

2013 Annual Report

Open university

Universities are more like Piccadilly Circus than ivory towers

Winning together

Discussion on shale gas must be expanded

HEATED DEBATE



Looking back, for me 2013 was the year in which the debate on public confidence in science really heated up. There was uproar about a few high-profile cases of fraud and irregularities at Dutch universities. There was debate about the excessive pressure to publish articles in academic journals and other (perceived) perverse stimuli, stirred up by the men at Science in Transition. And there was debate about the role of science in social controversies such as shale gas extraction.

Essential questions are now being asked: how can we create a future-proof university system? What are the criteria for science to fulfil its societal role? And what is it that makes science reliable?

The Rathenau Instituut plays a major role in these debates and issues. Together with VSNU (association of universities), we are developing future scenarios for universities. We published a candid report on shale gas extraction, or fracking, in which we argue in favour of improved cooperation between national and regional authorities. We conducted a public survey into confidence in science. In the summer, we held a thought-provoking debate between politicians, administrators and US philosopher Daniel Sarewitz on the relationship between science and politics.

That our activities make a valuable contribution to democratic decision-making on science and technology and how they are embedded into society was confirmed by the evaluation conducted of the Rathenau Instituut in 2013. In response, Minister Bussemaker of Education, Culture and Science called on the institute to invest even more in services to parliament. We like to work on this in 2014 and the years ahead.

Gerdi Verbeet,
Chair of Rathenau Instituut

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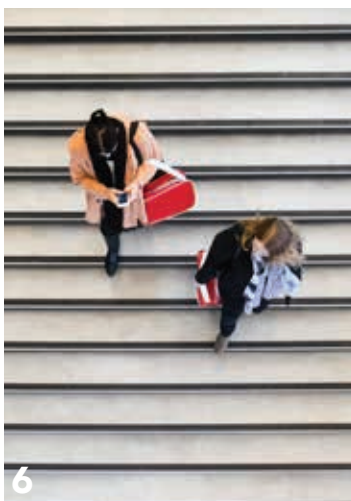
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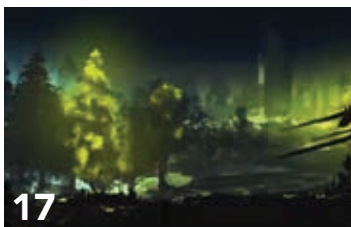
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This Annual Report contains the
highlights of 2013. The full 2013
Rathenau Instituut Annual Report
in Dutch can be found on our website:
www.rathenau.nl/jaarverslag2013



Shall I drive or will you?

'Smart computers take over at the wheel' was the headline in national newspaper De Telegraaf on research conducted by the Rathenau Instituut and TU Eindhoven into the future of traffic systems. Speed restrictions in residential areas where children play would seem acceptable, but what do we think of cars that automatically intervene as soon as we deviate from our course? Should cars be allowed to act as e-coaches and subtly steer us towards safer or more sustainable driving behaviour? In the report *'Op advies van de auto* (On the advice of the car)', researchers reveal this and other ethical, technical and political issues involving tempting (persuasive) technology in traffic.

The report also looks at other, wider issues concerning the

digitisation of our infrastructure. Dutch MP Sander de Rouwe, traffic specialist for political party CDA, believes it is a useful report. "It aligns with previous pleas from my party to make greater use of the available technology," he said during a meeting with the Minister of Infrastructure and the Environment. Stientje van Veldhoven of political party D66 asked the minister to re-examine the guidelines for road design. The minister replied that CROW (technology platform for transport, infrastructure and public space) constantly updates these guidelines.

Together with Philips, Technology Foundation STW and the National Initiative Brain & Cognition, the Rathenau Instituut has now initiated further research into other types of persuasive technology, especially e-coaching.

Science patenting more

Dutch knowledge institutes are applying for ever more patents. This is demonstrated by the report *'Patentaanvragen door kennisinstellingen* (Patent applications by knowledge institutes)' published by the Rathenau Instituut at the end of November 2013. The institute listed patent applications between 1980 and 2009. In the years 1980 to 1984, all the universities and research institutes combined applied for about 25 patents a year. Yet at nearly 370 applications a year this number was fourteen times higher in the period between 2005 and 2009.

