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Online Brochure Sustainable Society University of Groningen



Sustainable Society

SCOOP programme

SCOOP, of which Sustainable Society is a joint initiator, stands for Sustainable Cooperation: Roadmaps to a Resilient Society. The programme brings together leading Dutch scholars in Sociology, History, Psychology, and Philosophy. Together, they have built an innovative theoretical model to integrate their complementary expertise and developed an interdisciplinary joint research strategy. Using this approach, they will investigate cooperation, and the program aims to generate novel solutions for care, work, and inclusion. Rafael Wittek, project leader and professor of Sociology at the Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences, answers three core questions about SCOOP.



Want to know more?

Visit: https://www.rug.nl/about-us/news-and-events/news/archief2017/nieuwsberichten/rug_zwaartekrachtbrochure_engv2.pdf

“SCOOP recently received 18,8 million euro by the Gravitation programme”

SCOOP recently received 18,8 million euro by the Gravitation programme, one of the largest grants ever awarded for a project in the humanities and social sciences in the Netherlands. What is the Gravitation programme?

The government uses Gravitation to stimulate the research of consortia of the best researchers in the Netherlands. These researchers must perform innovative and influential research in their respective fields. The selection procedure for this government-funded programme is conducted by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO).

SCOOP stands for Sustainable Cooperation: Roadmaps to a Resilient Society: What exactly does that mean?

‘By now we know reasonably well how to get people to cooperate effectively. What we don’t know yet is how to keep it that way in the long term, especially in unsettled times, periods in which many developments take place simultaneously and collaborations become strained. Which arrangements will have to be made to preserve a collaboration so that it creates value

for the group, without causing damage to the environment, and at the same time ensuring that all participants remain enthusiastic? That is the key problem that we examine.’

What does SCOOP bring society?

‘A lot. First of all, we will be testing which interventions work best in different practical cases. This will yield evidence-based recommendations on cooperation with concrete benefits for companies and policymaking organizations. In addition, we will collect data and develop a new method of combining different forms of data, ranging from micro measurements to macro observations and from source research to experiments, and making substantiated statements about these data. Ultimately, this should lead to a model that specifies the conditions under which sustainable collaborations thrive, even when societies change. To give a concrete example, if the earthquakes in the province of Groningen force parents to move and schools to close, how can society still succeed in continuously offering children high-quality education? Our model must be able to answer that question.’

Coordinating researcher

Prof. Dr. Rafael Wittek, University of Groningen, Sociology

Core group

Prof. Dr. Naomi Ellemers, Utrecht University
Prof. Dr. Martin van Hees, VU University Amsterdam

Prof. Dr. Bas van Bavel, Utrecht University
Prof. Dr. Ir. Tanja van der Lippe, Utrecht University
Prof. Dr. Russell Spears, University of Groningen, Social psychology

Colofon

Publication
University of Groningen

Editorial board
Jaliene Kwakkel
Noortje Smit

Design
StudioTW

Photography
Angelo Roga
Edwin de Graaf

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Grote Kruisstraat 2/1
9712 TS Groningen
The Netherlands
+31 (0)50 363 6917
sustainablesociety@rug.nl
www.rug.nl/sustainablesociety