# UGS Grijpskerk and Norg – meta-summary and codebook

Please consult the accompanying README file and description of the methodology.

Six themes were identified, namely (1) (problems with) the compensation system; (2) changes in the contours around UGS Grijpskerk and Norg; (3) effects from mining activities; (4) participation in decision-making procedures; (5) attitudes towards (management and measurements of) gas infrastructures; (6) perceptions about regional and national identities; and (7) activism and awareness. Per theme, subthemes were identified (for an overview, see Table 1).

Table 1 - An overview of the themes and subthemes that were inductively derived through thematic coding.

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| **Themes (code groups)** | **Subthemes (codes) and number of quotes** |
| (1) (problems with) the compensation system | Commissie Mijnbouwschade (N=15)  Effect inequality on social cohesion (N=21)  History of compensation measures (N=19)  IMG (N=147)  Institution carrousel compensation system (N=24)  Metaphors of justice (N=27)  Legal presumption of proof (N=91) |
| (2) changes in the contours around UGS Grijpskerk and Norg; | Capacity Norg (N=35)  Conversion Grijpskerk (N=28)  Further gas extraction (N=5)  NAM for sale (N=3)  Filling level (N=3) |
| (3) effects from mining activities; | Earthquakes (N=14)  Damage (N=47)  Deltares (N=9)  Emotional damage (N=55)  Low frequent sounds (N=21)  More research (N=48)  Physical damage (N=50)  Perceptions of science (N=20)  TNO/TU Delft report (N=30)  Future of region (N=3) |
| (4) participation in decision-making procedures; | Decision procedures (N=71)  *Omgevingstafels* (N=47) |
| 5) attitudes towards (management and measurements of) gas infrastructures | Opinions about gas infrastructure (N=42)  Trust in measurements (N=33)  Perceptions about SodM (N=9) |
| (6) perceptions about regional and national identities | Acknowledgement of the issue in policy (N=4)  Perceptions about citizens (N=22)  Media attention (N=19)  *Wingewest* (colony) (N=46) |
| (7) activism and awareness | Activist activities (N=15)  Institutionalised recognition for activism (N=7)  No recognition for activism (N=4)  Who becomes active and why (N=12)  Quantity of awareness of the issue (N=8)  When and why awareness of the issue (N=19)  Regional identity\_Drenthe (N=11)  Regional identity\_Groningen (N=14) |

## Relevant quotes

*“Specifically, the omgevingstafels and the participation of citizens, I feel like it is a bit late to do this, really. Groningen has been going on for multiple years.”* – research institute

*“the way it is done right now where there is incidental compensation, I don’t think that is enough”* – government institution

*“A municipality and province often have an opinion that often makes sense. But it is hard for them to justify that.”* – government institution

People who engage in social action are “*the ones that are victims or perceive themselves as victims”* – Drenthe province

*“Then you see, on television, always again, like, those people in the North, they are a bunch of stupid farmers” –* activist citizen

“*Yes, the Groningers let things happen. (…) I think they are used to doing things alone”* – activist citizen

“*Yes, the Groningers let things happen. (…) I think they are used to doing things alone, and also, historically they have been more secluded and directed towards each other*.” – activist citizen

“*this would never have happened in Rotterdam*” – activist citizen

“*they hold a debate for a few hours and then another month passes*” – activist citizen

*“It was of vital importance that we could state, scientifically, and prove, that gas storage has emotional and psychological consequences for the inhabitants. As a publication, they can consider it when reforming policies”* – research institute

“*we should talk to each other more*” – activist citizen

“*compensations need to be more generous*” – activist citizen

“*we need to copy Norway’s approach to compensations*” – activist citizen

“*we are entitled to some of the profits*” – activist citizen

“*of course, compensation is not appropriate when there is no causation*” – activist citizen

*“What bothers people is not that they have damage: the problem is that they face a huge administrative and legal wall. It’s a very long trajectory, especially when it is combined with the feeling – and I am afraid that that feeling is justified in many cases – that they are not being taken seriously, or that there are people on the other side that try their best to keep the compensation as low as possible or to dismiss it altogether in other ways. That feeling causes great misery, depression, or a significant decrease in quality of life. I think that is the main problem in areas affected by earthquakes*.” – Groningen Province

“*You have new knowledge, and it shows something different. In that case, the law says, you must correct this, so you cannot allocate compensations here.”* – IMG

“*the rules of the game have been changed during the game”­* – activist citizen

*“Promises were made in 2018 and they were simply reversed in 2021. […] Yes, that does not feel fair*.” – activist citizen

“*People are living in the same street, practically neighbours, where one gets thousands of euros in compensation and someone who happens to file a claim recently* [e.g., after the contours have changed] *gets nothing. But has the same damage to his house*.” – Noordenveld municipality

“*hurts more than the actual fractures”* – activist citizen

“*It is completely unacceptable that a government victimises citizens and then that same government hires lawyers against all these victims to prove them wrong*.” – activist citizen

“*they just created a pot of money*” – activist citizen

“*the citizens immediately get compensation*” – activist citizen

“*We say it all the time, it [Groningen] is a big hole, bulldozers in front of it, everything that is Groningen, cover it in the sand. Make it a theme park with nuclear power plants. They put the well-being of Groningers aside*.” – activist citizen

*“(…) we see how the burdens come down. The whole operation is profitable. Perhaps there should be some general compensation from the state. (…) So, it’s mainly, the way it is done right now where there is incidental compensation, I don’t think that is enough*.” – EZK

: “*(…) the surroundings of the gas storage have become a park. (…) And people were worried, because if it were to close, who is going to pay that? Who is going to maintain the bicycle paths? Who will take care of the park? That was their main question, the thing that bothered people because there was no solution.”* – institutional participant

*It’s not because we want the money that they can just do anything. It’s a huge insult to the Groningers”*). – activist citizen

“*a couple of stupid farmers*” – activist citizen

“*We had an information day, and one of the NAM said, well little madam* [mevrouwtje]*, you have to see it as a corn starch porridge that comes and goes. That’s how they look at us. (…) Those people don’t know anything so we can just tell them anything*.” – activist citizen

“*My dream is (…) that I get to reject something once. (…) For the credibility of governance. (...) Yes, if it complies with all the legal demands then they [energy companies] get permission. (…) I just have a legal framework that says that, if it can be done safely and responsibly, then it is permissible.”* – EZK