

A word from the board

Dear readers,

Welcome to the March edition of our newsletter! This month, you'll find an inspiring interview with Wieske van der Heijden, a throwback to our webinar celebrating the first anniversary, and a short information section about the WiN EIU platform.

As this newsletter is released on April 1st, we would like to assure you that there are absolutely no jokes included. None at all. Everything you read is completely serious... as far as you choose to believe us.

Enjoy reading!

Throwback Webinar 1st anniversary

To celebrate the first anniversary of the WiN Netherlands chapter, a webinar was successfully conducted 6th of March. The event was attended by **Melina Belinco**, President of WiN Global. She congratulated the success of WiN Netherlands' rapid growth, energy, and impact. She reflected on WiN Global's origins in 1992, to create a trusted, evidence-based space for dialogue on nuclear energy.

She emphasized that WiN's true strength lies in its people—engineers, regulators, scientists, communicators, policymakers, and students—who are shaping the future of a rapidly evolving nuclear sector. She highlighted the urgent need to attract, retain, and advance talent, especially women.

There was a presentation by **Marouscha Puister** who introduced her work toward developing a $^{166}\text{Dy}/^{166}\text{Ho}$ generator, a technology aimed at improving cancer treatment. The core of her research involves producing and separating two related elements—dysprosium (Dy) and holmium (Ho)—which can be transformed into medical isotopes used in cancer therapy. Holmium-166 is especially valuable because it emits radiation that can both treat tumors and help doctors track the treatment.

There was also a presentation by **Diana Wicks** who introduced her work about the development of holmium-166 microspheres for treating liver cancer. She explains how holmium microspheres offer a major advantage over existing yttrium-90 treatments: they can be visualized in real time using MRI. This allows clinicians to adjust catheter placement during the procedure, ensuring that every part of a tumour is properly targeted.

Clinical trials have shown not only significant tumour shrinkage but also intriguing immune-driven effects, where untreated satellite tumours disappeared over time. Her current research focuses on solving these issues by developing fully inorganic holmium hydroxide microspheres with far higher holmium content and much greater

We are excited to conduct similar webinars, providing a voice and a stage to talk about the technical advancements in



WiN EIU platform

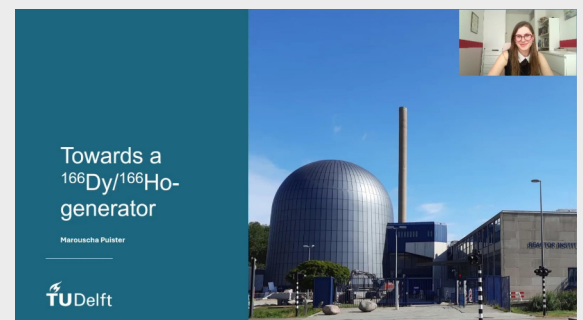
Since dec 2025 there is an active sequence of online sessions with all WiN European chapters. The goal of the WiN European community is to strengthen the position of WiN Europe, align offering and enrol collaborations across countries.

The official launch of the WiN European community will take place in September 2026 in Baden Switzerland.

Until this time WiN NL and other European chapters are working on a joint strategy and mission. We are looking forward to this.



WiN The Netherlands 1st anniversary webinar



Presentation from Marouscha Puister

Important announcements

Amsterdam STEM Women Graduate Careers Event – 3 March by Haske Reiling

Since 2018 the organisation STEM Women, originally from Australia, introduces STEM students and recent graduates to employers in the STEM industry by organizing networking and careers events. It is a growing organisation with more and more partnering companies and universities in the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands and Denmark. They host events in different European cities all through the year.



Jelmer van Schagen, Anne Bakker and Haske Reiling at the STEM event

We had the opportunity to attend the Amsterdam Graduate Careers Event at the Mövenpick Hotel on the 3rd of March. The event drew over 250 enthusiastic attendees exploring their next steps in STEM. It was a warm and sunny day and the atmosphere was pleasant. The students and STEM academics, from bachelor's to post-docs, showed strong enthusiasm for the present employers and asked a lot of questions. Especially companies that are innovative (the AI and chip industry), and companies with societal impact draw attention. Many attendants never considered the nuclear industry before, and were surprised by our presence. Highlighting the need to keep promoting our sector. A recurring theme in conversations, however, was that many women felt underqualified to enter the nuclear sector due to a lack of prior experience. This highlights an important task for us: to continue showing that curiosity and willingness to learn matter just as much, and that the nuclear sector is not only for those that studies nuclear technology.

The [next event in Amsterdam](#) will be on Friday the 25th of september.

Member spotlight

Interview with Wieske van der Heijden

Q: What attracted you towards this industry/field of work?

I work at COVRA. The organisation that takes care of all the radioactive waste from the Netherlands. I wanted to be part of the solution to a complex problem (radioactive waste). When I started working for COVRA I wasn't necessarily looking for a job in the nuclear field. I wanted to contribute to society. COVRA fit the bill. I was attracted by the complexity and versatility of the job.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your work?

I enjoy interdisciplinary meetings. Getting people on the same page. Working on practical solutions alongside clients to reach a common goal. I always aim to understand: people, viewpoints but also processes. In the broader sense I enjoy pioneering work, including setting up systems to make work run smoother. And I enjoy working with people.

Q: Who is a woman that you admire in personal/professional life?

I admire Maria van der Hoeven. She's part of our Raad van Commissarissen. What I find inspiring is the way she leads meetings, carries herself and is capable of relaying multiple messages with just a few words. I also enjoy working with capable women. I admire women who aren't afraid to speak their minds. I admire the ones who can keep calm and are capable of clearly stating issues. Oh, AND! I admire each and every woman that combines motherhood with work and a partner.

Q: What are you looking forward to in the coming months?

Holiday 😊 I'm looking forward to a joint effort that hopefully results in a clear solution to a particular challenging waste stream. I'm looking forward to some changes within the organisation that further prepares COVRA for the future.

Q: What is your top tip for other women nuclear professionals?

Trust your instincts and have faith in yourself. Just because it may not be how other people do things, that doesn't mean it isn't right.



Picture of Wieske van der Heijden - COVRA

Info about upcoming events

[Nuclear Innovation Conference 2026 \(10-11 June\)](#)

[WiN Global 2nd European Regional Flagship Event, 21 to 23 September 2026 in Baden, Switzerland](#)

WiN Netherlands ALV - information and registration will follow (26 June 2026)

