



Government and innovation: accelerator or drag?

(Spoken language is Dutch)

When: November 10th, 16:00 – 18:00

Where: Groninger Forum, Room 2, Hereplein 73 Groningen

<https://letsagro.nl/program/overheden-en-innovatie>

Register [here](#) or send an email to Jeannet Brondsema (j.t.brondsema@rug.nl)

Do governments stimulate innovation or do they discourage necessary change? Companies and entrepreneurs are the key to innovation, but governments try to stimulate, facilitate and guide them if innovation leads to unwanted developments. How can governments participate in contributing towards a functional innovationsystem which offers enough chances for everyone?

In this lecture, two well respected scientists will illustrate the roll governments play in innovation. Mayor Den Oudsten of the city of Groningen will reflect upon the conclusions of this lecture.

Professor Koen Frenken (University of Utrecht) will explain what the sharing economy is and talk about what is and what is not real news. Based on examples like Uber, Airbnb and BlaBlaCar, he describes that important advantages, such as economic efficiency, social cohesion and environmental benefits are often connected to the sharing economy. But there are also certain disadvantages. He argues that in order to benefit fully from the sharing economy modifications will have to be made to existing systems. To create a flourishing sharing economy we also need new rules to make it easier for citizens to share their things and to insure that excesses and unfair competition are prevented. Professor Dries Faems (University of Groningen) will explain the power of innovation of the Northern Dutch SME's (Small Medium Enterprises) and the preconditions needed for innovative entrepreneurship. He will show that innovation is a very complex process, which includes continuous improvements of existing products and services (incremental innovation) and the development of new products and services (radical innovation). These different types of innovation require different kinds of employees, team structures and organizational models. He illustrates the challenges that Northern Dutch SME's face and how they cope with these challenges based on the results of the Northern Dutch Innovation Monitor.

This thematic lecture is the second public lecture organised leading up to the congress of European Regional Science Association, which will be held in Groningen in 2017 from August 29 to September 1.