

## Developing and improving the social and physical environment of Dutch railway stations through community participation

Community initiative 'Cooperation Station Park Deurne' wants to make the Deurne railway station more attractive for inhabitants and commuters. The cooperation has asked the Science Shop of Wageningen University and Research to help them improve the social and physical environment of railway station Deurne. Furthermore, the research by the Science Shop aims to develop and implement similar strategies for other railway stations throughout the Netherlands. The research focuses around two interrelated aspects.

First, the cooperation aims to increase the involvement of citizens in the organisation of social activities and in the development of the railway station.

Second, the railway station is a relatively small station on the trajectory Venlo - Eindhoven. Like many small stations in the Netherlands the service level is quite basic and the layout is very much based on functionality.

We are looking for MSc-students who are interested in multi-stakeholder processes and citizen participation in the planning, development and maintenance of public space. Possible topics for an MSc-thesis could be:

- the opportunities for the development of the Deurne railway station or similar railway stations (local and regional, and from ecological, environmental, social and economic perspective)
- the involvement of inhabitants and commuters in the development of railway stations and its surroundings
- the interaction between different stakeholders involved in the planning and maintenance of railway stations and their surroundings (entrepreneurs, the municipality, NS (Dutch railways) and Pro-Rail and property developers, etc.)
- the social cohesion between inhabitants living on the north and south side of the railway station in Deurne (or similar cases)
- the function of the railway station in Deurne as portal to the region (National Park De Grootte Peel)
- ...

Do you think the topic of community involvement in railway station development or the Deurne case might be interesting for you? Don't hesitate to contact Mark Rietveld ([mark.rietveld@wur.nl](mailto:mark.rietveld@wur.nl)) or Albert Aalvanger ([albert.aalvanger@wur.nl](mailto:albert.aalvanger@wur.nl))!

