



# We're all experts!

## Stakeholder engagement in scoping Health Impacts

*Loes Geelen , Lea Den Broeder , Monique Scholtes , Kai Yin Chung,  
Annemiek Van Overveld, Annemarie Wagemakers*

# Triple-helix approach!

---



**Policy**  
**Practice**  
**Science**

# A Dutch problem: can IA effectively address resident's health concerns?

- Regulations for environment, those are assessed in EIA
- Resident engagement in EIA is minimal
- Many health issues, although important for residents, are overlooked in EIA
- Stand-alone HIA is not mandatory
- Experts and lay people do not understand each other well: conflict instead of consensus

# An experiment: Vught

- Piloting a new way to engage residents AND other stakeholders in health impact scoping
- Will we get a more comprehensive view of health issues at stake?
- Will stakeholders reach consensus about these issues?



# Meet Vught!

- 26.000 inhabitants
- Southern Netherlands
- Lively community!





**VUGHT**

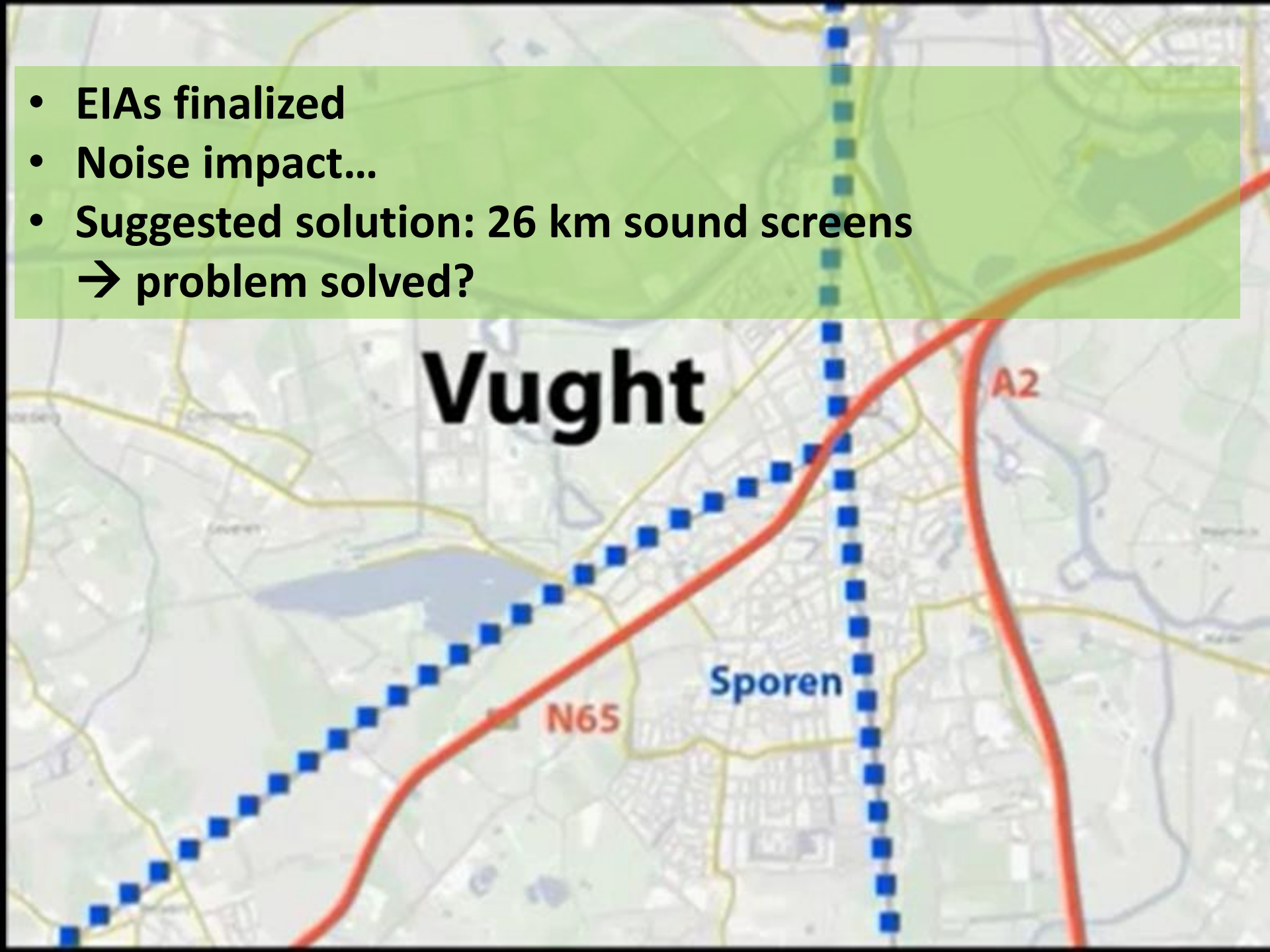
- EIAs finalized
- Noise impact...
- Suggested solution: 26 km sound screens  
→ problem solved?

