

Researching and evaluating compassionate city programs

Joachim Cohen





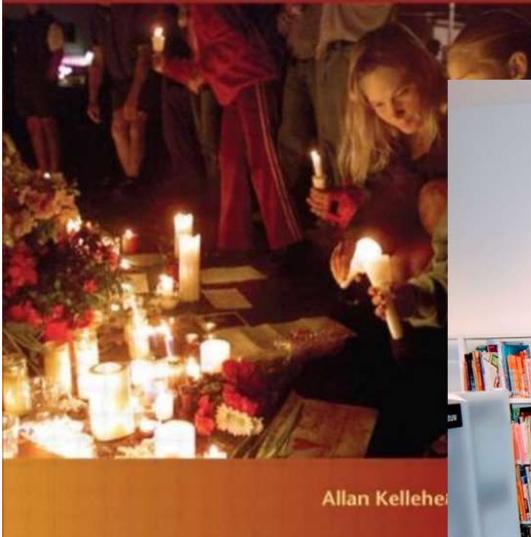


Einmal, August 18. 1880. 1880. 1880.



Compassionate Cities

Public health and end-of-life care



Compassionate city

What?

How?

With whom?

Whereto?



Area-Based Compassionate Communities: A systematic integrative review of existing initiatives worldwide

Bert Quintiens^{1,2} , Louise D'Eer^{1,2} , Luc Deliens^{1,2}, Lieve Van den Block¹, Kenneth Chambaere^{1,2}, Liesbeth De Donder^{2,3}, Joachim Cohen^{1,2*}  and Tinne Smets^{1,2*} 

Abstract

Background: Area-Based Compassionate Communities are community public health interventions which focus on the role community in palliative care provision. They apply a set of actions based on the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion which increase people's control over their health.

Aim: To review and compare Area-Based Compassionate Communities with respect to their contextual characteristics, development processes and evaluations.

Design: A systematic integrative review with narrative synthesis. Registered in Prospero: CRD42020173406.

Data sources: Five databases (Pubmed, Web of Science, PsycInfo, Embase and Scopus) were consulted, consisting of publications from 1999 onwards. This was supplemented with grey literature and author-provided documentation.

Results: Twenty articles were drawn from the peer reviewed search, three from grey literature and two from author-provided documentation. Notwithstanding the substantial variation in what is reported, all Area-Based Compassionate Communities in focus on multiple action areas of the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion. Variability in their contextual and development characteristics is high. Only a minority of initiatives have been evaluated and although conclusions are generally positive, evaluation often does not match their aims. Attaining support from policy makers can help in obtaining funding early in the process. Strengthening people's social networks was a recurring community engagement strategy.

Conclusions: While the concept of Area-Based Compassionate Communities is gaining momentum as a new paradigm for the development of palliative care capacity across society, only a handful of initiatives have been described. The lack of formal evaluations and envisaged health benefits indicates a pressing need for rigorous research about ongoing and future initiatives.



Civic engagement in serious illness, death, and loss: A systematic mixed-methods review

Louise D'Eer^{1,3} , Bert Quintiens^{1,3} , Lieve Van den Block^{1,3}, Sarah Dury^{2,3}, Luc Deliens^{1,3}, Kenneth Chambaere^{1,3}, Tinne Smets^{1,3*}  and Joachim Cohen^{1,3*} 

Abstract

Background: New public health approaches to palliative care such as compassionate communities aim to increase capacity in serious illness, death, and loss by involving civic society. Civic engagement has been described in many domains of health; a description of the characteristics, processes, and impact of the initiatives in palliative care is lacking.

Aim: To systematically describe and compare civic engagement initiatives in palliative care in terms of context, development, impact, and evaluation methods.

Design: Systematic, mixed-methods review using a convergent integrated synthesis approach. Registered in Prospero: CRD42020180688.

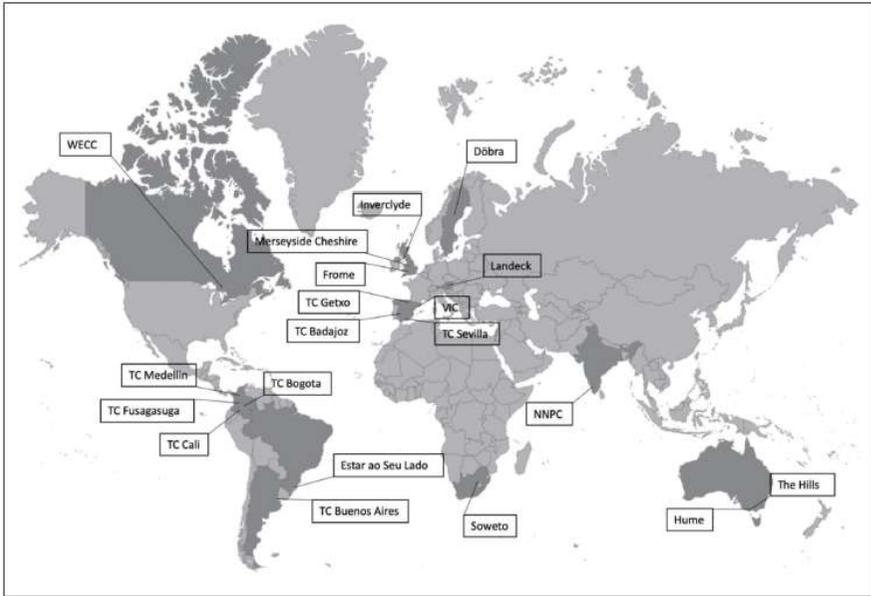
Data sources: Six databases (PubMed, Scopus, Sociological Abstracts, WOS, Embase, PsycINFO) were searched up to November 2021 for publications in English describing civic engagement in serious illness, death, and loss. Additional grey literature was obtained by contacting the first authors. We performed a quality appraisal of the included studies.

