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RESOURCE ^[ENG]

For students and employees of Wageningen UR

no 8 – 26 November 2015 – 10th Volume



**INTERNATIONAL
EDITION**

Where are we better off?

University might switch ministries | **p.4 and 12**

>> JAN + BAARTMANS

Jan Schakel, teacher of Rural Sociology

'There is an element of nostalgia in it'

It all started with a painting that hung over the sofa in his parents' house. A work by the little-known expressionist Jan Baartmans (1898-1968). Now Jan Schakel owns 23 of them himself. His house is full of them. 'I wasn't intending to create a collection. It clearly got out of hand.' One thing followed another. 'I just think they're beautiful. That rural life, those skies. I love those low horizons.'

® RK / Foto: Guy Ackermans



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SLEEP ON IT

Parliament thinks the university should come under the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) from now on. A move from Economic Affairs (EZ). You might think it makes no difference. But that's not true. The complexity of Wageningen UR, with its combination of university *and* DLO research institutes, does not always fit decisionmaking structures in The Hague. This makes for a dilemma.

It boils down to this: the university has been growing for years now and whereas OCW allocates funding per student, EZ provides a maximum which has not been keeping up with the growth. That is an argument for shifting to OCW. On the other hand, Wageningen UR is based on the triangle of the business world, the government and education. Splitting it up and putting one part under a different ministry could amount to placing a bomb under Wageningen UR as we know it. So it's a dilemma – and I haven't even mentioned all the political games and power struggles between ministries. If I were one of the ministers in question I would take my time before making a decision.

Edwin van Laar



>> Eel only goes into puberty after world trip | p.10

UNIVERSITY DOES NOT WANT MOVE TO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

- **Lower House motion: move 'green' education**
- **Wageningen sees mainly disadvantages**

If the Dutch Parliament has anything to do with it, 'green' (agricultural) education will move from the Ministry of Economic Affairs to the Ministry of Education. On 17 November, a majority voted in favour of a motion proposing this. However, Wageningen University hopes the government will reject the idea.

Paul van Meenen, the D66 (liberal) MP who submitted the motion, thinks the Education ministry would solve Wageningen's funding issues. 'The Ministry of

Economic Affairs can't deal properly with the growth in green education. There are no longer any good reasons for treating green education as a special case.'

The VVD (conservative) party, which helped the motion achieve a majority, agrees. 'In the past, the ministry had a lot of agricultural expertise, but the added value provided by its civil servants in the collaboration between education, research and the private sector has become much less in recent years,' claims MP Anne-Wil Lucas.

But Wageningen UR continues to think 'that the current system offers the best basis for further improving green education and research,' according to the Executive Board in a statement. The or-

ganization is worried that the Ministry of Education knows less about green education. It would also cost a lot of money to adapt all the systems and the education funding problems would still not be solved. Spokesman Simon Vink: 'Given the current funding conditions, the university would move to the Ministry of Education with a shortfall. More money is needed for green education, regardless of where it comes from. And to achieve that, you need to change the funding conditions. That is the real problem.' The university thinks that it would be easiest if Economic Affairs were to use the same system for direct government funding as the Education ministry.

Cees Veerman, a former minis-

ter of Agriculture and the man behind Wageningen UR, also thinks a transfer to the Education ministry would not be wise. 'The substantive guidance from the Ministry of Economic Affairs regarding agriculture and nature has deteriorated in recent years. A transfer to the Ministry of Education would not be a good idea as that would only erode the agricultural expertise further still.' He is calling on the Prime Minister, Mr Rutte, to prevent the move.

The Cabinet now has to say what it will do with the motion. It may do so in early December when the Lower House debates the agricultural budget for 2016. **AS/HOP**

See too the background article on page 12

CLIMATE MARCH TO PARIS CANCELLED

- **Disappointing for 87 Wageningen students**
- **UN conference is going on**

A big group of Wageningen students were ready to join a big climate march this weekend, on the eve of the 21st UN climate change conference. However, following the attacks of 13 November France has cancelled all demonstrations.

The bus from Wageningen to Paris was already booked and all 87 seats were taken. There was even a waiting list of 30 students who also wanted to join 'WU'R going to Paris,' the initiative of Environmental Studies student Femke Lootens. It is disappointing that it has all been called off, says Lootens, but it is understandable. 'We met as a group and decided that we'll arrange for speakers in Wageningen on Saturday 28 November, and that we'll join the climate parade in Amsterdam on Sunday 29 November.'

The official climate conference in Paris, COP21, is going ahead. A few tens of Wageningen researchers and students will be going. You can read about what they will be doing in Paris on page 14. **KG**



THANK-YOU RECEPTION FOR ANDRÉ

He was Teacher of the Year in 2010, was nominated for the award on several other occasions and has been one of Wageningen UR's best teachers for years. And now, after 40 years, plant cell biology lecturer André van Lammeren is retiring. Reason enough for students to put on a celebration for their cherished teacher. So they held a thank-you reception in Annie's Kroeg, the Asserpark flats pub.

The students will 'really miss' their favourite

lecturer, says Lisa Nieuwboer of B.V.W. Biologica study association, which organized the party. 'He's a fantastic teacher always so enthusiastic, whatever he's teaching. He talks about the plants as if they were his own children.'

Van Lammeren will continue to work for the university for a while on ongoing research projects and courses. Thank goodness for that, says one of the students. 'Every time I see him, he says hello and gives me a smile.' **TvdS**

PHOTO: AARTJAN VAN DE GLIND

VISSER APPOINTED DEAN AT UNIVERSITY

- Succeeding Johan van Arendonk
- New name: Dean of Research

Richard Visser, professor of Plant Breeding, will be the new Dean of Research at the university. As of 1 January he succeeds Johan van Arendonk.

As Dean of Research Visser's tasks are to implement the university's PhD policy and safeguard the quality of the



PhD research in the university's six graduate schools.

As Visser takes office the name of the position changes.

Where Van Arendonk was Dean of Sciences, Visser will now be Dean of Research. The post is part-time, and Visser will also continue to lead the Plant Breeding group made up of plant breeding researchers from both the university and DLO. Visser (1957) has more than 400 publications to his name.

The current dean, Professor Johan van Arendonk, leaves early next year to join animal breeding company Hendrix Genetics. **AS**

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Ground rules

My mobile phone lights up. 'This is Rob,' says the caller. 'I am an ordinary dairy farmer with 70 cows and I am sick of the rat race. I've just read Mark Shepard's book *Restoration Agriculture: Real-world Permaculture for Farmers*. Brilliant! I have

started by writing some new ground rules for my farm. Because it starts in the ground. And with a closed regional mineral cycle. To me, NPK doesn't stand for "nitrogen, phosphate and potassium" but for "naturally producing cows" [koeien in Dutch, ed]. I'm very close to town so an outlet is no problem. I am thinking about a closed regional economic cycle as well. And...'

It's not easy to interrupt his flood of enthusiastic words. 'Fantastic that you are adopting new ground rules; send them off to The Hague as well, and to our executive board!' He continues, indefatigable. 'A colleague of mine told me you were working on permaculture. Can I get involved in that?'

Rob is not the first farmer to go in search of a radically different way of farming and a different relationship with society. Mark Shepard's book is a powerful catalyst in that. The writer will be speaking next Saturday at the Congress 'From Field to Forest' in Velp. This will be followed in January by the tenth *Biobeurs* organic trade fair and less than a month later by the second *Food Otherwise* conference. The *Biobeurs* attracts 5000 farmers and *Food Otherwise* was a runaway success last year with 800 participants. All farmers and members of the public who are thinking about those new ground rules of Rob's. Not many researchers though, sadly! 'I'll put you on the list, Rob. You can come along!' **B**



Kees van Veluw (57) teaches Permaculture and is active in organic agriculture networks. His vision stems from his work with African farmers, his networks with Dutch farmers, his family life with his wife, three sons, dog and chickens.



in brief

>> WOMEN 1

Fewest professors

Of all the Dutch universities, Wageningen has the lowest proportion of women full professors. Since the previous Monitor by a national network of women professors in 2012, this proportion has fallen slightly, from 8.8 to 7.6 percent. In the same period, nationally, the proportion of women professors went up from 14.8 to 17.1 percent. The publication of the previous Monitor caused quite a furore in Wageningen. Since then a mentoring programme for promising women staff has been set up, and most of those in key positions in research have participated in a workshop on diversity. Unequal representation is most glaring at full professor level. Since 2012 there has been some improvement in the promotion of women from assistant to associate professor. And nowadays the Wageningen executive board is chaired by a woman. The supervisory council, on the other hand, is exclusively male. **HOP, RR**

>> WOMEN 2

More PhD graduates

Last year almost as many women (47 percent) as men graduated with PhDs from Dutch universities, reveal new figures from Statistics Netherlands. In Wageningen women PhD holders have even overtaken the men. The university produced 287 PhD graduates last year, 154 of them women (nearly 54 percent). In 2013, 43 percent of the PhD graduates were women (118 out of 273) and in 2012, 55 percent. 2010 was the first year more women than men received PhDs in Wageningen (51 percent). **B**

HOP, KG

>> BEANS

The Year of Pulses

The United Nations has declared 2016 the Year of Pulses. Kidney beans, chick peas, soya beans and the like are not only nutritious and cheap but also an environmentally friendly source of protein. But these advantages are not always recognized, says José Graziano da Silva, secretary-general of the food and agriculture organization FAO. He thinks the humble bean deserves more attention. And not just in regions where there is food insecurity. In the Netherlands too, the importance of eating beans is on the agenda. In the new dietary guidelines published on 4 November by the Health Council, eating pulses every week is recommended for the first time. **B RR**





INSECT RESEARCHER GETS ERC GRANT

- **1.5 million euros for studying plant defences**

Insect researcher Erik Poelman has been awarded a grant of 1.5 million euros by the European Research Council (ERC). He will be studying how plants defend themselves against a combination of enemies.

Scientists have been researching how plant species stop themselves

from being eaten by individual species of aphids and caterpillars for some time. Some plants emit substances that attract the enemies of their own adversaries, for instance. In the wild, however, plants have to cope with more than just one herbivore and it is not clear how plants do that. Poelman wants to see whether the animals causing the damage appear in a random order or whether they attack in the same sequence every year. If the latter, he

expects that plants have 'pre-programmed' defence mechanisms, whereas the first situation would require more flexibility. Poelman is also curious to see whether plants themselves influence which enemies they attract. He found evidence for this in previous research.

Poelman is pleased that he will be able to combine lab research with field studies in the next few years. He also enjoys working on truly fundamental, curiosity-driven

questions. 'You see an increasing focus on applied research in the Netherlands,' says Poelman. 'But in the ERC procedure, they don't ask about applications.'

Erik Poelman already received a Veni grant in 2010. He is also a member of Wageningen Young Academy, which was set up in 2012 for talented young researchers.

RR

LOTS OF FAMILIAR FACES ON TEACHER LONGLIST

- **Six previous winners and four previous nominees**
- **Savelkoul and Peek absent**

In spite of an appeal from the jury chair not to vote for the usual suspects this time, the longlist of the Teacher of the Year Awards 2016 consists mainly of familiar names. Two big names are conspicuous by

their absence, however.

Jury chair Jaco Slingerland appealed to students just before the voting in the annual elections to vote for the 'rising stars' among the teachers: people who teach brilliantly but time and again narrowly miss getting on the longlist. But students do not seem to have listened to his appeal. The longlist includes six previous winners and four previous nominees.

