Update Sustainable Society

Important next step: New Profile Sustainable Society

The Steering Committee Sustainable Society has agreed to bring Sustainable Society into the next phase. The Steering Committee has chosen as the central theme of Sustainable Society: **issues of transition**. This is based upon the report of the Thinktank Sustainable Society (2012), together with the broad inventory of interim Academic Director Oscar Couwenberg (2013-2014). “How do sustainable transitions come about?”, “what is the current situation and where do we want to develop to?”, “who or what is needed to achieve the desired situation?”.

The three main themes that Sustainable Society wants to contribute to are:

1. Inclusion
2. Cooperation
3. Resilience

Inclusion aims at research areas like youth, elderly, migrants, citizenship, identity and religion. Cooperation is looking into topics like sustainable cooperation, governance issues, sustainable markets and economies, redesign of government structures, smart norms, solidarity, alternative democracies and connectivity. Resilience focuses on resilient regions and societies, (in)equality, sustainable landscapes and bio based economies. Not just transitions towards the future are topic of interdisciplinary research, reflection and historical perspective are of great importance too.
Jacques Wallage honorary professor at Sustainable Society

Professor Jacques Wallage has been appointed by the university executive board as honorary professor "Transitions in the public administration", connected to Sustainable Society. Up to now, Wallage was connected to the University of Groningen as Extraordinary professor, at the former Institute for Integration and Social Efficacy. In the developments of the interdisciplinary research agenda Sustainable Society, Wallage has played an important role. The University and Sustainable Society are very pleased to have such an experienced and inspiring professional in our midst.

Within Sustainable Society, we look into issues of transitions, with important focal areas: inclusion, cooperation and resilience. The honorary position will look into aspects of the functioning of democracy, citizens-participation and the administrative organization. Both questions of “how” (what types of interventions are successful, and which are not) as well as “what” (balance between government and other dynamics, innovative measures in governance) are at stake here. There will be cooperation with the University College Groningen.

September 11: EU-Russia Debate

On September 11, Sustainable Society organizes together with the Netherlands Russia Centre a debate: The new cold war? Debate about the current relations between the EU and Russia (Dutch spoken)

The current crisis raises important questions about the relationship between Russia and the West. Therefore, the following questions are central to the debate: To what extent do we face structural deterioration of relations between Europe and Russia? Or is this just a matter of powerplay and a temporary worsening of relations? And what outweighs, economic interests or fundamental choices? In this debate, we want to address this complex issue to illuminate the subject. Read more
September 18: COST information session

The Sustainable Society team has noticed that there is a lot of interest among researchers 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 on September 18! See the programme for more information. Register by sending an email to sustainablesociety@rug.nl.

October 9: Symposium 'Let's take the spatial surroundings/room for initiatives'

University of Groningen Sustainable Society & Zorg Innovatie Forum (Health Innovation Forum) present in the context of Science meets Society: "Let's take the spatial surroundings / room for initiatives. New initiatives in the changing health care landscape and changes in the landscape of innovative care".

On October 9, we take the time and space to exchange ideas on how to create the right environment for quality care. We will review the changes in society and the room for development it gives to innovation in health care (dutch spoken). Read more