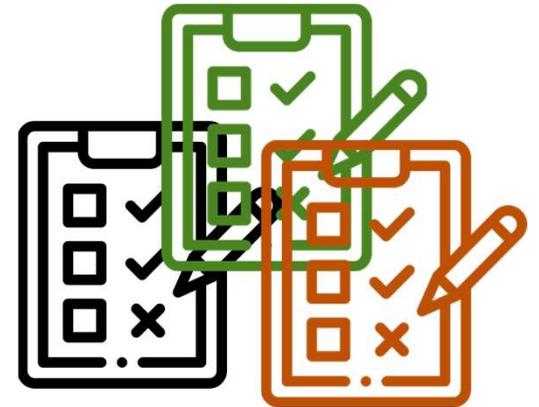
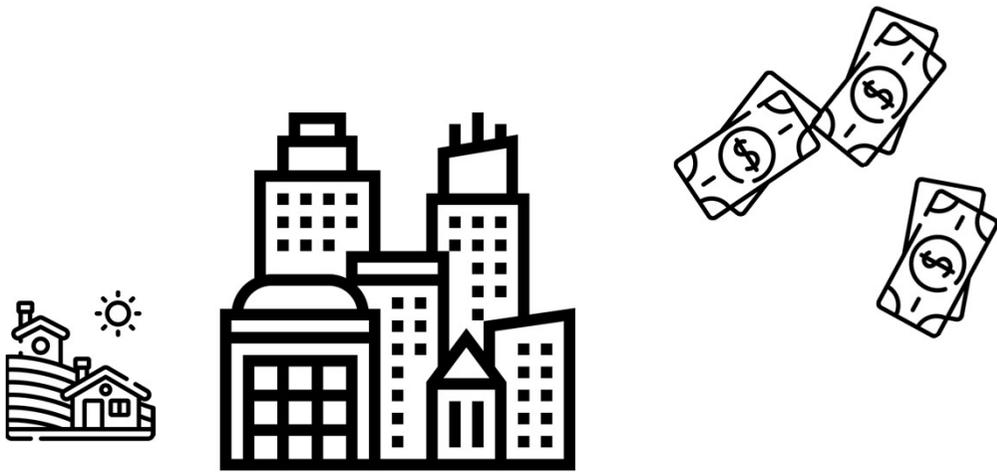
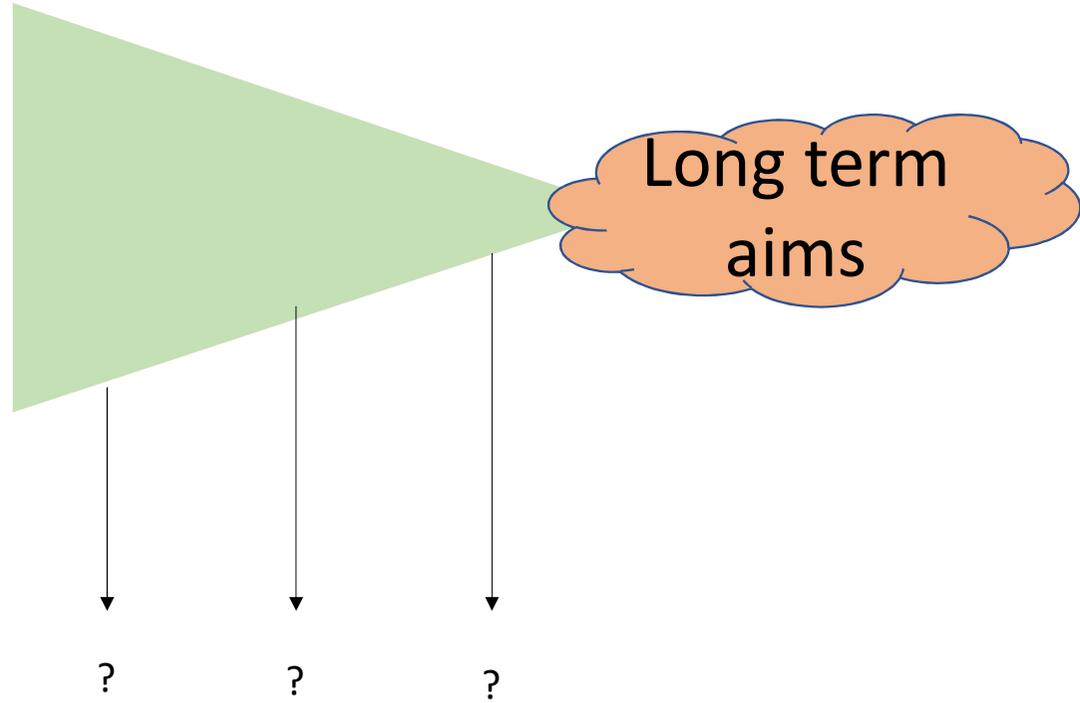
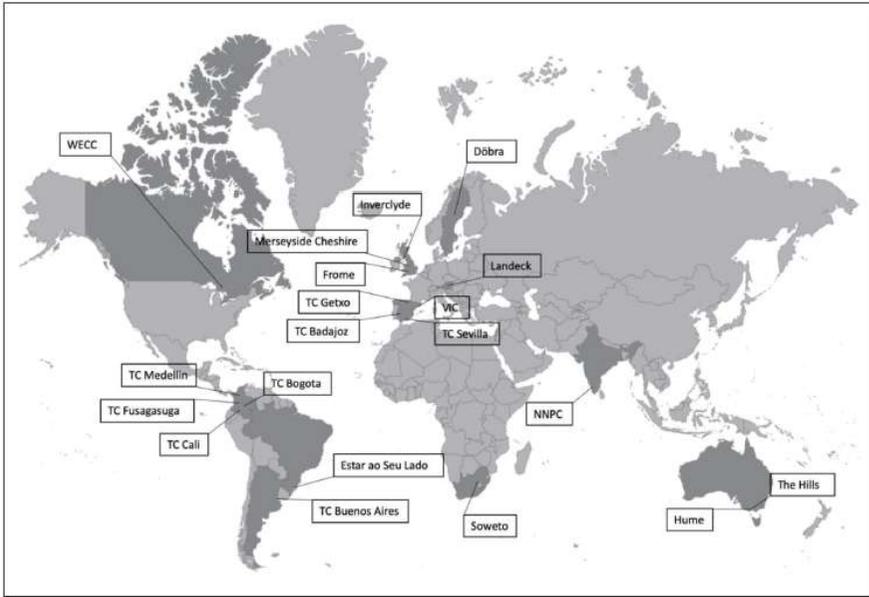
Results: We included 23 peer-reviewed and 11 grey literature publications, reporting on nineteen unique civic engagement initiatives, mostly in countries with English as one of the official languages. Initiatives involved the community in their development, often through a community-academic partnership. Activities aimed to connect people with palliative care needs to individuals or resources in the community. There was a variety of evaluation aims, methods, outcomes, and strength of evidence. Information on whether or how to sustain the initiatives was generally lacking.

Conclusions: This is the first review to systematically describe and compare reported civic engagement initiatives in the domain of palliative care. Future studies would benefit from improved evaluation of impact and sustainability.

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More than 100 frameworks exist,
making it difficult to know where
to start

Theoretical Domains Framework
A Six-Step Framework for International Physical Activity
PRISM
PARIHS
Organisational Theory of Innovation Implementation
Behaviour Change Wheel
Implementation res
Conceptual Model
RE-AIM
PRONOVOST'S 4E'S PROCESS THEORY
Ottawa Model of Research Use
Davis' Pathman-
Quality Framework
Implementation
Public Service
Implementa
Practice
Evidence
Concept
Normal Pro
Th
Multi-Level Conceptual Framework of Organisational Innovation Adoption
CDC DHAP's Research-to-Practice Framework
IHI Framework for Leadership Improvement
FAB Model
Active Implementation Frameworks
Precede-Proceed Model
Outcomes
Implementation
Pathways to Evidence-Informed Policy
CFIR
ARC
Availability, Responsiveness & Continuity (ARC)



