



November 2024

From the Council

Dear Postdoc,

We are happy to announce that we are preparing the **Holiday Party on December 9th** 🎉🌲👶 - check out the Events section below, but we can tell you already you can count with free snacks, drinks, and good spirit - [RSVP](#) before November 29th.

The PostdocNL network asked to share with you relevant information for postdocs within Dutch Academia, please check the updates section below.

The Postdoc Council is always recruiting new members. If you want to help improve the postdoc experience at our Faculty, please join us, you just have to send us an email!

Alternatively, whether you want to build up your community and help new fellow postdocs, or if you just joined FSE and you are looking for a buddy to help you, consider [joining our Buddy system](#).

Best regards,
PostDoc Council

FSE PostDoc Council Members 2024

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News from the Institutes

<p>Bernoulli Institute for Mathematics, Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Prof. Davide Grossi (Bernoulli Institute) has been awarded a Horizon Europe grant of EUR 3.3 million for improving online participation platforms. This involves open source software that can be used at multiple levels of government: from local to national and transnational.▪ Dr. Oliver Lorscheid and Prof.dr. Cecilia Salgado have both been awarded a Von Neumann Fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) in Princeton. Each year, about eight leading mid-career mathematicians and theoretical computer scientists receive the Von Neumann Fellowship. In total, the IAS yearly welcomes over 250 postdoctoral researchers and scholars from around the world.
<p>Engineering and Technology Institute Groningen (ENTEG)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Professors Michele Cucuzzella and Ming Cao will play a key role in the newly funded ChangeAble research consortium, which recently received €2.9 million from the Dutch Research Council (NWO). The research programme, 'Behavioural Insights for Climate Policy,' aims to make climate policy more effective and easier to implement.
<p>Groningen Research Institute of Pharmacy (GRIP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Four GRIP researchers: Reinoud Gosens, Luke van der Koog, Anika Nagelkerke and Erik Frijlink, have been awarded a €200k Biotech Booster grant to develop a protein that promotes regeneration of alveolar epithelial cells and lung tissue into a biopharmaceutical for the treatment of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.▪ Dr. Kristina Haslinger has been awarded an NWO Vidi 2023 grant on her proposal to investigate a Microbial biosynthetic platform for ARomatic MerOTerpenoids (MARMOT).

In this issue, news was not available from the following institutes: CLT, ESRIG, GBB, GELIFES, Kapteyn, Strating, VSI, and ZIAM.

Updates from PostdocNL

Promovendi Netwerk Nederland (PNN) national study on the factors that contribute to PhD delays

This study is also aimed at recent PhD graduates which is why we distribute the study to postdoc networks.

[Background and purpose of the study](#)

Currently, the average PhD candidate takes approximately five years to complete their dissertation, even though most contracts end after four years. This often leaves candidates finishing their research in their own time, sometimes while managing other jobs or even unemployment.

Focus group discussions

To investigate the factors that influence the duration of PhD trajectories, we will conduct a qualitative study. In October 2024, we will hold focus group discussions with PhD candidates in the final stages of their trajectories and recent alumni from all Dutch universities, university medical centers (UMCs), and research institutions. These sessions will focus on their experiences with completing their PhDs and the factors that have impacted this process. Our aim is to better understand what leads to successful completion of a PhD project and how to prevent delays.

Request for support

We are looking for participants from institutions across the Netherlands, who are willing to share their insights and experiences of their PhD trajectories. As many current postdocs are recent alumni, they would be excellent participants for our study.

[Sign-up questionnaire](#). The sign-up questionnaire collects some basic information of the PhD candidate or alumni (e.g. their field or contract type). Based on their responses, we will compose a diverse sample which will be invited to join the focus group discussions. In the attachment of this email, we have enclosed an example email that you could use as a promotional message to forward to your network.

Call for Early-Career Researcher Participation in SEP Committee at UMC Utrecht (for 2025!)

On behalf of UMC Utrecht, we are seeking an early-career researcher who would be interested in joining our committee for the upcoming Standard Evaluation Protocol (SEP). The SEP will take place from November 12 to 14, 2025, and presents a valuable opportunity to contribute to the evaluation of our research efforts.

There are very few specific requirements, other than that the candidate should have an affinity with the type of research conducted at UMC Utrecht. This is a unique opportunity for early-career researchers to gain insights into the evaluation process and the strategic development of research.

If you are interested, please reach out to Tinka Louter: T.S.Louter@umcutrecht.nl

Invitation to BioBusiness Summer School 2025

On 30 June – 4 July 2025, the 17th edition of [BioBusiness Summer School](#) will take place in Amsterdam.

Once again, we are very excited to bring together the industry experts and those who are eager to grasp of business topics and dive into the world of Life Sciences companies.

During this inspiring 5-day programme the participants will gain valuable insight in the world of Life Sciences companies, meet leading experts and industry leaders, have unique networking moments, and learn to understand the importance of main business topics, e.g. business models, product development, intellectual property rights, regulatory affairs, finance and entrepreneurship.

Questionnaire on the National Programme Education

The questionnaire concerns the resources from the National Programme Education (NPO), which aimed to help researchers (with a temporary contract) catch up on research delays they experienced during the corona period.

We would like to know whether the resources have reached the intended researchers well, but also how the allocation process went and was experienced. Therefore, we ask you to fill out this questionnaire if you have received or applied for funds, but also if you have not, but did consider it, or have an opinion on the application process. In this way, we can draw lessons for any future programs. Filling out this questionnaire takes about 10 minutes. We are raffling three Art & Culture vouchers worth 50 euros among the participants. To be eligible for this, you can leave your email address at the end of the questionnaire.

[Questionnaire](#)

Events

Holiday Party is on!! 🎉🌲👶

The holidays are just around the corner, and this is just the perfect excuse for us to meet and have fun together.

We would like to invite you for the FSE Postdoc Holiday party (with 2 free drinks and snacks)! This will be on December 9th (Monday) at 19h00. We would like to count on you so please join us and [RSVP before November 29th](#). The party will be at Brouwerij Martinus, which is very close to the city center.

As it is already tradition, we will be having a White Elephant Gift Exchange (link: <https://secretsanta.com/white-elephant-gift-exchange-rules/>). The rules are to bring a wrapped gift (worth about €10) and it starts by the first person (ordered pre-determined) opening a gift (as usual), the second person then can steal this gift or choose to unwrap one of the other gifts. If the second person steals from the first, the first person can then unwrap another gift. This continues until all participants have unwrapped/stolen the gifts. You don't have to participate in this game, but we would love it if you did!

Looking forward to seeing you on December 9th!

About the Newsletter

If you would like to contribute news or information, email it to us at fse.postdoc.network@rug.nl. To unsubscribe, send an email to fse.postdoc.network@rug.nl with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line; the body of the email can be left blank.