

CSL NEWSLETTER – February 2021



In this Community Service Learning (CSL) newsletter we share exciting and interesting initiatives and developments related to CSL. This newsletter keeps you informed, updated and hopefully inspires you for future CSL projects



New CSL theme; Inclusive mobility and accessibility

In today's society, a disability or a chronic illness can too often lead to marginalization. This happens due to the lack of accessible public spaces, buildings, transport and information and communication facilities. Within the CSL theme inclusive mobility and accessibility we strive – by doing innovative interdisciplinary research - to improve the social position of people with disabilities. We aim to stimulate the introduction of measures that actually enable people with disabilities to participate fully and respectfully in social life and, where necessary, provide support in their pursuit of a self-reliant existence.

VU (CSL) researchers and the Municipality of Amsterdam are working together on this theme to stimulate development of innovative projects (i.e. internships or course projects) and the inclusion of these projects in VU research and curricula. Through these projects, students can come into contact with research that aims to remove people from their marginalized position and contribute to progress on the objectives as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability.

While relevant research is already being conducted, we see it being carried out separately in isolated places. The development of this theme is intended to invite researchers to become jointly active in multidisciplinary research in the field of inclusive mobility and accessibility.

Let's connect!

Working on research related to inclusive mobility and accessibility? Or would a case study on this theme be relevant for your course? Please get in touch with Marlies Visser (marlies.visser@vu.nl)

Learning Lab'; "What do students learn through Community Service Learning?"

The Utrecht University SIG CEL team, the Utrecht University Centre for Global Challenges, and the Community Service-Learning team from the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam jointly organized a Learning Lab for teachers with interest in and/or experience with Community Service Learning (CSL). In this Learning Lab, participants could exchange experiences and knowledge on student learning and best practices for teachers supporting the student's learning process. A summary of the learning lab can be found on the CSL canvas page. Not a member of canvas yet? Email communityservice@vu.nl

CSL SPOTLIGHT

MARKETING SUSTAINABLE INNOVATIONS

The course 'Marketing Sustainable Innovations' is part of the minor 'Sustainability and Innovation'. In this course, third year bachelor students bring together theory and practice and create a marketing plan for a sustainable innovation. This year students collaborated with four different partners, 3 startups and a resident initiative.

At the beginning of the course the four organizations presented their business case and their marketing challenge, and there were meetings between the student groups and the commissioners, to ask questions and specify the project goals. During this project of one month, the groups met one more time and after four weeks the students presented their results in a pitch session to the organizations.

For the students this is a learning experience for social skills (team setting and collaboration with partners) and self-awareness by also constructively reflecting on their project work. For the partners, this provides a tangible marketing idea or approach from a new or different perspective that they can take along and apply themselves in their business development.