More than 100 frameworks exist, making it difficult to know where to start

Criteria of Compassionate Communities

Characteristics of a compassionate city program

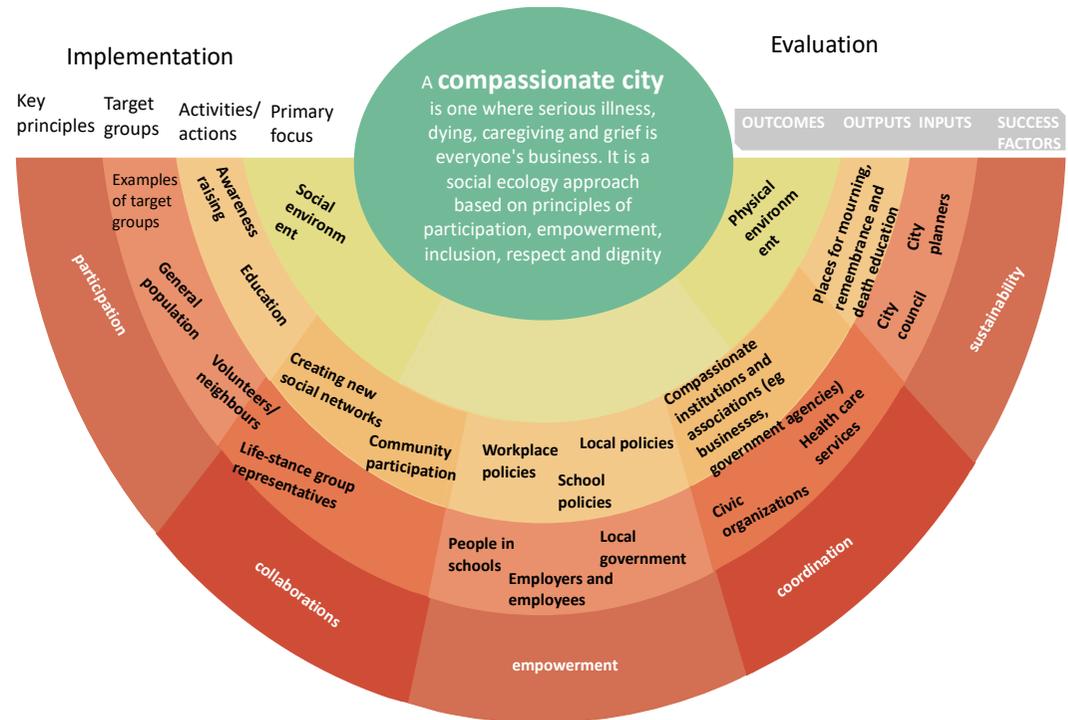
Participation and collaboration

Coordination and Facilitation

Change at different socioecological levels

Sustainability

Complexity and nonlinearity



Characteristics of a compassionate city program

