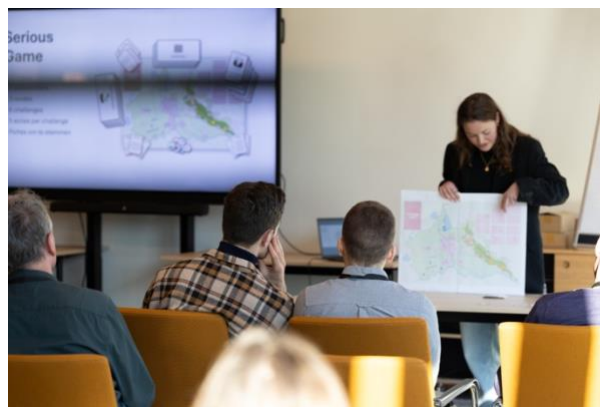


WaterScape Annual Meeting

The recent WaterScape Annual Meeting, held on the 3rd of February 2025, was a day of insightful discussions, knowledge exchange, and valuable stakeholder engagement. Three of the PhD researchers including Marios Karampasis (UU), Mark van den Brink (WUR), and Noor Hendriks (WUR) provided updates on their research, sparking in-depth conversations and question from various stakeholders. A student group from HAS Green Academy presented their innovative project on the complex water systems of Brabant. Additionally, stakeholders contributed their expertise and input on the three living labs (Brabant, Groningen, & Utrechtse Heuvelrug), helping to shape future strategies for climate-resilient waterscapes. The event highlighted the power of collaboration in tackling climate impacts, reinforcing the importance of integrating science, governance, and practice.

HAS Green Academy – Student Project

Seven fourth-year students from HAS Green Academy, studying Management of the Living Environment and AGIS, spent 20 weeks working on the "Ruimtesproef" minor, focusing on the water transition within the Waterscape Living Lab in West-Brabant. The project was carried out under the guidance of Ellen Weerman's professorship in climate-resilient landscapes and supervisor Marnix ten Holder. As part of this initiative, they took the first steps in establishing the Waterscape Living Lab West Brabant.



Throughout the project, the students engaged with a variety of regional stakeholders to explore areas of collaboration and potential conflicts in addressing the water transition. The focus was not only on the physical aspects of the water system and the interests of the various stakeholders, but also on the governance and policy challenges influencing water management in the region.

Their findings were compiled into the "Wij zijn het Water" (We Are the Water) Storymap, an interactive website that highlights the interconnectedness and complexity of the water system in West Brabant. The Storymap serves as a valuable resource for stakeholders and anyone interested in the ongoing development of Waterscape.

At the annual Waterscape event, the students had the opportunity to present their results and contribute to discussions about the next steps for the project. With the insights and findings gathered, Waterscape is now well-positioned to continue building a sustainable, future-proof water system for the West Brabant region and the Netherlands.

Insight from PhDs

Marios Karampasis- The WaterScape annual meeting provided a great platform for stakeholders to showcase their progress and exchange ideas. The presentations sparked insightful discussions, revealing diverse perspectives but a shared goal-climate-resilient WaterScapes. Learning from similar projects also helped refine our research direction.

For WP3, I found that groundwater model specialists are active in all three regions. A meeting between Noord Brabant hydrogeologists and WP2 & WP3 representatives is scheduled for March to compare tools and leverage regional expertise. Later, as these methods expand to the other Living Labs, collaboration with local experts will be key to addressing region-specific challenges.



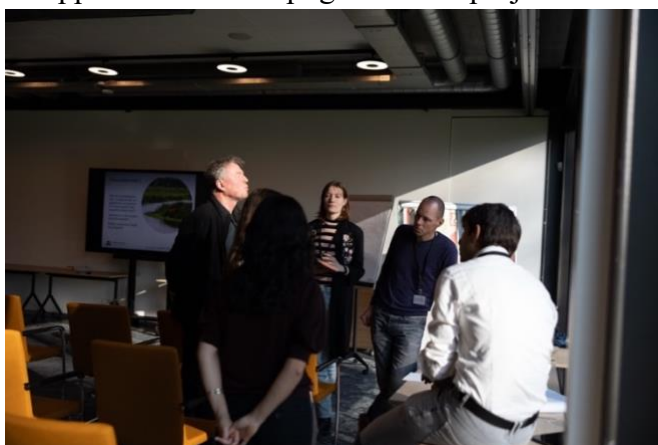
Mark van den Brink - For me, the annual meeting was successful. I received positive feedback on my progress so far and valuable insights for further research. I reminded me to, besides the dry extremes, also focus my research on the wet extremes, following the excessive precipitation this year. Concerning the broader WaterScape context, I learned that the feel of a landscape can be a major driver for inhabitants to conserve, change or restore a landscape.

Noor Hendriks - I look back on an eventful and interesting day! I gave a presentation on transformative climate adaptation and the three governance pathways to transformative change. Wieke and I asked the participants to discuss climate adaptation in their regions to gather input for my research. I received examples of transformative projects that will help with my case selection. I also heard diverse perspectives on strategies to facilitate and accelerate a water transition, which will be valuable in shaping my research focus.



Insight from Work Package leaders

Niko Wanders - The WaterScape Annual Meeting provided a moment to reflect on the progress made over the past year and to collaboratively shape the future of climate-resilient water systems in the Netherlands. The discussions with various stakeholders provided valuable insights, as experts and students alike shared innovative approaches to help guide this project further. Engaging with stakeholders across the three living labs—Brabant, Groningen, and Utrechtse Heuvelrug—highlighted both the challenges and opportunities in developing a sustainable waterscape. By combining scientific knowledge, governance strategies, and practical applications, we continue to work towards a robust and adaptive water system. The meeting reinforced the importance of collaboration and knowledge-sharing in achieving long-term water resilience.



Ellen Weerman – During the annual meeting of the Waterscape project, HAS Green Academy students gave two short presentations about the products they created in the Living Labs (Utrechtse Heuvelrug and West Brabant). These products will be further developed in the coming year. The Serious Game will be adapted so that it can also be played in Groningen and West Brabant. We will use this serious game this year to explore whether it helps stimulate conversations in the Living Labs. In short, we will be frequently present in the Living Labs again in 2025 to gather practical questions and spread the knowledge gained.

