



Project Nieuw Drassig Land – Open Kaart/Rufus de Vries

Invitation webinar Community Participation for Local Climate Adaptation

On 28 September from 15:00 to 16.30 (AMS) the Netherlands Commission for Unesco will organize a second webinar on culture-based solutions for climate adaptation.

Adapting to a changing climate is among the biggest challenges governments are facing today. However, states cannot succeed on their own, and the involvement of citizens, companies, NGOs and knowledge institutions is a crucial precondition to success. Above all, climate adaptation is a *human* process, requiring a change of mind set. In order to properly address climate change, Unesco calls for us to “*change our minds, not the climate*”.

Citizens need to have a voice in climate action and they are well suited to propose solutions that are locally applicable. Culture, heritage, historical and community knowledge can be used as drivers to foster community participation in local climate action. In this webinar, we bring together examples from the Kingdom of the Netherlands that demonstrate how culture and heritage help to engage citizens, enhance awareness, and create support for local climate adaptation. Special attention is given to the role of creative design in these processes.

Programme

- Welcome by **Kathleen Ferrier**, president of the Netherlands Commission for Unesco.
- Presentations by:
 - **Nieuw Drassig Land - Hanneke Stenfert**: Heritage and history as a source of inspiration to create a climate resilient environment together with citizens in Polder Nijbroek.
 - **Lab Reyerood+ - Mercedes Leipoldt**: Co-creative processes and creative design involving residents to find solutions to neighbourhood challenges in Reyerood, Rotterdam.
 - **Island(er)s At the Helm - Francio Guadeloupe**: Traditional knowledge, community participation and local climate challenges in the Dutch Caribbean.
- Interview with **Nazanin Hedayati from the Creative Industries Fund NL**, on the use of creative design in community-based climate adaptation.
- Panel discussion with the speakers, moderated by **Corinne Hofman**, professor of Caribbean Archaeology at Leiden University and Member of the Netherlands Commission for Unesco.
- Closing remarks and the way forward.

To attend

The webinar is accessible through a livestream connection. Participants can ask questions via the chat. To receive the Zoom link, please send an e-mail to event@unesco.nl. The event will also be shown on the [website](#) of the Commission (without chat function).

Information about the presentations and speakers

Island(er)s at the Helm research project in the Dutch Caribbean

Francio Guadeloupe, principal investigator, cultural and social anthropologist and development sociologist, University of Amsterdam (UvA) & the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV).

The project offers scientists and policy makers local perspectives on cultural heritage from the six Caribbean islands of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. It enables critical reflection and appreciation of heritage away from the notion that culture, language and people are homogenous in the Kingdom. This perspective allows for culture-based solutions in climate adaptation, building on local, traditional knowledge. Cultural heritage is the carrier of this transdisciplinary, transcultural, transartistic, and translinguistic knowledge present on the islands. In this inclusive approach in which local communities are actively involved, the visual and performing arts play a special role to pass on knowledge practices, foster social adaptation to a changing climate, and enhance community resilience.

Project Nieuw Drassig Land

Hanneke Stenfert, architectural designer and co-creative facilitator at Open Kaart.

The Nieuw Drassig Land project is an example of community participation in a rural area. Local authorities and the local community are working together to create a climate resilient environment. The historical qualities of the landscape, the water system and the people are the source of inspiration to develop measures and interventions that create a robust water system as well as a valuable living environment. Residents, united in a local cooperation, propose climate solutions tailor-made to the characteristics of the polder and the community. The locally present heritage structures, such as the traditional polder structure and a local water pumping station, form the foundation of this approach.

Lab Reyeroord+

Mercedes Leipoldt, area coordinator IJsselmonde, City of Rotterdam.

The project aims at making Reyeroord neighbourhood 'future proof' and strengthening the resiliency of the area. The City of Rotterdam used creative design to engage the neighbourhood community in finding new solutions to local challenges in the fields of energy transition and climate adaptation. Creative citymakers, residents, local entrepreneurs and other stakeholders came together in Reyeroord+. This local lab for experimenting and co-creation, has the objective to increase the quality of the living environment and to design the sustainable future of the neighbourhood. The initiative explores new methods to enrich the existing problem solving repertoire that creates capacity for rapid innovation, building new perspectives and including citizens in the process. The talents, qualities and dreams of its citizens as well as the heritage of the neighbourhood have proven to be important ingredients for this.

The use of creative design in participatory decision making

Nazanin Hedayati, coordinator Action Programme Spatial Design, Creative Industries Fund NL (Stimuleringsfonds Creatieve industrie).

The Creative Industries Fund NL provides subsidies to local and regional authorities to involve spatial designers, architects, urban planners and graphic designers in finding solutions to sustainability challenges. The Fund contributes to the formulation of broadly supported design solutions for societal issues and environmental challenges such as climate adaptation. Creative design can help to imagine new worlds in such a way that they are understood by people from a wide range of backgrounds. Design can contribute to visualizing plans and making the objectives of a project tangible, as well as its consequences. Furthermore, design can be an effective tool for social cohesion, participation and collaboration between various local stakeholders.

About the work of the Netherlands Commission for Unesco

Interested in our work in the field of culture-based solutions for local climate adaptation? Watch a compilation of our [first webinar](#) held at the International Climate Adaptation Summit in January 2021. Along with the webinars, the Commission has published a [statement](#) and [background paper](#) highlighting the role culture and heritage can play in climate adaptation. The arguments put forward show the driving force of culture and heritage in local climate action. On top of the three best practices presented in this webinar, find inspiration in four additional case studies from the Kingdom of the Netherlands in our first [best practices paper](#).

Culture and heritage for climate adaptation

Four examples from the Kingdom of the Netherlands

