

From care to cable. Market failure and citizens' collectivities in the Netherlands

The Netherlands are currently witnessing impressive developments in terms of new citizen's collectivities in practically every sector. On the basis of similar historical developments, one can conclude that this is closely related to the incapacity and/or unwillingness of regular market providers to offer goods and services at a high quality and in an accessible (physically close to the potential consumer) and affordable (at a reasonable price) way. Given the spatial and demographic composition of specific areas in the Netherlands, collectivities in various sectors in which goods and services are highly dependent on physically concentrated demand seem to be sectors where collectivities grow rapidly. Though in principle rather different types of sectors, the care sector –in particular elderly care- and the provision of fibre-glass cables seem to demonstrate regional similarities in the willingness of local people to organize in collectivities.