Participation and collaboration

Coordination and Facilitation

Change at different
socioecological levels

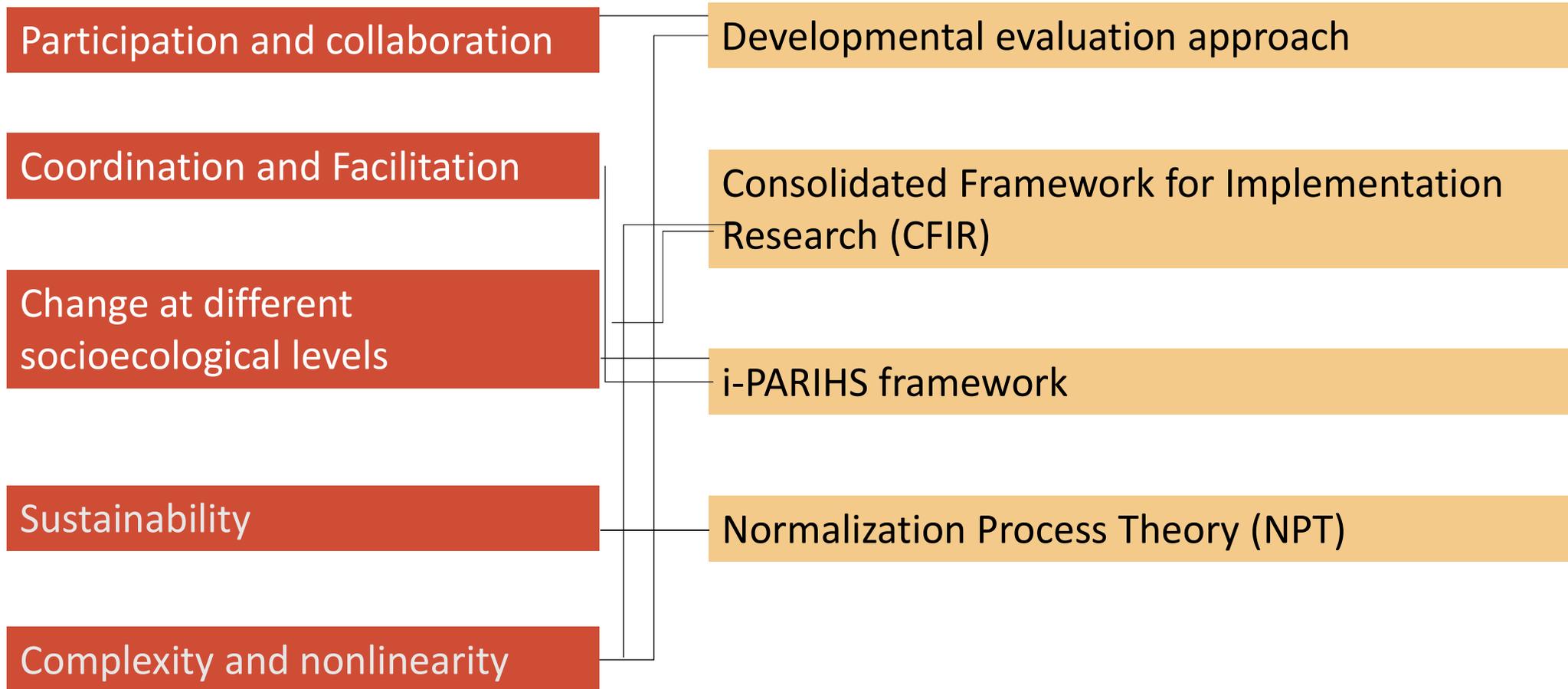
Sustainability

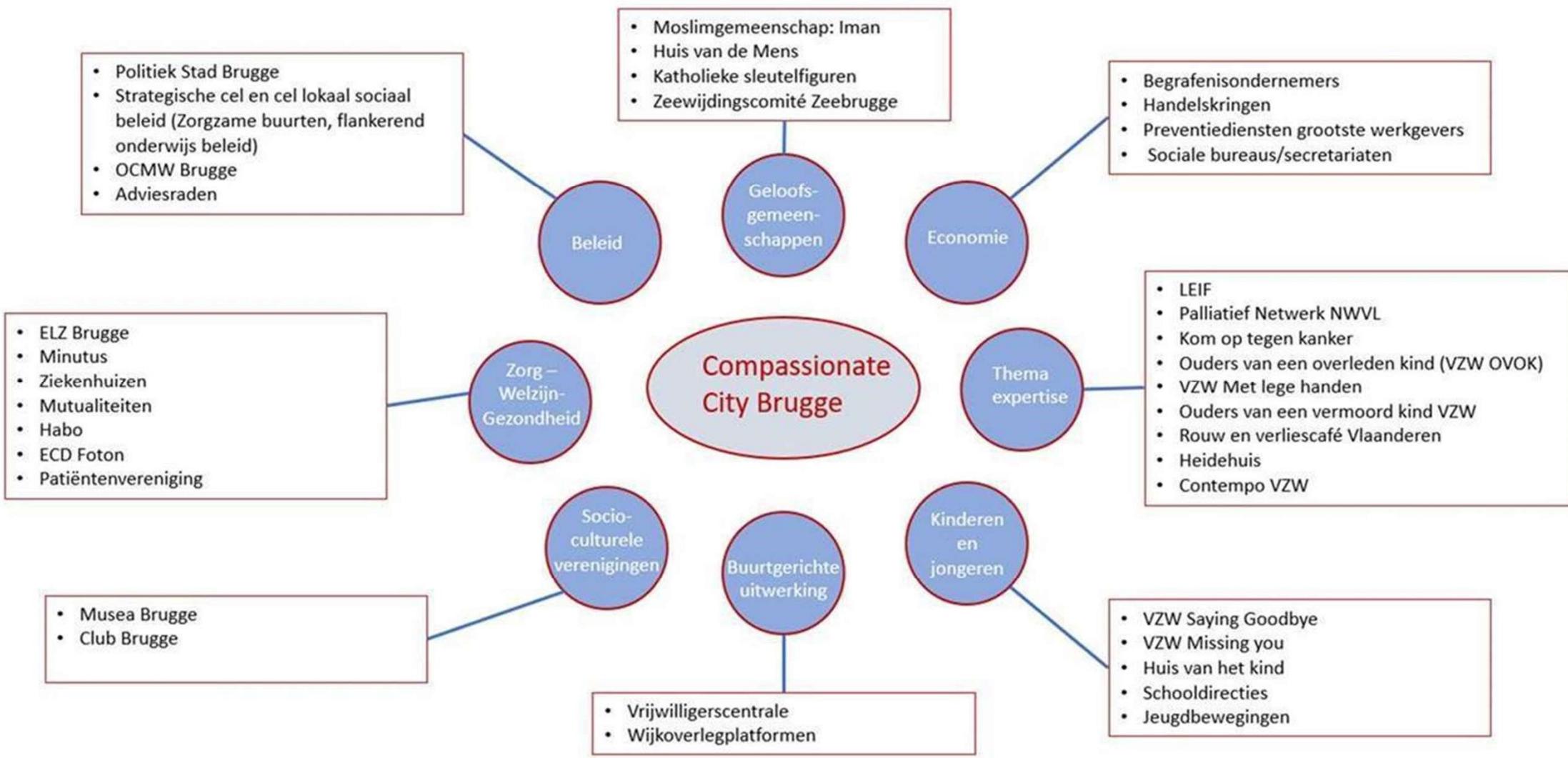
Complexity and nonlinearity

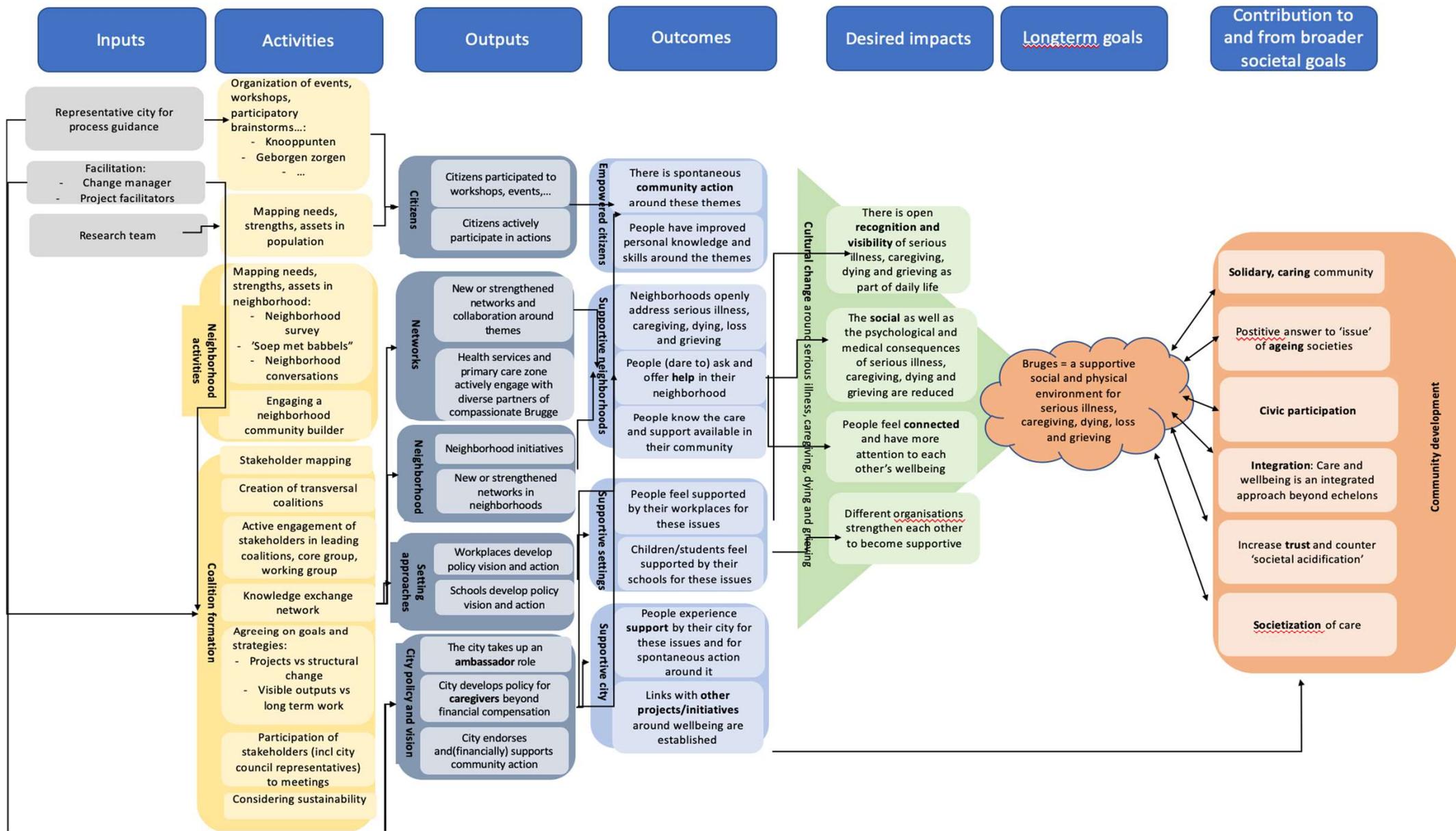
Compassionate cities programs = Complex Adaptive Systems

Agents	
Emergence	
Feedback	
Adaptation	
Self-organisation	
Co-evolution	
Non-linearity	

