Sustainable Society

The first newsletter of Sustainable Society is born! We inform you about what's new at Sustainable Society. Enjoy reading!

Sustainable Society active presence in Brussels

On June 24th Sustainable Society will participate in the Sustainable Energy Week in Brussels with a seminar on "Promoting successful energy transition: empowering behavioural change". The seminar is being organised by the University of Groningen from the focal areas Sustainable Society and Energy together. External partner in the organisation is Energy Valley. Registration will be open soon, please watch our website.

In November 2013 Sustainable Society organized an interdisciplinary seminar in Brussels. Head of the delegation was Rector Magnificus Elmer Sterken. Denise Heiligers, assistant to the Director General Robert Jan Smits of the European Commission complimented the University of Groningen being the first Dutch university to organize interdisciplinarity within the university itself. A good head start for the European Commission Horizon2020 program. Read more

Science meets Society: Diversity works!

December 11th 2013 Sustainable Society hosted the first Science meets Society seminar in Groningen. The main purpose of the Science meets Society concept is to share results of scientific research with a wide audience consisting of societal partners in the region. Together with presentations from the field in related topics. Starting point was the dissemination of research results conducted by Sabine Otten, Thomas de Vroome and Wiebren Jansen concerning the (ISW) on diversity in working situations. Workshops were held on
sexual diversity by Dicky Tamminga and Floor Rink, as well as in diversity in labour by Noor van Leeuwen and Louis Polstra. Read more

**Participation table on Social Inclusion January 30th 2014**

The participation table hosted by Sustainable Society on January 30th aimed at connecting researchers with interesting stakeholders from the Northern Netherlands. With a specific focus on the topic social inclusion. With a group of in total 19 energetic people from different organizations: Hanze University of Applied Sciences, Humanitas, Mentor program Friesland, CMO, Vrouwencentrum Jasmijn, the City of Groningen and University of Groningen, thoughts were shared on how to further define social inclusion. The group has made a head start in defining an agenda which will have follow-up in different direction from a practical level to a more strategic level. More of these participation tables will be organized in order for Sustainable Society to keep in touch with society itself.

**Sustainable Society Project Preparation Day**

Since Sustainable Society is the youngest of the three main focal areas of the University of Groningen, we are setting up all kinds of new initiatives in order to support researchers in the field of socio-economic sciences and humanities. As a follow of the Grants Week hosted in October 2013 by Research & Valorisation, Sustainable Society decided to organize a Horizon 2020 Project Preparation Day. With a lot enthusiasm a group of 20 researcher from all disciplines throughout the faculties Sustainable Society together with Research & Valorisation offered on the spot support for project ideas with Horizon potential. Bilateral appointments have been made for those in need of further support. Read more

**“How to make friends in Europe?” September 18, 2014: open information session on COST**

The Sustainable Society team has noticed that there is a lot of interest among researcher to expand their networks within Europe. But where to start. A good idea might be to join a COST network. COST does not cover research expenses, but
does give you the opportunity to join a network around a certain research topic for which travel expenses are covered. We would like to share knowledge on COST with you! Sabrina Corbellini, Rosalind Franklin Fellow at the Faculty of Arts will share her successful experience with COST on September 18th. National COST Coordinator Trudy Millenaar (NL Agency) will also be one of the speakers. Registration will be open soon!

**Bremen delegation visits Sustainable Society**

On the 28th of March, a delegation of the University of Bremen came to Groningen to visit Sustainable Society. The main goal of this gathering was to build on the cooperation between Groningen and Bremen. The meeting was organized around one of the six research clusters of Sustainable Society, called Diversity, Inclusion & Pluralism. The central theme was: *Workshop: Dilemmas of social sustainability and cultural diversity.* During this fruitful visit researchers from different disciplines came together for potential research collaboration. [Read more](#)

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