

Newsletter – Description HAS University of Applied Sciences and the Province of North Brabant

HAS University of Applied Sciences

Who are we?

HAS University of Applied Sciences is a medium-sized university located in 's-Hertogenbosch and Venlo. HAS University of Applied Sciences is the second best educational and expertise Centre in the Netherlands for the environment and agrifood sector (according to keuzegids.org).

We currently have over 3000 students, 450 employees and 300 participants on professional courses. The core of our activities is based on the dynamic triangle of students, lectures and business.

What are we doing?

HAS University of Applied Sciences offers students fifteen education programs:

- Business Management in Agriculture & Food (Venlo);
- Horticulture & Business Management ('s-Hertogenbosch);
- International Food & Agribusiness ('s-Hertogenbosch);
- Animal Husbandry & Animal Care ('s-Hertogenbosch);
- Applied Biology (Venlo);
- Applied Biology ('s-Hertogenbosch);
- Business Administration & Agri-Foodbusiness (Venlo);
- Business Administration & Agri-Foodbusiness ('s-Hertogenbosch);
- Environmental Innovation ('s-Hertogenbosch);
- Food Innovation (Venlo);
- Food Innovation ('s-Hertogenbosch);
- Food Technology ('s-Hertogenbosch);
- Geo Media & Design ('s-Hertogenbosch);
- Horticulture & Arable Farming ('s-Hertogenbosch);
- Spatial and environmental planning ('s-Hertogenbosch).

In addition to training, HAS University of Applied Sciences also developed a wide range of 3rd year minors (15ECTS) and 4th year specializations (30 ECTS):

Minors

- Biobased economy in the agri-food sector;
- International business and development;
- Smart farming;
- Ecosystem services and their value to society;
- Towards a healthy society;
- International agribusiness;
- Business innovation;
- Finance operations.

Specializations

- Challenge sustainability;
- Applied animal sciences;
- Applied plant research;
- Future food systems;
- Food business.

In addition to offering education for students, education is also being developed and shared, both internally and externally. The development and sharing of knowledge is done in different ways:

- Excursions (per study program);
- Field of activity scan (per study program);
- Real-life projects, delivered by the field of activity (10 wks);
- Graduation assignments from the field of activity (20 wks)
- Research groups;
- Internships;
- Guest lectures;
- Courses for the field of activity.

What is our role within the ERDI project and what connects us with the ERDI project?

HAS University of Applied Sciences has experience with the bioeconomy theme in different ways. Bioeconomy returns within the different educational directions: agro, food and environment. In the ERDI project we try to share our knowledge and learn from our partners.

In addition, internationalization within the HAS University of Applied Sciences is an important theme that this project fits well with. Within the project there are possibilities to make new contacts and explore the possibilities for new collaborations.

Next to the activities above HAS University of Applied Sciences has also developed a ERDI course 'Sustainable innovations for strengthening regions and their agrifood businesses'. The ERDI course includes three modules: 'Biobased economy in the agrifood sector' (15 ECTS), 'Ecosystem services and their value to society' (15 ECTS) and 'Business innovation' (15 ECTS). The study components can be chosen by each student individually.

The courses includes lectures and group work in the fields of bioeconomy and regional development and excursions in the Netherlands. The students will work in a international student group and will learn from several working life partners.

For more information about the HAS University o Applied Sciences, we refer to:

<https://www.hasuniversity.nl/>

The Province of North Brabant

Who are we?

North Brabant is a province of the Netherlands, located in the south of the country. It borders the provinces of Gelderland and South Holland to the north, Limburg to the east and Zeeland to the west. In the south the province border the Belgian provinces of Antwerp and Limburg. The total area of the province of North Brabant is a little more than 5000 km².

Provinces in the Netherlands are the administrative layer between the national government and the local municipalities. The provincial government makes decisions and supervises projects at an economic, social and cultural level.

What are we doing?

The Province of North Brabant works at several themes. The main topics the province of North Brabant is working on are:

- Spatial development;
- Accessibility and mobility for the region;
- Regional economic policy;
- Culture and regional identity.

In the coming years, much will change within the laws and regulations in the Netherlands. One law, the environmental law, is being developed that brings together 26 laws concerning space, housing, infrastructure and mobility, environment, nature, cultural heritage and water. Every province has to make an environmental vision for their own area. All the municipalities in the Netherlands also have to make an environmental vision. At the moment, the province of North Brabant is busy drawing up the environmental vision in collaboration with local authorities, companies, entrepreneurs and citizens.

Ultimately, the environmental law and the environmental visions on local level (municipalities) and regional level (the province of North Brabant) will offer more opportunities for development of the environment. The aim is to simplify procedures and processes.

What is our role within the ERDI project and what connects us with the ERDI project?

The main topics of the Province of North Brabant, which are formulated above, are divided into different programs, themes and/ or projects. One of those themes in which the above main topics come back is combining the environment and health. This involves the valorization of health in the environment. Ton Brok, the involved partner in the ERDI project from the Province of North Brabant, tries to make this transparent with the butterfly model.

The butterfly model shows various factors from the environment that affect human health. The butterfly model is made up of three parts:

- **The body – the human being:** here can be distinguished between a biological filter (ability to fight diseases, maintain health etc.) and the behavioral filter of the human being (ability to influence behavior, lifestyle and environmental factors).
- **Wing 1 – the biophysical / natural environment;**
- **Wing 2 – the socio-economic environment:** the social and spiritual health of human being of all within this.

The model contributes to awareness about the involvement of health in organizations and in area assignments. However, it is still difficult to give the various factors within the model value.

Within the biobased economy theme of ERDI, it can be of added value to implement such a method

as the butterfly model. In this way a broader range of factors is taken into account and not only the direct financial costs and benefits can be taken into account, but also the social costs and benefits.

The Province of North Brabant also cooperates with HAS University of Applied Sciences in more ways. For example, we set up graduation assignments and ten-week projects, we go on an excursion to the Province and guest lectures are given by the Province.

For more information about the Province of North Brabant, we refer to: <https://english.brabant.nl/>