


## MORE POWERFUL AS COLLECTIVE

The research group Institutions for Collective Action (ICA) has completed the research 'Krachtiger als Collectief' (transl: More Powerful as Collective). The combination of interviews and a survey has provided insight into the challenges that citizen collectives are currently experiencing or expect to face in the future. Based on this, ICA continues to work on the knowledge platform CollectieveKracht.

### The main challenges of citizen collectives, summarised in 3 themes

**1. Internal operation**

- ❖ Financing perspective
- ❖ Leadership
- ❖ Professionalisation
- ❖ Upscaling



**2. Member dynamics**

- ❖ Member loyalty
- ❖ Community building
- ❖ Responsibility among members
- ❖ Member recruitment



**3. Government relations**

- ❖ Sectoral vision of the government
- ❖ Obstructive regulations
- ❖ Sham participation of the government
- ❖ Recognition



"For smaller local collectives, professionalisation mainly means that everything runs according to agreements; for the larger ones, it soon tends to be about professional management."

"Member loyalty is a challenge for all collectives."

"Existing regulations hinder collectives in their plans. They often have to pass several counters."

Citizen collectives recognise a difficult and often unclear relationship with commercial and financial institutions.

Citizen collectives expect a lot from mutual cooperation and knowledge sharing - not only within their sector, but also across sectors and/or area-oriented.

**Profile of the citizen collective in our research**

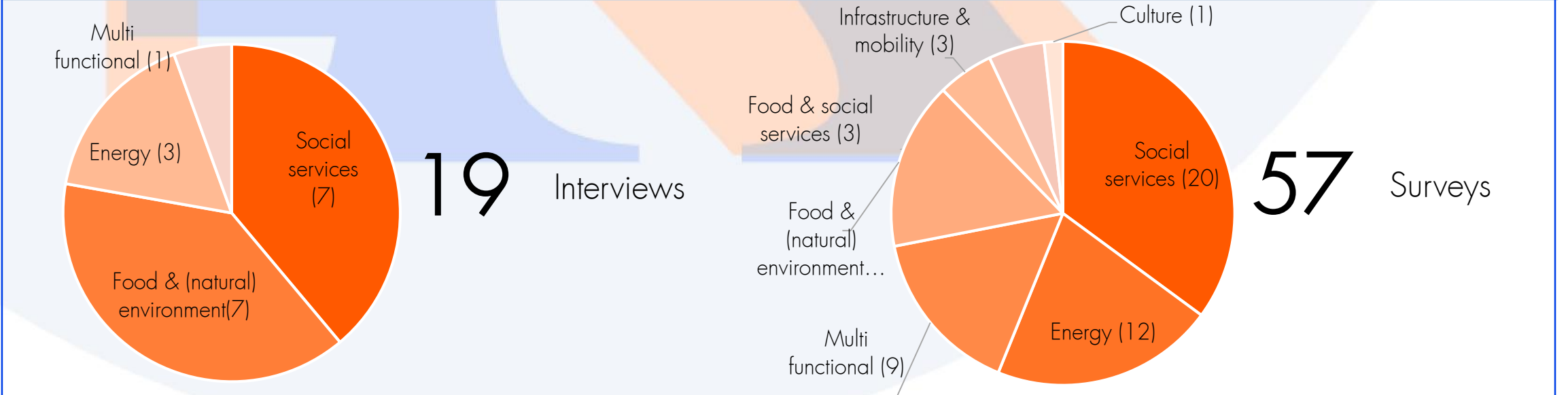
- ❖ Relatively short existence (< 15 years);
- ❖ Location-specific (village, district, city);
- ❖ Local and regional scale;
- ❖ Numbers of members: focal point of 50-500 members;
- ❖ Legal form: cooperative and association dominant, then social enterprise, foundation, and "not yet one";
- ❖ Inhabitants as target group = community building as ambition;
- ❖ Trend towards multifunctional collectives (e.g. care, food, social).

**Future-proof?**  
"Every year it is difficult to make ends meet financially."

**Future-proof?**  
"That depends on the cooperation with organisations and institutions in our region."



## Citizen collectives by sector



For more information: [collective-action@rsm.nl](mailto:collective-action@rsm.nl) or click on this [link](#) [Dutch only].