A combination of frameworks and approaches is suitable









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Cultural change around serious illness, caregiving, dying and grieving

- There is open **recognition and visibility** of serious illness, caregiving, dying and grieving as part of daily life
- The **social** as well as the psychological and medical consequences of serious illness, caregiving, dying and grieving are reduced
- People feel **connected** and have more attention to each other's wellbeing
- Different organisations strengthen each other to become supportive

Bruges = a supportive social and physical environment for serious illness, caregiving, dying, loss and grieving

Community development

- Solidary, caring community
- Positive answer to 'issue' of ageing societies
- Civic participation
- Integration:** Care and wellbeing is an integrated approach beyond echelons
- Increase **trust** and counter 'societal acidification'
- Societization of care

...
 Knooppunten
 geborgen zorgen
 ...
 Mapping needs,
 strengths, assets in
 population
 Mapping needs,
 strengths, assets in
 neighborhood:
 Neighborhood
 survey
 "Stap met babbels"
 Neighborhood
 conversations
 Engaging a
 neighborhood
 community builder
 Stakeholder mapping
 Identification of transversal
 coalitions
 Active engagement of
 stakeholders in leading
 discussions, core group,
 working group
 Knowledge exchange
 network
 Working on goals and
 strategies:
 Structural vs structural
 change
 Visible outputs vs
 long term work
 Participation of
 stakeholders (incl city
 council representatives)
 to meetings

Citizens

- Citizens participated to workshops, events,...
- Citizens actively participate in actions

Networks

- New or strengthened networks and collaboration around themes
- Health services and primary care zone actively engage with diverse partners of compassionate Brugge

Neighborhood

- Neighborhood initiatives
- New or strengthened networks in neighborhoods

Setting approaches

- Workplaces develop policy vision and action
- Schools develop policy vision and action

City policy and vision

- The city takes up an **ambassador** role
- City develops policy for **caregivers** beyond financial compensation
- City endorses and (financially) supports community action

Empowered citizens

- There is spontaneous **community action** around these themes
- People have improved personal knowledge and skills around the themes

Supportive neighborhoods

- Neighborhoods openly address serious illness, caregiving, dying, loss and grieving
- People (dare to) ask and offer **help** in their neighborhood
- People know the care and support available in their community

Supportive settings

- People feel supported by their workplaces for these issues
- Children/students feel supported by their schools for these issues

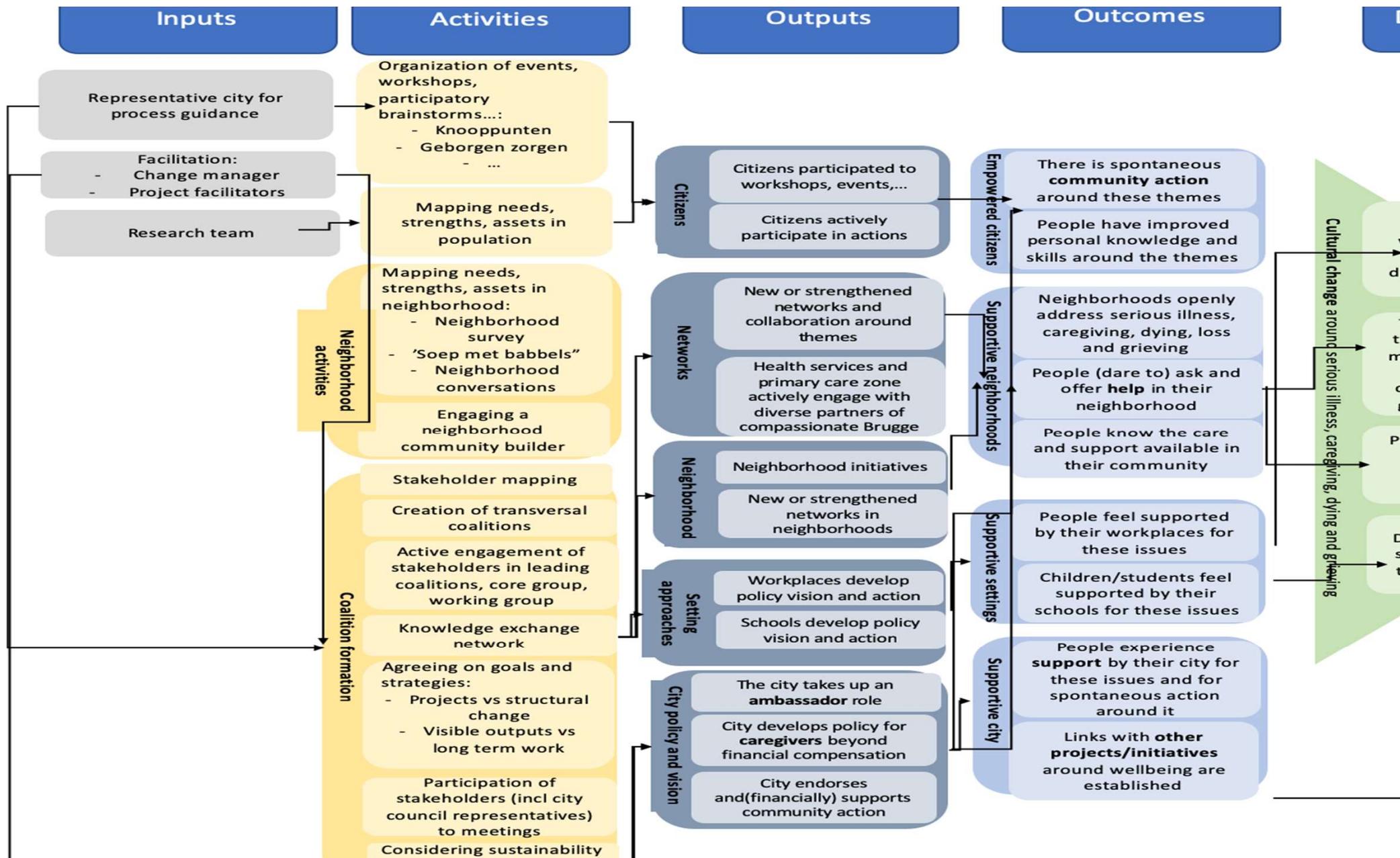
Supportive city

- People experience **support** by their city for these issues and for spontaneous action around it
- Links with **other projects/initiatives** around wellbeing are established

Cultural change around serious illness, caregiving, dying and grieving

- There is open **recognition and visibility** of serious illness, caregiving, dying and grieving as part of daily life
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Bruges = a supportive social and physical environment for serious illness, caregiving, dying, loss and grieving



Facilitation

Interviews

Document
analysis

Observations

structured
reports

Inputs

- 1) change manager - city project facilitator - research team
- 2) Access to networks
- 3) Operational <> developing vision

Representative city for process guidance

Facilitation:
- Change manager
- Project facilitators

Research team

Barriers

- 1) Shortage of staff on project at city level
- 2) Risk of 'taking over' versus engaging, stimulating...
- 3) Reshuffling priorities due to external context (COVID, electoral pressure?)
- 4) Issues of (perceived) power, ownership, echelons