This means that the proportion of knowledge institutions in the total number of Dutch patent applications rose from 1.1 percent in the period from 1980 to 1984 to

4.7 percent in the period from 2005 to 2009. Knowledge institutes have been increasingly active in technology since 1980. They account for a growing proportion of patent applications which are relevant to the top sectors of high tech, life sciences and chemicals.

Over the past thirty years, Dutch industry has also applied for more patents but the growth in applications has been less extreme.

Incidentally, the number of patent applications increased less sharply in the period from 2005 to 2009. NL Patent Office believes that this is due to Dutch industry focusing more on development rather than research, and because it is more selective in its applications.

Don't mess about with the climate yet

Are we going to fertilise oceans using iron? Should we conduct large-scale filtering of CO₂ from the air? German, British and US politicians are given extensive information on climate engineering. So far, things have been quiet on this front in the Netherlands. This is why the Rathenau Instituut presented the report *'Klimaatengineering: hype, hoop of wanhoop?* (Climate engineering: hype, hope or despair?)' to stakeholders at the end of 2013.

Researchers recommend imposing a temporary ban on technology which reflects sunlight on a large scale. Maarten van Aalst from the Red Cross agrees with this. In the discussion held at the presentation of the Rathenau report, he argued for a moratorium on so-called SRM technologies. (SRM stands for Solar Radiation Management, the reflection of the sun's rays using e.g. sulphur particles in the stratosphere.)

The report does say that there should be research into removing CO₂ from the air (Carbon Dioxide Removal, CDR) and that where applicable legislation should be considered. Jip Lenstra from research and consultancy bureau Ecorys: "SRM proved to be much less important than I thought and CDR is in fact much more important. It takes more time, but we still have that."

The Ministry of Infrastructure & the Environment is pleased with the report. Civil servant Ronald Flipphi during the presentation: "The discussion on climate engineering is heading our way. The Dutch government wishes to conduct it in as well-informed a manner as possible. The government is in principle not against climate engineering. Each individual technology should be assessed on its own merits."





Universities are more like Piccadilly Circus than ivory towers

Open university

The Dutch academic job market is much more open than was thought. And when selecting talented young researchers the universities rely on external assessments. This was shown by two reports by the Rathenau Instituut on the structure of the Dutch academic system in 2013.

Frequently-heard comments in academic circles: “universities’ upper ranks are closed” and “excursions outside academia are fatal to your academic career.” Such comments need to be placed in context, as demonstrated by research conducted by the Rathenau Instituut. In its publication entitled *‘Academische carrières en loopbaanbeleid* (Academic careers in the Netherlands)’, the institute lists facts and figures as recorded over ten years by the VSNU, the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) and Statistics Netherlands, among others.

The publication provides insight into the job market shifts of academics and depicts the

structure of the academic job market.

It shows that large numbers of PhD and post-doctoral students, but also university lecturers, associate professors and professors, are leaving universities. And yet the opposite is also true: there is a large influx of researchers from outside. The publication also shows that Dutch academia is becoming increasingly international. The proportion of foreign academics grew from 23 percent in 2003 to 30 percent in 2011. An increasing number of women are also moving into more senior positions, but at the current rate it will take another thirty to forty years before there really is an equal proportion of men and women.

The statistics are an eye-opener to many of those involved, even insiders. Karl Dittrich, chair of the VSNU, commented: "I was on the edge of my seat."

A focus on talent

At the same time as the facts and figures on academic careers and career policy, the Rathenau Instituut presented the report entitled 'Talent centraal (A focus on talent)' on the development and selection of researchers in the Netherlands. The report concludes that Dutch universities rely on external assessments when they select talented researchers. Yet the formal selection criteria which e.g. the NWO applies in its Innovational Research Incentives Scheme (Veni, Vidi, Vici) do not correspond to the broader interpretation of talent which researchers use on the shopfloor.

This is illustrated by the following remark: "Some people are very good, but completely anti-social. That doesn't really matter. It may be fantastic scientifically, but we are all human and we just want someone nice in the group."

During the presentation of the report, personnel directors, university and university of applied sciences policy officers, chairs of associations and employees of NWO, VSNU, KNAW Academy and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science discussed three fictitious scenarios involving the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme. The scenarios (stopping, more funding or weighted draws) yielded a discussion on the importance of subsidies to academic talent and on the criteria required for a just and efficient distribution of grants.

