

opportunity / call for:

# IO graduation project

CO-CREATION / ACTION RESEARCH / CO-DESIGN  
/ PARTICIPATORY DESIGN / GOVERNANCE



## Underlying causes of waste problems in The Hague

The project "Achter afval" (behind waste) aims to investigate the underlying causes of waste nuisance in The Hague. Many current interventions address only the symptoms, making solutions temporary and primarily effective in neighbourhoods with higher levels of social cohesion. Together with the Municipality of The Hague, we want to develop a deeper understanding of the social, cultural, economic and psychological mechanisms that cause these problems. Using co-creation and active participatory research, we gain insight into the underlying causes of littering (such as placing trash next to bins) and develop solutions that respond to these deeper causes.

We are looking for a graduating master student who can help prepare, execute and analyse fieldwork in The Hague, which consists of qualitative action research. Various methods are used: observations, interviews, focus groups, diary studies and creative workshops and sessions with which we can work together with residents and organisations in co-creation towards solutions for the waste problem. Experience with these research methods is beneficial but not mandatory. An affinity for fieldwork and the ability to navigate different environments with confidence are key. Neighbourhoods with significant waste problems often face broader socio-economic challenges as well.

You will work within the Erasmus Social Design Hub (ESDH) team, an interdisciplinary team of researchers with expertise in governance, design and sustainability. Together with project leader Dr. Suzan Christiaanse and junior design researcher Britt van den Berg, you will work closely with residents and the Municipality of The Hague to investigate the underlying causes of waste problems and develop sustainable and systemic solutions.

### Practical information

- Location: Erasmus University Rotterdam, with fieldwork in The Hague.
- Duration: Mid-January to mid-June 2025, 3 days a week. Flexible scheduling is possible.
- Work environment: Office space available at ESDH, with the option to work remotely.
- Reimbursement: Travel expenses for fieldwork to/from The Hague.
- Proficiency in Dutch is not required. However, fluency in Bulgarian, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian, Turkish, or other languages commonly spoken within The Hague's migrant communities would be a valuable asset.

The graduation project will be part of an ongoing initiative commissioned by the Municipality of The Hague. While the main objectives are defined, you will have the freedom to explore your own research interests and apply them within the scope of the project.

Would you like to apply for this graduation project opportunity? Send your CV and motivation letter to [b.vandenberg@essb.eur.nl](mailto:b.vandenberg@essb.eur.nl)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you!

Note: IDE contact person is Annemiek van Boeijen  
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(it is a nice project for a Dfl master student)

