Research platform

GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR A SAFE WORLD

let's change
YOU. US. THE WORLD.

THE HAGUE
UNIVERSITY OF
APPLIED SCIENCES

ABOUT US

It's a given. We live in a world that is constantly changing. To examine three areas where those changes are particularly manifest, we have created a research platform, *Good Governance for a Safe World*. The three themes in question are global cities, new risks and complex governance. Our objective at The Hague University for Applied Sciences is to develop the knowledge required to educate the professionals of the future and to renew the professional practice. The platform combines the resources of research groups of researchers, lecturers and professionals from both inside and outside the university.

Change and choice

Many changes in modern society are improvements. Many of the barriers formed by national borders, both physical and cultural, that used to hamper the movement of people, goods and services, have come down, particularly across Europe. Tourists, businesspeople and immigrants are crossing borders more easily than ever before. For many, this new-found freedom translates into more choices and greater prosperity. In addition, more international cooperation creates opportunities to solve the issues facing us in the 21st century.

Other side of the coin

Of course this is not the whole story. Globalization evokes skepsis and animosity. It is a selective phenomenon, which enhances inequality both within and between countries. Brexit has become a reality and a growing number of refugees and migrants is knocking on the gates of Europe. Fear of terrorism and unfettered immigration awakens feelings of nationalism and xenophobia. Hungary, which has erected fences to stop refugees from entering the country, is a case in point.

Fluid networks

In many countries, the influence of traditional values and communities is diminishing. Individuals enjoy a lot more freedom, but they have to pay the price. Today's fluid, horizontal networks afford less support and security than the smaller, closed communities of the past. The good news is that those networks provide many opportunities to jointly fight hunger, provide care and generate clean energy, to name just a few examples. What's more, the shifts and changes are supported by modern technology and improved education, which can further emancipation.

Cross-fertilization

The Hague University for Applied Sciences (THUAS) wants to contribute to the study and strengthening of our global society. Professional research is of increasing importance in the task we've set ourselves. As a networking university we host research groups, centres of expertise and research platforms like *Good Governance for a Safe World*. We attach much importance to cross-fertilization between these entities, all of which also interact with outside stakeholders and inside programs.

Three themes

Pooling the resources of research groups, lecturers, professional researchers and students, the platform sets out to study some pertinent questions. Three major themes have been selected: global cities, the new risks facing contemporary society, and the complexities of its governance. Along with various partners and stakeholders, our research groups for Metropolitan Development, Urban Metabolism, Smart Sensor Systems, Energy and the Built Environment, Cyber Security & Safety, Networks & Systems Cyber Security, Cyber Security in SME, Public Governance and the new groups on Multilevel Regulation*, Governance of Risk*, UN Studies: Peace & Security* and the Changing Role of Europe* are contributing to the platform.

Stakeholders

We are eager to share the fruits of our research both inside and outside the university. Therefore we are very pleased that a number of organizations from the worlds of academia, business and the public sector have agreed to lend their support and help us achieve our goals. The platform's local stakeholders include several districts of the City of The Hague, the city itself, the city of Zoetermeer and the Rotterdam The Hague Metropolitan Area. In addition, we are supported by the Dutch Ministries of Education and Internal Affairs, the Institute for Financial Crime and the Financial Intelligence Unit, The Hague Academic Coalition and The Hague Security Delta (HSD).

* expected for 2018

GLOBAL CITIES

SOME EXAMPLES

✓ **Research on the city as a focal point of emancipation, diversity and new forms of governance**

✓ **Applied research on issues and opportunities on positive safety on streets and in neighbourhoods**

A few years ago, the number of people living in urban areas surpassed the world's total rural population. Worldwide, there are now over a thousand cities with more than half a million inhabitants and both the number of cities and their populations continue to grow. Globalization coupled with individualization strengthens the function of these urban areas as dynamic hubs buzzing with activity and offering untold social and economic opportunities. The city that never sleeps is here to stay.

Increasing globalization has led to a tremendously diverse urban population. Whatever their social, cultural and economic needs and backgrounds, these billions of citizens look to their local authorities to create the right civic environment for them to fulfil their potential.

Our platform addresses the question of how global cities can live up to these high expectations. We study the opportunities and challenges they are likely to encounter, what might be effective structures of governance and which role technology can play on the rocky road to a better and safer urban environment.

Expert opinion

“ Cities belong to everyone and serve everyone. All major developments of globalization, migration and differences between rich and poor are reflected in the city. This is where relations between the authorities, the market, the middle ground and the citizen are re-invented. Cities must turn the corner to eco-efficiency. The link between the city's cosmopolitan and locally oriented worlds requires our ongoing attention. ”

Vincent Smit,
Head of research group
Metropolitan Development

NEW RISKS

Open borders and modern technology may have given us greater freedom and enabled the growth of horizontal networks but they also create new, often unpredictable risks. Extensive knowledge about global risks is essential to ensure local security. Yet for all the emphasis on the prevention and management of those risks, they remain elusive and hard to deal with effectively.

