Collective Private Commissioning: A path analysis of factors influencing perceived neighborhood social cohesion and perceived social support from neighbors among residents living in Collective Private Commissioning projects in the Netherlands

Social support is important for people’s health and well-being. Anyone can sometimes use some social support and neighbors can play an important role in this support. Collective Private Commissioning (CPC) could potentially contribute to a higher level of neighborhood social cohesion and, therefore, could be an interesting type of development where neighbors support each other.

Thus far, surprisingly little quantitative research has been conducted in the field of CPC, also known as collective self-building. Therefore, this study analyzed the influence of individual, household, social network, CPC project and neighborhood characteristics on perceived neighborhood cohesion and perceived neighbor support among the residents of new construction CPC projects in the Netherlands. These relationships were analyzed using a path analysis based on data collected in 2016 from a survey of 412 respondents in 60 new construction CPC projects in the Netherlands.

The results indicate that adults who experience a higher level of neighborhood cohesion experience a higher level of access to neighbor support. Moreover, the results show that characteristics of the individual (e.g. age), CPC project (e.g. project size) and neighborhood (e.g. presence of supermarket) affect residents’ perception of neighborhood cohesion. The results also indicate that individual (e.g. provided emotional support to neighbors), CPC project (e.g. presence of collaborative lifestyle), social network (e.g. local social network size) and neighborhood (e.g. presence of supermarket) characteristics affect residents’ perception of neighbor support. These results have implications for process coordinators, (local) policy makers and urban planners.