P10
samenwerkingsverband
plattelandsgemeenten

Urban-rural linkages in the time of Covid19

The case of Opsterland, The Netherlands

Ellen van Selm, mayor of Opsterland

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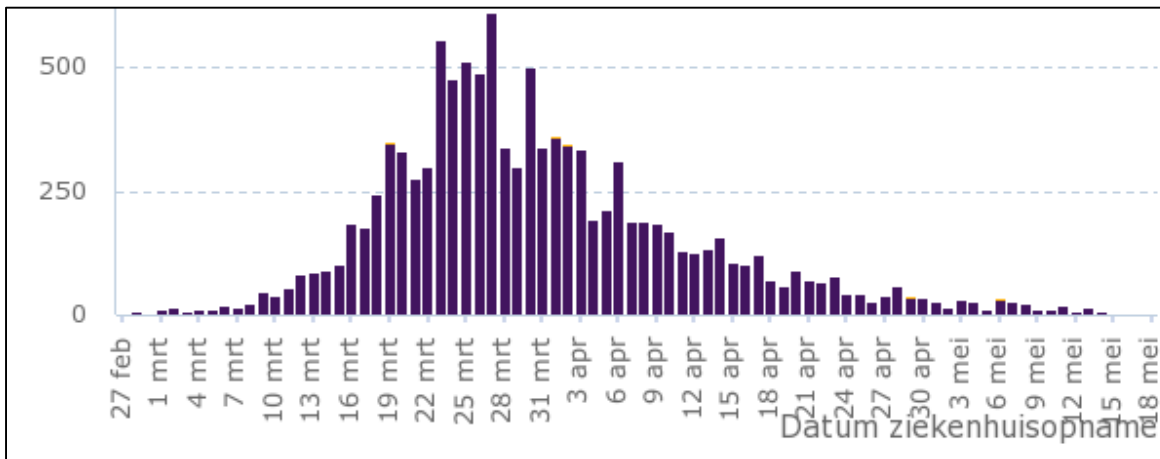
Opsterland at a glance

Fryslân
Mainly rural area

	Area (km2)	Population
The Netherlands	41,500	17,400,000
Fryslân (province)	5,750	649,000
Opsterland (municipality)	228	29,720

P10

Opsterland is chairing the P10, the Dutch network of 22 large rural municipalities.

COVID19 – The numbers

COVID19-numbers (18/05/2020)	Netherlands	Fryslân	Opsterland
Confirmed cases	44,141	577	23
People at hospitals	11,579	19	7
Total Deaths	5,694	64	0

Number of hospitalised people in The Netherlands

www.p-10.nl

COVID19 - Governance

- **National**: issuing measures

- **Regional**: implementation of measures is delegated to 25 security regions

- **Local**: supervision and enforcement

National approach

The Netherlands' approach is aimed at keeping the virus under control as much as possible in order to protect vulnerable groups and make sure the healthcare system can cope.

Regional and local approach

Weekly meetings of the crisisteams (mayors) to monitor COVID19-cases and compliance of the measures in public space.

Urban-rural linkages

Main challenges for everyone: keeping the virus and economic consequences under control. National focus.

Main differences between rural and urban areas:
- crowd management in cities is very different from that in a rural area;
- the degree of public support for and compliance with the measures is declining faster in rural areas;
- the impact on agriculture as one of the main exporting sectors of The Netherlands is not clear yet.

Example Opsterland:
One way routing

Reflections - What have we learned so far?

- Supervising a large area requires trust in our citizens rather than enforcing measures by fining.

- Urban and rural areas share the responsibility to avoid too much mobility in public space.

- The importance of meaningful rural-urban cooperation and planning: rural areas offer solutions for the 1,5 meter economy.

- Working together with other (rural) municipalities and government bodies becomes more important.

- The importance of fast internet to support working at home becomes larger

- The crisis might offer opportunities for redesigning the food chain: local production and consumption, buying locally, etc.