But two names are conspicuously absent from the longlist: ex-winners Gert Peek of Soil Science and Huub Savelkoul of Immunology and Cell Biology. This is surprising, as Peek and Savelkoul are certainly top-class: Peek is the only teacher to have won twice (in 2000 and in 2011) and Savelkoul has been nominated so many times that he received a special prize – the

'Teacher hors classe' – in 2010.

The complete longlist for 2016: Noelle Aarts, Curtis Barrett, Frits Claassen, Roel Dijksema, Martijn Duineveld, Maria Forlenza, André van Lammeren, Arie Nieuwenhuizen, Bert van 't Ooster, Jan den Ouden, Stefano Pascucci, Ute Sass-Klaassen, Gosse Schraa, Arie Terlouw, Paul Torfs, Kees van Veluw. LvdN

AGREEMENT ON CAO FOR DLO

- **After more than two years of negotiations**
- **Two pay rises of 1.5 percent each**

After more than two years of negotiations, Wageningen UR and the trade unions have concluded a new collective labour agreement (CAO) for DLO employees. There will be two pay rises of 1.5 percent each, the first on 1 January 2016. Staff will also get a one-off payment of 1.5 percent of their annual salary in December, while further agreements have also been made about ending mini-reorganizations 'on the quiet' and raising the retirement age.

The deal does involve one uncertain factor. The second part – a pay rise in October 2016 – will only be implemented if Wageningen UR and the unions can agree on unemployment benefit 'compensation' before 1 July. A change in the law means the

maximum period for unemployment benefit will be reduced from three to two years over the next few years. The unions want to keep the longer period. The parties are carrying out a 'study' to see how this could be implemented.

Shortly after the Wageningen deal was reached, it was announced that employers and trade unions had also reached a nationwide agreement on unemployment benefit compensation. This national agreement differs from the Wageningen one. However, the national arrangements will not affect the DLO CAO, says Simon Vink, spokesman for the Executive Board. They will not be tinkering with an agreement where 'the ink is barely dry'. He does think it is possible that the national agreement will influence the planned 'study'.

The unions still have to submit the deal to their rank and file. It will be clear by 30 November whether the new CAO has been accepted. RR



For the first time in many years it proved impossible to get a WUR team together to compete in the Alpe d'HuZes, a sponsored run, walk or cycle in the French Alps in aid of cancer research. 'Taking part is very time-consuming,' explains Herman Vermeer, who took part in the cycling event last year. 'You have to train, but it's the fund-raising that takes up the most time.' But on Saturday 21 November the starting shot sounded in the Forum for the Big Challenge team (photo). This is the team of livestock farmers which Wageningen UR joined in recent years. 'If we can get a team together in the next couple of weeks we could still take part,' says Vermeer. KG

PHOTO: AARTJAN VAN DE GLIND

COURT OF AUDIT INVESTIGATES REAL ESTATE POLICY

• Six universities, including Wageningen, under scrutiny

The Dutch Court of Audit will be taking a good look at the real estate policies of Wageningen University and five other universities next year. This is part of a long-running examination of how the public sector deals with its buildings.

The auditors will also be looking at the universities of Utrecht, Twente, Maastricht, Leiden and Tilburg. According to a spokesperson from the Court of Audit, the six institutions were not selected because their real estate policy was particularly risky. 'One criterion was that no investigations would be duplicated.' The ongoing internal study of the criticized real estate policy of the University of Amsterdam, for example, was a reason not to pick that institution. The investigation has just begun and is expected to be finished within one year. **Ⓜ HOP**

NO NEW GENDER MINOR FOR NOW

• Plan for new minor on 'inequality' rejected
• Bock will write gender action plan

There will be no minor on gender on offer at Wageningen University next year. The previous programme, which was scrapped this spring, will not be followed up for the time being.

A disappointment, says Bettina Bock, associate professor at Rural Sociology. In the 'minor call' in which teachers were invited to submit proposals, she put forward an idea entitled (In)equality and Sustainability. This minor would be broader than its predecessor and would pay attention to the different reasons for inequality, such as gender.

But the education institute OWI selected three of the other 26 submissions. Bock: 'We were not lucky.'

But this is not the end of gender education at Wageningen, says the sociologist. She had already been asked by rector Arthur Mol to write an action plan outlining how 'gen-

der and diversity issues' should be reflected in Wageningen teaching and research. Bock will be devoting herself to this task in the coming period. Meanwhile the OWI has invited her to discuss alternatives in January. The education institute is still convinced that gender is an important issue which should be addressed in teaching and research, emphasizes OWI director Tiny van Boekel.

The previous gender minor was scrapped this spring due to lack of interest. Only one or two students sign up for it each year, says Ellen de Jong, minor coordinator at the OWI. This means two courses disappear from the curriculum, leaving only two courses on the topic of gender: Gender and Consumer Culture, and Gender and Natural Resources.

Ⓜ RR

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'THE DIRTIEST KID ON THE BLOCK'



The letter was signed by 64 professors. Why do the media call you?

'The one who took the initiative for the letter was Jan Rotmans. Because he was at the Urgenda climate march, the media turned to me. I haven't played that role for a few years because of the smear campaign against climate scientists, but now it's possible again.'

The proposal is to switch to gas-fired power stations. Is that the way ahead now?

When burned, coal emits twice as much CO₂ as gas. Then there is also the emission of fine particles and heavy metals. Hundreds of coal-fired power stations have already been closed in the US and in Germany. And what do we do in the Netherlands? We build new ones. That really makes us the dirtiest kid on the block.'

But to close all 11 power stations, including three new ones, would surely be to destroy capital?

'Now there are new gas-fired power stations standing idle because generating energy with coal is a bit cheaper. What is more, the Netherlands gives subsidies of up to 500 million euros to coal-fired power stations for burning wood chips. We could use that money to partially compensate the energy companies. **Ⓜ KG**

Who? Climate expert Pier Vellinga

What? He is one of the professors who are calling for the closure of all coal-fired power stations.

Where? First in Trouw newspaper, then in many other media

Science Cafe Wageningen

www.sciencecafewageningen.nl

Thursday, November 26th
19:45 - live music
20:15 - Science
Café Loburg
FREE ENTRANCE

Dr. Lammert Kooistra (WUR)
Prof. Steven de Jong (Utrecht University)

Drones in science

Partners:

Sponsored by:

Food Valley NL
Your guidance & support partner

WAGENINGEN UR
For quality of life

KLV
Klimaat & Landbouw

LC3URG
café | bar | live

RESOURCE
Your education as networkers van Wageningen UR

PORPOISE FOLLOWS SMELT TO WESTERN SCHELDT

- **Prey is back in inlets and rivers**
- **Rivers not yet very porpoise-friendly**

There are porpoises swimming again in the Western Scheldt, for the first time in decades. The animals hunt smelt, migratory fish that have also returned. It is a success story for Dutch environmental policy, says Mardik Leopold, a researcher at Imares Wageningen UR, who will be obtaining his doctorate today for his research on the feeding behaviour of porpoises.

Leopold's results include strong signs that the porpoise followed the smelt to the Western Scheldt. His research shows, for instance, that almost half the diet of porpoises in the Western Scheldt consists of smelt. That is a much bigger share than at sea, where smelt only accounts for three percent and whiting and herring are more important. Leopold showed this by comparing the stomach

contents of 212 porpoises that were washed up on the North Sea coast with 23 stranded porpoises from the Western Scheldt and two from the Scheldt river.

Oily fish such as smelt and herring are very important in the porpoise's diet. Because porpoises are smaller than other members of the whale family, they have a relatively large surface area and lose heat more easily. Porpoises therefore eat up to ten percent of their body-weight every day to survive. Adult animals can only keep this up by eating enough oily fish, which are rich in energy. Porpoises supplement this menu with small, non-oily fish like the goby but it would be impossible to get enough energy from eating these alone.

For many years, Dutch rivers and inlets such as the Western Scheldt were too polluted for fish. 'In the 1960s and 1970s they were as dead as a doornail,' says Leopold. 'Toxic zones with almost nothing left alive in them'. Thanks to better protection, the water is



PHOTO: ANDREW A. REDING

cleaner now and migratory fish are returning. Leopold therefore thinks it is 'very positive' that porpoises – and seals too – are being spotted again in the Scheldt and Eems rivers and even occasionally in the Rhine and Maas.

Even so, the rivers seem a less hospitable habitat for porpoises than the North Sea. In 2013, about 25 porpoises were spotted in the

Scheldt, but most of them soon died. The two animals that Leopold examined turned out to have an empty stomach. They may not have been able to catch enough fish in the freshwater. However, it is still too early to draw firm conclusions, says Leopold. Obstacles such as sluices, ship's propellers and the noise from ships could also be to blame. **RR**

BANANA DISEASE CONTINUES TO SPREAD

- **Prevention measures not being applied properly everywhere**
- **Solution impossible without resistant banana**

Existing quarantine measures are not preventing the further spread of Panama disease. Banana plants all over the world are dying thanks to the same disseminating fungus. These are the conclusions

of a group of scientists led by Gert Kema, a researcher at Biointeractions & Plant Health, in the scientific journal *PLoS Pathogens*.

Kema's team examined the genetic material of *Fusarium* fungi from Jordan, Pakistan and the Philippines, among other places. Only a very small proportion of the genetic 'letters' differed between the samples. This is despite the huge diversity in Indonesia, where *Fusarium* originated.

'Everything that has been done so far in terms of educating people and applying quarantine has failed,' says Kema. He notices that different places vary in how seriously they take the precautionary measures. While some plantations ensure all vehicles and people are disinfected, others do nothing at all. 'A guaranteed way of making sure the disease

spreads further.' Ultimately, a resistant banana plant will be needed as well as the use of multiple varieties in cultivation.

Infection with Panama disease is disastrous for commercial banana plantations. Because the same non-resistant variety (Cavendish) is used everywhere, the plants die in vast numbers. Furthermore, the land remains unfit for the cultivation of bananas for a long time afterwards because the *Fusarium* fungus survives 'asleep' in the soil.

Fusarium oxysporum has now spread across the Middle East, Southeast Asia, East Africa and Australia. So far, the plantations of South America have escaped. But infection seems merely a question of time, and major banana producing countries are preparing for the disease. **RR**



PHOTO: MARICAR SALACINAS

Aerial photos of a banana plantation in which large sections have been destroyed by Panama disease.

ALGAE THRIVE ON TOILET WASTE AT NIOO

- *Chlorella sorokiniana* cleans up concentrated toilet water
- Result: clean water and fertilizer

It is technically feasible to purify the toilet water at the Netherlands Institute for Ecology (NIOO) using algae. The algae produce clean waste water and can themselves be used as fertilizer, shows research by the NIOO and the Environmental Technology and Bioprocess Engineering research groups.

The researchers set to work on concentrated toilet water, which contains a lot of nitrogen and phosphorus. This waste stream is collected separately in the NIOO building and goes into a digester where biogas is produced. Algae can be bred on the waste water – the effluent – that is processed this way. ‘We have proof of principle that you can grow algae on concentrated toilet water,’ says Packo Lamers of Bioprocess Engineering, who collaborated with Tania Fernandes of the NIOO. They published their findings in the journal *Environmental Science & Technology*.

The researchers worked with the green alga *Chlorella sorokiniana*, which Lamers says ‘grows quickly on almost anything.’ It

had already been proven to grow on urine. One sticking point was that the toilet water contains a lot of nitrogen in proportion to the amount of phosphorus. ‘At some point the alga has extracted all the phosphorus from the waste water but there is still nitrogen in it. The alga does absorb that leftover nitrogen, but too slowly. That needs further improvement.’ Another cause for concern was that the ammonium concentration in the waste water after treatment in the biodigester was extremely high. But the ammonia turned out not to be toxic for the alga.

