



RESEARCH TEAM

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IMPACT STORIES

Michi Noeki as social infrastructure

University of Groningen (RUG), the Netherlands

The Michi Noeki in Groningen is a rest stop in the neighbourhood; a place where residents can rest, drink a cup of coffee or tea, start a conversation, or go to the toilet. Therefore, the Michi Noeki is a form of social infrastructure; the physical structures that make possible the social life of places.

Multiple indicators identify the Oosterparkwijk as a vulnerable neighbourhood, such as a relatively high share of low-income households, high levels of loneliness, and low levels of health and citizen participation. Michi Noeki is one of the interventions by Groningen Municipality to improve conditions in this neighbourhood. The goal of the Michi Noeki is quite literally an in-between stop between public services, facilities, and community organisations. It should ultimately contribute to a more inclusive and equitable neighbourhood.

The University of Groningen partners with Groningen Municipality to evaluate the effectiveness of the Michi Noeki for these stated aims. University of Groningen researchers will answer the question: 'to what extent do the Michi Noeki's improve the social infrastructure in the Oosterparkwijk, Groningen?'

The project is a collaboration between the University of Groningen (Sander van Lanen, Louise Meijering, Julia Brink and several master students) and Groningen Municipality (Frank Brander and Robert Bleeker) to evaluate the Michi Noeki. The municipality uses the UG impact analyses of the Michi Noeki in the Oosterparkwijk to design further project roll-out.

The Michi Noeki research project showcases how society-university collaboration both gives advantageous access for researchers to conduct cutting-edge academic research and provides excellent project insights to inform the ongoing implementation of public investment.

"The Michi Noeki project demonstrates that close collaboration between researchers and societal organisations can provide the basis for excellent academic research while immediately contributing to the society that the university is part of. In this way, we can not only understand and theorise social infrastructure, but immediately use these insights to contribute to social dynamics in the Oosterparkwijk".

Do you want to know more about our story?

<https://www.rug.nl/news/2022/10/how-your-neighbourhood-determines-your-opportunities>

<https://mijnoosterparkwijk.nl/michi-noeki/>