Crafting your career

The key to improving innovational research policy lies with the universities and researchers rather than the NWO. This was demonstrated by the analyses conducted by the Rathenau Instituut. Individual researchers must also be much more realistic about their opportunities for an academic career. In order to have those researchers think about how to craft their careers, together with the University of Leiden's Centre for Science of and Technology Studies (CWTS) the institute organised the afternoon session 'Crafting your career' in the autumn of 2013. The key questions included: 'as a researcher how do you cope with the pressure to perform?' and: 'as a researcher how can you develop and use less obvious qualities and skills?'

Over one hundred and fifty young researchers were inspired by, among others, KNAW president Hans Clevers, who claimed that you have to know the system to be able to work within it and that you should focus as much as possible on quality rather than quantity. Austrian career researcher Ruth Müller talked to participants about her findings: "I now understand that a career in research only partly depends on your dedication and academic performance. There are so many talented young researchers that it sometimes seem random who makes it and who doesn't. Up to a point it has become rather a gamble. You would do well to have a plan B."

At the end of the afternoon participants indicated that they had learned more about their own strengths and weaknesses. One of the participants added: "It is reassuring to know that many young researchers are facing the same problems as me."

'Onderzoeker publiceert, anders besta je niet'

BAN ON EXPERTS

"More science doesn't lead to a better democracy," guest speaker Daniel Sarewitz claimed at the late summer reception at the Rathenau Instituut on 28 August. Sarewitz is Professor of Science and Society at the University of Arizona. He later explained his theory in national newspaper *de Volkskrant*. "More science brings more uncertainties. That's why I sometimes want to argue in favour of a ban on experts."

It was the first time that the Rathenau Instituut had organised a late summer reception. State Secretary Sander Dekker of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, former Chairman of the Rathenau Instituut's Board, addressed the attendees. "Doubt is a fuel for science, it keeps the whole thing moving. Yet doubt is dynamite for politics. Because politicians are expected to act decisively." Should we ban science completely from the political playing field? "No," Dekker said. "Politics needs science, but it is essential that both parties play their part and respect one another's limits."

In the days following the late summer reception, Sarewitz's call to ban experts also appeared in several columns and editorials in the media. Maxim Februari in *NRC* and *NRC Next*: "The problem is, that the government doesn't always feel like having one of these political discussions. They rather leave it to science to come to a decision: is it safe to drill? Yes or no? Obviously science cannot provide that answer; safety is about the interpretation of data, the consideration of consequences and the explanation of uncertainties. An unequivocal advice is therefore not possible. As researcher Daniel Sarewitz recently mentioned in this newspaper: "Science is not the correct tool to solve political disputes".



Daniel Sarewitz in conversation with researcher Annick de Vries (Rathenau Instituut)



Sander Dekker @SanderDekker 28 August

How can politics and science complement one another? Strong plea at session from Sarewitz for engaged science @RathenauNL

Shift happens



In 2013, the VSNU association of universities and the Rathenau Instituut held the first Duin & Kruidberg conference, as part of the Future Knowledge for Universities project. During this two-day conference, university administrators talked to students, business leaders, experts, young entrepreneurs and trend-watchers about trends which will affect the universities of the future. Two uncertainties have come to light: will universities primarily be available to private or public parties in future? And should universities operate in a competitive field?

Participants were satisfied with the first conference. Louise Gunning,

President of the University of Amsterdam's Executive Board: "It is really good for us to enter into such an open dialogue with the minister." Martin Kropff, Rector of Wageningen University tweeted: "It was positive that there were many external parties present. Let's take this further! Don't wait too long. Respond to opportunities together."

Based on the results, the Rathenau Instituut and the VSNU are developing several future scenarios. These will be worked on further during regional meetings and a second conference in 2014. The goal is to create a strategy for the evolution of universities which enjoys wide support.

Confidence in science?

The Dutch still have a great deal of confidence in science. More than in politics, justice or newspapers, for instance. This was the conclusion drawn by researchers from the Scientific Council for Government Policy (WRR) and the Rathenau Instituut. They conducted a survey on science and researchers among a representative random selection of eight hundred Dutch people.