Because the waste water is highly concentrated, you need a lot of algae to purify it, says Lamers. ‘For one gram of nitrogen you need 10 grams of algae per litre of water.’ Normal waste water, which includes shower and washing machine water for example, is too diluted to grow algae on,’ says Lamers. ‘Those are mega volumes of water, for which you need much larger and therefore much more expensive breeding systems for purification with algae. The harvesting of the algae is less efficient then too.’

Besides its potential as fertilizer, the harvested biomass of algae with nitrogen and phosphorus can also be used as the basis for bioplastics and biofuel, says Lamers. **AS**



The presentation of the toilet water purification system at the Poop = Gold stand which the NIOO has been taking to festivals.

VISION <<

‘Shooting is the only option’

The province of North Holland wants to give permission for the shooting of over 2000 fallow deer in the dunes which supply Amsterdam’s mains water. The measure is meeting with resistance, but according to ecologist Loek Kuiters of Alterra, there is no other choice.



Why must so many animals die?

‘There are three reasons. The company which manages the area, Waternet, wants to prevent mass deaths in the winter. The area is open to the public so everyone will see dead animals lying around. Two years ago we calculated that in the given situation there is space to 600 to 700 animals. At present there are more than 3000 of them, and every year there are 800 more. Secondly, the large numbers of fallow deer cause problems in the neighbouring areas, which do not have room for so many fallow deer. Thirdly, the area comes under Natura 2000 and has been categorized as the priority habitat ‘grey dunes’. The objectives for such a habitat are jeopardized by all those fallow deer.’

Where do all those deer come from, actually?

‘Around 1970 a few stags escaped from a local deer park. Later, a few females were illegally released. They found a very nice habitat in the dunes. For a long time it remained a small number: in the 1990s there were only 80 or 90 deer. At some point the population started growing. We don’t know why, exactly.’

Is there any other option than a cull?

‘It is too late for contraception or to move them. The numbers are simply too large. In this situation there is really no choice anymore. The arguments for intervening are legitimate, in my view. But shooting them will be quite a job. You will probably have to close off part of the area. You must go about it carefully to minimize the stress to the animals. Actually we still don’t know whether action will be taken in the short term. There is a lot of protest. Various groups have said they plan to object.’

RK



MAKING WATER REALLY COOL

- STW project to cool down the city
- 400,000 for research through design

On a hot day, water absorbs a lot of energy. It therefore functions like a kind of heat battery which gets charged during the day, somewhat mitigating the urban heat island effect. But after sunset this battery slowly discharges, adding to the heat island effect in the night. Something can be done about that, thinks landscape architect Sanda Lenzholzer. If water features are designed smartly, water can be a truly cooling element in a hot city. In the next two years she gets to show exactly how that works in the project Realcool.

Realcool focuses on a couple of options which might work. One approach is to create more shade so the water heats up less. By for example hanging screens above the water, or by planting vegetation on islands – floating or otherwise. Another option is to increase evaporation. Water that evaporates absorbs energy from the surroundings, creating a cooling effect. The larger the water surface, the greater the evaporation. Lenzholzer: 'That is how fountains, for example, cool

down the air temperature.' Extra vegetation beside or in the water is another way of increasing the evaporation. Trees evaporate a lot of water through their stomata.

The research method is another new aspect of the project. Lenzholzer is applying 'research by design', an approach in which the best spatial solution using scientific knowledge in an ongoing process. Designers, urban spatial managers and the public are all closely involved in that process. City residents get to give their

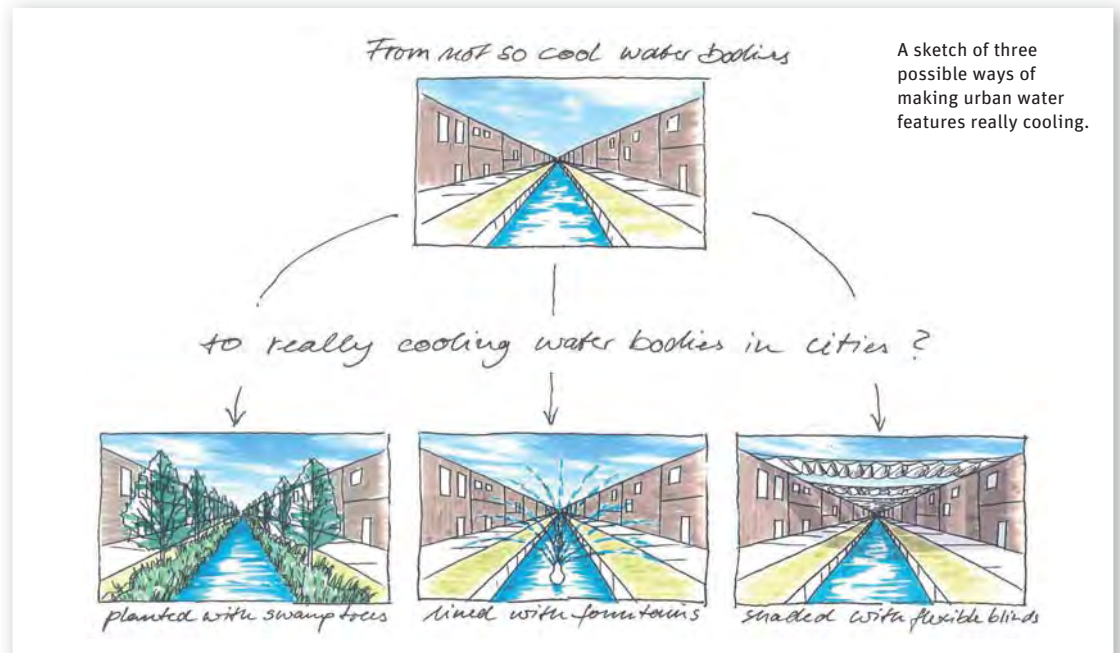
views on the proposed designs through questionnaires. So visualizing the designs is an important part of the project.

Model calculations should then reveal whether the solutions really do work. Actually building something is not within the scope of a two-year project, says Lenzholzer. That is up to the designers who can get to work with the readymade prototypes afterwards.

The Realcool project is run by Wageningen UR and Amsterdam

University of Applied Sciences HvA. It receives 400,000 euros in funding, two thirds of which goes to Wageningen. Realcool is one of nine projects funded by SWT and NWO within the new programme *Research through Design* in the top sector Creative Industry.

Lenzholzer is pleased with this new programme. 'It is the first time that design is recognized as a serious component of academic research. Research through design is one of the specialisms in our chair group.' **© RK**



DRAWING: ZHONGLIN GAO EN SANDA LENZHOLZER

SWIMMING BRINGS ON PUBERTY IN EELS

- Simulated migration in swim tunnel

By putting eels through a virtual swim to the Sargasso Sea you can bring on puberty in them. But full sexual maturity cannot be induced this way. These findings come out of unusual Wageningen research at Imares.

Wild eels migrate to the Sargasso Sea to spawn. The eels reach

sexual maturity on the journey. Eels in captivity do not reproduce unaided and for years scientists have been doing their utmost to do something about that.

Arjan Palstra and his colleagues got several tens of eels to make a journey of thousands of kilometres through a swim tunnel. The conditions met on the way to the Sargasso Sea – day and night, fresh and salt water, the water temperatures – were simulated as closely as possible. The eels

swam the first 689 km (two weeks) in fresh water and the next 3103 km (nine weeks) in salt water. The journey took place in complete darkness; at sea eels swim at a depth of at least 200 metres by night and one kilometre by day.

The virtual journey has an effect on the eels. In the fresh water their testosterone levels go up significantly. During their 'sea voyage' their gonads grow, a sign of sexual maturity. But the eels do not develop beyond puberty. Ap-

parently something else is required for them to reach full sexual maturity. The observed effects are useful knowledge though, explains Palstra in *Aquaculture*. Researchers stimulate eels to reproduce by treating them with hormones. Now that the use of wild elvers (eels that are ready to spawn) for this purpose has been banned, puberty needs to be induced in farmed eels. Which was done successfully with Palstra's long distance swimmers. **© RK**

Last week our readers were among those discussing the events in Paris. Apart from that, we also took a look at our English language skills and the ratio of men to women at the top. Got an opinion too? Join in the discussion online or email resource@wur.nl

REACTIONS ON...



RESOURCE-ONLINE.NL

SILENCE

On campus as elsewhere one minute's silence was observed after 'Paris'. And as elsewhere, both the attacks and the tribute to the victims got people talking.

Horizon thinks the commemoration shows a limited perspective. 'If we observe a minute's silence for Paris, we should do so for Beirut, the Russian plane and the rest of the Middle East as well.' It is a sentiment shared by quite a few correspondents. But **Joa Maouche** expresses his sorrow at the 'half-hearted' commemoration on campus. Like many others he was distressed by the attacks and wanted to join in the one minute's silence. At around 12 o'clock he was in The Spot, where no one knew what he was talking about. The staff gave him glazed looks, the music played on and many students did not seem to be informed. He saw some other students looking around in disbelief as well. 'They probably thought the same as I did.' Altogether

a disappointing experience. 'The university's intention was good but I would have preferred not to have a minute's silence than to be confronted with such indifference.'

TALKING DUNGLISH

Bert Keurentjes of In'to Languages translation bureau talked online about the five biggest English language bloopers he had come across in Wageningen UR.

The outright winner: 'After the opening we will make agreements regarding our social intercourse (with each other) during the trip.' The list causes a lot of hilarity among website visitors, who share their own gems. **Jeroen** found a great example of the perils of Google Translate on the canteen menu: *spitskool met gehaktstaaf* – Chinese cabbage with deep-fried minced meat roll – was described as 'peak carbon with chopped rod'. Student **Mandy** recently attended a lecture entitled 'Pubic regulation or private initiative'. Then there was the *droge blusleiding* that was labelled 'dry fire leadership' instead of dry powder fire extinguisher. The many examples draw a sigh from **Taaldocente** [English teacher]: 'OMG. How embarrassing.' Well, at least she won't be out of a job any time soon.

POSTURING

Gender news is always sure of a pretty rough welcome on the internet. And that is the case for the news that Wageningen University has the fewest female professors, in relative terms.

'Lowest proportion of female professors and best university in the Netherlands. Says it all,' writes **Lange Steve**. He gets support from **Moai man** (+1 to you), **Gozer** ('hero') and **BF** ('that is indeed the only correct conclusion!'). **EenVrouw** adds insult to injury: 'Why this constant whining about equality... Maybe women are generally less interested in a job like that, or just genuinely less suitable. Of the less capable teachers I've been taught by, the majority really were women (with a few exceptions)!' By this time **Denise** has had enough. 'What a load of male bellyaching. Women in the workplace provide passion and emotion.' @RR/LdK



Hopes and fears for green education

Ten days ago the Lower House of the Dutch parliament passed a motion that green education, including Wageningen University, should be brought under the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. What was behind this motion, why was there suddenly a parliamentary majority in favour, and what could be the consequences for Wageningen UR? A reconstruction and a look ahead.

text: Albert Sikkema / **photo:** David van Dam, Hollandse Hoogte

In the autumn of 2014 the Lower House of the Dutch parliament, on the initiative of the conservative VVD and liberal-democrat D66 parties, asked the cabinet to get a study done of the pros and cons of having 'green education' institutions under the Ministry of Economic Affairs (EZ), as is currently the case. The result was a report (*Verkenning Sectoronderwijs*) surveying sector-related education which was presented in the House on Princes Day (budget day) 2015 by education minister Jet Bussemaker and State Secretary for Economic Affairs Sharon Dijksma.