**Vught**

A2

Sporen

N65



# WILLEN WE DIT?

[WWW.SAMENVOORVUGHT.NL](http://WWW.SAMENVOORVUGHT.NL)



**TOTAAL 600  
TREINEN PER ETMAAL**

**GEEN VEILIGHEID  
VOOR  
ONZE KINDEREN**

**EEN MUUR VAN  
6 METER HOOG EN  
26 KM LANG**

**WORD  
LID VAN  
SAMEN  
VOOR  
VUGHT!**

Samen Voor **Vught**



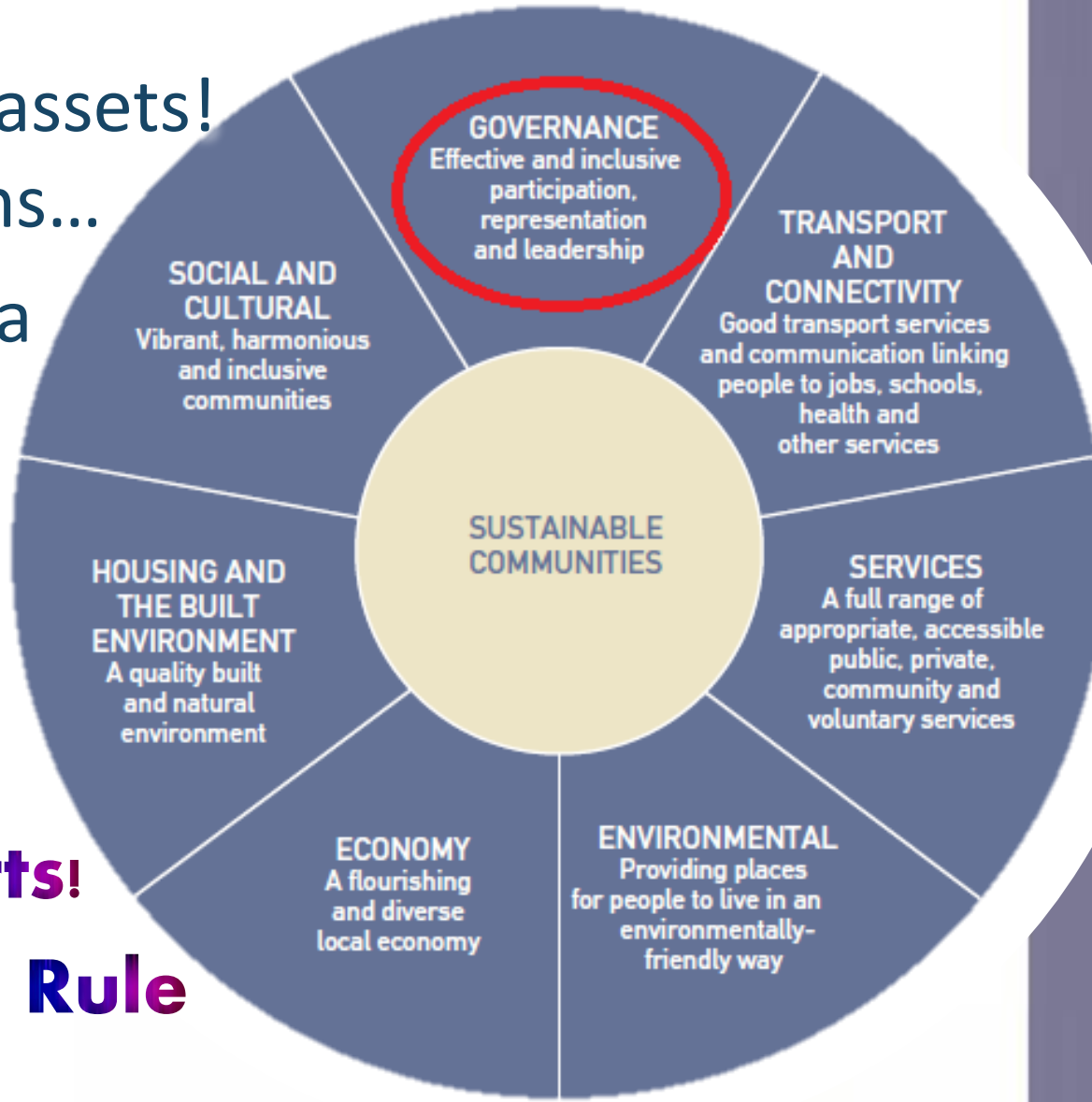
# Two scoping workshops

- Participants: residents, local organizations, municipality, province, national governmental body
- Part 1: What is health? What is a healthy environment?  
→ Development of a joint vision **for Vught**
- Part 2: how does this vision relate to the infrastructural plans?



# The basics

- Positive health: assets! not just problems...
- Broad model of a healthy environment: the Egan wheel



**We're all experts!**

**Chatham House Rule**



# Vught vision: health is promoted by

- Trust, transparency and participation and intersectoral cooperation
- High quality, green, open living environment
- Accessibility and connectivity for all
- Cherishing local care institutes and Small & Medium Enterprises
- Safe transport routes and good disaster response system



# Results:

- Broader inclusion of health issues
- Resident views acknowledged
- Advice to planners: railway cutting – plans adapted!



