Governance role shifts in the context of rural population decline
Experimental forms of participation of local governments and citizens in socio-spatial planning issues

Growth versus decline

- **Paradigm of growth**: a part of our socialization process and the dominant basis for rational planning of the physical environment, the economy and civil society

- **Decline**: raising awareness of the need in the public spheres of adoption of new mind-sets and adaptation of existing formal and informal structures by considering population decline as providing innovative chances instead of being a threat

Maintaining or enhancing rural quality of life

Acceptance of decline and urgency of changing relations between local governments and citizens: starting point for experimentation with socio-spatial planning issues

Government Participation Ladder

- Regulating
- Directing
- Stimulating
- Facilitating
- Releasing

New discours of leading citizens initiative with government participation (ROB, 2012)

Public Participation Spectrum

- Empower
- Collaborate
- Involve
- Consult
- Inform

This ladder is based on the IAP2’s Public Participation Spectrum (2014)

Experimental governance forms with active citizen and governmental engagement

Collaborations with housing corporations, health care institutions, schools, churches, elderly homes and banks

H(iska) Ubels, Msc
E-mail: h.ubels@rug.nl