'The connection between education and the business world is becoming increasingly important,' the stateswomen wrote to the House. The report's key conclusion, they say, is that sector-specific responsibilities are not essential for making this connection. They also cite the passage in the report saying that the green education sector feels the Ministry of Economic Affairs falls short when it comes to content-related involvement and leadership. 'Many people feel EZ is no longer in a position to offer added value in directing green education in the long term.'

But the ministers are not proposing to bring green education under the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) because 'OCW lacks the orientation and knowledge to do justice to important sector-specific needs'. EZ promises 'to pay more attention to its responsibility for the contents of green education' and to establish a 'strategic development agenda' of 'substantive educational goals' for the next ten years, in collaboration with education and busi-

GREEN EDUCATION MOTION

The parliamentary parties of D66, the Christian Union, the VVD, the Green left and the Socialist Party adopted the motion that green education should be transferred from the Ministry of Economic Affairs (EZ) to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW). The parties want to bring the costs per student of green and regular education in line, and they think the easiest way to do that is for them to be financed from a single budget. The parties also claim that the *Verkenning Sectoronderwijs*, a report on sector-specific education in the Netherlands, shows that there is no reason to treat green education any differently to any other kind of education. They do however feel that if green education moves to OCW it must retain its embedding (continuous learning trajectories and strong links with the business world), which serves as an inspiration for the whole education sector.'

ness. Moreover, the two ministries have promised the House to apply the same rules of the game in establishing the education budget.

The ministers' statement is ambivalent. And that is not surprising as, according to insiders, Minister Bussemaker favours transferring green education to OCW, while State Secretary Dijksma of EZ is against the idea.

EDUCATION BUDGET

At the end of October 2015, the Lower House debated Minister Bussemaker's education budget for 2016. At that debate D66 and the Christian Union proposed a motion that green

education be transferred to OCW. That motion was not really discussed, however. The ruling parties asked for the motion to be stayed to give them time to consider it. So it has not yet been debated and is expected to come up again when the EZ budget is debated in November.

But one day after the debate on the education budget, State Secretary for Infrastructure and Environment Wilma Mansveld resigned in response to the devastating report on the Fyra train fiasco. Shortly after this, EZ State Secretary Dijksma took over from Mansveld and a new State Secretary of EZ was appointed: Martijn van Dam. He could not go straight into a discussion of the EZ budget in the House so the debate was postponed until December.

The discussion about green education in The Hague has not stood still, however. For years the liberal D66 party has been of the opinion that all education belongs under the ministry of OCW, and the CDA (Christian Democrat party) has consistently opposed this. The left-wing PvdA and the conservative VVD lean towards D66's point of view – but not quite yet, says the PvdA. The VVD wants additional funding for green education and thinks that money should come from the ministry of OCW. But then you get a discussion about money every year between two ministries. The VVD parliamentary party, which played a key role in getting a majority behind the motion, will make a decision mid-November. The majority of VVD MPs want to see green education transferred to OCW, and that is how there was suddenly a majority in the House. The motion was tabled extremely fast, to many people's surprise.

MIXED RESPONSE

Responses to the motion within the green education sector reflect its divisions. Wageningen University, the agricultural applied sciences institutions and the agricultural vocational training colleges (AOCs) are united in their objections to the cuts in green education made by the Ministry of EZ. Last year these cuts came to about 15 million euros but were reduced after protest. For 2016 they have risen to almost 40 million.

But whereas the university wishes to remain with EZ, many AOCs no longer trust this ministry to defend their interests. So while the university is lobbying informally against the implementation of the motion, the AOCs are in favour of it. They assume that the education ministry will withdraw the imposed cut of 28 million, so they will not have to make cuts. The university wants rid of the two percent ruling which limits the growth of its budget, and sees in the document on sector education that the Ministry of EZ is prepared to do that. So it thinks EZ can solve its problems.

WAGENINGEN UR'S POSITION

There are also substantive reasons for staying

with this ministry. For Wageningen UR, consisting as it does of the university and DLO, one national policymaker and financier is better and more efficient than two. If the university and DLO were funded by different ministries, the much-acclaimed integration between the university and the research institutes and the collaboration with the ministry in the 'golden


Wageningen University wants to stay with EZ, many AOCs do not

triangle' would be threatened with collapse, fears the executive board.

The close collaboration between the university and DLO under a single board looks like a permanent fixture, but is far from it. There were proposals circulating in The Hague last year to bring all the applied research institutes – TNO, DLO, Deltares, ECN and Marin – under one board. As a result the executive board would no longer direct both the university and DLO, but DLO, TNO and other institutes would come under one national governing body. This

'Grand Design' never made it to the status of official proposal but transferring the university to the Ministry of Education could breathe new life into it. In their response to the motion the Wageningen directors wrote that 'a wedge is being driven into the current collaboration between academic education and applied research'. They are afraid that The Hague is pulling the rug out from under Wageningen UR's feet.

MINISTERS

The ball is in the cabinet's court now. Will the brand-new state secretary for EZ Martijn van Dam implement the motion and make preparations for transferring green education to the education ministry? That remains to be seen. His predecessor Sharon Dijksma was against it, and so was Prime Minister Rutte last year. Perhaps the cabinet will give its verdict next week at the debate on the agriculture budget in the Lower House. But perhaps this too requires further thought because the ministers do not see eye to eye. In that case green education will be haunted by hopes and fears for a while longer. 

Who's going to get (or keep) green education: Minister Jet Bussemaker of OCW or Minister Henk Kamp of EZ?



To Paris with ideas

The margins of the UN climate conference in Paris from 30 November to 11 December will be abuzz with meetings and side events. Wageningen too will set out its stall at this climate science marketplace. Several dozen researchers and students are travelling to Paris to spread their message. Here is a sample.

text: Roelof Kleis

CUTTING CO₂ THROUGH FOREST MANAGEMENT



Forests store CO₂, thereby forming carbon sinks. And wood also plays a role in the supply of bio-energy and the bio-economy. That role could be made much bigger, says special professor of European Forest Resources **Gert-Jan Nabuurs**. He

carried out a study commissioned by the European Forest Institute EFI, and will be giving a lecture on it in Paris. 'In the report we describe our calculations that with better forest management the European members states could achieve a further reduction of 400 million tonnes of CO₂ per year. Forests currently store about 10 percent of current European emissions, and this could increase to 20 percent by 2030 or 2040.'

Nabuurs coined the term Climate Smart Forestry, the name of a smarter form of forest management designed to achieve this increase. 'An example: in southern Germany there is now lot of forest that is vulnerable to insect and storm damage. It is aging and therefore grows more and more slowly. If it is gradually replaced with younger, more mixed forest that grows faster, the forest will sequester more carbon. As long as the wood that is harvested is used in new products, of course.'

The EU aims to cut CO₂ emissions by 40 percent by 2030, compared with 1990. With smarter forest management 50 percent is feasible, says Nabuurs. He is optimistic about the conference. 'What is new is that climate targets are no longer imposed from above. Countries set their own objectives, which makes the negotiations easier. And many countries address land use, including forestry, in their objectives.'



COP21 • CMP11
PARIS 2015
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

STORING CARBON IN THE GROUND

The idea is simple: compensate for the rise in CO₂ emissions by storing more carbon in the ground. Not buried deep down in the form of CO₂ but as organic matter in the fertile topsoil. Good for the environment, good for the soil and therefore good for food security as well. This initiative by the French government is called 4/1000.

On the first day of the conference Wageningen president **Louise Fresco** will be consulting other large research institutions about the proposal. 'We are going to draw up a declaration calling for attention to agriculture's big potential contribution to solving the climate problem,' she explains.

But how do you raise the carbon content of a soil? By adding more organic carbon, for example, explains Peter Kuikman of Alterra. And that can be done using simple farming practices. 'Higher production leads to more roots and therefore to more organic carbon. But other things increase carbon levels too, such as minimal tillage, crop waste management and crop rotation.' This is an area in which Kuikman has completed a European project (SmartSOIL). He does have reservations, though. No two soils are the same and 4/1000 is not feasible everywhere. 'But it's an excellent target. All the more so because some of the carbon you store comes from the soil in

the first place through the breakdown of organic matter. So you are really putting it back where it came from.'

'Enriching the soil with carbon is one of the main solutions to the climate problem,' says Fresco. 'Agriculture plays a big role in the implementation of the climate treaty at national level. That is why it's a good thing that Wageningen will be present in Paris.'



TRACKING ADAPTATION POLICY



Climate change is a fact; get used to it. Or, even better: adapt and make sure you make society less vulnerable to its effects. Increasingly, governments are focusing on this, suggests research by management expert

Robbert Biesbroek.

Together with Canadian colleagues he set up the network organization TRAC3. 'Using new methods we are trying to systematically identify and follow adaptation policy so as to keep track of changes over the long term. And that includes negotiations such as those in Paris.' TRAC3 developed the adaptation initiatives

index as a way of expressing the progress countries make with adaptation in a figure. 'We made an inventory of the adaptation measures that were reported between 2010 and 2014.' The article about this was published recently in Nature Climate Change. The Netherlands, incidentally, scores somewhere in the middle range on this index.

Biesbroek is the first to acknowledge that the method is not infallible. One of the difficulties lies in defining adaptation. 'There are a lot of different interpretations. Millions are invested in it, but it is not easy to justify those investments and demonstrate their effectiveness.' For him, that is what Paris is about. 'Ultimately we want to be able to say something about whether adaptation policy really does reduce vulnerability to climate change.'

JOINT SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING

If shopkeepers were to club together to purchase sustainable products, what would the world look like? With this idea, **Kim van Sparrentak (left)** and **Isa Miralles** won a competition run by the EU programme Climate-KIC. They will be in Paris to present their business plan to business people and grant providers. 'Just at a side event. We are not going to pitch our plan to Mr. Putin,' jokes Van Sparrentak. The two Wageningen students and a student from Wellington want to create an online platform through which small and medium enterprises can purchase sustainable goods. 'When entrepreneurs from one town do their purchasing together, less transport is used. And it makes it cheaper so they can buy sustainable goods for the price of standard products.'



FEEDING PARIS SUSTAINABLY

In the slipstream of the climate conference the Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Metropolitan Solutions (AMS) is running a workshop for students and young professionals in Paris. 'In the *Atelier Neerlandais* about 30 international students will spend four days thinking up new concepts related to food supplies in the urban region,' explains **Arjen Spijkerman** of Alterra and AMS. Six of the students and one PhD candidate are from Wageningen.




The theme of the workshop is 'Paris Food Futures'. It forms the first exercise in the AMS programme 'Feeding the City.' After several lectures about food and excursions in the Paris region, the participants will set to work in groups. Spijkerman gives an example: 'At present food from outside the city is brought to one location at night and is distributed from there. At the same time food is increasingly being purchased online, bringing all kinds of new logistical trends in the city. So you could think up a new concept for getting goods from the producer to the customer.' The results will be presented in short films and a publication. **R**

Three Wageningen students will be blogging from Paris.