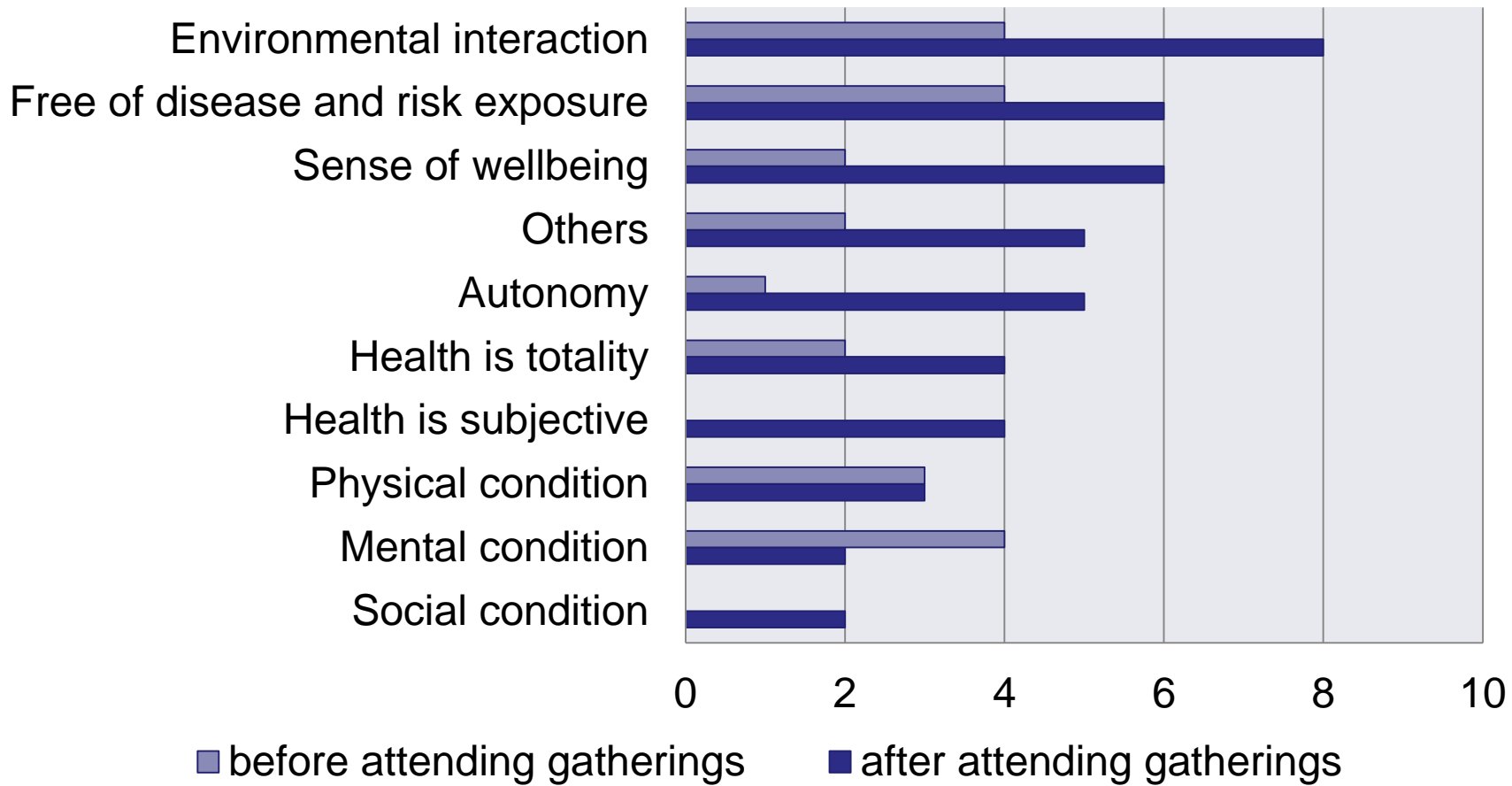
# Evaluation

- Pre- and post workshop questionnaires
- Interviews
- Focus on consensus, based on theoretical framework (including social, personal, institutional factors)
- Analysis using Atlas.ti



# Results: health views broadened

**Health defining elements used by the number of participant on health definition**



# Results: perceived factors creating consensus

- The process: quality workshop, trusted facilitators, safe environment
- Information sharing (we are all experts)
- Trust and respect (Chatham House Rule), trust in the municipality
- Health as a common interest



# Results: perceived factors hindering consensus

- Different mindsets
- Different interests
- Distrust (distrusting national actors)
- Process: group composition was changed and group was too small