The distinction between what's virtual and what is real, global and local, private and public is increasingly hard to pinpoint. It is at the interface of those once-useful divisions that the most interesting developments are taking place. While IT has opened undreamed-of perspectives, IT abuse and human error can have disastrous consequences on a global scale.

Our research platform aims to broaden our knowledge about the risks we are facing by asking key questions. Which technical and social solutions are likely to work in tackling the security issues inherent in our complex IT systems? Which organizations, procedures and practices are most likely to be successful?

Expert opinion

❝ It would be wise to show more restraint in using new IT applications, for those lead to new threats. The government should impose restrictions on the ease with which all kinds of databases can be linked. Because many people are not sufficiently aware of the risks involved, the government ought to enforce privacy protection. ❞

Marcel Spruit,
Head of research group
Cyber Security & Safety

COMPLEX GOVERNANCE

For national governments, life in the 21st century is characterized by shifting responsibilities. It's a shift in all directions: upward to international organizations, down to regional and local authorities and sideways to privatized or liberalized entities. In the complex networks of the future, all actors will have to find their place.

Within the context of today's public arena professionals must be able to operate effectively. These days, new policies can only be successfully developed and implemented by professionals able to function in intricate teams and networks that extend way beyond their own organizations. Relevant, innovative research can play a significant part in accepting and sharing new responsibilities.

The changing responsibilities at different levels of government have far-reaching legal implications. While formal legislation remains the prerogative of the nation state, other echelons and new arrivals are introducing their own rules and regulations. This raises issues about the knowledge and competencies lawyers in the public sphere need in order to function satisfactorily.

In the legislative process, the experience gained by supranational organizations like the European Union may be useful at different levels. Compliance, enforcement and conflict settlement also present considerable challenges. Given this situation, research projects are not just helpful – they are essential.

Expert opinion

❝ In a network society, the importance of smooth horizontal cooperation with public bodies increases. Public service professionals still have to know the rules and have political antennae, but they should also know which rules may be bent and what scope they have in negotiations. To be effective, they need good cooperative skills as well as an inner moral compass. ❞
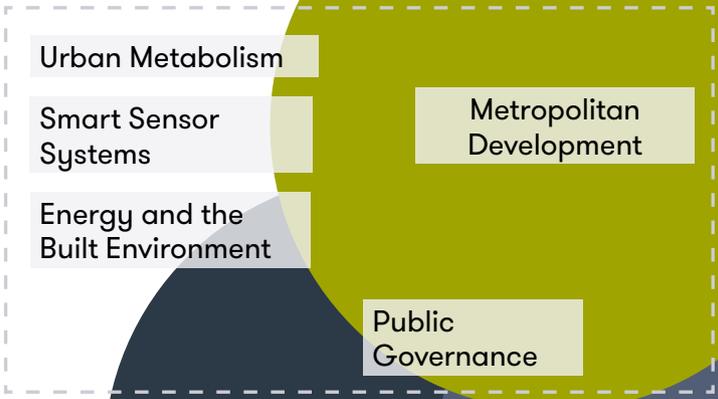
Henno Theisens,
Leader research platform *Good Governance for a Safe World* and Head of research group Public Governance
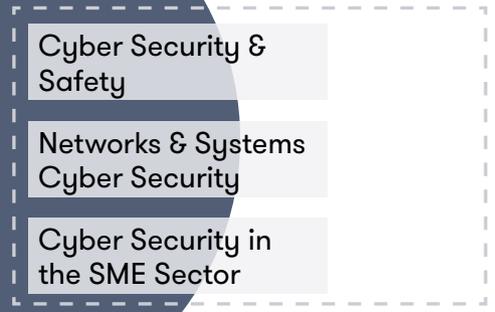
GLOBAL CITIES

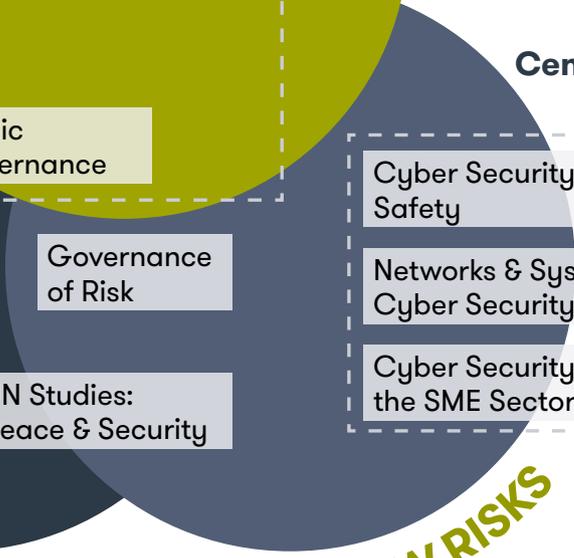**Center of Expertise Urban Issues**

- Urban Metabolism
- Smart Sensor Systems
- Energy and the Built Environment

Metropolitan Development

Public Governance

Center of Expertise Cyber Security

- Cyber Security & Safety
- Networks & Systems Cyber Security
- Cyber Security in the SME Sector

