



Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

# **Experiences in the Netherlands with public procurement of social services in the field of healthcare**

**(youth care and home care)**

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Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

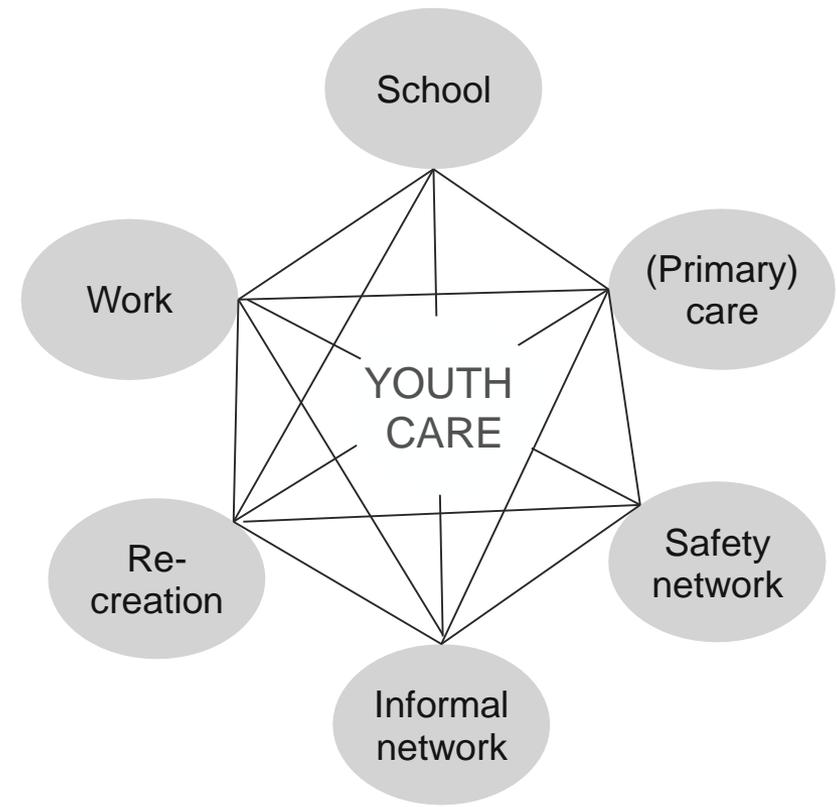


## Content

1. Context of social services in the Dutch healthcare system
2. Examples of the effects of public procurement in the Dutch health care system
3. Dutch initiatives to improve the system



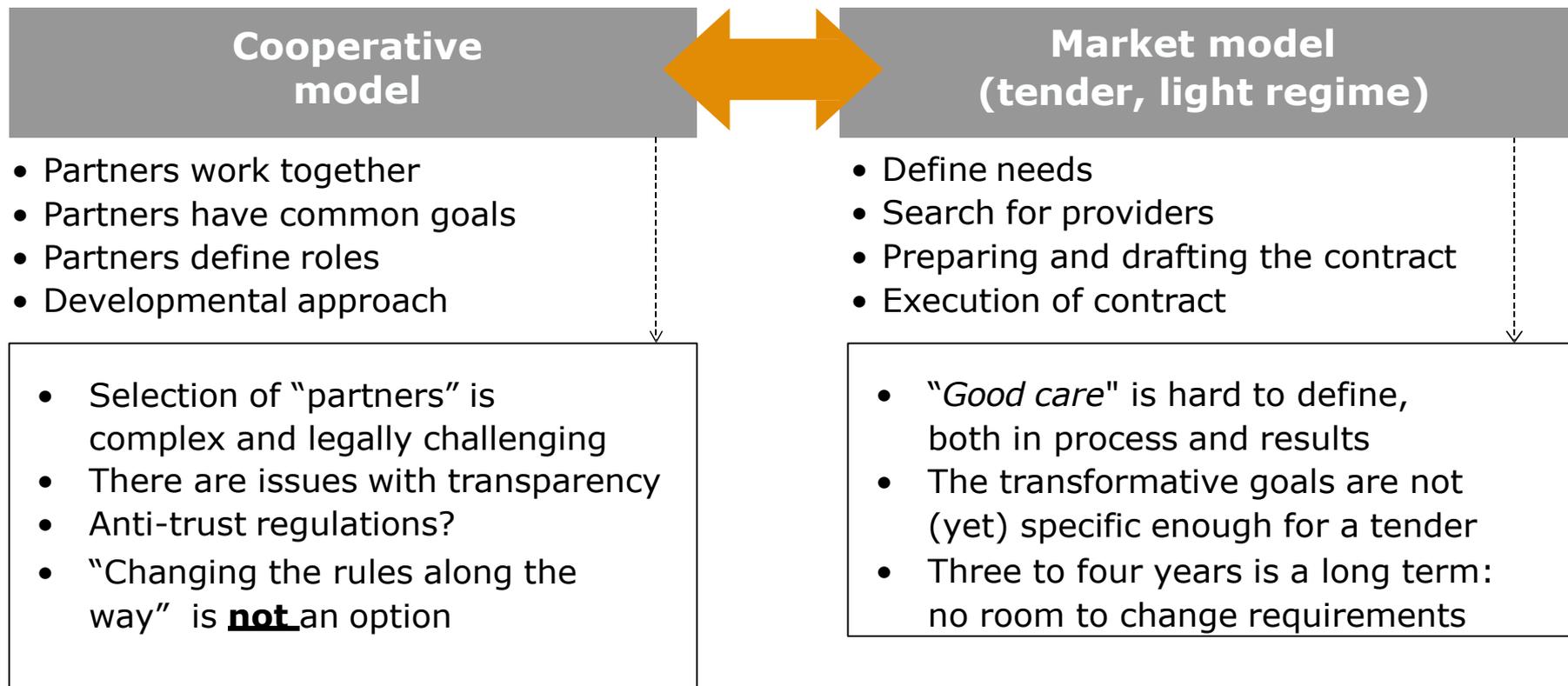
## CONTEXT - The Dutch Youth Care system is embedded in the social system





## MUNICIPAL BUYING STRATEGY

No effective buying strategy available: cooperative model is legally challenging, market model is not executable





## **CONCLUSION:** Applicability of the European public procurement rules to Social Services to be reconsidered

- The strategic challenges for municipalities in the Netherlands are enormous. These are becoming more pressing with the current financial deficits
- Most municipalities and suppliers of care are highly dependent on each other
- There are no effective buying strategies available for municipalities in contracting health care:
  - A cooperative model is not possible (legal issues)
  - A market model is expensive and has no effective gains
- Application of European rules for procurement of care means in practice that most municipalities (try to) avoid tenders
- Application of European rules for procurement of care seems questionable:
  - There are no foreign parties in the Dutch marketplace active nor interested
  - There are no Dutch parties in the foreign marketplace active nor interested
  - National mobility of Dutch players is extremely low, as youth care is a highly local service and requires local networks to be effective

The light regime has not reduced these difficulties



## Solutions for improvement

- National program with two goals
  - to support municipalities with realisation of healthcare through procurement  
(providing information, building networks, supporting professionalization et cetera)
  - to explore the possibilities for solutions - within the European procurement rules – to the difficulties that contracting authorities experience with public procurement



## **QUESTIONS?**

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