

**Session Partnerships: April 13th 11.00 hrs**

**4s2b: Food system transitions in deltas under pressure**

## **A NEW INTER-UNIVERSITY ALLIANCE FOR CIRCULAR SOCIETY**

PIM DE JAGER 1), HUUB RIJNAARTS 1)

1) WUR representatives in the ALLIANCE ON CHALLENGING FUTURE GENERATIONS of four universities in the Netherlands: Wageningen University and Research (WUR), Eindhoven University of Technology (TUE), University Medical Centre Utrecht, and University of Utrecht.

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In 2020, Wageningen University and Research, Eindhoven University of Technology, University Medical Centre Utrecht and the University Utrecht joined forces and started the alliance Challenging Future Generations. Challenges are encountered by putting young researchers, lecturers, and students at the helm and by collaborating across the borders of the scientific disciplines. In the alliance, the four institutions combine their expertise to contribute to social transitions in the fields of health, food, energy, and sustainability.

One of the main themes in this alliance is Circular Society. Within this team different research-HUBs and a science-and-teaching PLATFORM are taking shape. The HUBs are focussed connecting science to concrete societal questions and situations. The platform offers a generic base these questions. In this presentation we would like to present the achievements in these HUBs and the PLATFORM.

- HUB1 has been named "Circular Safe Hospital", where we strive to combine knowledge from the different institutes to close material, energy and water streams in the hospital in a safe way and without affecting the hospitals main task of care providing. Through sandpit brainstorm sessions collaborative research initiatives were launched on disposables, green medicines and pharmaceutical waste.

- HUB2 is dedicated to "Circular Inclusive Cities", where we combine the disciplines from the different institutes under the leadership of the social sciences and humanities, with inclusion of natural and technical sciences. Here we investigate how all stakeholders can be involved to achieve Circular Cities. Another sandpit brainstorm yielded various research initiatives among others on inclusiveness, business case assessment of centralised versus decentralised approaches, and policy and legal aspects affecting circular city communities.

- PLATFORM: The platform Circular Society aims to bring together the multitude of theoretical models and scientific paradigms that exist in the various disciplinary fields. All

HUBs will operate interactively with the platform, offering the platform researchers to connecting the work developed in the different HUBs and look for synergies between them. Together with the alliances impact group the platform will ensure embedding of the research towards different stakeholders in society. The platform is also active in teaching by the development of a joint educational program.

Finally, we will elaborate shortly how we got to where we are now, and how we plan to proceed. We foresee new HUBs to be launched in 2022/23. Obviously, we will also present how YOU can join the different groups in this alliance and WHY you should do so!

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*Keywords: circular, society, safe, collaboration, alliance*