The reason for the survey was growing concerns about the controversial authority of science, concerns which arise from e.g. discussions about global warming, the HPV vaccination and several fraudulent cases. The assumption was that confidence in science would have declined as a result.

The results of the survey garnered a great deal of media attention. National newspapers De Telegraaf ('The Dutch still trust science'),

Trouw ('Greater confidence in science than in newspapers') and de Volkskrant ('In spite of Diederik Stapel fraud high confidence in science') wrote about it. Researcher Jos de Jong explained the survey at the first Dutch Science Communication conference in Rotterdam in the autumn of 2013.

Minister Jet Bussemaker and State Secretary Sander Dekker of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science want to place confidence, integrity and social support for science more prominently on the agenda. "We are very pleased that the Rathenau Instituut and the WRR have organised a number of debates for us on these themes," they wrote in their response to the Lower House of the Dutch Parliament. They asked the Rathenau Instituut to come up with a proposal for periodic research into confidence in science.



JAN STAMAN'S TOP 5

What were the five main themes of 2013 in the opinion of Jan Staman, director of the Rathenau Instituut?

1 Experts

Working out evidence-based policy remained high on the agenda in 2013. How can science contribute to political decision-making? I often compare it to the role doctors play in a university hospital. They are the experts and they stick their necks out when taking life-and-death decisions about their patients. Researchers should dare to do the same; to act as experts and to manoeuvre within the political reality. This sometimes means relinquishing the absolute truth and daring to seek realistic solutions.

2 Cyber citizens

The development of digital technology, such as Google Glass, means that we have become a mix of humans and machines: cyborgs. These technologies provide many opportunities for innovation, but also lead to unwanted developments. I am afraid that if we continue down this path, we will end up without any citizens at all. I would appeal for us to become cyber citizens. To be directors of our own technological evolution and stand up for our basic rights, our democracy.

3 Delta plan

In 2013, I travelled a lot for our workshops on evidence-based policy to Japan, China and Finland. I noticed that governments there are busy at the highest level formulating an integrated

strategy for energy, mobility and logistics. Take Smart Cities, for example. In the Netherlands, we can learn a great deal from this: should we be investing in a Delta plan for more than just water? And seeking answers more quickly to structure our high-tech society in a sustainable and innovative manner?

4 Objectivity

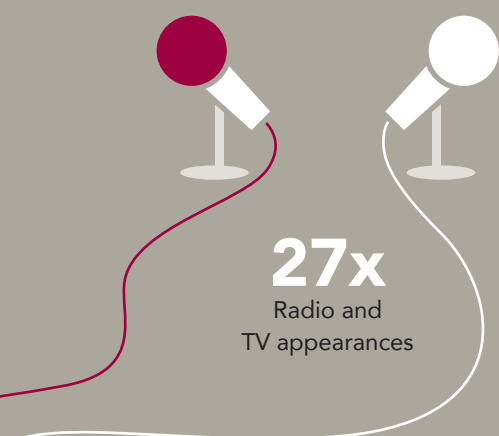
At the Rathenau Instituut we increasingly work on external assignments for provinces, ministries or the European Union. It is a challenge to serve these external parties and in doing so to give substance to our societal task. At the same time, we have to ensure that we remain objective in conducting these assignments. This is our greatest asset. For our institute, it is essential to our credibility that we can take independent responsibility.

5 Investigative journalism

Without good journalism there is no democracy. And I don't mean the encyclopaedic type of journalism based on facts and lists. I mean critical, objective journalism: investigative journalism. This is currently under huge pressure, which shouldn't be allowed to happen. Because this type of journalism creates space for research, social debate and helps kick-start debates. We should all continue to invest in this.

