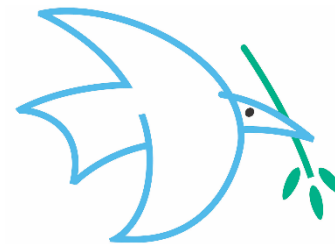


# Barriers to advocacy on (risk of) homelessness in The Netherlands

*15th European Research Conference on  
Homelessness*  
FEANTSA



JAN DE VRIES  
JdV Consultancy and Training

# *Overview*

Why this research?

Findings

Recommendations



# Why?

- Increase in (risk of) homelessness
- (Absence of) policy and legislation causes homelessness or increases it
- Advocacy is crucial to address structural and systemic problems
- Current advocacy initiatives achieve limited results
- How is this possible?





# Research question

*What are the barriers to  
advocacy on (risk of)  
homelessness in The  
Netherlands?*



# How?

- Case study method
- Literature review
- 29 interviews with 33 people
- Semi-structured interviews
- Validation meeting
- Consulted researchers
- Support from small group of professionals on research, advocacy, homelessness and civil society on homelessness
  - Wim Eickholt;
  - Willem Elbers;
  - Jelmer Kamstra
  - Edo Paardekooper Overman
  - Wout Visser



# Advocacy in NL now

- Many organisations working on local level, few on national
- Local level primary focus is on service delivery. At national level mostly on advocacy
- At national level advocacy on policy and legislation. Whereas local level advocacy is on implementation.
- Topics access to: care, shelter, income.
- Local level advocacy is Intuitive. Most national level advocacy is more strategic.

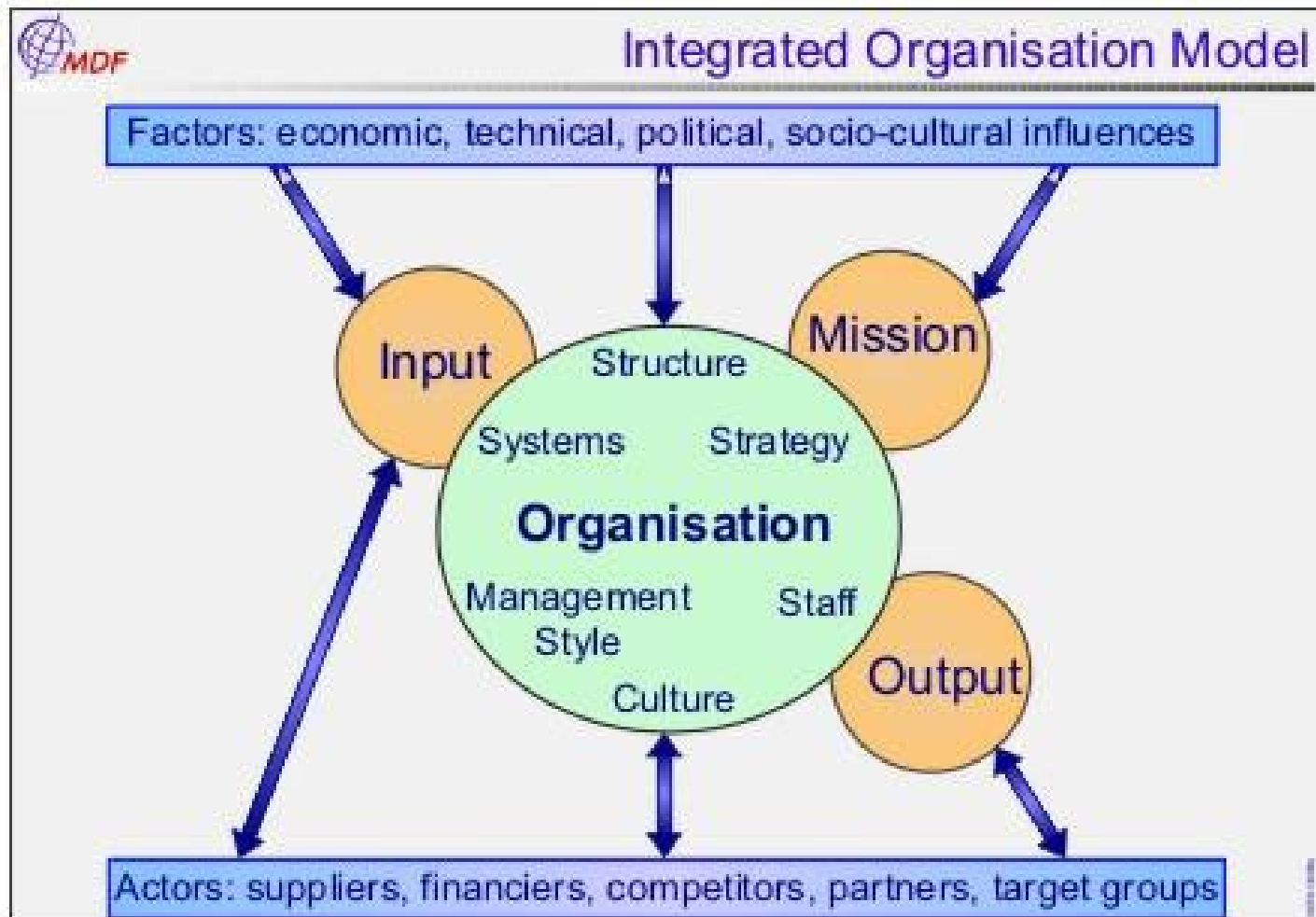


# Findings

- Barriers within organisations
- Limited role of rights holders/beneficiaries
- Lack of cooperation on advocacy
- Financial relationship with municipalities
- Co-optation by the State through the Poldermodel



# Barriers within organisations





# Barriers within organisations

Advocacy not reflected in mission and board

Absence of advocacy strategy

Information/data not managed for advocacy

Staff hired for service delivery not advocacy

Limited funds to do advocacy





# Limited role of rights holders





# Limited role for rights holders

Limited role of (former) homeless increases risk of 'tokenism'

Focus on individual empowerment rather than collective empowerment



# Financial relationship with State



# Financial relationship with State

Negative: don't bite the hand that feeds you

Positive: relationship with and knowledge of policy makers and policymaking



# Recommendations Civil Society

- Reflection!!!
- Assess and increase organisational capacities to do advocacy
- Prioritise and strategise





## Recommendations donors

- Fund capacity enhancement
- Fund (the costs of) cooperation
- Long-term core funding or programmatic
- Results-based instead of outputs-based



Made possible with financial  
support from

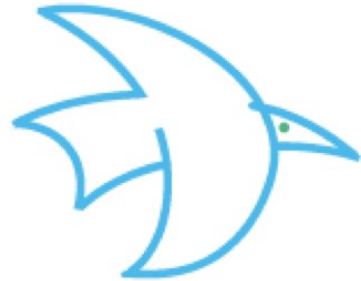


Kansfonds  
geven om  
een ander





# Thank you!



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