Coalitions / internal environment

Interviews

Document analysis

Observations

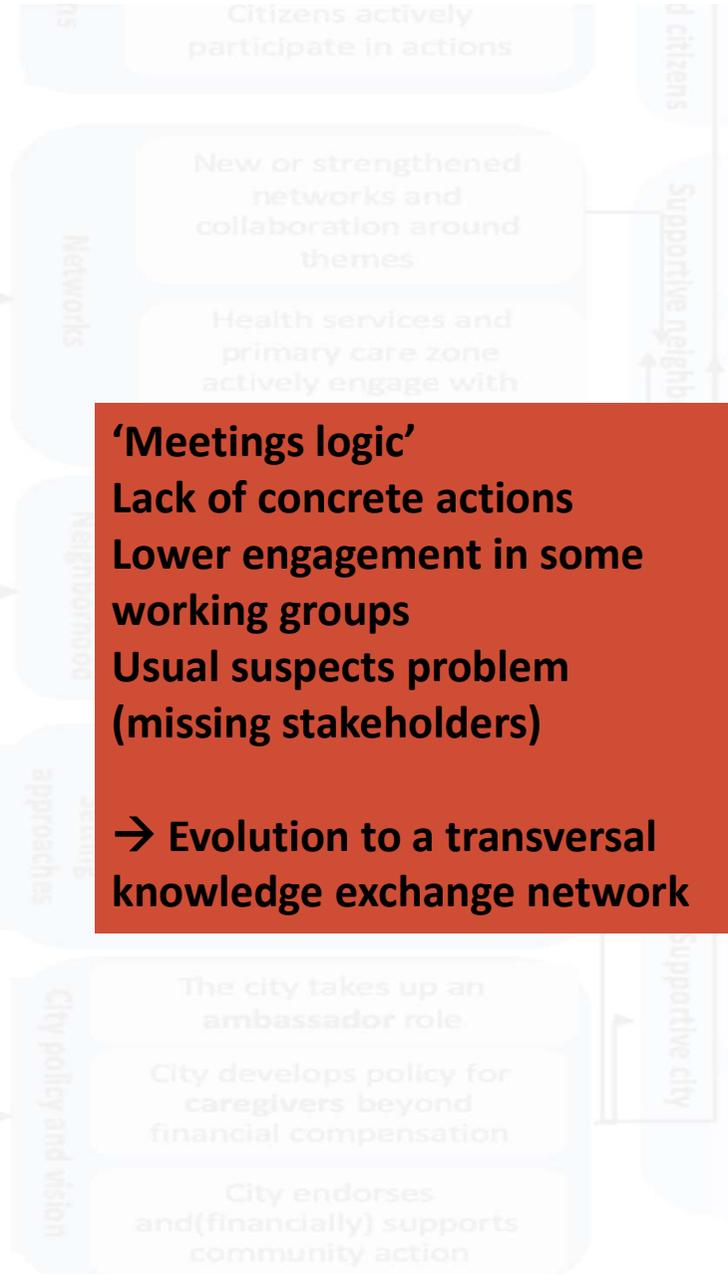
- Creation of new collaborations and networks
- Knowledge exchange
- Autonomy for different working groups
- Linking with other wellbeing projects

I think we have learned that some things really need be addressed differently.

The fragmentation has become a bit smaller to me.

Coalition formation

- Research team
- strengths, assets in population
- Interviews
- Document analysis
- Observations
- Neighborhood activities
- 'Soep met babbels'
- Neighborhood conversations
- Engaging a neighborhood community builder
- Stakeholder mapping
- Creation of transversal coalitions
- Active engagement of stakeholders in leading coalitions, core group, working group
- Knowledge exchange network
- Agreeing on goals and strategies:
 - Projects vs structural change
 - Visible outputs vs long term work
- Participation of stakeholders (incl city council representatives)



'Meetings logic'
 Lack of concrete actions
 Lower engagement in some working groups
 Usual suspects problem (missing stakeholders)
 → Evolution to a transversal knowledge exchange network

Population survey

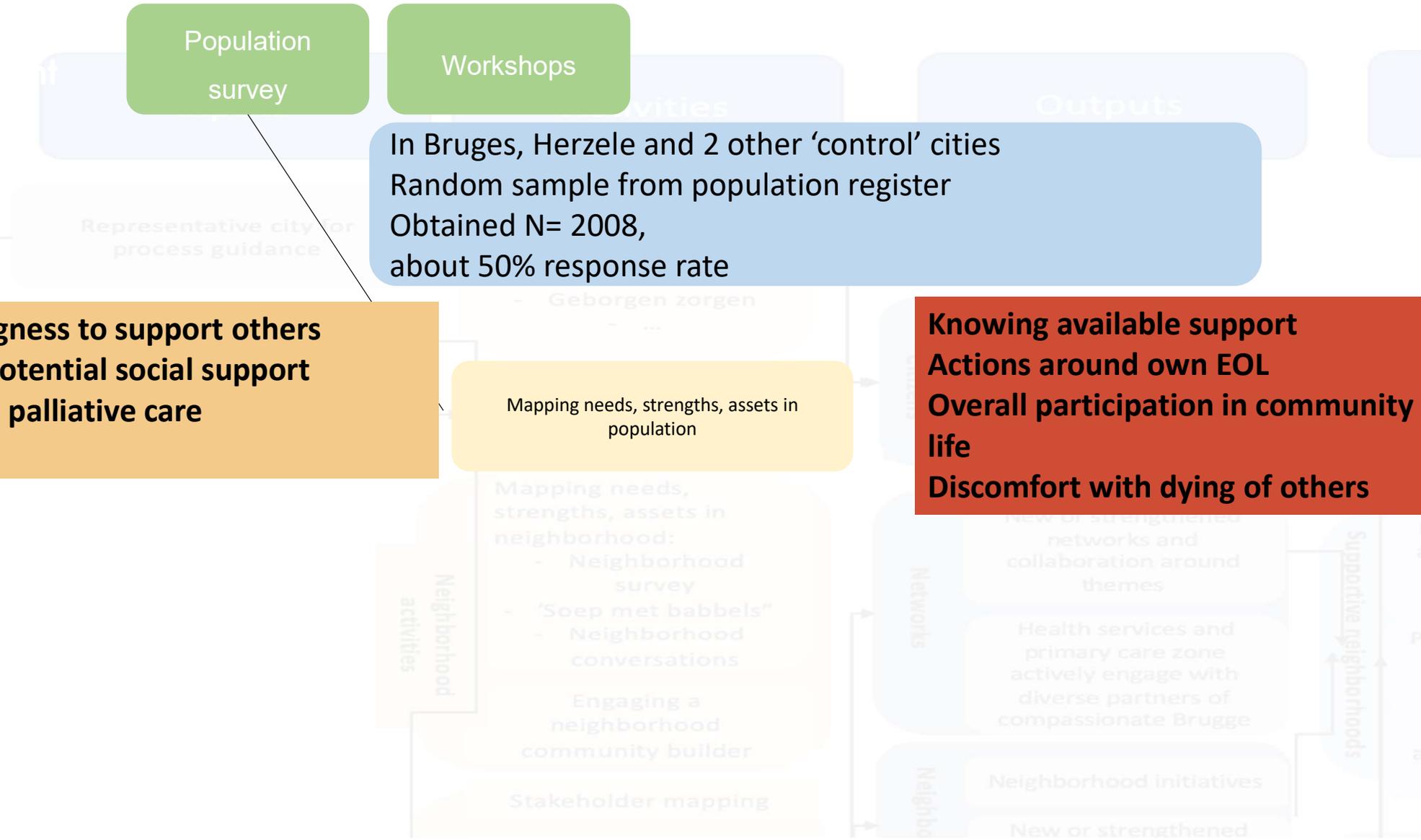
Workshops

In Bruges, Herzele and 2 other 'control' cities
Random sample from population register
Obtained N= 2008,
about 50% response rate