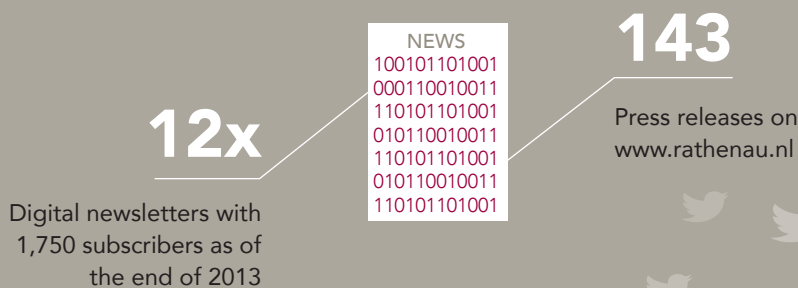
2013 in figures

Rathenau Instituut in the media

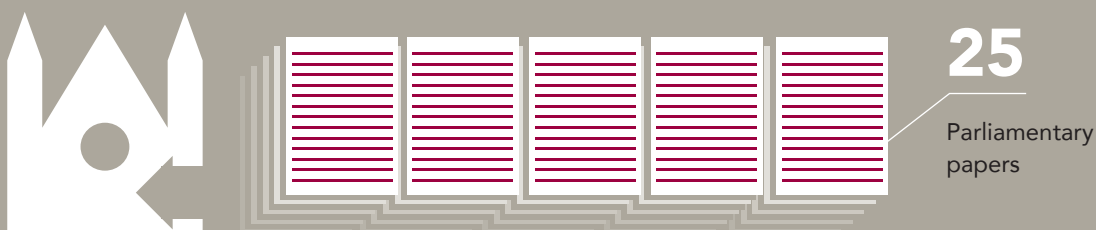


Most read in 2013

- News** Gerdi Verbeet new chair of Rathenau Instituut
- Project** Valorisation as a knowledge process
- Publication** Winning together



Rathenau Instituut in Parliament



Social Media

In 2013, the use of social media really took off, becoming an integrated part of our communications strategy. Below are some facts and highlights.

3050

Twitter followers

From 2,100 followers at year-end 2012 to 3,050 followers at year-end 2013.

32

Employees with an account

46

Blogposts

Most read blogs in 2013

1

Take rankings with a pinch of salt

2

Never not nudged

3

What should we think about shale gas?

2013 in tweets

van Gent@inekevangel 28 March

Congratulations! RT **@RathenauNL** Gerdi Verbeet New Chair **Rathenau Instituut**: <http://bit.ly/10cFhaM>

UU vrouwennetwork@UU_VN 25 April

A need to focus on conflicting interests in academic talent recruitment strategies: **Rathenau Instituut**: <http://bit.ly/1kJkVKA>

Geert Ritsema@Geert_MD 21 May

Good initiative by **Rathenau instituut**: they're broadening the debate #schaliegas into a debate on use and necessity: <http://bit.ly/1ihJeoU>

Linda Duits@lalalalinder 27 May

Dutch universities rate their own level of quality and what's the result? All are internationally competitive or even global leaders <http://bit.ly/1eT3HfS>

Rik Maes@hoogleerling 28 June

Interesting issue of Flux Magazine by **@RathenauNL** on the quest for the perfect human being. <http://bit.ly/1pctlvN> With contributions by Roger Scruton, Jos de Mul, and others.

martijn v calmthout@vancalmthout 2 July

Study by **@RathenauNL** and WRR shows that, while scientists may like to paint a bleak picture, public trust in science is just fine.

Rens Vandeberg@RensVandeberg 7 November

Convenient summary of **@SciTransit** study **Rathenau** (including #Waardevol) from **@Stefan_de_J** <http://bit.ly/1flc8de>

gert van wijland@gertvanwijland 13 December

Unreal: we generate same amount of data every 10 minutes as we did between the Prehistoric Age and 2003 **#rathenau** **#bigdata** <http://tinyurl.com/mbdd9gx>

Sander van den Burg@sander_vdburg 18 December

For under the Xmas tree: **@RathenauNL** study "Climate Engineering: Hype, Hope or Dispair?" <http://bit.ly/18KpCD2>



**Nederland wil
geen schaliegas**

A woman with short brown hair, wearing a red and black striped t-shirt, stands in a field of tall green grass. She is holding a large white rectangular sign that reads "Nederland wil geen schaliegas" in bold black letters. The sign is tilted slightly to the right. In the background, there are trees and a blue sky with some clouds. A small logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the sign.

Discussion on shale gas must be expanded

Winning together

Municipalities and provincial authorities should be given more say in decisions on shale gas extraction, or fracking. This is the message in the Rathenau Instituut's report entitled '*Samen Winnen* (Winning together)'. The report's presentation in early September was attended by many journalists, politicians and interested parties and in doing so kicked off the broader debate it recommends.