Governance of Risk

The Changing Role of Europe

Multilevel Regulation
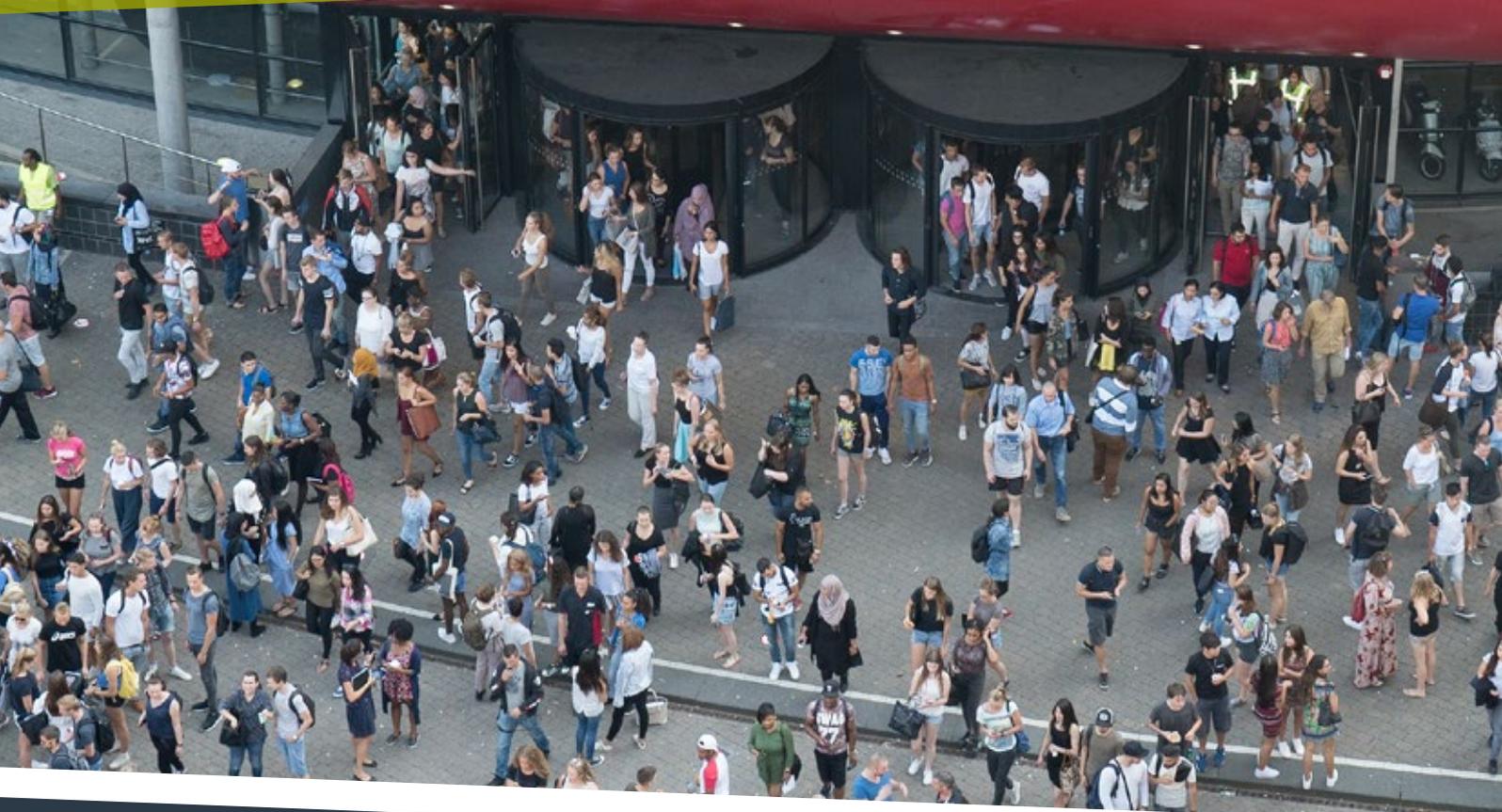
UN Studies: Peace & Security

COMPLEX GOVERNANCE

NEW RISKS

We welcome your feedback. Please contact us at
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