The Concept of Self-organization
Self-organization: government is not the only centrality, but the perspective of citizens that want to contribute to urban development out of their own interests.

Theoretical framework derived from: complex system theory, post-structuralist planning theory, actor-network theory.

Community based self-organization in urban development:
• initiatives originating in civil society
• by community based networks of citizens
• autonomously organized from governmental procedures
• yet part of the urban system, spatial and situated
• initiators are intended end users.

Research Question: Under which conditions does self-organization in urban development emerge, and how can self-organization become robust and enhanced in planning practice?

Case Studies
State-of-the-art examples of self-organization in sustainable urban development in three domains: social, economic, cultural.

Dutch cases and referential (international) case studies as thematic equivalents.
1. Under which conditions did the initiative emerge?
2. How did institutional arrangements bend around the initiative?
3. What actors, institutional settings and strategies?

Sources: primary (interviews, communication material made by the initiative), secondary (news coverage, policy documents, maps, data), tertiary (scientific publications, related research).

Reflections on Planning
Case study descriptions are compared to the daily practice of the Dutch planning system; it’s driving and obstructing forces. The results of this research will be translated in a new (institutional) model of actor-relational planning with regard to the development of sustainable cities, by using the competences of civil society.