The debate on fracking had so far focused mainly on the technical risks and economic benefits. In its report, the Rathenau Instituut also considers the societal interests and makes recommendations to get the political debate out of its stalemate.

One of the main recommendations is that cooperation between the national government and local authorities needs to be thought-out better. The report's authors argue in favour of an open strategy, which also looks at future energy supplies, our position as a country reliant on gas, the

distribution of profits and burdens for residents and the administrative relationships in decision-making. The researchers suggest that it might be advisable to delay a decision on shale gas extraction until the National Policy Strategy on Underground Resources enters into effect.

Politicians pleased with the report

Liesbeth van Tongeren (GroenLinks) complimented the institute: "Your report is like a cat set among the pigeons. We now no longer need two thousand reports. The report is very clear." Like the Rathenau

Instituut, Dutch MP Agnes Mulder (CDA) points out that we should learn from the CO₂ storage issue in Barendrecht. Several interested parties were presented with what was almost a fait accompli. One of the reasons why the plan failed was that there was insufficient support among local residents. Jan Vos (PvdA) believes that broadening the debate is a good idea and referred to shale gas extraction as the final chapter in energy transition, "but we will only do it if we can do so cleanly and safely." Other MPs present, René Leegte (VVD), Carla Dik-Faber (ChristenUnie) and Esther Ouwehand (Party for the Animals), also responded positively to the report. René Peters of TNO, Hans Bousema of Brabant Water and Brabant councillor Johan van den Hout (SP) also believe that the debate should be widened. Van den Hout: "A report on the environmental impact alone is not enough. The environment, spatial insertion and support are also important. We should also talk to all the experts."

Response from the minister

Both NOS Journaal and RTL Nieuws reported on the presentation of the shale gas extraction report ('Involve provinces and municipalities

more in shale gas debate', 'Kamp could have made it a lot easier'). Provinces, municipalities and other interested parties are given plenty of consultation opportunities according to Minister Henk Kamp of Economic Affairs. "The Rathenau Instituut rightly claims that discussions and consultation with residents and the municipalities and provinces involved are important when test drilling is being considered," he said. "If the green light is given, an environmental impact report and several licences and permissions are required. Consultation is a legal obligation in these procedures." In TV show Hart van Nederland, Kamp called on those involved to conduct a critical but neutral debate, "because if you declare yourself to be against shale gas extraction, that makes it difficult to exchange ideas on the subject."

The debate on shale gas extraction continued after September. Researchers from the Rathenau Instituut wrote an article in national newspaper NRC Handelsblad, spoke at an 'introductory day' on shale gas extraction held by the Province of North Brabant and explained their report and recommendations to a Parliamentary hearing.



NOS@NOS 5 September

Rathenau Instituut: greater consultation with municipalities and provinces on decisions on shale gas extraction Cooperation is crucial. <http://nos.nl/l/547974>

'Diep wantrouwen beheerst discussie over schaliegas'

'Deep suspicion dominates debate on shale gas extraction' Metro, 5-9

www.metronieuws.nl/nieuws/diep-wantrouwen-beheerst-discussie-over-schaliegas/SrZmie!RzOaiZAz2OANY/

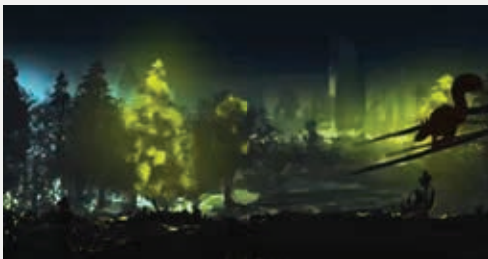
ARTIFICIAL LIFE?

Light-emitting trees as street lighting¹; the re-introduction of the dodo². Using two animated film clips with fictitious but recognisable images of the future, at the end of 2013 the Rathenau Instituut got visitors at the Border Sessions international festival in The Hague thinking about the consequences and ethical considerations of new technological developments.

Precisely because synthetic biology is still in its infancy, now is the right time for a political and social debate. If we do so, we will not suddenly be taken by surprise and we can avoid the trench warfare that occurred in the debate on genetic modification.