High willingness to support others
Available potential social support
Knowledge palliative care

Mapping needs, strengths, assets in population

Knowing available support
Actions around own EOL
Overall participation in community life
Discomfort with dying of others



Neighborhood survey

Neighborhood conversations

Neighborhood interviews with identified assets

Outputs

In 1 neighborhood in Bruges and Herzele
Random sample from population register
Obtained N= 714,
about 40% response rate

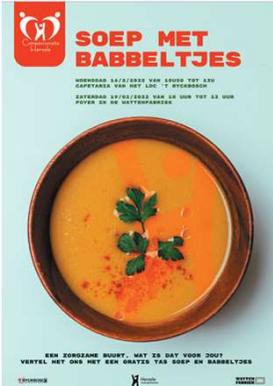


Mapping needs, strengths, assets in neighborhood:

- Neighborhood survey
- 'Soep met babbels'
- Neighborhood conversations

Engaging a neighborhood community builder

Neighborhood activities



Experienced needs for a change around serious illness, loss, grief

- ✓ Large nr of experiences
- ✓ Need for knowledge exchange and inspiration
- ✓ Referrals: how and to whom?

Relative priority?

- ✓ Is it our task to do this?
- ✓ Will I be doing the right thing?
- ✓ I don't always have time for this....

Designing the innovation?

- ✓ Places of solace
- ✓ Inspiration days

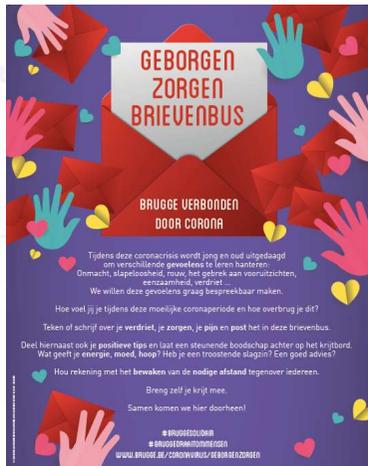
- ✓ Identified need for a facilitating (not dictating) neighborhood Community developer as external change agent





Activities

Outputs



Organization of events, workshops, participatory brainstorms...:

- Knooppunten
- Geborgen zorgen
- ...

Citizens

- Citizens participated to workshops, events,...
- Citizens actively participate in actions

Mapping needs, strengths, assets in population

Mapping needs, strengths, assets in neighborhood:

- Neighborhood survey
- "Soep met babbels"
- Neighborhood conversations

Quantitative event data

Interviews with organisers

Interviews with participants



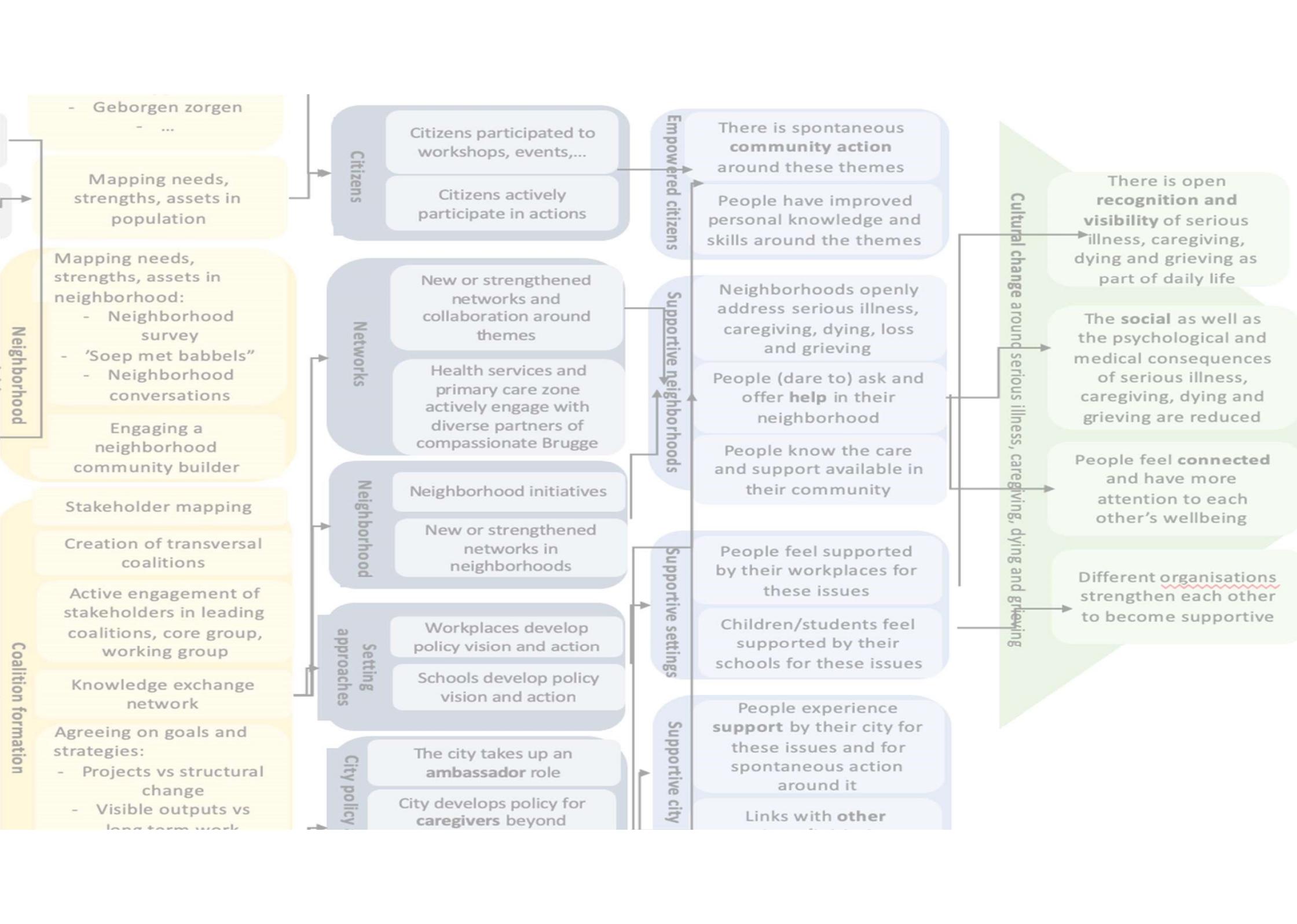
Empowered citizens

Supportive neighborhoods

Networks

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- Health services and primary care zone

