



FORM BEST PRACTICES CONTEST 2026

Municipality Midden-Delfland

Country The Netherlands

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Name project

Social initiative; resident's own living environment and social cohesion

Category Certification Criteria: mark the category of your project

- ☐ Energy and environmental policies (politiche energetiche e ambientali);
- ☐ Infrastructure policies (politiche infrastrutturali);
- ☒ Quality of urban life policies (politiche per la qualità urbana);
- ☐ Agricultural, touristic and artisan policies (politiche agricole, turistiche, artigianali);
- ☐ Policies for hospitality, awareness and training (politiche per l'ospitalità, la consapevolezza e la formazione);
- ☒ Social cohesion (coesione sociale).

Summary project

Challenge: How do you, as a municipality, strengthen cooperation with local communities? The power of residents, entrepreneurs, and local associations is great when there is more collaboration. At the same time, the municipality must implement multiple laws and serve the public interest. Local communities want to take the initiative themselves. However, residents do not always know how to do so and are sometimes hampered by unclear government regulations.

Goal project

In this project, clear rules and model plans for civil servants have been drawn up. A simple (digital) form is available for residents to submit their plan.

Result project

1. The working method of the municipality (civil servants and administrators) has changed. Residents, entrepreneurs, and local associations are asked to contribute ideas to the decision-making process. This is done if it is possible within the (lawful) time schedule, sufficient budget is available, and there are multiple options for realizing the policy, project, or implementation.
Result: participation and collaborative thinking are already possible regarding a problem or issue. In the second phase, participation is possible regarding the (concept) solution or approach to the issue or problem.
2. Residents, entrepreneurs, and local associations can easily submit their social initiative to the municipal government. Their initiative is immediately discussed in the management team. Afterwards, a civil servant will contact you to determine whether implementation is possible. If the assessment is positive, the initiative is elaborated into a plan with mutual agreements.
Result: quality of public space improved, social cohesion and vitality in the villages have been strengthened.

Finance (costs and benefits)

- Costs for 3 course evenings with administrators and civil servants € 15.000
- Outcome: cannot be quantified in monetary terms.



However, increased involvement between residents and the municipality, strengthening democratic decision-making, and better quality of decisions, projects, and implementation.

Staff (staff involved and use of time)

36 hours

Additional information (if necessarily)

[model participation plan](#)

[manual model participation plan](#)

[form social initiative](#)

[list of mandatory participation in spatial plans](#)

[guidance on the assessment of spatial plans](#)

Link website [Inwonersinitiatief | municipality Midden-Delfland](#) (form and explanation social initiative

Law/rules:

[participation regulation](#)

[policy framework for participation](#)

(if available)

Once filled in this form please send it to: info@cittaslow.net

- Participation Deadline, 19 May 2026 -