Synthetic biology offers a world of opportunities. Yet it also raises concerns. For instance, developments raise questions about intellectual property and ethics. Can you apply for a patent for a new organism? Is it appropriate to create artificial life? Leen van den Oever, director of the Dutch Institute for Biology (NIBI), does not

believe that we should be afraid of synthetic biology. "We need to look at the opportunities and use them," he said during a political cafe debate at the Rathenau Instituut in January, at which the institute presented the reports '*Geen debat zonder publiek* (No debate without the public)' and '*Politiek over leven* (Politics over life)'. At a European level, the institute is participating in SYNENERGENE, a four-year project on synthetic biology and socially-responsible innovation comprising nearly thirty partners from over ten countries.



1) <http://youtu.be/xGQ6Cp1dC4c>



2) <http://youtu.be/lw-2886-Ft8>



SOLVE PROBLEMS TOGETHER

Major social challenges, such as the ageing population and the lack of social cohesion, can only be solved if all the parties concerned work together. And so-called knowledge co-production does not happen by itself.

These are the two conclusions in the report 'Kenniscoproductie voor grote maatschappelijke vraagstukken (Knowledge co-production for major social issues)' presented by the Rathenau Instituut in the spring of 2013. Funding research alone is not enough. Governments also actively need to participate and deploy knowledge and expertise better between ministries.

Among other things, the Rathenau Instituut analysed how Amsterdam attempts to improve the socialisation of and support for young people and parents. Researchers, municipalities, pedagogical bureaus, schools and migrant organisations all work together in the Amsterdam Ten-plus Knowledge Workshop with parents and young people. This cooperation gives researchers direct insight into practice and social workers quickly learn how they can improve their socialisation programmes. Trees Pels, Endowed Professor of Socialisation in the multi-ethnic city at VU University Amsterdam, explained the Ten-plus *modus operandi* during the report's presentation:

"What we do is really in the practical situation, for the practical situation and together with the practical situation."

The report '*Kenniscoproductie voor de grote maatschappelijke vraagstukken*' was one of the top-three downloaded Rathenau Instituut reports for many months. The researchers are regularly asked to give presentations at universities and ministries and at patient organisations and companies. The media also asked the institute to explain the report's recommendations. National newspaper *Financieele Dagblad* quoted Barend van der Meulen, head of Science System Assessment at the Rathenau Instituut in its article '*Nieuwe 'subsidiebureaucratie' drijft innovatieve ondernemers tot wanhoop* (New subsidy bureaucracy drives innovative researchers to despair)'. In it, Van der Meulen argues that social themes such as the ageing population, renewable energy and sustainable agriculture will only receive enough attention if the relevant ministries can play an active role.



Report on Rathenau

"Its position as the supplier of objective and reliable information makes the Rathenau Instituut an excellent partner for cooperation," Minister Bussemaker of Education, Culture and Science wrote in her response to the external evaluation of the Rathenau Instituut "The information provided by the Rathenau Instituut enables evidence-based policy to be drawn up."

The minister shares the positive opinion that the evaluation committee outlined in its evaluation report. She called the Rathenau Instituut a major player at European level and praised the academic quality of its publications. The minister applauds the fact that the institute actively seeks cooperation with, among others, advisory councils, ministries, universities and other knowledge institutions. She wrote: "I encourage other parties to do the same." One of the evaluation committee's recommendations is

that the institute strengthens its ties with parliament. The institute is already working on this. Since May 2013, former president of the Lower House of the Dutch Parliament Gerdi Verbeet has held the post of chair of the institute.

Institute director Jan Staman welcomed the minister's comments. He sees two major trends for the future: "The first is that science and technology will increasingly be the topic of debate. Take the debates on student numbers, valorisation and confidence. Our institute provides objective, reliable facts and in doing so helps to support these debates. The second trend is that Europe will become increasingly important. We are not just busy working on strengthening our ties with the Dutch parliament, but we are also looking at how our expertise could be of significance in Brussels."



Evaluations evaluated

What has twenty years of evaluating, visiting and assessing Dutch scientific research yielded? The Rathenau Instituut listed the facts and figures in the spring of 2013. What many thought is now clear at a glance: nearly all the conducted research is now excellent.