Read them from Monday 30 on resource-online.nl



GAME ON YOUR PLATE

A dead hare and a duck hanging in the kitchen of your student house. Diana, the hunting club of the Forest and Nature Management study association, organized a workshop – ‘From shot to plate’ – on skinning and cleaning game last week. The animals had been shot by Diana members or obtained through contacts, and by the end of the evening they were in the pan. Matthijs Pasteels, pictured here cleaning a pigeon, started the club together with fellow student Stan Roelofs. ‘We want students to be able to make up their own minds about hunting.’  LvdN / photo: Remo Wormmeester

See the whole photo series
on resource-online.nl



Run on Brussels pot of gold

The European Union is generous with research funding. Wageningen UR has benefitted a lot from that, but the good times seem to be over. With more and more researchers wanting a share of the Brussels pie, the odds on success are falling fast. And the required cofunding from The Hague is proving a headache.

text: Albert Sikkema

It is great how much money the EU puts into research and development,' says Harry Wichers, senior researcher at Food & Biobased Research. 'The current research programme, Horizon 2020, makes 80 billion euros available over seven years. That is 11.5 billion a year, or 8 percent of total EU spending. The Netherlands just about reaches 2 percent, if you count R&D spending by the government and the business world put together.'

Wichers is impressed too by the levels of the European research subsidies. Formerly the EU only funded half the research costs and research institutes had to fund the other half out of their own pockets or from national funding sources. Nowadays the EU covers 100 percent of the staffing costs plus 25 percent of the indirect costs. For Wageningen UR, which has high overheads, this does not cover the costs. Another 25 percent in cofinancing always has to be found, says Wichers, but that is OK. 'The EU funds more generously than most of our national research funding bodies.'



Harry Wichers
'You spend one and a half years writing just to get one EU project'

MORE POPULAR

Thanks to its generous funding, the EU is ever more popular with European researchers. More and more research institutes submit proposals in Brussels, partly to compensate for cutbacks by national research funding bodies. 'We are incredibly popular,' said the Dutch top civil servant Robert-Jan Smits of the Research Directorate in Brussels earlier this year at the European parliament. In 2015 he had already received 65,000 research proposals for the Horizon 2020 programme. 'We are being inundated.'

Everyone looks to Brussels, agrees Peter Jongebloed, advisor at Wageningen International and 'our man in Brussels.' Due to that great interest, the chances of bagging a European project are falling rapidly. According to Smits, the average chances of success went down in September to between 12 and 14 percent. For Wageningen the chances tend to be above average (see box) but even here the success rate is going down. This means many excellent research proposals are being turned down, says Smits. But according to Jongebloed, the situation is much worse

than that. 'Smits doesn't even count the proposals that are rejected in the first round – two thirds of them – in his calculations. I think on average only four to five percent of the research proposals get funding.'

As an example, Jongebloed cites the recent 'waste call' by the EU, in which knowledge institutions were invited to submit proposals for recycling projects. In the first phase 183 consortia (of several universities and institutes) submitted proposals. Of these 39 went through to the second round and were invited to write a full project proposal. Ultimately two proposals will be granted funding. Jongebloed: 'This is a waste of energy. It takes at least three months to write a proposal like that.'

KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION

Wichers gives examples of this kind of knock-out competition too. 'Two years ago we submitted a research proposal in the field of future proteins, together with a large consortium. A total of 44 proposals were submitted, but there was only funding for one project. Eleven proposals went through to the second round. We were rejected in the first round, which was lucky in retrospect, because to have any chance in the second round you had to write volumes.' And this year Wichers applied for two grants from the EU's Marie Curie programme. 'This is a fellowship programme for post-docs. The success rate is five percent, because 1000 proposals are submitted in each round and only 50 are approved. That is only two postdocs per year per EU member state.'

These are dramatic examples, admits Wichers. Thanks to Wageningen's good reputation and solid proposals, the chances of success are higher for Wageningen projects. 'But still: you spend three months writing a good proposal and you have to write an average of five or six proposals to get one accepted. So across the organization you spend one and a half years writing just to get one EU project. That's a lot of hours!'

COFINANCING

And there is another problem: how to organize cofinancing to the tune of almost 25 percent. Researchers from the university can often get that cofinancing from their own budget but DLO researchers have less scope for using their own funding, because most of their research is for third parties.

Formerly, when the EU still covered 50 percent of the costs, the ministry of Economic Affairs (EZ) often matched that amount. The ministry invested in knowledge development at DLO through the Kennisbasis and commissioned the DLO to do policy support research. If the research priorities of the Netherlands and the EU had been compatible, the research manager could have linked these EZ and EU programmes.

But what with the establishment of 'top sectors', and the abolition of the FES (an economic structure-enhancing fund) subsidies and top technological institutes in the Netherlands, almost all DLO money is now tied up in assignments and DLO staff have great difficulty in finding cofinancing to go with EU funding.

Luc van Hoof, coordinator of EU research at Wageningen IMARES, comes up against this problem in his



Luc van Hoof

'DLO and the ministry of EZ need to organize Dutch cofinancing better'

work. 'DLO cannot invest in research itself but has to ask third parties for money. For example, IMARES does research for European fisheries management. When it comes to this kind of policy research, the ministry is the obvious candidate for providing cofinancing. We managed that again last time, but it is getting harder and harder because the ministry puts hardly any Kennisbasis funding into fisheries anymore.'

In the past IMARES always looked first at whether a project proposal had been approved by the EU, before going on to seek cofinancing in The Hague. But that is too risky nowadays, says Van Hoof. There is too big a risk that the Dutch government won't cofinance. So nowadays the rule is that the cofinancing actually has to be arranged before submitting an EU proposal. In prac-


sion to stop throwing bycatch overboard. In this applied research the fisheries sector was willing to cofinance. Unfortunately the project proposal was rejected by the EU.

Meanwhile the Dutch government has realized that there is a problem here for both research institutes and universities. So it has set up a cofinancing fund of 50 million euros for EU research. A good thing, says Jongebloed, but it only deals with a quarter of the 'cofinancing' shortfall.

FALLING BEHIND

Along with lack of funding, researchers are also hampered by ever stricter conditions on subsidies. For years Dutch universities and institutes won one project after another. They might for instance get an animal welfare project funded by the ministry of EZ, which would count as cofinancing for an EU project on animal welfare. But these kinds of construction are getting more and more difficult. Combining two projects to get financing is permitted less and less often. Cofinancing with policy support research at EZ is now being questioned, for instance.

Due to these problems, the Netherlands is falling behind in the race to secure EU financing, states Jongebloed. DLO has to compete with the INRA in France and with southern European research institutes which are still almost fully funded by their governments, or which can get cofinancing from their ministries much more easily. And it has to compete with institutes which are rewarded by their governments for a successful EU research proposal. Swedish universities and institutes, for example, get more money from the Swedish government if they get an EU project that relates to the national priorities. And the Irish government pays knowledge institutions more if they coordinate EU projects. Jongebloed: 'We Dutch were ahead of the game but the competition has increased.'

That other EU member states support their knowledge institutions better was also clear recently from the research project Define (Designing strategies for Efficient Funding of Higher Education in Europe). In the Netherlands 60 percent of university funding comes from the government, 10 percent from tuition fees, and 30 percent from public and private clients. In the EU only English universities get a lower percentage of public funding. The European average stands at 80 percent. According to Van Hoof, DLO and the ministry of EZ need to make new agreements to improve the way Dutch cofinancing is organized. Attempts to date have too often got mired in conflicting rules. For example, the Dutch government works with a system in which research budgets become available annually. As a result, cofinancing from The Hague does not always dovetail with EU projects, which are multiannual. Van Hoof: 'This kind of problem drives researchers crazy.' 



Peter Jongebloed











'We Dutch were ahead of the game but the competition has increased.'

tice that is quite a job for the researchers, explains Van Hoof. 'As a participant in an EU project you might bring in one million euros. So you first need to organize cofinancing of around 300,000. While it is highly uncertain whether the project will go ahead.'

Van Hoof experienced this in the case of a European research proposal on the impact of the fisheries deci-

Past successes

In the past 10 years Wageningen UR had a lot of success in obtaining research funding from Brussels. The European Union accounted for 26 million euros in income in 2006; in 2014 the figure was 44 million. The success rate of Wageningen projects in the last European knowledge project, the Seventh Framework Programme, was 30 to 40 percent – twice the average.

2005		23.6 million
2006		25.9 million
2007		30.3 million
2008		33.4 million
2009		35.3 million
2010		35.8 million
2011		38.4 million
2012		44.1 million
2013		46.8 million
2014		44.5 million

WILL IT IMPROVE THE CAMPUS?

In recent weeks there have been steam-rollers, shovels and workmen all over the campus. New or wider cycle paths and pedestrian routes have popped up here and there and now Forum has a square in front of it. What do employees and students think of the changes?

text: Twan van der Slikke en Rob Ramaker / **photo:** Guy Ackermans

Amber van den Tillaart



Student of Environmental Sciences

'I think it is good that the paths on campus have been widened. If you were walking along and cyclists had to get by, it was a tight squeeze. But I think it is a shame that they have laid gravel between the paths around the Forum.

It used to be grass, which I think looked nicer. In the summer you could sit and chill there. The campus had something natural about it, with the paths winding through the grass, and I think some of that has been lost with all the changes. New buildings are going up at the most extraordinary rate. The construction work is unbelievably quick.'

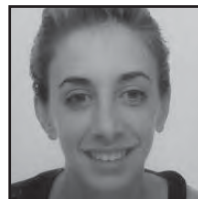
Ruud de Maagd



Researcher at Plant Research International, Wageningen UR

'The developments look good. The campus certainly needed more pedestrian and cycle paths and I think it is good that it was decided to be pragmatic and lay more asphalt. And it makes sense to separate cyclists and pedestrians. There were some dangerous places, like the bridge over the lake, where cyclists and pedestrians were weaving round each other. **But new routes must be more clearly signposted. The other day I even saw a car driving along a cycle path.** Perhaps that will come later. And it is great that there will be more places to sit outside the Forum. Although I think what people mainly need is more trees and shade. I would also like to see more places to sit outside Radix. When you work indoors here, you really have to go in search of daylight. But there is not much space available outside Radix.'

Lorenza Pasca



Student of Management, Economics and Consumer Studies

'The changes are definitely necessary. You can't help but notice that the number of students is rising rapidly. During the last study week, the library was overcrowded. More facilities are

needed. I am amazed by the speed of the building work, I am highly impressed. When I arrived here in September 2014, the campus was much greener. **It is a pity that many areas of grass are disappearing. I also think there are now too many cycle paths. All that asphalt is unnecessary.** It is a whole different experience for new students arriving now. It is good thing that they will soon be able to use the new buildings and facilities.'

Judith Westerink



Researcher at Nature Based Solutions for Society at Alterra Wageningen UR

'I have mixed feelings about the work. The new footpaths are one thing I am happy with. I work in Gaia and we used to walk through the car park to get to other buildings, which was neither safe nor appealing. But now the campus has so much asphalt and brick, and so few flowers. There wasn't much to start with, just a stretch of green like a billiard table, but now it is completely bare. **I think we are lacking things that would be in keeping with our green image as Wageningen UR.** We have bags of knowledge here of subjects like ecology, water management and landscape architecture, and I think that we should use this in-house creativity. Our facilities management should not be independent of who we are.'



Jan Spigt



Student of Management, Economics and Consumer Studies

'I think that the campus will become more unified. I am intrigued by the new Campus Plaza. I've heard it will include a Starbucks and an AH To Go. That would really complete the campus.

Then it would really become a centre, albeit a small one. The new student housing that is coming will add to that. I think that more students will stick around on campus because it will have everything. That will make it a lively, bustling place to be.'

