identities (Oosterlynck, 2013)

Participation and Citizenship

- Sen: Collective action and debate creates new ends and new means
- Political participation strengthens positive freedom of marginalized groups.
- Feminist approach: Recognition of identity, regarding differences and sameness - Participation in both the public and private sphere.

Theoretical frame of active citizenship

- Walzer's Spheres of Justice, 1983

Theoretical frame of active citizenship

- Active citizenship = citizens' direct involvement in public issues, such as welfare
- Medieval guilds and commons (*De Moor, 2012*)
- Cooperatives, friendly societies, charities in industrializing Europe (*De Moor, 2012*)
- Citizenship depends on democracy, belonging and participation

Welfare state under stress:

- 80's onwards: recalibration, recasting, retrenchment of the welfare state
 - Economic crises,
 - Fear of free-riding: overconsumption and fraud. crisis of solidarity
 - Fear of inefficiency
 - New Social Risks

New Social Risks

- tertiarization of the economy
- female labour participation
- longer old age
- low skilled labour immigration waves
- single parent households

Adaptation of the welfare state

Marketization strategies: privatization, New Public Management and quasi-markets.

Re-involving the citizen: Active citizenship

The welfare state comes with duties and requests

Rescaling

Three types of active citizenship

The active job seeker (Bonoli, 2010)

The active consumer. Choice and voice in consumption of welfare services (Newman & Tonkens, 2011; De Leonardis, 2011)

Voluntary active citizenship (Kearns, 1995; Marinetto 2003; Verhoeven & Ham, 2010)

Political reasons for rescaling through volunteering

- To bring down costs. In-kind services are costly since labour intensive, volunteering is 'free'
- To foster solidarity through more local, personal dependencies (Etzioni, 2001)
- To strengthen social cohesion (Forrest & Kearns, 2001; Putnam, 2001)
- To bridge gap between politics and citizens.
Associations to foster debate and political skills

Why voluntary active citizenship *in the neighborhood?*

- Locus of social problems
- Own interests in neighborhood
- Belonging
- Organiser of social life
- Trust
- -> collective action
- Local knowledge (Yanow, 2004)
- Small scale -> creativity and innovation

Political rationales to support active citizenship in *deprived* neighborhoods

- Public familiarity (Blokland, 2008)
- Fostering collective efficacy
- Battling stigma

- Here social exclusion and problems most visible.
- ‘Neighborhood effects’ (Wilson, 1987 and many others)
- Broken Window Theory
- Showing that the municipality cares.
- Financial interests in real estate and attractiveness of the whole city

Opportunities

- ‘Altruistic surplus’. Often positive evaluations (Tonkens, 2009)
- Different motivations: communitarian and personal ones

Difficulties regarding outcomes

- Regional (neighborhood) inequalities
- Independence of voluntary organisations
- De-professionalization
- Values of good governance: accountability, resilience, responsiveness, reliability, impartiality

Organizational difficulties

- Energy to volunteer often dependent on recognition and absence of tensions
- Network needs to be heterogeneous, and have enough bridges

Personal difficulties

- Overburdening of volunteers
- Self-respect of the receiver of help

Conclusions

- Citizenship: belonging, participation, democracy
- Capitalize on social capital
- Budget cutting
- Severe difficulties in organization and outcomes, huge 'back up system' needed

Thank you for your attention.

Welfare state

- Historically grown as a counterforce to disruption of social relations under expanding capitalism, not a closed concept
- WRR (2008): Functions of the welfare state
 - Insurance (through contributions)
 - Assistance (one-way)
 - Emancipation
 - Integration

Voluntary active citizenship policies in UK and Netherlands

