

Experiencing Dutch Geography

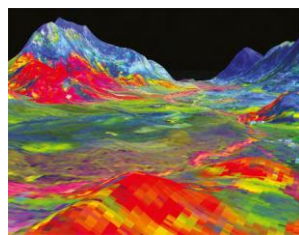
In this 3-day post-conference excursion you will experience Dutch Geography life and in doing so you will also notice how 'Space' and 'Place' are central in the development of the Netherlands and in the role the Netherlands play in an international context and how Geography makes a difference...



A) We start by bus from Cologne on Friday 31.08.2012 at 07:00 hours

B) ENSCHEDE (Mapping the world)

In Enschede we will visit The Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) of the University of Twente. The ITC provides international postgraduate education, research and project services in the field of geo-

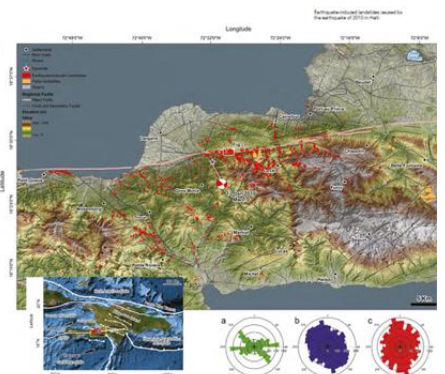


information science and earth observation using remote sensing and GIS. The aim of ITC's activities is the international exchange of knowledge, focusing on capacity building and institutional development in developing countries and emerging economies.



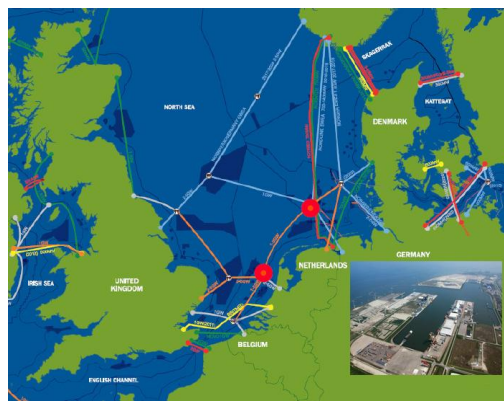
During the visit the participants will be informed on how geography can benefit from modern mapping approaches. Examples from Netherlands and third world countries will illustrate this and are based on question such as:

- How can active mobile phone positioning data give insight in urban space consumption?
- How can a national atlas act as alternative access to the spatial data infrastructure?
- What role can VGI-data play for the citizen and policy makers in third world countries?
- How can maps offer insight in spatio-temporal change?
- How do I get my data: Geonetcast, dissemination geodata to developing counties.



C) GRONINGEN (Energy Valley)

Groningen city is the main urban centre in the North Netherlands. It's economy is based on the presence of local and regional government institutions, one of the Netherlands' oldest and largest universities and other colleges of higher education, and a thriving business service sector. It is a strong urban island of demographic and economic growth inside the nation's thinly inhabited northern periphery. The excursion target however is not Groningen city, but the Eemshaven development project, 30 kilometres to the north, at the Waddensea shore. The opening of this new seaport in 1973 was a direct result of the big industrial development in Western Europe during the 1950s and 60s. Initially its aim was to provide room for large scale, new industrial development, incorporating oil refineries and (petro-) chemical industry. However, this initiative was frustrated



by the oil crisis in the 1970s and the following recession in the 1980s. The large port area stayed practically empty for three decades. Since the turn of the century however, the Eemshaven port area is developing at a fast speed into one of the Netherlands' most prominent energy locations. Electrabel exploits a large gas-based electricity plant here (1750 MW), NUON has started to build a Multi-fuel power station, and RWE is build-

ing a large coal based station (1560 MW). Next to this, several 'alternative energy' projects are located here, among which a biomass based energy station, and a series of large high tech windmills. Within short, the Eemshaven area will provide 30% of the total electricity demand of the Netherlands. The development of the Eemshaven into an 'energy port' fits well into the ambition to develop the province of Groningen into an 'Energy Valley', i.e. a concentration of energy related production, trade and knowledge institutions. Already 25,000 people are now working in the Groningen energy sector. The Eemshaven, once considered as a pure example of a 'planning disaster' is now one of the country's largest building sites, which next to the energy projects has started to attract activities in several other sectors. One interesting example is a 'data hotel' (one of Europe's largest, with a very high energy consumption) with 100,000 servers, hired by Google. On the excursion program is a lecture about the Energy Valley projects, and a visit to the Eemshaven port area.



E) AMSTERDAM (Urban development)



In the vibrant city of Amsterdam there are two universities where Geography is taught, the University of Amsterdam (UvA) and the Free University (VU). But also the University of Utrecht among other things is well known for its research on urban development. In this excursion we will have the opportunity to experience several issues which are very topical and typical for their research, for example innovative methods for city-renewal in deprived multi-cultural parts of Amsterdam-West...



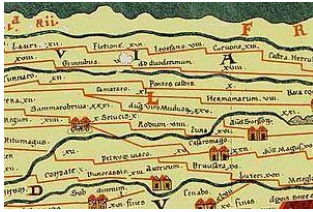
or the thriving development of the large-scale new business-district 'Zuidas' of Amsterdam, which should develop as an innovative milieu and global growth pole for many business- and financial services. Both universities in Amsterdam are also engaged in physical geographic research and the building of a new metro tunnel to the Zuidas is a major challenge. The natural conditions in the Netherlands in general but also of the City of Amsterdam in particular coin a number of very specific physical geographic issues.



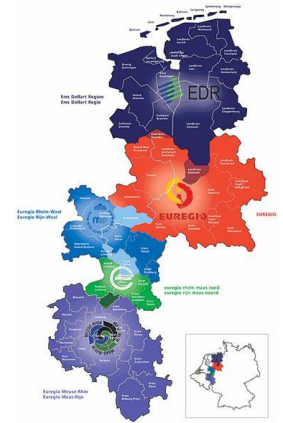
In addition during the stay in Amsterdam there will also be ample opportunity to explore the city on your own, and e.g. pay a visit to one of the famous museums, or enjoy the historical city with its canals and 17th century housing.



F) WAGENINGEN/NIJMEGEN (Cultural and political geography of borders)



On our way back to Cologne we will also visit the Dutch-German border area, which is the focus of the geographic research of the Radboud University Nijmegen and the Wageningen University. Here the political and cultural geography of borders play a central role. Once this was the border of the Roman empire, in WWII a hard fought for border after Operation Market Garden, in between an area for smugglers and now a laboratory at the internal European border where Europe is being constituted, where cultural diversity is lived and celebrated, transnational political spaces are negotiated and constituted, and cross-border governance practiced. An area where new spaces and places are constructed, where the ‘earth is written’, or in other words: ‘geo-geography’ is made. As concluding activity in this excursion we want you to ‘feel’ and ‘taste’ the border and the dynamics of place making.



G) Sunday 02.09.2011 by 18:00 hours we will be back in Cologne