Thijmen van Loon



Student of International Land and Water Management

'You can't help but notice that the present buildings are at maximum capacity, so with the growing number of students change is really necessary. The place does look ugly while the renovation work is going on. Now and then the campus looks like a building site, but I expect it will be attractive in the end. On the grapevine I often hear what the new buildings will be used for. I think the release of information about the building works could be much improved. The way it is now, there does not seem to be any vision behind it. With all the changes, I hope there is still going to be an open space where we can lie on the grass in summer. It

would also be nice if more meeting places were created. **I think the intimate, convivial atmosphere here at Wageningen is important. With all the new buildings I hope the campus keeps this atmosphere.** They are building really quickly now, and with student numbers rising, I wonder whether that is possible.

Emma Smits



Student of Landscape Architecture and Planning

'It is good that they are changing the campus. The path structures were not optimal and the connection between the Forum and Orion isn't good. The bridge between the buildings is rather small. The campus was spaciouly laid out with a lot of empty space. I think it is good that they are now using that space. The only thing I don't agree with is how they are using it. It was a nice idea, for example, to put a market in front of the Forum, but it means that now the area is covered in gravel so you can't sit there anymore. Nor am I happy with the new pedestrian and cycle paths. The paths are too narrow, they aren't in the right place, there are too many of them, they are confusing and cluttered, and the junctions are dangerous. **I think it is strange that the university outsourced the design work. In my degree we literally have lessons in how to design the campus and, for example, how to structure the paths.** We would have liked to have worked on this and would have made a better job of it than the way it is going to look now.'

26 November 2015 — RESOURCE

Fewer students in the rush hour? Good idea!

Minister of Education Jet Bussemaker wants it because free student transport is getting too expensive. The national railways NS want it because the trains are too full. But universities have no intention of keeping their students out of the rush hour by changing their timetables. Yet this would have loads of advantages.

text: HOP, Petra Vissers / photo: Remo Wormmeester

Every morning and evening hordes of students cram onto crowded trains and buses that take them to and from campuses around the Netherlands. This is not only irritating but also extremely expensive: outside the rush hour most of those buses and trains can stay at the depot. So last year education minister Jet Bussemaker asked whether higher educational institutions could help to get as many students as possible out of the rush hour. This would generate big savings on their free public transport passes. The NS repeated the request early last month because it expects a shortage of trains in the coming period.

The response from higher education was not particularly accommodating. 'Closing down the school in the morning – we're not going to do that,' grumbled board chair Ron Bormans of Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences. The universities association VSNU rejected the idea too.

Meanwhile a taskforce on 'better use' has been established. In the taskforce education institutions, public transport companies, government bodies, higher education and school

students are looking for ways of making more efficient use of public transport. Their recommendations are expected late December or early January. The question is whether changing timetables will be among the recommendations, because the universities still have a lot of ifs and buts about the difficulties of doing that. But what is the problem, actually? Here are the advantages.

LESS SLEEPY IN CLASS

For students it's a great idea to go to lectures after nine o'clock. 'Adolescents are not at their best in the morning, they can't concentrate well and do not pay attention in class,' says associate professor Jérôme Gijssels, who does research at the Open University on biological lifestyle factors in educational achievement. 'The frontal lobe, the bit at the front of the brain, is still developing between the ages of 18 and 25,' says Gijssels. It is common knowledge that while young children are running around at the crack of dawn, as soon as they hit puberty you cannot get them out of bed. It is all biology: only from the age of 25 does the body clock normalize again.

Several biological processes contribute to

making most students nocturnal animals. Gijssels: 'The production of melatonin, the substance which makes you sleepy, starts later than in adults. There is also a socio-evolutionary reason: in the period when social activities become more important and youngsters are developing sexually, it is functional to be active in the evenings.'

GETTING A SEAT

The minister and the transport companies have never said all students must keep out of the rush hour. 'Nobody says: 'You must never again timetable a lecture at nine o'clock,' laughs chair Hans de Vroome of the steering committee on the student transport pass, a collaboration between all the transport companies. 'I have investigated for several education ministers whether it was a good idea to allow student pass holders to travel only after the morning rush hour. But I always said, don't go there. Because you only need to get 10, 20 or maybe 30 percent of the commuters to travel off-peak and the chances of getting a seat are higher.'

If it can be engineered that more students travel off-peak by changing lecture times, that



is good news for those who do have to be at their internship address or laboratory at nine o'clock.

MORE MONEY, BETTER EDUCATION

If the universities carry on digging their heels in and do not adjust their timetables, they miss out on 200 million euros in education funding. 'That strikes me as a good reason to give the proposal serious thought,' said education minister Jet Bussemaker in 2014.

In ten years' time the student transport pass must cost no more than 750 million euros, instead of the almost one billion it costs now. That is no mean task because soon vocational training students under eighteen will get free transport too. Getting students to travel off-peak looks like the only solution. Just introducing a journey-specific pass would not generate enough savings, as the journey to and from school already accounts for the most kilometres.

NO NEED FOR MORE BUILDINGS

As a matter of fact, educational institutions have the same 'peak problems' as transport companies, said board chair Paul Rupp of

Avans applied sciences university back in 2013. Classrooms can be empty for hours, while at other times there is a shortage of teaching space.

Something can be done about that, showed an experiment at Deltion College, a vocational college in Zwolle. For some of the students there, the day is divided into two half-days of four hours each, explains educational logistics advisor Willem Brinkman. The first group starts at eight a.m., the second at one p.m. 'The advantage is that we are using the building more efficiently. The classrooms we have are in constant use and nobody has to go looking for a room.'

This new approach to timetabling is not a one-stop solution to the timetabling problem, says Brinkman. But Cees Dijkhuizen, mobility programme manager at Zwolle municipality, is happy with it. 'The train that arrives in Zwolle at a quarter to eight is the fullest, so if some of the Deltion students take an earlier train, it helps.'

EARLY BIRD BENEFITS

In an attempt to keep more commuters out of the rush hour trains, various nice incentives

have been dreamt up. In Zwolle there's a free breakfast for early birds who take the train before eight o'clock and Nijmegen students get to save up for music or clothes if they take the train off-peak. Groningen and Nijmegen are also experimenting with e-bikes for students living out of town. **R**

MOL: 'THORNY ISSUE'

The idea of starting lectures later to allow students to travel off-peak is a thorny issue in Wageningen, says rector magnificus Arthur Mol. Because starting later means finishing later too, and the Student Council is already against that. Besides, Mol thinks off-peak travel is more of a help with overfull buses and trains in the big cities. 'Many of our students live in or near Wageningen. Buses to the campus are certainly quite full but hardly ever so full that you can't get on.' Starting lectures earlier would be another option in Wageningen, to deal with traffic jams around the campus. The question is whether students would be happy with that. **R LvdN**

FLOWERS

Important news for people with a pet hamster. American research has shown that females are more aggressive in winter than in summer. All because of melatonin. Shorter days mean more melatonin. This hormonal change means more aggressive behaviour. Worth knowing: we humans are not far apart from hamsters, hormonally speaking. So, guys: bring her flowers sometimes in these dark days.

PRIZE

The bigger the female, the smaller the sperm; research by the University of Manchester asserts. It's all about the race they are in. Which sperm will win first prize? The bigger the female reproductive canal the bigger the advantages of small size and large numbers. Fruit fly sperm, for instance, are around 35 times the size of human sperm. However, the fly does only have a few hundred of them. The average man has up to 100 million.

BREW (1)

Drinking coffee is part of a healthy diet. That's what researchers from the Harvard School of Public Health claim. Up to five cups of the dark brew a day significantly reduces the chance of dying of cardiovascular diseases, type-2 diabetes and suicide, among other things. Do you drink more than five cups a day? No worries, it won't make you any healthier, but it won't do you any harm either. Curiously, it doesn't matter whether there's caffeine in your coffee or not.

BREW (2)

Pregnant woman should not drink coffee, says the Netherlands Nutrition Centre Foundation. Not true, say American researchers in the *Journal of Epidemiology*. Moderate coffee consumption – 1 to 2 cups a day – during pregnancy has no effect on the behaviour, development or the IQ of the child between the ages of 4 and 7. As to what happens after that: see Brew (1).



Grab him by the snitch

PHOTO: SVEN WENSCHER

Is that guy flying on a pvc tube? Almost. This player for the North Sea Nargles is trying to catch the snitch during the Dutch quidditch championships. Huh? Yes, this sport is based on the eponymous game from the Harry Potter books. 'Flying' around on 'broomsticks' six

players try to throw the ball through 'floating' rings. Every goal is worth ten points. After 17 minutes the snitch is released. In the book this is a gold ball with wings but in this game it's a player in yellow with a ball on his back. If a team gets hold of that ball, they get 30 extra points

and the game ends. The Wageningen Werewolves came third – and last – in the QuidDutch. The tournament, held on 21 November at The Bongerd, was won by the North Sea Nargles from Amsterdam. The Dom Tower Dementors from Utrecht came second. **KG**

Conference and thesis award for biology students

Six biology students from across the Netherlands, including two from Wageningen UR, are competing for 'the Darwin'. This thesis award will be presented during the first national conference for biology students, being held on 4 December at Burgers' Zoo in Arnhem.

'Biology didn't yet have a national thesis award, nor did it have a national conference for biology students,' says the Wageningen biology student Jeffrey Verhoeff, chair of the National Council for Biology Students (LOBS). 'That's why we have established them now.'

With the conference and award, LOBS is keen to encourage a greater exchange of information between biologists working in various disciplines and at different universities. 'That's currently lacking. Everyone is busy working on their own thesis

in a chair group,' says Verhoeff. 'The way it is now, a lot of interesting results are not being shared among disciplines. That is a shame because interdisciplinarity will be very important for tomorrow's biologists.'

Of the 30 entries for the thesis award, the jury selected the three best Bachelor's and Master's theses. At the conference, the shortlisted students, among whom are two from Wageningen, will have the opportunity to present their research to the six-member jury. A handful of other students – who fell outside the

top six – will prepare poster presentations. The winners of the Bachelor's and Master's thesis awards will receive a bust of Darwin and will be published in the journal *Bionieuws*.

The conference is being held at Burger's Zoo and renowned primatologist Jan van Hooft has accepted LOBS's invitation to speak. Nonetheless, plenty of tickets are still available. 'The room and foyer can accommodate 500 people. We are now working hard to promote the event,' says Verhoeff.

LOBS is very pleased with the venue. 'Burgers' Zoo was very enthusiastic about the concept and keen to cooperate with us.' Students who buy a 15-euro ticket for the event can visit the zoo free of charge beforehand. The ticket price also includes the dinner and a parking token. Tickets can be ordered until the end of Friday 27 November via biologystudenten.nl/lcbs. **NJ**



EPISODE 61 - MORTIERSTRAAT 14B <<

Text
Astrid
Kruitwagen



The story so far: For a while now Vera has been in a relationship with Robby, whom she met during the Popronde. Now, out of the blue she has heard from someone she used to know.

Unexpected news

'What!' Vera looked in amazement at the message on her phone. Ruben? Apparently she had said his name out loud because Bianca, who was sitting opposite her, looked up enquiringly.

'Who's Ruben?' she asked.

'Oh, no one,' answered Vera. That wasn't going to satisfy Bianca. 'Why are you going so red then?' she asked teasingly. 'Spill it!' Vera stared in confusion at the three words on the screen. Why was he sending her a message after such a long time? 'Well?' Bianca persisted.

'Just someone, but it has been ages since I last heard from him,' Vera said finally.

'How are you?' he had typed. An innocent question. Nevertheless, she did not know how to answer him. She quickly clicked the conversation away. Why had a few words unsettled her so much?