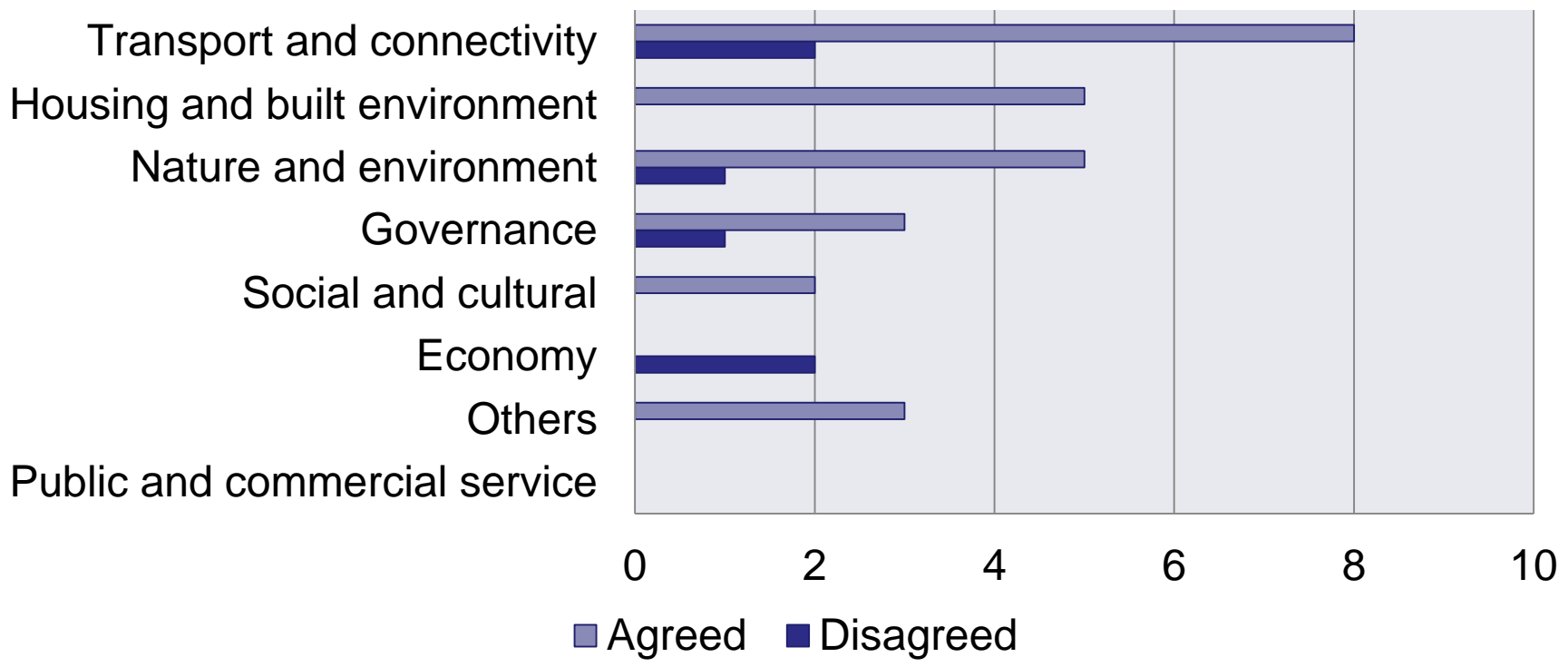
# Results: perceived consensus, yet disagreements persist underneath

All interviewees confirmed that consensus was (largely) attained!



# Results: perceived consensus, yet disagreements persist underneath

**Elements indicated as agreed or disputed among the participants during the stakeholder gatherings by the number of participant on healthy living environment in Vught**



# Discussion

- Stakeholder engagement in 2 steps = effective way to address multiple health relevant issues
- Commitment to a joint vision

BUT:

- How 'real' is the consensus reached?
- How important is that?
- Respect and 'agreeing to disagree' as a valuable outcome?

# Discussion

1. Barrier encountered: disturbed relation between residents and national stakeholders
2. Facilitator encountered: value-driven approach
3. Take a step back:  
Health as a connecting value!
4. Process is as important as procedures or solutions!



# Questions please?

[l.geelen@ggd-bureaugmv.nl](mailto:l.geelen@ggd-bureaugmv.nl)

[Lea.den.broeder@rivm.nl](mailto:Lea.den.broeder@rivm.nl)



Questions please?

l.geelen@ggd-bureaugsma.nl  
Lea.den.broeder@rivm.nl



Frenze