

DEFINING A PROJECT - TECHNIQUE

The "WE CAN DO IT" - Method¹

Many communities have experienced great traumas and damage. This is a way of discovering, dreaming and building skills so a community and its members can make their lives better positively.

Ideas and plans only work long term if they have good support locally. It is much easier to find support internationally when the community is working on the plan and contributing energy. Nabuur is a place to support communities in this process rather than a place to find welfare money or get people to come in and run things.

To consider what your community capacity is, you could meet and ask these questions:

1

Discovery: What are we proud of, that we have done (very specific things)? Who are our heroes, how have they won? What do we love and want to keep [ideas, ethics, spiritual knowledge, practical knowledge, house styles, food tastes, etc... ordinary and special things]?

2

Dream: What do we want to change [avoid general points like 'poverty' - go for the practical things]? What would we like things to be like in one year, two years, ten years?

3

Dialogue: How do we control and shape that future? What can be done as first steps? In those first [small] steps, what can we contribute [time, energy, knowledge, skills, land, buildings, materials, money] and what do we seek help with [knowledge, friendship, skills, funds, materials]?

4

Destiny/Taking action: Based on the information collected, some specific actions could be defined. Ensure these actions are sustainable. What does 'sustainable' mean for the community? How can the community ensure that something done will continue to be valued, will be self-financing and be a basis to consider the community's next step.

¹ Adapted from <http://www.lindaswebs.org.uk/> and with support of Barb Brigs and Dennis Argall