'Why don't I know anything about Ruben?' asked Bianca, who had certainly realized this was not just a fellow student. 'I don't know....,' stammered Vera. 'We saw each other a couple of times a while ago, but then...' As she was speaking she felt her mobile phone vibrating. Was that him again? She had to withstand the temptation to look straight away. But she couldn't resist. She looked at the blushing smiley he had sent her. In her mind's eye she saw once again how he had always looked at her.

'Then what?' Bianca persisted.

'I saw him in the pub, dancing with someone else.'

Vera turned her attention back to her telephone and typed:

'Good, and you? Why are you suddenly sending me a message now? Did it come to nothing with that other girl?' But eventually

she sent only: 'I'm fine'.

'I miss you,' he said. Feeling flustered, she looked at her screen. Did he really mean it? She had been very angry and disappointed. She had thought she meant more to him. She had ignored the few messages he had sent to her in the days after. Of course, she had missed him too, but that was then. Now she had Robby.

In a moment of clarity she decided to be honest, so she could shut this down right now.

'Yes, I missed you too. Back then. But I have a boyfriend now.'

'I couldn't help thinking about you...'

Bianca came over and sat beside her. 'I'd delete that right now,' she said.

'Why?' Vera typed, ignoring Bianca's advice. Her curiosity was stronger than her anger.

'I want to see you,' he replied. Vera looked at the screen in amazement. He missed her. She didn't dare look Bianca in the face, scared that her blush would give away the fact that the feeling was mutual.



ILLUSTRATIONS: KIM PETERSE

Resource follows events at Mortierstraat 14B

More students suffer from stress

The student psychologists at Wageningen UR received far more appeals for help in 2014 than in the foregoing years. Last year 709 students sought help, compared with 542 in 2013. This represents an increase of 30 percent. In particular, the number of students who sought help due to study-related stress increased considerably: 18.9 percent of the requests for help were about this, as opposed to 13.4 in the year before.

The increase is not entirely explained by the growth in the student population. The percentage of students seeking psychological support stayed fairly stable in recent years: 6.8 percent of the total

number of registered students. In 2014 this figure suddenly shot up to 7.2 percent. The university had to take on an extra psychologist to help deal with the waiting list.

It is not easy to see an explanation

for the increase, says student psychologist Ineke Leenders, because problems often occur in several areas at the same time, and influence each other. 'Stress in your private life often causes difficulties with your studies.' The current climate in higher education can raise stress levels too, the psychologist thinks. 'I see a lot of perfectionist students who want to do everything well. They want to get good grades but they don't want to miss

out on anything socially either, and they want to work towards a good CV. Expectations are sky-high, but time is limited because you are no longer allowed to take ages over your degree. That combination results in a pressure cooker.'

The complaints students come in with vary from physical symptoms such as headaches and stomach aches to sleeplessness and panic attacks. **LvdN**

>> PARTIES

The best parties according to Wageningen Uitgaans Promotie. Check www.wageningenup.nl for all parties.


NJI-SRI – C.M.G. DRAUPADI: FROZEN PARTY
Thursday 26 November from 22:00 to 04:00

We had the first real night frost this week. Reason enough for Nji-Sri to welcome winter with a Frozen party. So dress up as Olaf the snowman or Elsa the ice queen and come warm yourself up on the dancefloor. To mark the occasion Smirnoff Ice will be on sale for only 1.80 euros per glass.

WAGENINGEN – NIGHT OF JAZZ
Saturday 28 November from 19:00 to 04:00

The Wageningen old-style jazz festival ceased to exist in 2010. High time for a contemporary jazz festival. Jazz in Wageningen will link up with the Night of Jazz that will be held nationally for the first time this year, and will offer top-notch contemporary jazz. Including Hermine Deurloo

& Mike Boddé, Shirma Rouse, the Tim Langedijk Trio and Sebastian van Bavel & Vera Naus. The Wageningen Night of Jazz will take place in Café Loburg, H41, the Heerenstraattheater and the library. Radio 6 will be broadcasting live, from Wageningen as well as elsewhere.

HET GAT – MINICULTURE: CLUB NIGHT
Friday 4 December from 21:00 to 04:00

Something a little different to the usual student parties. On this night MiniCulture will host a real Club Night. To do so they have invited three artists from Amsterdam, among them False Messiah and Morizio. The night will be filled with techno and house music. So you won't need to travel to Amsterdam or Utrecht for a Club Night this time. You'll find one just around the corner in Het Gat. ®

>> THE WORKS

UNREHEARSED ON THE RADIO IN ECUADOR

Who? Lotte Jacobs, Master's student of Applied Communication Science

What? Internship with a national campaign for a healthy diet and thesis on responsible consumption

Where? Quito, Ecuador

'I'm doing an internship with the national Ecuadorian campaign *¡Qué rico es! Comer sano y de mi tierra* – 'How delicious! Healthy food, and from my own land'. I have to do some travelling to collect data and there are big differences in how people treat me. On my first trip I got an incredibly hearty welcome. I could stay with a family for five nights and the mother took me everywhere I needed to go. At some point I was invited to visit a local radio station. I went along quite unsuspecting. On arrival I was suddenly on the air and being asked to give my views on GMO crops. I did speak a bit of Spanish by then but to do so on the radio without preparation was a bit daunting. The campaign I am working for aims to prompt Ecuadorians to eat healthily. The biggest cause of death in Ecuador is diabetes and the number of overweight people is growing. Every year Ecuadorians spend 20 trillion dollars on food. The hope is that the campaign will divert this spending on industrially produced food to healthier and more sustainable products. The aim is for five percent of the population, 250,000 families, to participate in the campaign, and start a snowball effect. My daily life takes place in the capital Quito. Through the week I'm at the office or I work at home. At weekends I like to go running. Ecuadorians are very friendly. They are always using the word 'tranquilo' – calm.



That makes for a good atmosphere, except when you are in a hurry or want to get something done. Then it can be frustrating. One thing I find hard to get used to is that the streets are not safe after eight o'clock at night. It is not even always safe to take a taxi. It is best to order a taxi on an app so that everything is recorded. By doing that I do sometimes go out for a meal or a drink with friends, but it is more difficult and more expensive than just getting on your bike and dropping in on someone. After my internship I'm going to do research for my thesis. That will probably be about responsible consumption and how various campaigns make use of this concept. Luckily I can enjoy Ecuador for a bit longer. ® LdP



MEANWHILE IN... <<

Meanwhile in... Suriname

In the news: Suriname celebrates 40 years of independence on 25 November. Before that the country was a Dutch colony. How do people there experience this day?

Commentary by Richella Parker, student of International Development Studies

“There are no invitations for foreign heads of state this year. The government has indicated that the celebrations will be “sober with an emphasis on reflection”. But the Surinamese will party anyway. There will be stalls selling food, drink and trinkets everywhere. And music and shows. This year it is drawing a lot of media attention, both nationally and internationally. A group of musicians have composed special songs and you hear them all day on the radio. The national radio is propagating the idea that “life begins at forty” to suggest that Suriname is only now reaching full maturity. The government is trying to make people believe that things will really go well now for Suriname.

But people are not convinced. On social media there’s a cartoon doing the rounds of a gravestone reading: “Here lies Mr. Salary, born at the end of the month and dead by mid-month”. The Surinamese dollar has fallen 20 percent in value in recent months. People are wondering how they can cover their costs with incomes that have stayed the same.

Suriname has been independent for 40 years but it still has many links with the Netherlands. Don’t forget that half the Surinamese live in the Netherlands and keep in touch with family in Suriname. Surinamese people’s attitudes to Dutch colonial rule vary. More and more people want to forget everything colonial as quickly as possible. They would like to see all visible traces of the colonial past being wiped out. For example, they want streets named for colonial rulers renamed for Surinamese heroes. But at the same time there are people who don’t have a problem with the country’s history.’ LdP

Vacancy student members Board OWI (Education Institute)

The Board of the Education Institute manages the BSc and MSc programmes of WU:

- programmes and budgets, courses, schedules
- quality assurance
- study advising

Student Vacancies

The Board consists in total of 8 members: 4 professors, 4 students. One student place is vacant per January 1, 2016, one becomes vacant in the period spring/early summer 2016. The OWI board composition is a mirror image of the WU community with regard to the domains of the study programmes and gender composition of the student population. Therefore we prefer a student from the domains life sciences (BDW/MAS, BPW/MPB/MPs/MOA, BBI/MBI/MAM), Environmental sciences (BIL/MIL, BBW/MEE, BMW/MES/MUE/MCL, BLP/MLP) and in a lesser preference Technology and Nutrition (BAT/MAB, BBT/MBT/MBF, BLT/MFT, MFQ/MFS, BVG/MNH).

Duration and investment

Appointment is for one year, with the possibility of 2 re-appointments. The OWI Board activities require approximately one day a week.

What can you expect from a one-year board membership?

You represent students from WU in a high level governmental body of WU. You will work on a varied range of subjects, related to the WU education system. Your voice counts on various subjects like new study programmes, increasing student numbers, quality and internationalization. You will have the opportunity to take an exhaustive look at the management of your university. Your resume will be enriched with education management experience. Students are compensated with three months FOS (financial compensation for board activities) per annum.

More information:

Prof. dr. ir. Tiny van Boekel, Director OWI, 0317-484281, tiny.vanboekel@wur.nl, or. Petra Naber, secretary OWI Board, 0317-485075/3348 petra.naber@wur.nl. See for more information about the OWI Board: www.owi.wur.nl

Send your resume and letter of motivation, preferably by e-mail, before December 1, 2015 to Petra Naber or Tiny van Boekel, CC to Marlene Janssen, assistant secretary OWI board, marlene.janssen@wur.nl.

The selection procedure will take place between December 1 and December 15, 2015. (Ex)-student members of programme committees and (ex)-student members of the Student Council are especially invited to respond.

CineMec Laan der Verenigde Naties 150
www.cinemec.nl / 0900 - 321 0 321

<div style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 2px;">26 NOV</div> <div style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> BRIDGE OF SPIES <small>STARRING TOM HANKS AS A SPY</small> </div> <div style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> THURSDAY NIGHT €3 STUDENT DISCOUNT </div>	<div style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 2px;">26 NOV</div> <div style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> ER IST WIEDER DA </div> <div style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> WHACKY COMEDY ABOUT HITLER </div>	<div style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 2px;">11 DEC</div> <div style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> A TRIBUTE TO SINATRA <small>MET ONDER ANDEREN: HADEWYCH MINIS RUBEN HEIN GREETJE KAUFFELD TANIA KROSS</small> </div> <div style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> 10 TOP ARTISTS LIVE WITH THE METROPOLE ORKEST </div>
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Nu in de boekhandel en webshops:
(ook als eBook)

De sociale dimensie van de opwarming

Nijssen & Walter

We dreigen te stranden op klimaat. Maar zijn verdeeld. Welke aanpak brengt ons op één lijn en mobiliseert alle krachten?

