The Netherlands today faces the challenge of shaping its knowledge society. This calls for innovations aimed at optimally developing and utilizing the population’s competences and improving how knowledge in organizations is generated and used. These social innovations enhance the quality of society, improve business performance, and strengthen the international competitiveness of the Dutch economy.

School of Business and Economics

Network Social Innovation / NSI

The Netherlands today faces the challenge of shaping its knowledge society. This calls for innovations aimed at optimally developing and utilizing the population’s competences and improving how knowledge in organisations is generated and used. These social innovations enhance the quality of society, improve business performance, and strengthen the international competitiveness of the Dutch economy.

Contact
Postaddress
NSI/ Maastricht University
PO Box 616
6200 MD Maastricht
Tel.: +31 43 388 3751/3647
E-mail: secnsi@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Visiting address
Tongersestraat 53
6211 LM Maastricht
www.socialinnovation.nl
The NSI has two principal objectives.

1. Social innovation development: improving the business and use of talent and companies’ performance.

2. Knowledge-sharing: cooperating with companies and social organisations to bring about research valuable for academia and businesses.

These insights will also be of great use to many other institutions and other organisations involved.

It’s research is characterised by innovative methodology and close cooperation between the academic and business world – where knowledge and insight are used to identify and solve problems – crucial to the advancement of academic research and organisational policy making.

The NSI focuses on competence development and the use of knowledge at the individual and company level. Its research is focused on the following questions:

- How can we improve labor participation and unemployment (re)gain a sustainable position in the labour market?
- How organisations effectively implement open innovation forms such as corporate venture capital, spin-ins en spin-offs?
- How can organisations enhance the competences and employability of their employees as well as their business performance through training?
- How can companies best guide this behavior during processes of transition?
- How do you optimise the yields of social innovations?

Network Social Innovation / NSI

Objectives

The NSI has two principal objectives.

1. Social innovation development: improving the business and use of talent and companies’ performance.

2. Knowledge-sharing: cooperating with companies and social organisations to bring about research valuable for academia and businesses.

Research themes

The NSI focuses on competence development and the use of knowledge at the individual and company level. Its research is characterised by innovative methodology and close cooperation between the academic and business world – where knowledge and insight are used to identify and solve problems – crucial to the advancement of academic research and organisational policy making.

The NSI focuses on the following research questions:

- What is the influence of education on aspects outside the workplace, such as health and social security?
- How can human resource development in companies lead to increased social innovation?
- How to stimulate the ‘entrepreneurial orientation’ and creativity of employees within the company to be able to identify and develop new opportunities more quickly?
- How to promote sharing knowledge and on-the-job learning in SMEs, in order to increase employee loyalty and motivate workers, but also to decrease dependence on external training.

Network Social Innovation / NSI

Education and the social context

Education plays a crucial role in the development of talent. Much is expected from education in a variety of areas, such as health, safety, environment, social security, etc., both in terms of corporate demand for qualified personnel and society’s functioning.

In general, the complexity of the human learning process and the long-term effects involved raise the question of how education can respond to this demand in the maximum possible benefit. This research line focuses on the following questions:

- What is the significance of healthcare, safety, a healthy environment and social security for people’s development and society’s functioning?
- How to promote sharing knowledge and on-the-job learning in SMEs, in order to increase employee loyalty and motivate workers, but also to decrease dependence on external training.

Business dynamics

The complex and dynamic environment in which today’s companies operate forces them to respond rapidly and flexibly to opportunities for technological innovations and new markets. In their need for flexibility, innovative companies are increasingly involved in a variety of networks in which companies, government organisations, research and educational institutions work closely together. As client-focused services are becoming ever more important in all business sectors, research in this area will focus on the development of innovative organisational, commercial and client-focused factors. The research line focuses on the following questions:

- How can organisations improve their alliance possibilities?
- How can organisations effectively implement open innovation forms such as corporate venture capital, spin-ins en spin-offs?
- How can innovation in the service sector be improved?

Human resource development in companies

In the current knowledge economy, companies’ human capital is crucial to the competitiveness of the business and trade communities and the strength of the public sector. The NSI’s research in this area will focus on the development of Strategic Human Resource Management focusing on the development of employees’ competences. This study concentrates on the following research questions:

- How can companies enhance the competences and employability of their employees as well as their business performance through training?
- How can companies best guide this behavior during processes of transition?
- How can we improve labor participation and productivity of older people and workers with health problems?