

The Network University: Online Learning and Capacity Building

Vic Klabbers





Amsterdam





UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

The University of Amsterdam has its origins in the Athenaeum Illustre (1632) and, with over 30,000 students, over 5,000 employees and an annual budget of 600 million euros, is one of the largest general research universities in Europe.

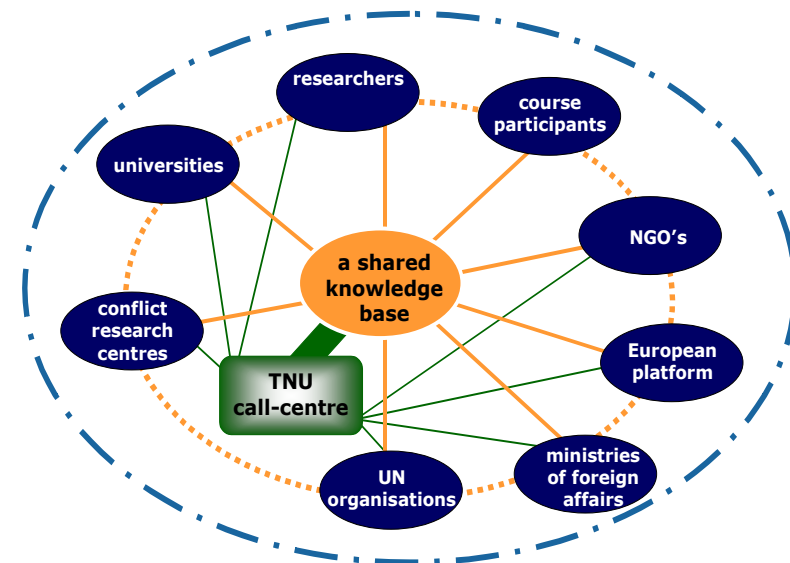
The Network University became independent in 1999 but is still connected to the University of Amsterdam



The Network University is:

- Centre for collaborative learning
- Platform for innovative online education
- Network of networks

a network of collaborative learning



The Network University offers:

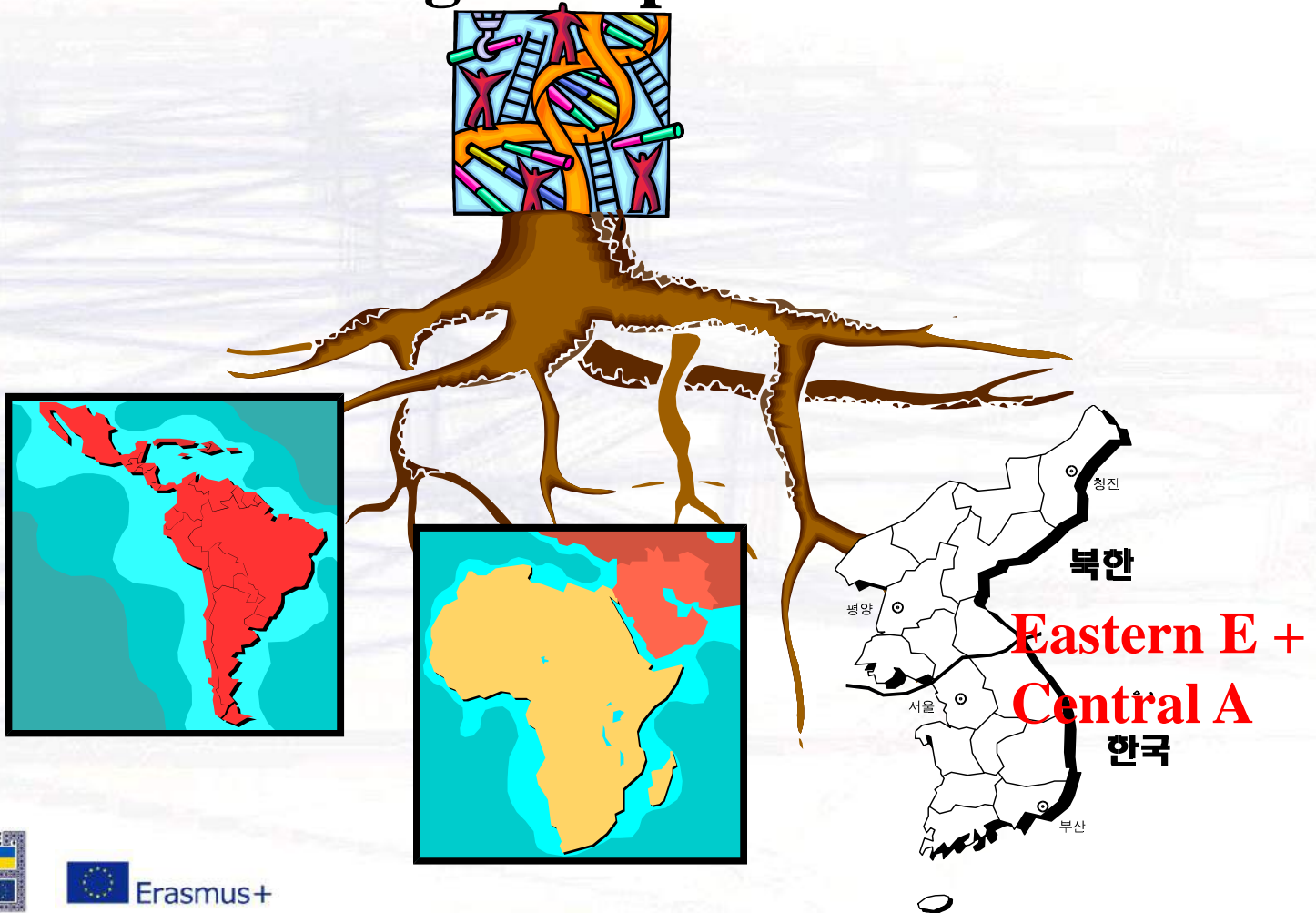
- Online courses
- Online debates
- Specific workshops combining online and face-to-face learning
- Commissioned research
- Consultancy and strategy development
- Concept development and implementation