Everts & Weijman
beleef groen, geniet groen

A deal = A deal
in all four seasons we
keep your garden
sustainable and
green

Renkum 0317-313521 www.everts-weijman.nl

Forum Irregular Opening Hours Christmas Holidays 2015

	2015	The Building	The Library	Student Desk IT Service Point	WURshop	Restaurant	Grand Café	Wageningen in'to Languages
Monday	21 December	8 am - 11 pm	8.30 am - 5.30 pm	12 pm - 2 pm	10 am - 2 pm	Closed	11.30 am - 1.30 pm	Closed
Tuesday	22 December	8 am - 11 pm	8.30 am - 5.30 pm	12 pm - 2 pm	10 am - 2 pm	Closed	11.30 am - 1.30 pm	Closed
Wednesday	23 December	8 am - 11 pm	8.30 am - 5.30 pm	12 pm - 2 pm	10 am - 2 pm	Closed	11.30 am - 1.30 pm	Closed
Thursday	24 December	8 am - 8 pm	8.30 am - 4 pm	Closed	10 am - 2 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed
Friday Christmas	25 December	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Saturday Christmas	26 December	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sunday	27 December	10 am - 6 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Monday	28 December	8 am - 8 pm	8.30 am - 5.30 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	11.30 am - 1.30 pm	Closed
Tuesday	29 December	8 am - 8 pm	8.30 am - 5.30 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	11.30 am - 1.30 pm	Closed
Wednesday	30 December	8 am - 8 pm	8.30 am - 5.30 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	11.30 am - 1.30 pm	Closed
Thursday	31 December	8 am - 8 pm	8.30 am - 4 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Friday New Years day	1 January	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Saturday	2 January	10 am - 6 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sunday	3 January	10 am - 6 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed

During working hours, the building is open to the public. After working hours, entrance is only possible with a WUR card.



Orion Irregular Opening Hours Christmas Holidays 2015

	Date	Monday to Sunday
The Building	21 December to 3 January	Closed
Bike basement	21 December to 3 January	Closed
Restaurant	21 December to 3 January	Closed
The Spot	Available for Christmas celebrations, email your request to osp.fb@wur.nl Check the opening days and hours during Christmas Holidays on facebook.com/TheSpotOrion	



Leeuwenborch Irregular Opening Hours Christmas Holidays 2015

	The Building	Coffeebar/ Restaurant	Library
21, 22, 23 December	7 am - 10.30 pm	9.30 am - 3 pm	9 am - 5 pm
24 December	7 am - 6 pm	9.30 am - 3 pm	9 am - 4 pm
25, 26, 27 December	Closed	Closed	Closed
28, 29 December	7 am - 6 pm	9.30 am - 3 pm	Closed
30, 31 December	7 am - 6 pm	Closed	Closed
1 January	Closed	Closed	Closed
2 January	8 am - 5.30 pm	Closed	Closed
3 January	Closed	Closed	Closed

After 6 pm entrance is only possible after registration at the reception desk.



in memoriam

Pat van der Jagt



Pat is no longer with us. It was almost two years ago that Pat became ill. She showed tremendous

resilience. In spite of all she went through she remained herself: inquiring, interested in others and very involved. It was always refreshing how sincerely amazed she could be by things. We shall sorely miss Pat with her boundless energy and positive spirit, her capacity to keep things in perspective, her originality, creativity and honesty. At work Pat was a popular and much appreciated colleague; she was sociable and professional. With her art history background, she forged new connections in Alterra's field of operation. Like, for example, the idea of placing life-sized reproductions of The Hague School paintings at outdoor locations as a way of stimulating discussion about landscape change. Pat also involved artists in social transition processes, thus creating a fresh perspective on rusty old ways of thinking. Pat was in her element in international projects (including Cultplan). And her experience in countries such as Chad and Mozambique equipped her to deal exceptionally well with cultural differences. Although she sometimes doubted her own capacities, with a bit of encouragement from close colleagues, Pat could throw herself into a new subject with heart and soul. Outside her work too, Pat could spontaneously decide to work for a while as a volunteer with elderly dementia patients. An experience which helped Pat take her mind off things and provided us with lovely anecdotes. We are going to miss Pat and her special qualities terribly. Our thoughts and sympathies are with Fred (Resource Ecology Group), Sara, Roos and all Pat's family and friends. *Pat's colleagues, on behalf of the ESG management*

classifieds

Vacancy Education Coordinator, Green Office Wageningen

Are you interested in committing yourself to increasing sustainability in education; feeling inspired to lead projects at your own university such as the Green Teacher Award; willing to become a great facilitator and enjoy being a member of a group of green-minded students? You can set your own personal goals, improve your networking skills and receive some financial compensation. Deadline for application: 4 December.

WWW.GREENOFFICEWAGENINGEN.NL

Family with children urgently in need of housing

Vluchtelingen Onder Dak Wageningen, a charity that helps refugees, needs urgent help in finding temporary accommodation starting December for a family with three children. Do you have space in your home for this family, or do you know someone who can offer them space temporarily? Mail info@vodwageningen.nl or call 0317-450140. VOD will contribute to expenses.

WWW.VODWAGENINGEN.NL

DIA grant

The DIA aims to increase the exchange of academic knowledge with Germany and give students and PhD candidates the opportunity to gain experience in Germany's academic landscape. Germany is Europe's number one country when it comes to science. The next deadline for applications for a study grant of 400-600 euros per month is 1 December. The grant can be combined with an Erasmus grant.

WWW.STUDERENINDUITSLAND.NL/BEURZEN/DIA-STIPENDIUM

agenda

Thursday 26 November to Wednesday 9 December

FILMS FOR STUDENTS

At Movie W arts cinema: 'Que Horas Ela Volta?' a light-hearted drama about class barriers in Latin America. A housekeeper's daughter comes to stay and causes a commotion when she flaunts the

rules; 'Seymour: an Introduction', a documentary in which Seymour Bernstein, a popular pianist and teacher, talks about art and his life; 'Slow West', an innovative western in which a young man seeks his beloved in 19th century USA; 'De man die de wereld wilde veranderen', about Peter Westerveld and his ambition to tackle climate change by changing topography. Venue Movie W: Wilhelminaweg 3A.

WWW.MOVIE-W.NL

Saturday, 28 November, 10.30-18.00

INDONESIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION PRESENTS: ISSC 2015

This year's theme of the International Student Scientific Conference is 'Improving Food and Agricultural Products to Accelerate a Sustainable Future'. Keynote speakers are Bungaran Saragih (Bogor Agricultural University) and Peter Oosterveer (Environmental Policy Chair Group, WUR). Venue: Forum, Room CO413.

WWW.PPI-WAGENINGEN.ORG

Thursday 3 December, 17.45-22.15

NZV INSPIRATION DINNER: LET PIGS BREATHE EASILY

The Dutch Zootechnics Association (NZV) invites members, non-members and students to focus on the air in pig sheds and to talk about improving the climate, the role of particulate matter in and outside the sheds and the relationship between pig shed air and public health. Three introductory speakers will provide inspiration: Renske Nijdam (Environment and Health, GGD Brabant and Zeeland), André Aarnink (Livestock Research, WUR) and Maurice Ortmans (director INNO+). Venue: Hotel de Wageningen's Berg, Generaal Foulkesweg 96 Wageningen.

WWW.NZV.NET.NL

Deadline for submissions: one week before publication date (max. 75 words)
Email: resource@wur.nl

colophon

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>>TYPICAL DUTCH

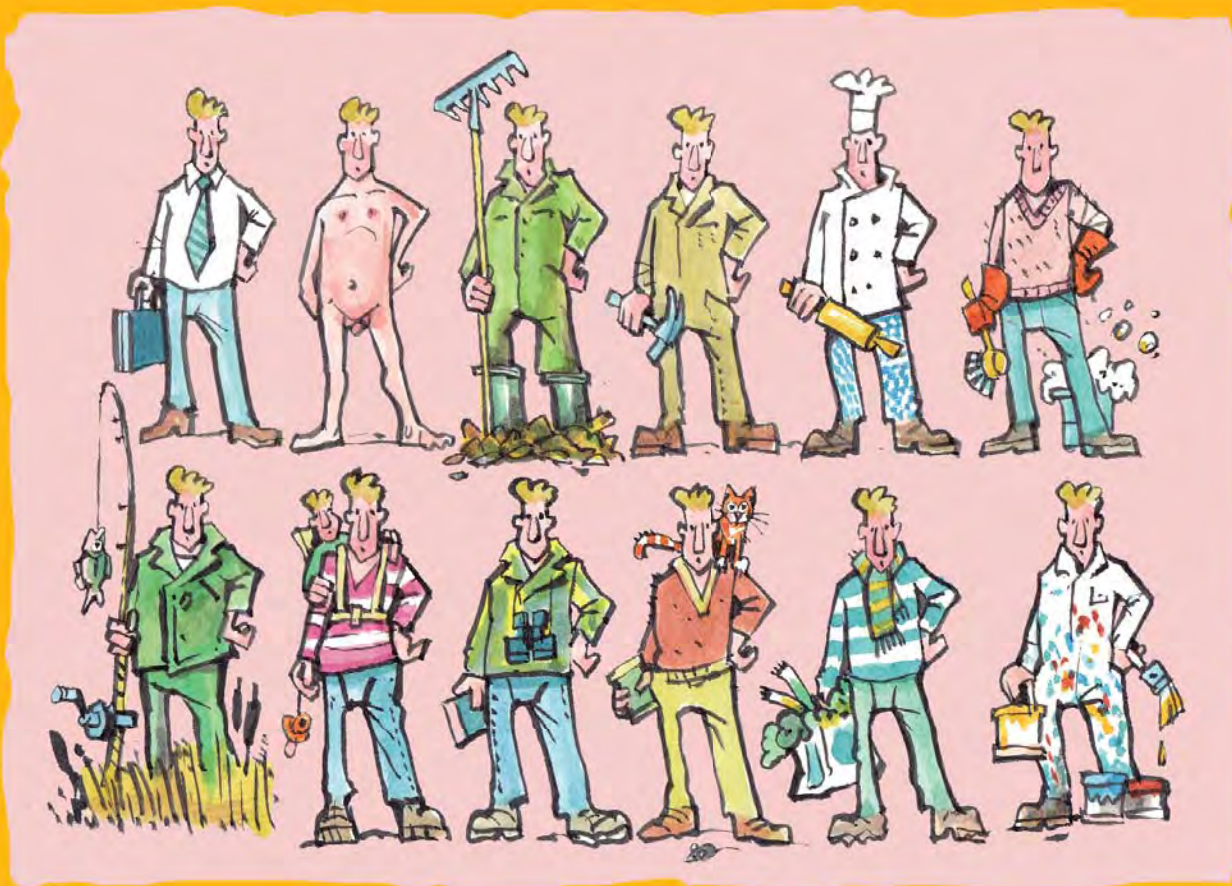



ILLUSTRATION: HENK VAN RUITENBEEK

Do it yourself

Coming to the Netherlands I was surprised by the 'do-it-yourself' attitude everywhere. If you want to repaint your house, you do it yourself. At the office, you type, scan and print your own documents. In the office kitchen, you are responsible for cleaning up after yourself. In the lab, you perform your own analysis and, again, afterwards you clean up yourself.

The Dutch do everything themselves. Probably because they don't like being told what to do. Coming from a developing country I must say, even though the majority of the population is below the poverty line, we actually hire personnel for many services. In the lab, for example, there is someone to do the ordering of reagents, to perform the analysis and to clean up after your analysis. In the department there is someone who will type documents, print and scan for you. And we don't just do this at work. We also hire plumbers, painters and gardeners to do work in and around the house.

However, when I go back home after many years of study here I will be more proactive in doing a lot of things myself. After all, the saying goes 'If you want something done perfectly, do it yourself'. And I would add to that '...just like the Dutch would.'  Prosper Kujinga, PhD candidate in Human Nutrition, from Zimbabwe

If you want something done perfectly, do it yourself... just like the Dutch

Do you have a nice anecdote about your experience of going Dutch? Send it in! Describe an encounter with Dutch culture in detail and comment on it briefly. 300 words max. Send it to resource@wur.nl and earn twenty-five euro and Dutch candy.