The Dutch evaluation system has seen better days. D66 MP Paul van Meenen questioned the current evaluation method: "It's great that everyone has been rated as excellent, but what does that tell us? Minister Bussemaker of

Education, Culture and Science agreed: "We can be proud of our researchers. But the differentiating capacity of evaluations is sometimes too low. That is why we are working on revising the Standard Evaluation Protocol with, among others, the KNAW, VSNU, NWO, the Rathenau Instituut and the Netherlands Federation of University Medical Centres (NFU).

The era of the Standard Evaluation Protocol, in which universities, the KNAW and NWO agreed how to assess research groups, will end in 2015.



2013 in statistics

Finances

Income realised in €k



The basic funding for the Rathenau Instituut is provided by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Sciences. In addition, the Rathenau Instituut also works on behalf of clients including the European Parliament, the European Commission and various other institutions.

In order to guarantee its independent status, the institute finances a maximum of 25 percent of its budget with revenues from external clients. For 2013, these revenues accounted for 9% of total funds, generated by national projects such as the Kennis voor Klimaat (Knowledge for Climate), One-Day Chicks (Eendagshaantjes) and Electronic Lifestyle Coach (Elektronische Levensstijlcoach) research projects.

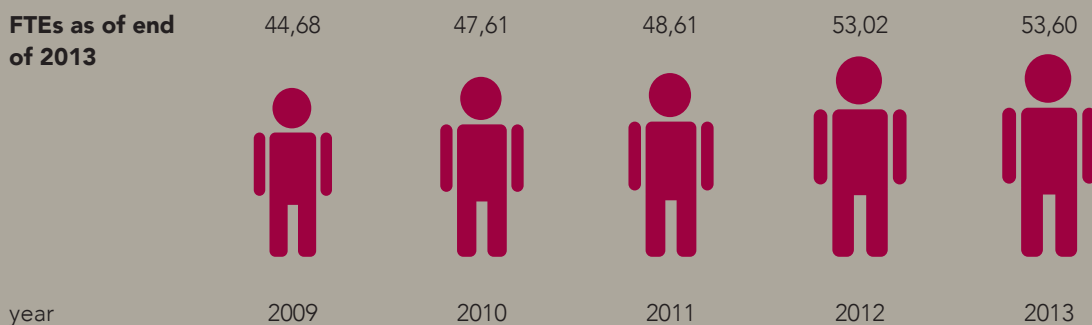
European projects are affiliated with the Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA), the Council of Europe and the European Commission Seventh Framework Programme (FP7).

The Rathenau Instituut also acquired several large external projects in 2013, through which we hope to secure a higher percentage of external funding for the 2014 budget. These projects are being conducted on behalf of the European Commission (the FP7 Framework Programme; this represents a service contract) and the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs.

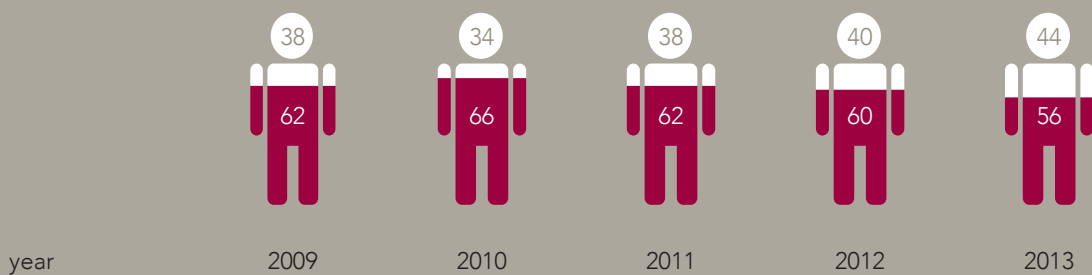
Further information on these projects is available at www.rathenau.org.

Staff

FTEs as of end of 2013



Proportion of permanent/temporary personnel in % as of end of 2013



M/F pay grades as of end of 2013

Pay grades	5 - 7	8 - 9	10 - 11	12- 13	14- 16	total	%
Number of M	0	2	9	9	3	23	38%
Number of V	5	5	18	9	0	37	62%

Inflow and outflow in numbers

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of inflow	10	8	10	11	7
Number of outflow	2	7	10	9	5

Publications

Periodicals

Flux

- no. 8 (January): Samen?
- no. 9 (June): En, bent u al perfect?

VolTA

- no. 04 (April): 'Are we making perfect life?'
- no. 05 (October): 'Big data'

12x digital newsletter

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