Our team



Collaborative learning and sharing of experiences





Europe	Number of participants
Croatia	1
Cyprus	1
Czech Republic	3
Finland	1
France	1
Germany	3
Greece	1
Hungary	1
Ireland	1
Italy	2
Latvia	1
Lithuania	1
Norway	1
Poland	2
Portugal	3
Serbia	1
Romania	1
Russian Federation	1
Slovenia	2
Spain	1
United Kingdom	1
Ukraine	2

Africa	
Algeria	1
Cameroon	1
Egypt	1
Kenya	1
Morocco	1
Tunisia	1
Zimbabwe	1

Rest of the world	
Argentina	1
Brazil	2
Canada	1
Colombia	2
Nepal	1
Palestina	1
Syria	2
Turkye	1



Focus lies on the collaborative creation of knowledge and skills. The purpose is to facilitate a process of collaborative design of action.

**For this we designed an integrated process of
ASK, TRY, and DO**



Poor patents

Options in food production

Rights and choices

Capacity building

guest

Poor patents

Vote for this quote :
Most GE research has been publicly funded. Allowing these results to become a private monopoly is an ideological decision.



- [Back to home page.](#)
- [Take a look at some articles on this topic.](#)
- [Read some case studies on this topic and submit a case of your own.](#)

Gerd Junne: Genetically modified organisms (GMO) are normally protected by intellectual property rights (IPR), mostly owned by private companies. This limits the access to GM crops (if companies do not offer preferential terms to get farmers hooked on their seed/chemicals). Could this be a benefit in disguise? Does it stimulate developing countries to look for other ways to increase yield? If patents protect mainly crops of interest in the North, they have little impact on the South.

The central problem with plant patents may be, however, that they are used by Northern concerns for biopiracy of Southern genetic resources which once patented may limit access by the South to conventional varieties from their own countries. To develop high yielding alternatives the South first needs access to a wide variety of genetic resources with which to experiment. Northern patents on plants, if enforced would limit such options. If a developing country did come up with a high yielding alternative, ownership of its genetic origin could easily be checked and contested.

If patents are relevant, can companies be moved to give low cost licences? Can public research institutions register patents to prevent patenting by private companies ("exclude the excluders")? Will the Internet provide new opportunities to look for alternative seeds and technology? Can countries trade access to genetic material for access to technology? Patents limit cash crop exports to the North. Would that increase food availability in the South?

13/11 TODAY'S QUESTION: What do you think is the ONE single recommendation that Dutch policy makers really have to include in any future national policy on biotechnology and food?



Gerd Junne

Summary of day #1 ([View the full discussion](#)): The impact of patents on society depends not only on the patent regime, but also on other factors that determine in how far monopoly situations can be exploited by patent holders: competition law, national seeds legislation, the strength of national agricultural research systems. Is it possible to have two sets of rules in one increasingly integrated world, - with patents and private seeds companies ruling in the North and the CGIAR system and public seeds companies in Southern countries? Can research in the South catch up quickly enough to create protected varieties that shield Southern countries against dominance from Northern companies? This process could be speeded up by trading access to genetic material with access to technology. There are some successful examples of trading biodiversity access for capacity building.

Global Education: The Human Rights Dimension

[Introduction](#)[Module 1](#)[Module 2](#)[Module 3](#)[Module 4](#)[Open Channel](#)[Glossary](#)[Library](#)[Course Map](#)

Welcome to the course 'Global Education: The Human Rights Dimension'

This course presents an introduction to the human rights dimension of global education, and explores the concepts, approaches, strategies and action of human rights education, by considering the interconnections between the global and local.

By looking at the ways of addressing human rights education theory and practice, by reflecting on the ideal state while considering the evidence from the reality, this course offers you an opportunity to develop new ways of learning, understanding and developing action.

Please go through the [Introduction](#) to this course and browse around the course environment to get a feeling for the online learning platform. If you have any questions, difficulties or remarks, please [contact us](#).



Erasmus+



PATH Principled Approach To Humanitarian Action

Introduction to PATH

Learning Lab 1 : An introduction to complex emergencies

Learning Lab 2 : A normative framework for humanitarian action



Sanitation is dignity

Sanitation has a strong connection not only with personal hygiene but also with human dignity and well-being, public health, nutrition and even education. Mahatma Gandhi had once said "Sanitation is more important than Political independence". [more...](#)



Latest Events

6th - 8th July 2011

35th WEDC International Conference, Loughborough University, UK

19th – 21st July 2011

AfricanSan3 (3rd African Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene), Kigali, Rwanda

27th - 29th July 2011

Natural Organic Matter Research - From Source to Tap and Beyond Irvine, USA

8th - 10th September 2011

Training Services

ESF offers Ecological Sanitation courses in India. The Ecosan Training Course addresses Water and Wastewater Engineers, Scientists, Agriculturalists, Environmentalists, Architects, Engineers from Water and Sanitation Departments in Governments, NGOs, Private Companies in the field of sanitation and others interested in innovative sustainable sanitation solutions.

[Read more...](#)

Consulting Services

Looking for a wastewater plant? worried about water shortages? or maybe trying to reduce water costs? We have the solution for you!

[Read more...](#)



ESF Newsletter

Name

E-mail

Subscribe

Unsubscribe



Get connected