New or strengthened



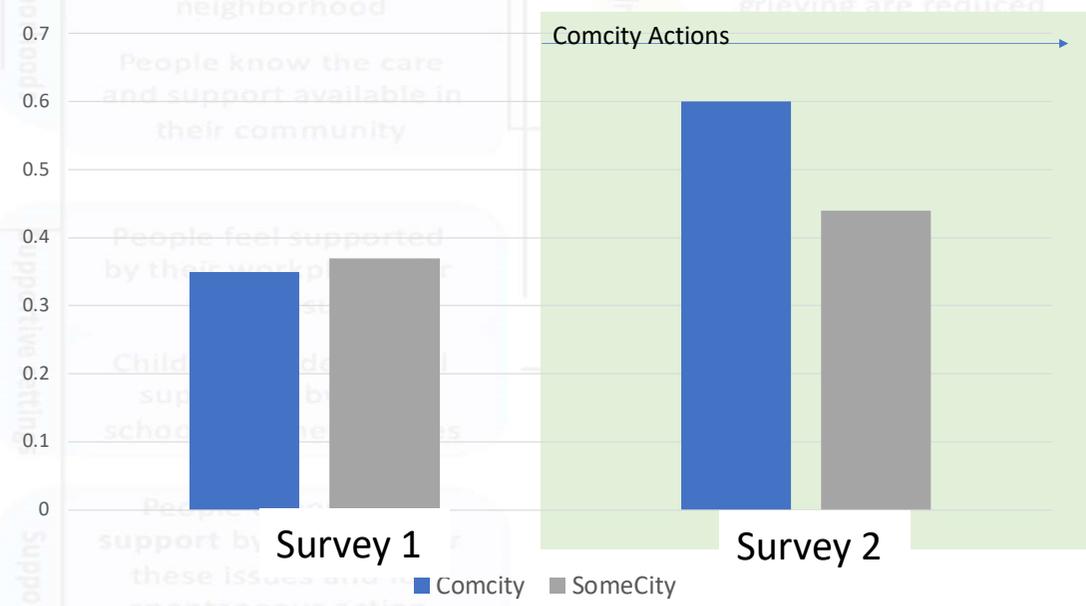
Monitor changes

Flexible process evaluations

Causal attribution

Longitudinal qualitative data from observations and interviews

Repeat survey in all cities and neighborhoods



Monitor changes

**Flexible process
evaluations**

**Causal
attribution**

Longitudinal qualitative data from
observations and interviews

Repeat survey in all cities and
neighborhoods

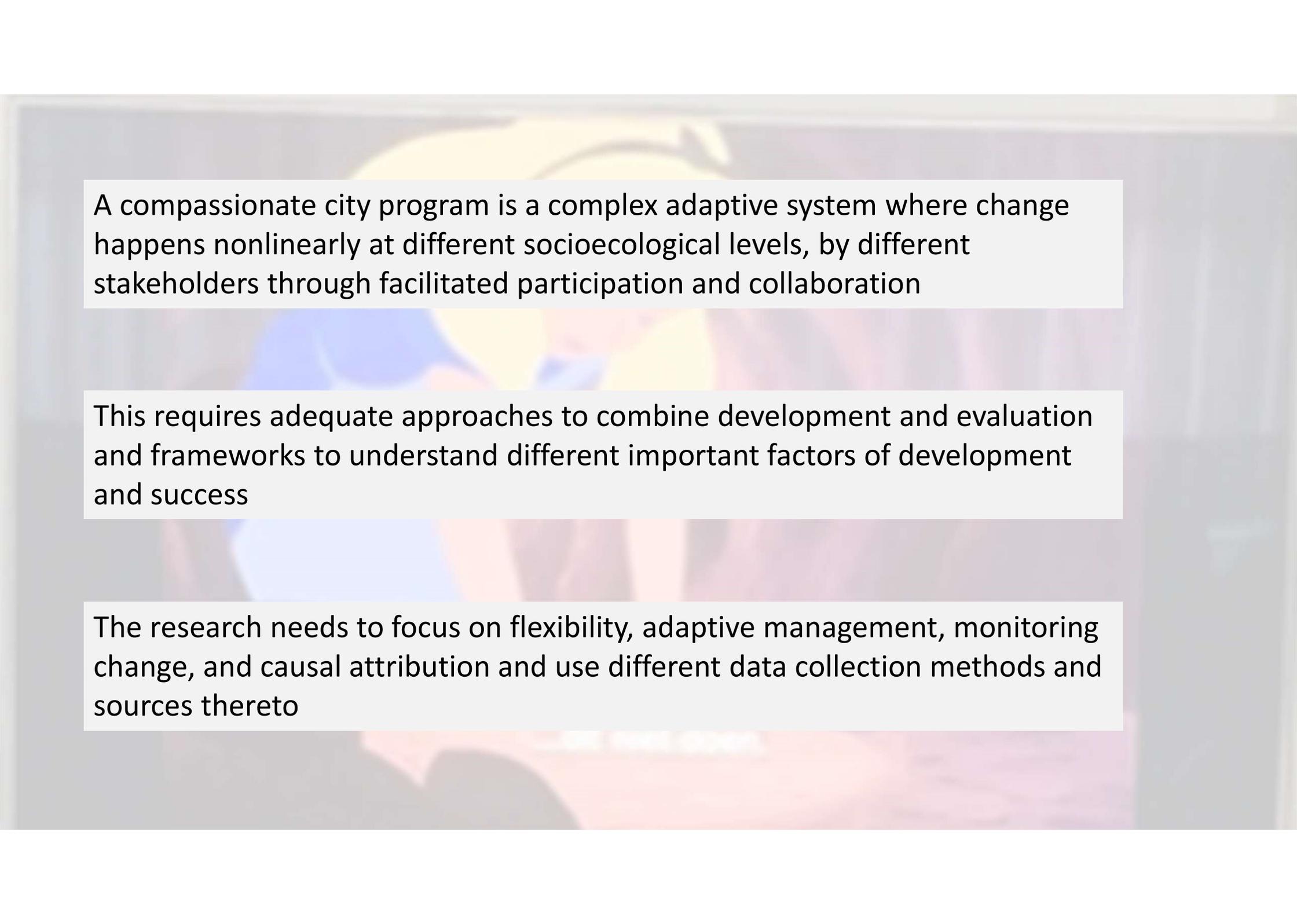
Organisational network analysis

Most significant change method

Administrative health data







A compassionate city program is a complex adaptive system where change happens nonlinearly at different socioecological levels, by different stakeholders through facilitated participation and collaboration

This requires adequate approaches to combine development and evaluation and frameworks to understand different important factors of development and success

The research needs to focus on flexibility, adaptive management, monitoring change, and causal attribution and use different data collection methods and sources thereto